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National Shellfisheries Association Quarterly Newsletter

2017 (1)

President's Message



Whew, I am sitting here thanking the stars above that we did not get the snowfall that fell recently on our northern US neighbors. A little bit of snow is good, but over 30 inches accumulation as happened in the greater Bangor, Maine area ...NOT! My sights

are set on March 2017 and the excellent venue we have for our annual meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. The weather should be lovely in Knoxville in late March. We have a stellar program lined up and our meeting coordinator, Sandy Shumway, has been working diligently with her team to coordinate all aspects of the meeting – housing, meeting rooms, food, auction site, meeting registration, A/V – you name it and Sandy & Company have taken care of it. I'm pleased this year that NSA and the Student Endowment Fund are supporting travel awards for 17 students – this is one of our largest cohorts for student travel support. NSA is an excellent venue for students to present their work – we are a friendly, curious, and encouraging group and our students benefit from this welcoming atmosphere. Our focus on student participation will be celebrated this year as we mark the 25th anniversary of formation of the Student Recruits. We'll be having all sorts of fun activities for the current student members as well as the settled Recruits members. Hint: can you identify the founding members of the Recruits?? Hmmmm - I might actually have some pictures of them from 1992.

Association business proceeds behind the scenes on a year-round basis. As mentioned at our last annual meeting in Las Vegas, NSA is conducting a review and revision of our Strategic Plan. Past-President Lou D'Abramo is coordinating the review and will be reporting on our progress at the Business Luncheon on Wednesday March 29. In late February you will receive an e-mail survey from the Strategic Plan Committee requesting input on various aspects of NSA. Please take a few minutes of your time to help us chart the course for NSA for the next five years. Many organizations are facing changing demographics, as are we. Our focus is to chart a course for association fiscal viability and to represent of our diverse and vibrant membership. We'll have a draft of the Strategic Plan posted at the start of the annual meeting and will host an open comment session on Thursday March 30. Your input is essential and we look forward to reading your survey responses and hearing your comments at the meeting.

In other behind-the-scenes news, Past-President Chris Davis will be conducting a brief web portal training refresher course for a few of us at the annual meeting in Knoxville. We'll then hold a more in depth training session later in the year to do a deep dive into the workings of the association web portal. Why so much training you ask? Other associations pay for their web portal services – we do it on a volunteer basis, which keeps our costs quite low. In fact, we typically only pay for web hosting services and some hourly wages for maintenance of the site. In managing our own web portal, we maintain control over all aspects of our membership interface and membership database. In other words, instead of telling (and paying) someone else what we want on the site, we just do it ourselves. If working on the web portal sounds like something that interests you, please contact Chris or me, we would be happy to have help with portal management.

As we complete another trip around the sun, we are in our NSA election cycle. Ballots were mailed in mid-January to all registered members. Please be sure to review the candidate biographies, make your selections, and return your ballot using the enclosed return envelope by March 23, 2017. President-Elect Steve Allen is tallying the ballots and will present the elections results in Knoxville.

Enjoy the rest of Winter in the Northern hemisphere (or Summer in the Southern hemisphere). March will soon be upon us and we'll be gathering in Knoxville for the 109th Annual Meeting. This is my last column as NSA President and I thank you for the privilege of serving. But I'm not going away just yet – I will be supporting incoming President Steve Allen and performing the duties of the Past-President. See you in Knoxville in a few short weeks!

Karolyn Hansen
NSA President

In this issue:

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Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research & Education (DEI) Facility Renovation Project

The Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research & Education (DEI) is a nonprofit organization in eastern coastal Maine located on Great Wass Island in the town of Beals that is well-known for its annual production of cultured soft-shell clam juveniles for public stock enhancement programs in Maine and other New England states. DEI began in 1987 as a community-based project of the University of Maine at Machias under the name Beals Island Regional Shellfish Hatchery. In 1995, the university decided that it wanted to continue supporting the hatchery, but did not want to be the only player, so a handful of like-minded individuals (teachers, bankers, lawyers, aquaculture specialists, and clambers) gathered to create a 501(c)(3) organization and a volunteer board of directors. In 2000, the board changed the name, and created a new mission statement: *to improve the quality of life for the people of Downeast and coastal Maine through applied marine research, technology transfer, and public marine resource education.*

In 2003, the DEI physical facility was moved from its residence of 16 years from Perio Point on the shores of Moosabec Reach to a rocky, 11-acre peninsula four miles to the south to the western side of Great Wass Island. With a change of venue, focus and direction, the DEI Board began to appreciate the fact that its new home (that included a 2-story, 9,600 square-foot building, two tidal impoundments, both around 3-acres, a commercial wharf, and a single-family guest house) could serve as more than a shellfish hatchery. The setting is one of the most pristine, with no large commercial businesses within a 10-mile stretch of shoreline, few private houses nearby, and is adjacent to deep water where only lobster fishers and scallopers ply their seasonal trades. The board began to develop the idea that this location would be ideal for marine research and K-16 marine resource education. No marine research facility with running seawater exists in Maine beyond the Darling Center in Walpole, which is 135 miles from Beals Island. It is clear why few marine scientists venture into Downeast Maine due to the lack of research infrastructure for them and their team of students and technicians. The DEI Board began what has taken nearly 15 years to create: the easternmost marine research laboratory and education center in the U.S.



Artist's rendering of the easternmost marine laboratory and education center in the U.S. on the western side of Great Wass Island in the town of Beals. In addition to the hatchery building, marine lab, and education center (foreground), the schematic shows a 100-ft pier and two tidal impoundments (on each side of the rocky peninsula) along with a 20-bed dormitory (upper middle).

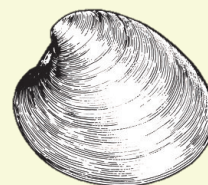
From 2004 to 2010, DEI and its academic partner, the University of Maine at Machias, received \$1.8 million from the National Science Foundation and \$1.2 million from the Maine Technology Institute specifically for renovation and improvements to the hatchery, wharf, and tidal impoundments. In addition, a 1,000 square-foot state-of-the-art marine education center/classroom was constructed. Recently, a \$2 million gift from the Next Generation Foundation of Maine towards the build-out of a marine research laboratory leveraged an additional \$2 million from the State of Maine, and groundbreaking on the marine laboratory will begin at the end of July 2017. In addition, the Harold C. Alfond Foundation committed \$1.8 million towards the completion of the marine laboratory that will now include a 20-bed dormitory. That project will commence in August 2017. It is anticipated that by July 2018 both marine lab and dormitory will be ready for its first occupants and the long tradition of shellfish and marine ecological research will begin a new era.

For more information on the current facilities, visit the web page: <http://www.downeastinstitute.org/>

Brian Beal
Professor, University of Maine



A pristine region for shellfish aquaculture and marine environmental research.. Photo credit: Sandy Shumway.



Rick Karney, Longtime Director of Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, Steps Down

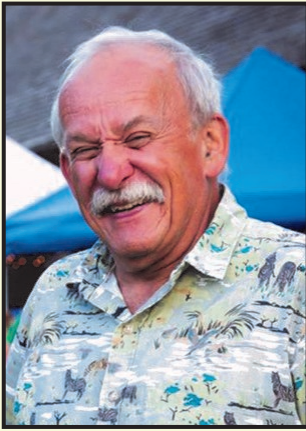


Photo credit: Sara Piazza

Rick Karney, shellfish biologist and culturist extraordinaire, has announced that he is stepping down after more than 40 years as Director of the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG), but will continue his association and involvement on a part-time basis. In the letter he wrote announcing his "unretirement," Rick said "My time at the top of the reef is ending and like an old oyster or recycled shell, my role is now in the foundation and stability of the larger structure." Responsibility for management of the MVSG will now be in the capable hands of Amandine Surier and Emma Green-Beach.

Rick learned about hatchery aquaculture of quahogs at the side of the legendary Michael Castagna at VIMS in the mid-1970s. In 1976, Rick was hired to work with the shellfish "constables" on Martha's Vineyard, to manage the shellfish beds in each of the six towns on the island. The MVSG was formed about this time and by the late 1970s, Rick had constructed a pilot hatchery and was spawning quahogs and bay scallops, growing larvae and seed in plastic garbage cans and plywood tables in a small and cramped wood-frame greenhouse. To expand capacity, Rick secured funds for the construction of the nation's first public solar shellfish hatchery, which came on line in the early 1980s. The concept was that each town on the island would contribute funds to operate the hatchery. In turn, the towns would receive seed to nurse for planting on town beds in the island's beautiful and productive saltwater ponds. The small solar shellfish puts out an extraordinary amount of shellfish seed for its size, producing tens of millions of quahog, scallop and oyster seed annually. Martha's Vineyard has one of the last remaining commercial bay scallop fisheries, supported in large measure by Rick's unceasing effort in producing and nursing scallop seed.

The financial arrangement that supported the hatchery was precarious, requiring Rick to seek state grants and private donations throughout the MVSG history, something that has diverted attention from his main focus, but was necessary to keep the program going. He developed skills as a fundraiser and an advocate for protecting the unique Vineyard environment, especially water quality in the local ponds. Rick wrote eloquently to raise awareness of the Vineyard community to the threats posed by nutrient loading.

Of Rick's many accomplishments, his successful efforts to almost single-handedly develop commercial oyster farming on the Vineyard stands out as one of the most important and far reaching. In 1995, Rick secured a Federal grant for an aquaculture training program to assist displaced fishermen to set up oyster farms. Rick worked hand in hand with 16 fishermen-growers to establish their farms, providing critical advice and mentoring. In 2016, more than 2.7 million oysters produced on Martha's Vineyard were sold. Rick was also responsible for the successful reintroduction of oysters to Edgartown Great Pond. He deserves credit for much of the oyster farming boom currently underway on the island.

During the 2000s, the MVSG expanded operations to include two additional facilities, including the former State Lobster Hatchery. Also during this time, Rick took the lead in working to obtain permits for pilot offshore mussel culture sites, facing multiple roadblocks and the absurdities of the byzantine regulatory process. The farm off Menemsha remains in operation after six years, the first of its kind in the state. Rick was also the force in MVSG initiatives to evaluate kelp farming and using *Phragmites* to filter nutrients moving into the ponds and then using harvested plants to produce biochar. He has generously spread his expertise internationally in efforts to help start the first shellfish hatchery in Zanzibar. Rick has also volunteered his time with Aquaculture without Frontiers to develop a shellfish hatchery in Mexico.

Over the years, Rick trained and mentored a long list of hatchery assistants and field technicians (me among them), many of whom went on to have successful careers in aquaculture. Rick's mentorship has been highly influential to the many shellfish biologists who have worked under his tutelage. And the most important lessons haven't been just about shellfish culture but about human culture. Like the shellfish he cares for, Rick was always there to lend an ear and help nurture all of his employees, whether it was with professional or personal advice. He also managed to collaborate with just about all of the East Coast shellfish research community through offerings of resources, sites and information as new projects were started.

Rick has many friends in the shellfish community. These comments provide some insights into the accomplishments and sterling reputation of Rick Karney:

"He negotiated choppy waters through diligence, hard work, a genuine sense of purpose, and the ability to understand the local culture and work within its structure. All along the way, he built a reputation for honesty, integrity, and an incredible work ethic, gaining the admiration of the islanders he served." -*Sandy Macfarlane* "Rick's work has been an integral part of his life and his contribution to the overall well-being of the Island. He has served that role effectively, conscientiously and tirelessly since he started." -*Dale Leavitt* "Rick is the kind of change I'd like to see in the world. He is down to earth, compassionate, passionate, hands-on, fun, good-humored, curious, adventurous, well-spoken, and upbeat. He never stops learning, and never stops reaching out." -*Dave Cohen* "I think of how Rick creates and builds things. I'd love to see a baseball card with Rick's stats on the back to see just how many oysters, clams, scallops, mussels and everything else he has produced. Those would be hall-of-fame numbers!" -*Bill Walton* "Rick has the ability to recognize the unique spark in each of us and would always be able to find common ground no matter what group of people he was talking with. He has the knack for making anyone feel at home! Much like the shellfish in the water, we are all better when we work together." -*Beth Walton* "Rick will be remembered for his endless curiosity and the generous spirit in which he shared his enthusiasm and knowledge about the natural world. Rick embodies the ethos of act locally and think globally, and leading by example." -*Scott Lindell*

It is appropriate to end this piece with Rick's own words, from the letter informing of his "unretirement". "Is there life after shellfish?! I often seek solace and understanding in nature, especially in the ways of charismatic microfauna. All bivalve shellfish pass through a mobile larval stage and eventually undergo a drastic change or metamorphosis to the adult form. The transition is difficult, but once accomplished, they settle down and get on with their lives often happy as clams at high tide."

- John Hargreaves, with contributions from Sandy Macfarlane, Dale Leavitt, Rob Garrison, Bill and Beth Walton, Scott Lindell and Dave Cohen.

Recruits' Corner

Hello, Recruits!



Get excited for the 2017 annual conference in Knoxville, TN! The conference is a great way to get to know our cohort of Recruits. These people are our future colleagues and collaborators and the conference environment is a great way to foster these important relationships.

The conference is packed with events aimed at bringing students into the mix. On Sunday we have a brief student orientation and introduction just prior to the President's Reception. Monday starts bright and early with the Recruits-only breakfast, where we will kick off the Scavenger Hunt. This year there is an entire exciting section dedicated to Undergraduate Research, a prime-time spot in the afternoon on Monday. Monday night closes with a special session, "Next Steps After Graduate School: Perspectives from Early Career Scientists", followed by a Recruits happy hour at "Not Watson's Kitchen and Bar".

The half day of sessions on Wednesday ends with the NSA Business Luncheon – be sure to attend, it is included in your registration! Wednesday afternoon is open to explore the sights of Knoxville, including the freshwater mussel exhibit at the McClung museum at the U of Tenn, and maybe even participate in this year's Scallop Gallop (5K fun-run). The Wednesday poster session and Happy Hour will include drinks and hors d'oeuvres, so make sure you are back in time!

Your participation as a volunteer is critical to the smooth execution of conference activities. The Recruits help with registration and provide A/V support during talk sessions. The week-long sales booth and Tuesday night's Student Endowment Fund (SEF) auction benefit the SEF, so we must have a good volunteer showing throughout the week. Don't be shy--come out and volunteer - it's a great way to chat and network with professionals in your field, and it's a mandatory way of giving back for SEF travel grant recipients. To help with your travel budgeting, we'll be emailing a collaborative room-share and ride-share document.



As always, please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to seeing you all in Knoxville!

Hillary & Lillian

Looking to Enhance Your Library...



What remains of the personal library of Dr. Kenneth J. Boss is being made available for sale to any interested parties through **Northeast Natural History & Supply**. Dr. Boss was Curator of Malacology and Professor of Biology at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology from 1966 until his retirement in 2004. His research focused on molluscan systematics; particularly the bivalve families Tellinidae and deep-sea Vesicomyidae, as well as Cuban terrestrial snails. He described 22 mollusc species and one species of polychaete. Much of Professor Boss' personal library went to the Department of Molluscs at the Museum and subsequently to Harvard's Ernst Mayr Library. A thorough biography can be found in Kabat and Johnson (2015- Breviora 544).

The bulk of the molluscan literature was sold and disseminated over the past two years. What remains is primarily composed of over 125 works in marine biology with scattered works on other taxonomic groups (including previously uncatalogued freshwater and land mollusks) and general natural history and biographies of naturalists. Publications authored by Professor Boss are not included. Prices are significantly below Fair Market Value to better accommodate students of natural sciences with limited funds who might best make use of the material.

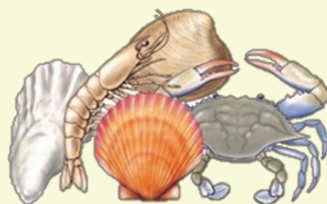
A complete catalog list is attached. For those unable to open the attachment, the list can also be found online at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/northeastnaturalhistory/home/classroom-news/kennethjbosslibraryremainder>.

Images of many items are available upon request. Please excuse any cross postings and feel free to distribute this list to other interested parties.

Items can be shipped both nationally and internationally with U.S. domestic shipping via U.S.P.S., U.P.S. or Federal Express. Within the U.S., U.S.P.S. Priority or Express Mail are available with insurance and tracking extra. Accepted payment forms include personal checks, bank checks, money orders; and also by credit card via PayPal.

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Opinion: An Ethical Code for Conferences

This fundamental form of scientific communication is threatened by modern recording technology and researchers who refuse to adhere to an age-old ethical code.

By Wolf B. Frommer

I recently attended several conferences and saw rampant recording of lectures and posters. Because my talk contained a lot of unpublished work, I asked the audience to refrain from taking pictures. But just five minutes into my talk, I saw multiple cell phones up recording my lecture. I repeated my request, and the people put their phones down. Ten minutes later, however, the very same people did it again. I asked once more, yet one person continued to record my slides.



Scientific conferences are meant to inform the attending audience about the newest results. No one wants to hear only published work; we attend meetings to get the absolute latest information that is coming out of labs. To be able to do that, an honor code exists that conference-goers cannot make use of data presented to advance their own work. While some have broken this code in the past, by and large it has been respected by the scientific community—until now. These days, with the use of new information technologies and social networks, this ethical principle is in serious jeopardy.

We must enforce this old honor code to encourage the sharing of unpublished data and ensure that science can progress effectively.

Modern digital camera technology produces such high quality images that some people decide to take pictures of slides and posters, or even film entire lectures. This is much easier than scribbling notes, and the resulting files are simpler to show to friends or colleagues. Moreover, some tweeters have started to post pictures of speakers together with their unpublished data. This means that these data are published in the widest possible sense before they are published by the authors themselves. All of these activities can have a detrimental influence on scientific progress, as researchers will begin to refrain from showing their newest data at meetings. Eventually, scientists may choose not to go to conferences at all because they can expect to see talks only on research that is already published or in press.

Thus, I firmly believe that photographing posters, recording parts of talks, and posting other people's data should be officially banned, and that people who break these ethical standards should be expelled. We must enforce this old honor code to encourage the sharing of unpublished data and ensure that science can progress effectively. Ideally, the scientific community would adopt a generally acceptable and enforceable ethical code for all conferences, make it part of every program, and announce these regulations at the beginning of every meeting, following the examples of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory symposia and Gordon Research Conferences.

Above all, this code should include the obvious rule that the knowledge you gain from unpublished work ought not be used to compete with the authors. Without adherence to such rules, scientific conferences—and the research they inspire—are at risk of being lost forever.

Wolf B. Frommer is a staff member of the department of plant biology at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Stanford, California.

Reprinted from The Scientist, December 2, 2016.

Bruce Koike, *Gyotaku* artist

Koike specializes in creating aquatic-themed artwork through the technique known as fish printing. This Japanese art form is known as *Gyotaku* (Ghee-oh-tah-ku), which literally translates into “Fish Rubbing”, and was developed quite incidentally in Japan in the early 1800s. Supposedly, a Japanese noble was impressed by the impression that a recently caught fish had left on a piece of paper...thus the first fish print was created unintentionally. *Gyotaku* arrived in Hawaii by the 1960s and then to the mainland in the 1970s.



This technique utilizes the actual organism (plant, fish, shellfish, or other) as a core tenet. There are two variations to the technique. Koike practices the “direct method” where each object is inked followed by paper being placed on top of the painted object. The paper is then gently rubbed and as a result, the paint transfers onto the paper, creating a mirror image of the object. Details such as eyes, cephalic tentacles or epipodia are added once the print has dried. Successive prints are all original pieces because of the re-inking, rubbing process, and detailing are individualized.

Bruce exhibits his works at science-related conferences including PISCO (Corvallis 2005), National Shellfish Association (Monterey 2014), Pacific Shellfish Growers Association (Lake Chelan 2016), American Fisheries Society (Portland 2015, and Kansas City 2016), Western Society of Naturalists (Monterey 2016), North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (Hood River 2016), as well as at art festivals.

“I always enjoy printing a species for the very first time”. Recent new experiences include a Lost River sucker (an endangered species), white sturgeon and a Swainson’s thrush (yes, a bird). “Each specimen has a story about how it landed on the printing table, and each person who purchases a piece typically shares with me the significance of the original print. I enjoy hearing how the art rekindles a memory and touches someone’s heart.”



Living along the Oregon coast is an excellent location for sourcing fishes. The answer to the frequently asked question, “Where do you get your fish?”, is that any avenue is a potential source. Specimens have been provided by researchers, shellfish/fish growers, natural resource personnel, commercial fishers, Asian markets, and other anglers who commission art to document a special catch. Koike has also printed fish that he has caught.

Koike focuses on creating original pieces with acrylics and rice paper and maintains two chest freezers of re-useable specimen. He is self-taught in this technique and has instructed numerous fish printing workshops. Koike earned a Masters degree from Oregon State University (fisheries science-fish pathology) and has worked in the public aquarium profession as a husbandry specialist. He also spent a dozen years at a



community college developing and directing a career/technical program in Aquarium Science before serving as their interim president. To view additional artwork go to <http://koikebruce.wix.com/koike-fish-prints> or contact Koike directly at koike.bruce@gmail.com to discuss any artwork needs.

Try your hand at *Gyotaku*....

Bruce has generously offered to run a hands-on outreach workshop during the NSA meeting in Seattle in 2018. Come and learn the technique and take it back to your classrooms and outreach programs. Mark your calendar early, space will be limited and it promises to be a lot of fun!

110th Annual Meeting
Seattle, WA
Renaissance Hotel
March 18 - 22, 2018

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Upcoming Events

109th NSA Annual Meeting: March 26-30, 2017.
Knoxville, Tennessee (USA). For more information,
visit: www.shellfish.org

21st International Pectinid Workshop: April 19-25,
2017. Portland, Maine (USA). For more information
visit: www.ipw2017.com.

**11th International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish
Safety:** May 14-18, 2017. Galway, Ireland. For more
information: www.conference.ie/Conferences

For more information on these conferences:
www.was.org

World Aquaculture 2017: Jun. 27-30. Cape Town,
South Africa

Asia Pacific Aquaculture 2017: Aug. 26-29. Johor
Bahru, Malaysia

Aquaculture Europe 2017: Oct. 16-20. Dubrovnik,
Croatia

Aquaculture America 2018: Feb. 19-22. Las
Vegas, Nevada, USA

AQUA 2018: Aug. 25-29. Montpellier, France

Aquaculture 2019: Mar. 6-10. New Orleans,
Louisiana, USA

Aquaculture 2022: Feb. 27-Mar. 3. San Diego,
California, USA

Aquaculture America 2023: Feb. 19-22. New
Orleans, Louisiana, USA

If you would like to announce a meeting, conference, workshop, or publication that might be of interest to NSA members, please contact the *QNL* Editor, LeRoy Creswell (creswell@ufl.edu).