

National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2009

ORONO, ME



President's Message

As summer winds down and the academic year gets started I want to urge members to reach out to newcomers, faculty and students alike, with interests in shellfish. Suggest they visit the NSA website, lend them an issue of the *Quarterly Newsletter* and encourage them to join and become involved in NSA. Subscriptions to the *Journal of Shellfish Research*, the *Quarterly Newsletter* and, of course, attending the annual meeting are all tangible benefits associated with being an NSA member. Students, especially, should be encouraged to visit the Recruits' Page on our website (www.shellfish.org) to see all of the society-sponsored support available for student research and to help offset the costs of attending annual meetings. Foremost among these funding opportunities are the Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant and the Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research. The Carriker Award is presented annually to support student research projects in any area of shellfish biology while the Castagna Award is focused on applied research on shellfish. Proposals for both of these grants are due November 30th (see announcement on page 6 of this Newsletter).



And speaking of deadlines, I hope you submitted an abstract ahead of the recent August 31st deadline and are making plans to attend the upcoming Triennial Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, the World Aquaculture Society, and the American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section. This meeting will be held March 1-5 in San Diego, California and promises to be an important meeting for NSA as regular interactions with both WAS and AFS are very important for the society to maintain. NSA is the lead organization this year and Sandy Shumway has been busy coordinating our regular events with other "goings on" that accompany the Triennial Meeting. According to recent FAO estimates, by the year 2015 aquaculture will for the first time be providing over 50% of

the protein supplied to humans from fishery products. Aquaculture, including shellfish culture, is an increasingly important part of the world's food production mix. The Triennial Meeting promises to bring together a wealth of information for all who have an interest in shellfisheries and aquaculture. Additional information on the Triennial Meeting can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter and on the accompanying flier. In addition, I suggest going to the WAS website (www.was.org/meetings/WasMeetings.asp) for specific information on general sessions, the trade show, and tourist attractions in San Diego. One note for those who have not been to the conference venue for some time – there is now a trolley connecting downtown San Diego with the refurbished Town and Country Resort that

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Sunny San Diego will play host to Aquaculture 2010, the Triennial Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, World Aquaculture Association, and American Fisheries Society from March 1-5, 2010. See inside for more information on the meeting, the venue and local attractions.

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- ***Membership Update***

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makes getting around the area much simpler. Information on specific sessions is being finalized and will be available soon. Deadlines not to be missed for students are those described above as well as competitions for 2010 Student Endowment Fund Presentation and Travel Awards that provide financial assistance with lodging or meeting registration. Applications for these awards are readily downloaded from the NSA website. I urge all students planning on attending the meeting to apply for an award and get involved in helping to make the Triennial Meeting a huge success.

I would also like to announce that dates and a venue have been selected for the 2011 NSA meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. We will be meeting at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel from March 27-31, 2011. Please mark your calendars now! NSA Member-at-Large Steve Allen is serving as the local arrangements chair and both Sandy Shumway and Steve have been working with the Sheraton Baltimore to secure NSA the very best meeting options available. We need help to make this meeting a success and I urge NSA members to pitch in when asked to chair sessions, assist in helping students attend the meeting and otherwise get engaged in helping to make the 2011 meeting one of the best ever.

NSA activities that have continued through the summer include substantive changes to our website, spearheaded by the NSA Web Committee. New features will improve access to the website and streamline the online experience. A redesigned home page will provide a more intuitive feel, including pull-down menus for faster navigation to the pages you want to see. You already have the option to elect to go green and receive this *Newsletter* electronically - just send a message to Newsletter Editor Paul Rawson (prawson@maine.edu) or simply select the check box in your membership profile while visiting the NSA website. NSA Secretary John Ewart continues to post shellfish job openings, while Karolyn Hansen has been posting other important announcements on the website. The Web Committee is pleased to report that there have been several job postings these past few months. Soon, the website will include a tool allowing members to submit job announcements and other postings directly through a moderated cue. The Web Committee continues to work to provide a simple, but useful online experience for our members and others visiting our site. Even so, please don't hesitate to send any constructive comments to webmaster@shellfish.org. And, if you're interested in helping to keep the website current, let either me or Web Committee Chair, Karolyn Mueller Hanson know. We can always use the extra help.

Other upcoming NSA activities include membership renewals and NSA elections. Membership renewals include the opportunity to contribute to the Student Endowment

Fund. I strongly urge members to renew their membership in a timely manner and at the same time make a tax-deductible donation to support the SEF. Officer positions open this year include Vice President, Secretary, and 2010-2012 Member-at-Large. The Elections Committee has been busy formulating a ballot so keep your eye on the mail. When ballots arrive later this fall, please take the time to read the candidate biographies and return your vote, promptly. To all student members, new Student Recruits Co-Chairs Maxine Chaney and Stephanie Reiner would love to hear from you and get your help planning for student activities for the 2010 meeting in San Diego. For all members, I urge you to volunteer for one of many ongoing NSA activities. Working with *JSR* Editor Sandy Shumway on timely manuscript reviews, volunteering and following through on organizing sessions, and contributing your time to assist at the Annual Meetings, both this year and next, are among critical tasks necessary to maintain a healthy and vibrant society.

Joth Davis
President

Nominations Sought for Honored Life Member and David H. Wallace Awards

Nominations are requested for recipients of the Honored Life Member and the David H. Wallace Award of NSA. Each year the NSA Awards Committee solicits and reviews nominations and recommends recipients for approval by the Executive Committee based upon demonstrated fulfillment of the criteria for each Award. The **Honored Life Member Award** is a recognition based upon exemplary service to NSA or to the profession. The **David H. Wallace Award** recognizes individuals with an outstanding record of success in bringing together shellfish scientists and industry officials for the benefit of shellfisheries. Recipients receive a plaque and a lifetime membership to NSA. Biographies of recipients are published in *JSR* or the *Quarterly Newsletter* for each award, respectively. Past recipients are listed on the National Shellfisheries Association website (see www.shellfish.org/awards.htm).

Nominations should include a brief summary of why the nominee deserves recognition. Letters of support may be included if desired. Nominations should be sent by December 1, 2009 to Dr. David Bushek at bushek@hsrl.rutgers.edu or Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, 6959 Miller Avenue, Port Norris, NJ 08349 USA.

Recruits' Corner

This is the first article by your new Recruit Co-Chairs Stephanie and Maxine, so we'd like to tell you a little bit about ourselves. Stephanie Reiner is a Master's student at the College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. She earned a B.A. in biology at St. Mary's College of Maryland and is currently studying oyster



aquaculture in high density, flow through systems. Maxine Chaney earned her B.S. in Environmental Science at Oregon State and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Southern California. She is interested in understanding how oysters survive in the intertidal, and the molecular basis of summer mortality syndrome (SMS).



We both encourage all recruits to participate in NSA, and especially to attend the annual meetings. The meetings are a great opportunity to meet peers and mentors across the country and even the world. The upcoming NSA conference will be the Triennial in San Diego co-sponsored by NSA, the World Aquaculture Society and

the American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section (March 1-5). You can register for the conference and find links for conference registration and hotel room reservations at www.shellfish.org. The travel and presentation awards deadline is September 30th and there is still time to apply for the Carriker and Castagna research grants (deadline November 30th), both of which will be awarded at the conference. The Carriker and Castagna awards are \$1250 grants awarded to YOU to support YOUR research and applications can be found at the NSA website under Student Support.

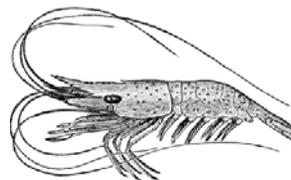
If the conference isn't enough to draw you to San Diego, there are several attractions near the hotel that you can visit during your stay. Balboa Park, home to several museums and the San Diego Zoo, is ~5 miles from the hotel. If you are interested in the history of California and its first settlers, Old Town State Historic Park boasts several historic sites and provides a glimpse into the past with costumed interpreters.

As your recruits Co-Chairs, we will work to encourage student involvement as well as provide a link between the NSA student body and Executive Committee. The NSA can only continue to function if new members like you are involved and dedicated. We encourage you to come to us

with any concerns, suggestions, or questions that you may have, as everyone's input is vital to the success of the NSA. We are in the process of finding out how NSA students can help out at the Triennial Meeting; look for updates on the NSA website. In addition to posts from us, there is a discussion board on the website for anyone to use, so check often!

Looking forward to meeting you in San Diego!

Stephanie and Maxine
Recruits Co-Chairs



Membership Update

Our 2009 membership has already reached 723 members as of early September, putting us on a good pace to surpass our highest annual membership of 760 members in 2006. Please consider recruiting colleagues, students or family members into the Association (www.shellfish.org/join.htm) to make 2009 our highest membership year. With the start of the new school year, now is the opportunity to let new students know how valuable membership in NSA is. Keep in mind that new members joining now will receive all the past issues of the *Journal of Shellfish Research* for the year, as well as gain immediate online access to recent issues of the *Journal*.

It's not too early to renew your membership in NSA for 2010. Dues have remained the same (\$85 for Regular Members and \$45 for Student Members), making NSA one of the better deals out there. To make renewal easy, there are options to renew directly online or print out your renewal and mail it in. As a reminder, please take a moment to check your account details on-line and update your information if it's changed.

Lastly, the Membership Committee (Bill Walton, Maille Lyons, Bruce MacDonald, Philippe Soudant and Kristi Straus) gladly welcomes any feedback on your membership experience as well as suggestions for ways to increase membership. Please feel free to contact me (billwalton@auburn.edu) if you have any feedback for the Committee.

Bill Walton
Chair, Membership Committee

AQUACULTURE 2010....

is just around the corner! March 1-5, 2010 at the Town and Country Convention Center. NSA is the lead organization this year, so plan to attend and support NSA and have a great time!

The Triennial is the largest aquaculture meeting in the world. Some argue that they are 'too big' and shy away. Don't!! The meetings are an exciting opportunity and it's always a good time to visit San Diego. There is a long list of 'shellfish' sessions including (but definitely not limited to): New Species for Aquaculture, Mussel Culture, Genetics, Crustacean Disease, Cultivation and Stock Enhancement of Crabs and Lobsters, Abalone, Geoducks, Physiology, Olympia Oysters, Best Management Practices, Freshwater Mussel Propagation and Restoration, Multitrophic Aquaculture, and many others. At last count there were over 800 abstracts submitted and we expect well over 1000. Check the website: WWW.WAS.ORG for details and updates.



And, don't forget all the other reasons to attend Aquaculture 2010 – a chance to hear about research in fields outside your own, the field's largest aquaculture trade show, and of course all the fun opportunities for you and your family to enjoy the San Diego region - Sea World, the Zoo, Hubbs Sea World, Legoland, Old Town, and a close jaunt to Tijuana.

Aquaculture 2010 promises to be the best Triennial yet - see you there!

Sandy Shumway
Chair, Steering Committee



Student Endowment Fund Awards for Aquaculture 2010

The NSA Student Endowment Fund awards lodging and registration awards to support participation by NSA students presenting reports on their research at annual meetings. The Student Awards Committee, chaired by Chris Dungan and Marta Marta Gómez-Chiarri, coordinates the evaluations of student presentations which are eligible for the Thurlow C. Nelson (oral) and Gordon Gunter (poster) presentation awards. Find complete information on student awards including application forms at <http://shellfish.org/endow/endowapp.htm>.

NSA students participating in the 102nd Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, are invited to apply for presentation awards. To be eligible for an award, students must be current NSA members, must present their original research, and must apply using the available application form(s). Recent graduates may also apply, if they present research they conducted as a student, and they are within one year of having received their degree. Although the application deadline for travel awards for the San Diego meeting (September 30, 2009) may be close or past, NSA students who failed to apply for a travel award because they were unaware of that deadline are invited to submit late applications, with due haste and justifying emails, to Dr. Marta Gómez-Chiarri gomezchi@uri.edu.

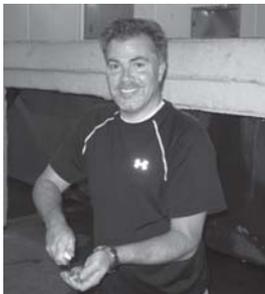
Onward brilliantly to San Diego!

Marta Gómez-Chiarri
Chris Dungan
Student Awards Committee Co-Chairs

Triennial Quiz Bowl

The U.S. Aquaculture Society Student Activities Committee is organizing a Student Quiz Bowl for the upcoming Triennial Meeting (March 1- 5) in San Diego. The Quiz Bowl will test the knowledge of students in various fields of aquaculture. The USAS Student Activities Committee is seeking questions (and answers) from professionals who compose the many fields of aquaculture - their goal is to have a diverse selection of questions to challenge the Quiz Bowl participants. They are particularly in need of questions relating to shellfish culture and NSA members are encouraged to contribute to this worthy and exciting activity whether or not they can attend the meeting in San Diego. If you are interested in contributing questions please contact Bonnie Mulligan (bonita@siu.edu), Charles Brown (cbrow87@lsu.edu), or Brian Gause (bgause1@siu.edu).

Boy, How Things Change!



This past August I completed my 30th year working at our family oyster processing and distribution business in the French Quarter of New Orleans. At just 21 years old, I gave up my junior year in college to help my dad at the oyster house, until his manager returned to work following a heart attack. Well, dad's manager never returned to work and

I never left the oyster house to go back to school.

In my early years at the oyster house, I didn't worry about the oyster resource or regulations that our company had to abide by, because I knew that we had been in business since 1876. We always had all of the oysters we needed and there was never a concern that the State and Federal health regulators would "shut us down." Boy, how times have changed.

Thirty years ago, the Chesapeake Bay was noted for producing more oysters than anywhere in the world. Our company used to purchase untold amounts of Chesapeake Bay oysters, and then "back-ship" equally as many Louisiana oysters to Virginia and Maryland. Now, many Louisiana oyster dealers ship dozens of trailer-loads of oysters to Virginia and Maryland every week, but the trucks aren't being sent back with the Chesapeake Bay oysters like in the old days. It's interesting how the regulatory picture for the molluscan shellfish community has changed in America. Thirty years ago, the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, (NSSP) was amended about every 5 - 10 years and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) didn't exist. Now the ISSC Board meets annually, the entire Conference meets biannually and they amend the NSSP every time they meet. The NSSP manual is over twice the size of what it was 30 years ago. And in my opinion, through all the additional regulatory measures handed down over the last thirty years, molluscan shellfish were as safe to eat raw 30 years ago as they are to eat now.

I know it's not "politically correct" to say that many shellfish control authorities have forgotten that molluscan shellfish are regulated to be eaten raw and are a very healthy food, but they have forgotten. The NSSP requires not only that growing areas for molluscan shellfish be bacteriologically tested prior to harvest, but they must also be processed and distributed by certified shellfish dealers that are inspected by State and Federal regulators. What other food has growing areas tested before allowing the food to be sold in commerce? While other foods are heavily processed, molluscan shellfish are a truly "natural" food. Molluscan shellfish, and specifically oysters, are a high protein, low fat food source that are chock full of vitamins and minerals. In recent studies done by LSU, oysters have been found to kill cancer cells. The NSSP and the shellfish

community that follow the guidelines should be used as a model to regulate other foods.

In addition to the public health regulatory situation, there have also been changes made to the way the oyster resource is regulated for conservation reasons. Many years ago, the oceans fish and shellfish were believed to be inexhaustible. Now we recognize that even a highly prolific species such as oysters must be managed for long term productivity. The oyster resource in the Gulf of Mexico region is the largest surviving natural oyster fishery in the world, because of their good management practices. Through public and private investment in oyster reef development that dates back to the 1840's, productive oyster reefs continue to grow and flourish. The Gulf industry has worked with state fisheries management agencies in the region to ensure a sustainable fishery, which will in turn provide for an economically viable industry. The Gulf region produces, on average, around 2/3's of the U.S. oysters. It is my expectation that this percentage will stay the same or perhaps even grow in the foreseeable future.

Times may have changed over the past thirty years, but after living through the largest natural disaster in the history of the United States, Hurricane Katrina, I still don't worry very much about how many oysters I will have to sell or if the regulators will allow me sell raw oysters to my customers any longer. The P & J Oyster Company is the oldest, continually operating oyster processor and distributor in America and will survive, because we are passionate about what we do and our customers love the oysters we provide them. EAT OYSTERS, LOVE LONGER!!!

Al Sunseri
Chair, Louisiana Oyster Task Force



Newsletter E-Delivery Option

It's never too late to sign up for electronic delivery of the NSA *Quarterly Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* is posted as a pdf file to <http://shellfish.org/pubs/qnl.htm>. Members can always access the current and archived issues there. If you would like to "GO GREEN" simply send a note to Paul Rawson (prawson@maine.edu) and we'll add you to an email delivery list. Once an issue is sent to the printers you will be sent the link via email so you can directly and easily access the pdf file.

Carriker and Castagna Grant Applications

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2009!!

In 1998 NSA began providing student members with financial support for their research by creating The Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant. In 2002 the Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research was added. The awards are named in honor of two of our most esteemed members and leaders in the field of shellfish research. They are competitive grants awarded that are awarded annually. The Carriker Grant recognizes excellence in scientific research in the area of shellfish biology, whereas the Castagna Grant recognizes excellence in applied research in the area of shellfish science. An applicant for the Castagna Grant is required to focus on the practical applied aspects of his/her shellfish research. **The award amount for each grant is \$1250.**

Students may apply for both awards if their research fits the criteria for each award. Separate applications, however, must be submitted and each application must clearly indicate how the proposed research will fit the criteria for that award. Use of the same proposal to apply for both grants is NOT acceptable.

Applications will be reviewed by the NSA Awards Committee, a standing committee chaired by the Past President. The deadline for receipt of proposals is the close of business (5:00 pm EST) on **November 30, 2009**. Successful recipients will be notified no later than January 31, 2009 and awards presented at the Annual Business Luncheon in San Diego. Detailed instructions for completing the application process are available online at www.shellfish.org/grants.htm. Additional information about the awards is available on the 'Student Support' tab. Applications should be sent electronically as a pdf document to Dr. David Bushek, NSA Past President (bushek@hsrl.rutgers.edu). Students may also contact Dr. Bushek with any questions about the awards or the application process.



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2010 Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Expo

The 2010 Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Exposition (NACE) will be held at the Radisson Inn in Plymouth, MA from December 1-3, 2010. The theme of the conference will be New Decade: New Opportunities, New Challenges.

Although NACE 2010 is over a year away, the conference organizers are seeking ideas and suggestions for contributed paper sessions and workshops that the Northeast aquaculture community would like to see included in the conference program. In addition, they are looking for individuals who are willing and available to assist in coordinating conference sessions. Suggestions, comments, and names of volunteers should be forwarded to either Joe Buttner (jbuttner@salemstate.edu) or Craig Hollingsworth (chollingsworth@umext.umass.edu).

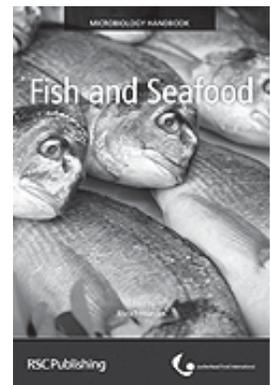
Economic Stimulus at shellfish.org

Looking for a job? Check out the postings at shellfish.org/recruits/open.htm. Seven shellfish/marine positions were posted in August and eight more have already been added this month. Positions available include student internships, entry-level positions for industry and management agencies, post-docs and tenure track faculty positions.

Have a position to advertise? Send your posts to webmaster@shellfish.org and we'll get it posted. Be sure to include appropriate contact info, a clear description of qualifications and a closing date for applications.

Recent Release

Leatherhead Foods recently announced the release of Fish and Seafood - Microbiology Handbook, 2nd Ed. The book contains a wealth of information on spoilage microorganisms and food poisoning pathogens associated with fish and shellfish. Fish and Seafood - Microbiology Handbook provides a brief overview of the processing factors that determine the nature and extent of microbial growth and survival in the seafood as well as the potential hazards associated with seafood consumption. The second edition contains updated information on seafood HACCP. Visit www.leatherheadfood.com/bookshop for more information.



Molluscs in the News

The end of the Permian extinction, approximately 250 million years ago, has been dubbed by some paleontologists as the “mother of mass extinctions”. At the time, drastically altered ocean chemistry resulted in the loss of over 80% of marine genera. One prevailing view among paleontologists has held that the recovery of biotic diversity in the early Triassic, following the end-Permian mass extinction, was a slow process. In a recent issue of *Science* (vol. 325, pages 1118-1121), however, researchers at several European institutions report that the levels of diversity for ammonoids, shelled molluscs resembling modern day *Nautilus*, recovered much more rapidly than has been documented for other marine taxa, such as gastropods and bivalves. The study by Arnaud Brayard and collaborators, which was covered by the New York Times (www.nytimes.com/2009/09/01/science/01obpermian.html), suggests that ammonoids occupied a number of ecological niches and exploited a variety of food resources. This niche diversity may have supported rapid diversification after the end-Permian extinction. In a related Perspectives article in *Science* (vol. 325, pages 1079-1080), Charles Marshall and

David Jacobs also point out that ammonoid diversity rebounded after other smaller extinction events and suggest that the ammonoids’ resiliency may be related to the groups’ affinity for low-oxygen conditions and their physiological tolerance for stressful conditions, traits still seen today in species like the vampire squid, *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*.



Image of the fossil ammonoid, *Ammonites nodosus*, courtesy of FCIT

Upcoming Events

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 20th Biennial Conference: November 1-5, 2009, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. For information visit <http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009>.

Asian Pacific Aquaculture 2009: November 3-6, 2009, Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For information visit www.was.org.

Virginia Aquaculture Conference: November 13-14, 2009, George Washington Inn & Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA. For information visit www.vaaquacultureconference.com.

Aquaculture & Microencapsulation Industrial Symposium: November 26-27, 2009, Hotel Cumbres Patagonicas, Puerto Varas, Chile. For information visit http://impascience.eu/bioencapsulation/2009_PuertoVaras/.

30th Milford Aquaculture Seminar: February 8-10, 2010, Courtyard Marriot, Shelton, CT, USA. For information see <http://mi.nefsc.noaa.gov/seminarworkshop> or contact Walter Blogoslawski at wblogosl@clam.mi.nmfs.gov.

Aquaculture 2010 / National Shellfisheries Association, 102nd Annual Meeting: March 2-5, 2010, San Diego, CA, USA. For information visit www.shellfish.org or <https://www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/Default.aspx?code=AQ2010>.

Australasia Aquaculture 2010 Conference and Exposition: May 23-26, 2010, Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. For information visit www.was.org.

World Congress of Malacology: July 18-24, 2010, Phuket, Thailand. For more information, registration and abstract submission visit <http://www.wcm2010.com> or <http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/>.

Sixth International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISA AH-6): September 5 - 9, 2010, Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel, Tampa, FL, USA. For information visit <http://aquaticpath.epi.ufl.edu/isaah6>.

Aquaculture Europe 2010: October 5-8, 2010, Centro de Congressos da Alfândega, Porto Portugal. For more information visit www.marevent.org.

If you would like to announce a meeting, conference, workshop or publication that might be of interest to NSA members, please contact Paul Rawson (prawson@maine.edu).



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