

# National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



June 2011

ORONO, ME

## Presidents' Message

While springtime struggles to gain a foothold here in the Pacific Northwest during a cold, wet La Nina year, I can reflect upon the many warm memories I have of the recently concluded NSA meeting in Baltimore. Our annual gathering is not just an opportunity to hear about the latest in shellfish science or breakthrough techniques that may revolutionize a culture practice. I know I speak for myself, and believe I speak for others, when I suggest that the real value of our meeting is our ability to become better colleagues because we expend the time and resources to gather annually to develop and nurture friendships through discussion of the interests we hold in common.



This year's meeting was a success because of the efforts of many. I want to specifically thank all of those who organized and chaired sessions on a wide variety of topics. The plenary talks were wonderful, got each day off to a fantastic start, and got people out of bed to attend. These will hopefully become a feature of annual meetings in the years ahead.

I want to thank outgoing members of the Executive Committee, Kim Reece, Maureen Krause, and Dave Bushek, and outgoing Treasurer, Chris Davis, for their outstanding contributions to our Association. I want to especially thank the Committee Chairs who served during my term as President. We had outstanding contributions from the Student Recruits Co-Chairs, Stephanie Reiner and Maxine Chaney, who worked tirelessly to coordinate all of the student activities, including much of the work that's so necessary to execute a meeting. Many thanks are due to Membership Chair Bill Walton, Publications Co-Chairs Susan Ford and John Kraeuter, *QNL* Editor Paul Rawson, and Industry Committee Co-Chairs John Supan, Rick Karney, and Bill Dewey for all of their contributions over the last year. Student Awards Co-Chairs Marta Gomez-Chiarri and Chris Dungan worked, largely behind the scenes, to ensure that the judging of student presentations and posters was accomplished with the utmost competence and professionalism. Our association

is enriched by the contributions of our Committee Chairs. Opportunities abound to serve NSA and it is vitally important to recognize all of the individuals who remain engaged and working for the betterment of NSA. Thank you all for your assistance, guidance and dedication.

*continued on page 5*



*Rita Colwell, Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, was made an Honored Life Member of NSA at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Presenting the award to Dr. Colwell are Sandy Shumway and Roger Mann. More on the award can be found on page 2 of this Newsletter and in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Shellfish Research.*

### ***In this issue:***

- ***In Memoriam: Dexter Haven***
- ***In Memoriam: Justin Taylor***
- ***2010 Carriker Award Project Update***
- ***Student Awards***

## Professor Rita Colwell Honored Life Member

One of the pleasures of having worked in marine science for nearly four decades has been the opportunity to participate in the advances of the field, and to never tire of the pleasure that comes from observing the creativity of colleagues in advancing our field of curiosity. Those advances are driven for most of us by simple hard work mixed with a little inspiration. Together we nudge the boundaries forward. But then there are a few, a very few of those with whom we share this endeavor, who stand above us, head and shoulders above us, not just in their productivity but in their rare ability to see the world of science at the global level, to synthesize the far flung points, and gently persuade, even cajole, those of us with lesser vision to participate in collaborative efforts that don't just nudge the field forward, but push it in significant bounds. They drive, we ride along. To the good fortune of those working in the lowly field of shellfish biology some of these exceptional minds have focused on areas of common interest to us. Among these we selfishly acknowledge such individuals as John Ryther, Dennis Crisp, and Bob Guillard with whom we personally shared the research lab and whose contributions to a wide variety of subdisciplines in marine science will long be appreciated. At the National Shellfisheries Association we have been able to acknowledge these individuals with the award of Honored Life Membership. Today, it is our privilege to add another name to that list of internationally respected scholars with the award of Honored Life Membership in the National Shellfisheries Association to PROFESSOR RITA COLWELL. It would be difficult, in fact near impossible to list all of Rita's achievements and honors in the few minutes available to us, but to those of you just starting out in this profession take note – our newest Honored Life Member with 54 honorary degrees, over 800 peer review manuscripts, 18 books, 57 Ph.D. students, appointments as Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, Founding Director of the Center of Marine Biotechnology, Director of the National Science Foundation, Distinguished University Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Delta Epsilon, the American Academy of Microbiology, the Canadian College of Microbiologists, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the recipient of both the National Medal of Science in 2007, and the 2010 Stockholm Water Prize - started her academic career working on the bacterial flora of marine fish and invertebrates! From humble beginning to the world stage, Rita's career continues to flourish. Congratulations Rita.

**Roger Mann and Sandra Shumway**

Note: A comprehensive biography will appear in the *Journal of Shellfish Research*.

## Recruits' Corner

NSA Recruits are Amazing!!

A big thank you to all who volunteered to run sessions, load talks, manage the sales booth, and deliver items at the Student Endowment Fund Auction. Your hard work did not go unnoticed and helped make the meeting a success.



Eighty Recruits attended this year's conference and 50 presented their research, either in the form of an oral or poster presentation. Maud Cross and Hilde Zenil were recognized with Thurlow C. Nelson and Gordon Gunter presentation awards, respectively. You can find more information on the SEF presentation and travel awards on page 3 of this *Newsletter*. Congratulations, Maud and Hilde!

There were several student activities held during the Baltimore meeting in celebration of the Student Recruits 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Career Panel, composed of five professionals from a range of careers, provided insight and answered questions on how current students should pursue their careers. See Maria Rosa's article on page 3 for more information on this highly successful event. The winning team of the yearly student scavenger hunt was composed of Maria Rosa, Melissa Pierce, and Vanessa Oingt. They were successful at finding all of the items in the scavenger hunt and received sweatshirts as prizes for their effort. A new addition to this year's meeting was the *NSA Shellfish Feud: Recruits Edition*. For this game, meeting attendees were presented with four questions concerning shellfish and research-related activities. After four rounds of fast-paced Shellfish Feud Fun, the current Recruits beat the regular members 1-0! This game was a success, so join us next year as we continue the Feud tradition and help the Recruits build a winning tradition! For those of you who were not able to attend, we hope you will join us at next year's meeting in Seattle, March 24-29, 2012.

Stephanie and Maxine will be stepping down as Recruit Co-Chairs at next year's meeting and will spend this year training Maria Rosa and Allison Mass, who will officially take over the reins in Seattle. Thank you Maria and Allison for stepping up and taking over this important and rewarding duty. We are always looking for ways to improve the student experience in NSA. Although we have already received some suggestions for next year's meeting, please feel free to email either Maxine (mchaney@usc.edu) or Stephanie (slreiner@vims.edu) with Recruits-oriented comments and suggestions for next year.

**Stephanie Reiner and Maxine Chaney**  
Recruits Co-Chairs

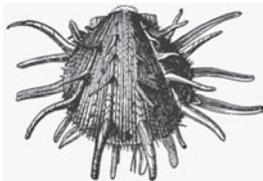
## Career Panel a Success

At this year's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the NSA Recruits organized a Career Panel, where Recruits had the opportunity to meet and talk with a great group of professionals about their career paths. Panel members included Barbara Kirkpatrick (Environmental Health Program Manager, Mote Marine Lab), Karolyn Hansen (Assistant Professor, University of Dayton), Bill Dewey (Public Policy and Communications Director, National Shellfish Initiative), Mike Oesterling (Fisheries/Aquaculture Specialist, Virginia Sea Grant Program), and Michael Rubino (Manager, NOAA Aquaculture Program). The students attending the panel discussion asked questions of, and received advice from, panelists on how to pursue a career in the shellfish industry. The key-phrase of the day was 'follow your passion'; all of the panel members advised the students to be flexible, mobile, and good listeners. The Recruits were told that as long as we love what we do and are willing to take advantage of opportunities, doors will continue to open. It's up to the individual to go through them.

In addition to career advice, the panel members provided words of wisdom on knowing your audience when talking to the press and what scientists can do to make their research more accessible to the public. Panel members shared their experience and thoughts on how to make proposals more competitive in today's economy. One panel member described a current job opening and students were directed to the NOAA Aquaculture website (<http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/us/welcome.html>), where they can see what the U.S. government is doing to make shellfish production more appealing and competitive, both locally and globally.

Overall, the Career Panel provided a perfect opportunity for mentoring and networking. The Recruits enjoyed the panel and told me that they came away feeling more optimistic about the job market. We are very thankful to the panel members for taking the time to talk to us and answer our questions. The Recruits can organize similar sessions at upcoming annual meetings, so please contact the Recruit's Co-Chairs if you have any suggestions or requests for future panels.

**Maria Rosa**  
Recruits Co-Chair, *in training*



## 2011 SEF Travel and Presentation Awards

We received 35 applications from potential NSA student members seeking funds to support their travel to present research results at the 2011 Baltimore meeting. The applications were evaluated and scored by 17 scientists from diverse shellfish research fields, institutions, and geographic regions. Many thanks to those who generously volunteered their services to NSA.

We distributed 14 travel awards to the students with top-ranked applications. Three, triple-occupancy rooms housed nine recipients of lodging awards. Five registration awards were also distributed; three from NSA resources and two from generous sponsor donations. Thank you to our sponsors for helping to support our students.

Forty-four student oral presentations competing for a Thurlow C. Nelson award at the 2011 NSA meeting in Baltimore received 423 independent evaluations from 28 judges. From that large field of scintillating oral presentations, a Thurlow C. Nelson Award went to Maud Cross from University College, Cork, Ireland for her presentation, "*Aspects of the biology of the softshell clam, Mya arenaria, in the Irish Sea*". Honorable mention in the Thurlow C. Nelson Award competition went to N. David Bethoney from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth for his presentation, "*The impact of bait on the susceptibility of American lobsters (Homarus americanus) to shell disease investigated using nitrogen isotope ratios*".

Forty-one student poster presentations competing for a Gordon Gunter Award received 198 independent evaluations from 18 judges. From that large field of shining poster presentations, a Gordon Gunter Award went to Hilde Becerra Zenil from Florida Atlantic University for her poster, "*Passive acoustics as a monitoring tool for evaluating oyster reef restoration*". A Herculean honorable mention in the Gordon Gunter Award competition went to the poster of Aaron Maloy from University College, Cork, Ireland for "*DNA-based dietary analysis of wild marine larvae*".

All of the students are commended for both the quality of the research they presented and the thorough preparation that made their presentations informative and entertaining. The 31 evaluators of student presentations are all commended and thanked for their essential and generous contributions. Outstanding judging diligence awards for 2011 go to Peter Kingsley-Smith (49), Gulnihal Ozbay (42), and Jerome La Peyre (41). Since the prize money for judging diligence awards was doubled for 2011, the recipients can now make change for a nickel.

**Marta Gómez-Chiarri**  
**Chris Dungan**  
SEF Awards Committee Co-chairs

# Melbourne R. Carriker 2010 Research Grant Project Update

Awardee: Joshua Moody

## “Investigating the Use of Ribbed Mussels (*Geukensia demissa*) as a Potential Salt Marsh Stabilization Device.”

Marsh erosion is a major concern for estuaries as increasing storm severity, boat wakes, and sea-level rise threaten shorelines. The ribbed mussel *Geukensia demissa* is a prominent component of estuarine ecosystems along the East Coast of North America, where it is typically associated with the lower edge of marshlands in close association with the marsh grass *Spartina alterniflora*. The deposition of nutrient-rich mussel feces enhances production of *S. alterniflora* creating levees along the marsh edge that trap sediments. Marshes keep pace with sea level rise by vertical accretion of the marsh surface which may be enhanced by mussels. Thus, the physical structure formed by dense aggregations of ribbed mussels may provide stability to the marsh edge, similar to the stability provided by fringing intertidal oyster reefs in the southeastern U.S. Evidence for such a relationship, however, is lacking.



To investigate the potential role of ribbed mussels in salt marsh shoreline stabilization, three sites in four tributaries of Delaware Bay (n = 12 sites) were demarcated with 31 transects. The annual lateral shoreline movement (erosion and accretion) was compared with data on mussel demographics, mass transport rates, grass densities and soil characteristics. Mussel demographics were estimated by

measuring the percent mussel cover along each transect and excavating ten 25cm<sup>2</sup> samples to determine mussel density, biomass, and size frequency distribution. The mass transport potential of the water at, and within, each study site was quantified by measuring the dissolution rate plaster-of-paris hemispheres (clods) at each transect during two neap and two spring tides. Annual lateral marsh movement was determined by measuring changes in position of the marsh edge from fixed points on each transect after one year. These data are being compared within sites, among sites, and among tributaries using standard statistical analyses.

The aim of this study is to characterize the demographics of ribbed mussels that stabilize shorelines under different energy regimes. Contrary to our expectations, preliminary data from six sites suggest only the slightest relationship between erosion and percent mussel cover, but these conclusions do not take mussel density, mussel demographics, or mass

transport rates into consideration. As data from six more study sites are incorporated, and multivariate statistical methods are utilized, more prominent trends may be identified.

Interest in shellfish restoration, particularly commercially important species, has grown dramatically during the past decade. Recent conflicts between restoration efforts in closed waters and public health agencies have increased interest in the use of non-commercial species, such as the ribbed mussel, to provide similar ecological services. The results of this study will help determine the potential role of using marsh mussels as a living shoreline fortification to reduce coastal erosion and facilitate natural accretion of the marsh surface.



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## 2011 Carriker and Castagna Student Grants Awarded

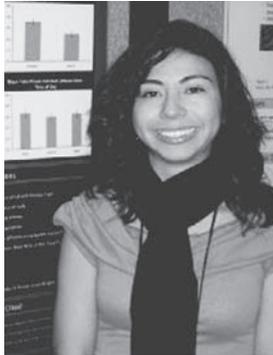
Applications for the Carriker and Castagna Student Research Grants are due each year on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Each grant provides a cash award of \$1,250 to support the student's research. This year only seven students submitted applications (two applied for both awards). While the review committee isn't complaining about the light workload, we encourage all students in need of funding to apply. Before announcing the winners, I'd like to express my gratitude to those members who assisted in judging applications this year: Steve Allen, Neil Bourne, Dan Cheney, Leroy Creswell, Kim Reece, Bill Shaw, Sandra Shumway, and Steve Tettlebach.

The 2010 winner of the Melbourne R. Carriker Student Grant for Research is Ashlee Lillis for her proposal “*Underwater noise as an orientation and settlement cue for estuarine larval invertebrates*”.



Ashlee is a doctoral student under the advisement of David Eggleston at North Carolina State University. Her project hypothesizes that “acoustic signals may be important for marine invertebrate larvae to locate productive recruitment grounds, such as reefs and coastal subtidal areas, which have distinctive biophysical sound signatures. Biological sounds produced by conspecifics, prey-species and/or habitat-forming species, may facilitate the recruitment of sound-receptive species to habitats with attractive acoustic signals; moreover, currents and waves breaking over complex structures, such as shallow reefs and seamounts create low vibrations that can

propagate long distances and possibly serve as an orientation mechanism.” Preliminary data supported this contention so she will investigate this hypothesis further in an elegant set of laboratory and field studies. Ashlee’s results will contribute to our fundamental understanding of larval biology and ecology.



The 2010 winner of the Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research is Hilde Zenil Becerra for her proposal “*Passive acoustics as a monitoring tool for evaluating oyster reef restoration*”. Hilde is a master’s degree candidate at Florida Atlantic University under the advisement of Vincent Encomio. Hilde’s research postulates that, just as different habitats produce

different sonic signatures as a result of species composition, so might restored habitats produce varying sound profiles as community succession proceeds until the habitat can be considered restored. She will test this by recording and analyzing the sound profiles of oyster reefs at various stages of restoration and comparing them with profiles from natural reefs. If successful, this could provide a powerful, non-destructive method for monitoring the restoration of shellfish habitats.

Hilde and Ashlee were presented with checks at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. NSA and the entire shellfish research community look forward to learning about their findings at a future meeting and with an update in a future NSA *Quarterly Newsletter*. Congratulations, Ashlee and Hilde!

**David Bushek**  
Past President



## Presidents Message... continued from page 1

I want to thank also all of the sponsors of our Baltimore meeting whose generosity reduced the cost and enhanced the value of our meeting, particularly by supporting students. The businesses and individuals that contributed seafood to the President’s Reception outdid themselves this year and many thanks to Bob Rheault who coordinated the donations.

Sandy Shumway, who tirelessly serves NSA in so many ways, deserves our utmost gratitude. Sandy has served NSA in so many capacities over the years and we are fortunate to have Sandy serving as *JSR* Editor and now working for our Association as Conference Manager. I look forward to working in the year ahead as Past-President with incoming President, LeRoy Creswell, Sandy and others to ensure that our annual meeting best serves our members. On that note, I want to encourage members to contact Sandy with session

topics for our 2012 meeting, here in Seattle. The strength of our Association is in our membership, and we must redouble our efforts to ensure that NSA continues to fulfill our mission. Volunteerism remains a critical component of the fabric and well being of our Association and NSA members have so much to contribute. So as I say thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve you I also want to encourage you to look for ways to volunteer and contribute.

.....While springtime struggled to gain a foothold here in Florida as well, it only lasted for a couple of weeks before we galloped into summer with 90° mornings and barely cooler temps over the evenings. I just want to concur with Joth that all of the folks who were responsible for a very successful conference in Baltimore deserve our kudos for their tireless efforts.



In particular, I’d like to thank Steve Allen for all of his efforts as local coordinator and Sarah Kingston who commandeered the registration booth with efficacy and gracious poise. Those who have worked the desk know it is a task that is challenging and exhausting. Thanks, Sarah. And, as Joth mentioned, Stephanie Reiner and Maxine Cheney did a great job coordinating the students to download presentations, organize the NSA sales table, and basically herd cats.

Heartly congratulations to our newly elected officers: Chris Davis (President-elect), Gef Flimlin (Vice President), John Scarpa (Treasurer), and Stephen Roberts (Member-at-Large). As the incoming President, I could not be more comfortable to be surrounded by such long-time colleagues and friends to administer my tenure in service to NSA.

Our next gathering in Seattle, 2012, will be very special for many reasons. We will be in Joth’s backyard, as well as enjoying very active participation from the Pacific Coast Section of NSA. Most likely there are a few other surprises already in preparation. Sandy Shumway, Joth, myself, and a host of others will be working together to make the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting a memorable occasion.

Finally, I want to personally thank Joth for his service to NSA and his very professional and gracious contribution in representing our association. What many of you may not realize is that, as Past-President, Joth still has plenty of responsibilities, not the least of which is educating me. I could never wish for a finer mentor, and with the company of all the dedicated people that Joth acknowledged earlier, the National Shellfisheries Association will continue to be the prestigious scientific organization that it has been recognized as for over 100 years.

**Joth Davis**  
NSA Past-President  
**LeRoy Creswell**  
President

## Baltimore Conference In The Rear View Mirror!

Baltimore was a successful meeting, but they can always be better. Thank you to the 31 people who provided detailed comments on the post-meeting questionnaires. Given the general uniformity of the responses, it seems safe to assume that it is a representative assessment of the positives and negatives of the meeting. The following notes are a combination of the written responses and comments received during the conference.

The plenary lectures received the most kudos and this format will be continued at future meetings. A very special thanks to the speakers who made time in their very busy schedules to make the plenary lectures possible! If anybody has suggestions for speakers or session topics for Seattle, send them along. It was encouraging to note that many sessions were noted as 'favorites', several repeatedly, and only a couple of them were noted as the 'weakest' - and most of the disappointment was listed as lack of focus, cancelled papers, or session moderators not keeping to schedule. Most of these problems are fixable. Some sessions were listed as both favorites and weakest, no accounting for taste! The hotel, meeting layout, and staff were praised repeatedly, the registration table and loading of talks was almost seamless.

Now, the negatives and cures. In Seattle there will be free WiFi, larger screens, more waste bins, better temperature control, brighter lighting in the poster area, a list of local restaurants, and new laser pointers have already been ordered! There will be no rolling carts or kitchen noises behind the scenes, affiliations will be on the name badges, and contact information (email addresses) will be made available on abstracts. Moderators will be threatened with excommunication if they fail to keep to schedule. Other things noted were the lack of breakfast or snacks, missing posters and cancelled talks. Breakfast could be provided but would add to the registration fee. The same goes for snacks. Hotels do not provide free food and NSA cannot afford to do so. Only the attendees can solve the missing paper and poster dilemma. Some things are simply unavoidable and relatives rarely get sick or worse at convenient times.

Food for thought and things that can be considered, but with trade-offs: Three people suggested 20-minute talks. This is a possibility, but means that there would be far fewer (about 70+) slots available for oral presentations. Some respondents complained about having 4 concurrent sessions on one day. An easy fix, but these slots were added to provide more overall slots to appease the folks who refused to give posters. Given the heated complaints of individuals who were asked to present posters instead of talks, this all needs careful consideration. It's a balancing act. Fewer available slots for oral presentations means more posters - and probably more disgruntled people. Just for the record, 15-minute presentations has been our norm over the years.

There were 20-minute presentations at a few meetings, and when attendance grew, 20-minute slots were a luxury we could no longer afford. Some folks continue to think that oral presentations are somehow 'better' or 'more prestigious' than posters and it's a hurdle that seems difficult to beat. Posters are featured at the meeting in two sessions, and they are on display for the entire meeting thus providing much more time for interested parties to consider them and discuss with the authors. There were many positive comments on the badge holders, but there were a few who asked for bags. Let us know your preferences.

Please feel free to send your thoughts on any and all aspects of the meeting, suggestions for special session topics, plenary lecture topics or speakers to me or any member of the Seattle Conference Committee (Joth Davis, Leroy Creswell, Chris Davis, Steve Allen, Brett Dumbauld, Karolyn Hansen, Nature McGinn).

See you in Seattle!

**Sandy Shumway**  
Conference Manager

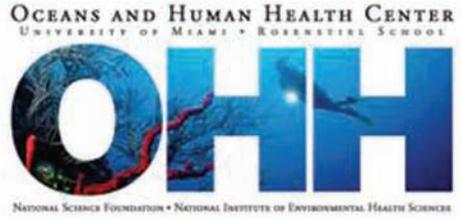


*Plenary talks were a welcome addition to the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. Dr. Rita Colwell (top left) presented a talk on Climate, Oceans, and Public Health to open the meeting on Monday morning. Drs. Michael Lesser (top right), Donal Manahan (bottom right), and Brian Rothschild (bottom left) rounded out the schedule of plenary speakers with talks on The Ecological and Commercial Future of Shellfish in an Acidified Ocean, Environmental and Physiological Genomics of Marine Larval Forms, and Overfishing and Decadal Transients in Ocean Productivity, respectively.*

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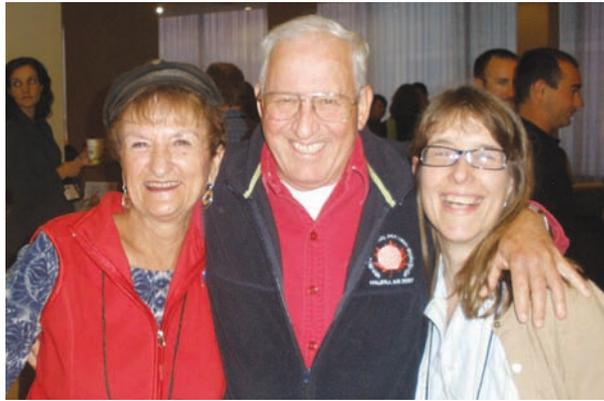
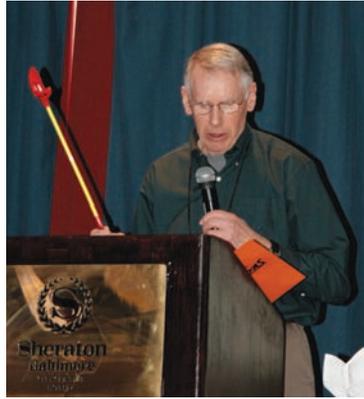
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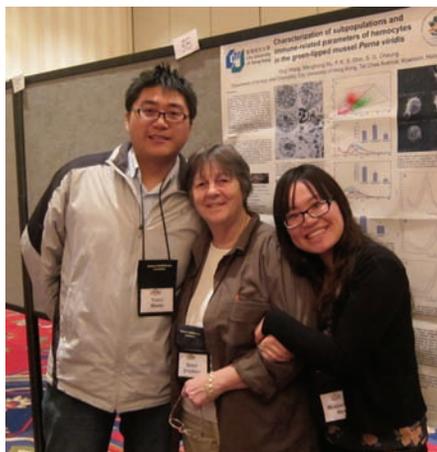

FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE  
103<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NSA

# IMAGES FROM THE 103<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL



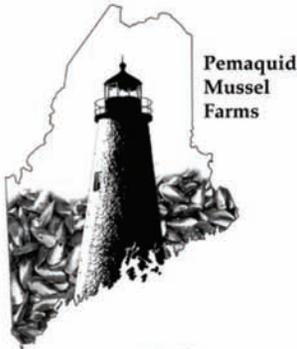
Photos of  
Sandra Kir  
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# ANNUAL MEETING IN BALTIMORE



courtesy of  
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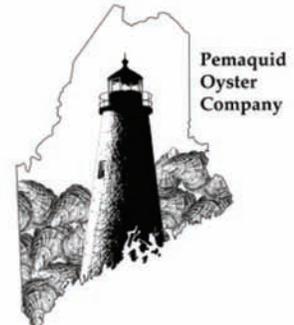


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## Damian Ogburn Receives Award for “Best Paper in *JSR* by a Student Author”

At the Aquaculture 2010 meeting in San Diego, the NSA Executive Committee authorized a new award of \$1,250 for “Best Paper in *JSR* by a Student Author”. As Chair of the Awards Committee, I had the pleasure of working with twelve members of the *JSR* Editorial Board to select the best student-authored paper from Volume 28, published during 2009. All student-authored papers were examined for the quality of science presented, the quality of writing and communication of the work, and the importance of the work to the field of shellfish research. The committee was impressed with the quality of the work reviewed and identified seven finalists for best paper (listed alphabetically):

Marie-Christine Bélair, Gilles Miron. 2009. Time budget of *Cancer irroratus* (Say) and *Carcinus maenas* (L.) under various temperature and prey density conditions during conspecific and heterospecific challenges. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (4), 923-930.

Eric R. Buhle, Jennifer L. Ruesink. 2009. Impacts of invasive oyster drills on Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida* Carpenter 1864) recovery in Willapa Bay, Washington, United States. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (1), 87-96.

Jorge I. Cáceres-Puig, Carlos Cáceres-Martínez, Pedro E. Saucedo. 2009. Annual reproductive effort of Pacific winged pearl oyster *Pteria sterna* and its relation with the timing for planning pearl seeding operations. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (3), 471-476.

Kenneth J. La Valley, Steve Jones, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Joseph Dealeris, Michael Rice. 2009. Bacterial community profiling of the Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*): comparison of culture-dependent and culture-independent outcomes. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (4), 827-835.

Maria P. Polson, William E. Hewson, Douglas J. Eernisse, Patrick K. Baker, Danielle C. Zacherl. 2009. You say *Conchaphila*, I say *Lurida*: molecular evidence for restricting the Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida* Carpenter 1864) to temperate western North America. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (1), 11-21.

Damian M. Ogburn, Ian White. 2009. Evaluation of fecal pollution indicators in an oyster quality assurance program: application of epidemiological methods. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (2), 263-271.

Heather M. Tallis, Jennifer L. Ruesink, Brett Dumbauld, Sally Hacker, Lorena M. Wisheart. 2009. Oysters and aquaculture practices affect eelgrass density and productivity in a Pacific northwest estuary. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 28 (2), 251-261.

As an indication of the quality of the competition, each paper was selected as the best or second best paper by at least one reviewer. In the end, however, two papers stood out. Congratulations to Damian Ogburn for having his paper selected as the best student paper from Volume 28. This honor is recognized on the NSA website at [www.shellfish.org/BestStudentPaper](http://www.shellfish.org/BestStudentPaper) where you will find links to abstracts of all the student papers on BioOne and, if you log in, you can download the full pdf of the selected papers via the BioOne link on the *JSR* page. As I mentioned, however, the committee felt that the competition was so close that a runner-up was also identified and so Eric Buhle’s paper was given an “Honorable Mention”.

Upon learning his paper was selected, Damian responded: “I am absolutely thrilled to bits. What a splendid honour. Thank you so much. The blood, sweat and political history of this is a book in itself. The amount of grief and hardship this issue has caused oyster farmers and their families along the NSW coast, and I have witnessed, during the past 3 decades is tragic. Things have improved but I hope this recognition by an overseas senior fraternity will give them courage.”

Well done, Damian. Student members of NSA are encouraged to submit their best work to *JSR*. In addition to having your work published in an excellent journal, you might just walk away with a nice award.

As Committee Chair, I’m indebted to the gracious assistance and hard work provided by the review committee consisting of Will Ambrose, Ryan Carnegie, Peter Cook, Simon Cragg, LeRoy Creswell, Karolyn Hansen, Dennis Hedgecock, Junda Lin, Islay Marsden, Jay Parsons, Chris Pierce, Sandra Shumway, and Philippe Soudant. Thank you all.

**Dave Bushek**  
Awards Committee Chair



## Quilt Raffle Concluded

Two gorgeous quilts, lovingly crafted by Sandra Scarpa, were raffled off during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Baltimore this past March. The proceeds from the raffle support the Student Endowment Fund. The quilts have now traveled to opposite ends of the Earth. One quilt went home to Queensland, Australia with Tim Green, while the second quilt now resides in Virginia, USA with Stan Allen. Color pictures of both quilts and their winners, along with other images from the Baltimore meeting, can be found in the centerfold of this *Newsletter*. Congratulations to Stan and Tim, and a big thank you, once again, to Sandra for generously donating her skills and time to support the SEF.

## News from the Pacific Coast Section

Summer is almost here (seems like its taken forever to get here and what happened to spring during this La Nina year??). Yeah! – Daylight low tides, graduation, baseball, and a new summer field season are upon us!

The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Section and Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association will be held at the Grand Hotel and Convention Center in Salem, Oregon from September 19-22, 2011. The hotel and conference center are located in historic downtown Salem within easy walking distance of Riverfront Park and several other local attractions. Keynote speakers will include Dr. Ray Hilborn, from the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, who will speak about fisheries and food production, and Gifford Pinchot, President and Founder of the Bainbridge Graduate Institute, a leader in the movement to bring sustainability into the business school curriculum. On a special note, we will all miss Justin Taylor at this meeting, yet another one of our long-standing Pacific coast grower members who passed away this year. We offer our condolences to the Taylor family (please see story on Justin on page 13 of this *Newsletter*).

Thanks to all who submitted presentation titles, but your work is not yet done. Please submit your full abstract by August 1, 2011 (log back in at [www.pcsgea.org](http://www.pcsgea.org)). It is shaping up to be a great meeting with sessions on Ocean Conditions: Climate Change, Ocean Chemistry and Acidification, Estuarine Habitat and Shellfish Culture Interactions, Marine Pathogens/Shellfish Disease and Mortality, Genetics and Broodstock Management, Burrowing Shrimp Biology and Management, Shellfish Marketing, and Down on the Farm! We will also be viewing Willapa Bay Grower documentaries by Keith Cox over lunch and holding the annual student auction. In addition, we have a great banquet planned.

Information about the PCS and the meeting are available at the PCS website ([www.nsapcs.org](http://www.nsapcs.org)). A final agenda and further details on conference registration and hotel rates and registration deadlines will be posted soon on the PCSGA website ([www.pcsgea.org](http://www.pcsgea.org)). Financial assistance for registration and lodging is available to NSA student members through the Ken Chew Student Endowment and other sources, as available. Students requiring assistance should contact Lisa Crosson ([lisa418@u.washington.edu](mailto:lisa418@u.washington.edu), 206-616-6341). We are also planning some splashing fun activities at the meeting so make sure you get on-board and have a great summer!

**Brett Dumbauld**  
Pacific Coast Section Chair

## Audit-Budget-Finance 2011 Update

Total revenues for the 2009-10 fiscal year (October 2009 through September 2010) were \$221,721 and expenses were \$165,634 for an increase of \$56,087. This does not include the increase in the Student Endowment Fund (SEF). Revenues and expenses were less than during a typical year because our meeting was part of Aquaculture 2010, from which we see only net income.



Administrative revenues and expenses for 2009-10 were \$52,951 and \$24,910, respectively, for an increase of \$28,041. Publication revenues and expenses were \$153,776 and \$135,754, for an increase of \$18,022. Revenues from Aquaculture 2010 in San Diego were \$14,994 and expenses were \$4,970, for a gain of \$10,024.

The proposed budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2011, projects revenues of \$344,250 and expenses of \$301,400. Realization of these projections could increase NSA assets by another \$42,850, not counting SEF activities. Because the award-winning *Journal of Shellfish Research* is our most important product, and because it is costly to produce with the quality we expect and receive, its production expenses will sometimes exceed its revenues. However, by limiting the number of pages published and by having Special Issues fully paid for by sponsors, we have a much better chance to fully cover *JSR* production expenses.

Our financial picture has improved during five of the last six years, making our finances more solid and enabling us to provide more services for our members than ever before. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Treasurer Chris Davis for his diligent and time-consuming efforts managing the NSA finances during the past six years. It has been a pleasure working with him. I also look forward to working with our new Treasurer John Scarpa during the next year as we continue to strengthen the NSA finances.

**George Abbe**  
Financial Officer  
Audit-Budget-Finance



## In Memoriam

### Dexter Haven

1919-2011



Dexter Haven, President of NSA from 1975 to 1976, passed away on March 12, 2011 at the age of 92. Professor Emeritus at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Dexter also received the David H. Wallace Award in 1985 in recognition of his dedicated service in promoting shellfish research and was elected as an Honored Life

Member, the association's highest recognition, in 1993. For those who were unable to attend the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the following Proclamation was read in honor of Dexter during the Business Luncheon.

*Whereas, Dexter Haven was a Past President, David H. Wallace Award recipient and an Honored Life Member of the National Shellfisheries Association, and*

*Whereas, Dexter Haven was a lifelong advocate and hands-on practitioner of the use of all phases of science to develop the information needed to manage our estuaries, and*

*Whereas, Dexter Haven made long-lasting significant contributions to our fundamental knowledge of shellfish resources, and*

*Whereas, in pursuit of the goal of integrating knowledge and management Dexter Haven was respected by his scientific colleagues, resource managers and the watermen of Virginia and Maryland as an innovator, a scholar and a gentleman, and*

*Whereas, after a long and productive life Dexter Haven passed away on March 12, 2011 at the age of 92,*

*Be It Resolved that on March 30, 2011, the National Shellfisheries Association honors the passing of a beloved member, and resolves that these honors and well wishes be passed on to his family members.*

More information on Dexter and his contributions to academia, industry, and NSA will appear in an upcoming volume of the *Journal of Shellfisheries Research*.

**John Kraueter**

### Justin Taylor

1921-2011



Justin Taylor, a giant in the shellfish community, passed away earlier this year. He lived a full and vibrant life right up until his death on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Patriarch of Taylor Shellfish Farms, Justin was typically in the office daily or working on the shellfish beds at low tide. The week before he died, Justin turned 90 years

old. Instead of celebrating his birthday, hundreds of people turned out for a service to celebrate his life. A testament to Justin's legacy, his life was memorialized in stories in the *Seattle Times*, the *Olympian* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Justin was born in Shelton, Washington on Feb. 16, 1921. He was married 55 years to Carol Hunter Taylor, and together they raised three outstanding children, Bill, Paul and Janet. Justin was a Navy veteran, serving on the USS Texas during World War II, enduring enemy fire at Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He also served on a Navy oil tanker during the Korean War. Justin helped build Taylor Shellfish Farms into the largest shellfish-farming business in the country. The business today employs roughly 500 people on 9,000 acres of tidelands, in processing and distribution facilities, hatcheries and nurseries in the U.S., Canada, Hong Kong and Fiji.

Justin's passion for growing shellfish and the health of the Puget Sound was unmatched. Many of the condolences that poured in following Justin's death captured the impact of his life. Longtime friend and scientist Jack Rensel called Justin "a great believer in aquaculture and the importance of water quality to humans and nature, he set a sterling example of how to conduct oneself, be a great businessman, but never profit from the misfortune of another". He was clearly in his element on the beach. When the tide was out you knew you would find Justin with shovel or rake in hand, working and observing. Brett Bishop of Little Skookum Shellfish Growers said of Justin, "I would look out and see Justin in the bay, and I would feel everything is all right in the world". Blain Reeves, with Washington's Department of Natural Resources, commented "Mr. Taylor's significant contribution toward cleaning up the Sound, advancing shellfish cultivation practices, and being an amazing human being are basically folklore for many here and we are all remembering and grieving the loss of this amazing Pacific Northwest icon."

Justin once told reporter John Dodge. "Some people climb mountains, I walk mudflats." My aspiration is to someday join Justin's elite club of mudflat conquerors.

**Bill Dewey**

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Oyster Symposium

The World Oyster Society (WOS) was formally established in July, 2005, following the 1<sup>st</sup> International Oyster Symposium in Tokyo, organized by the Foundation of Oyster Research Institute, Japan. The society now has over 300 members, including many prominent oyster researchers from around the world. WOS aims to be an instrument of goodwill, friendship, and cooperation for all who have a link to oyster research, production and use.



The theme for the conference is “Embracing the Future through Innovation” and will feature sessions on innovation in supply, innovation through diversification, innovation in a changing environment, and innovation in promotion, handling, and marketing. Keynote speakers will include Professor Standish Allen,

Director of Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding Technology Center, Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Professor Qi Li from Fisheries College, Ocean University of China. Registration and abstract submissions are now welcome.

The society has established a biennial symposium; the 2<sup>nd</sup> symposium was held in Huangzhou, China in 2007, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium was held in Taipei, Taiwan in 2009. The 4<sup>th</sup> International Oyster Symposium (IOS4) will be held in Hobart, Tasmania from September 15-18, 2011, incorporating “Shellfish Futures” (the Tasmanian oyster industry’s annual conference). IOS4 will take place on the harbour amidst one of the world’s most beautiful cities and will showcase one of the most progressive oyster industries.

A feature of the conference will be a strong industry presence and focus, and will include a visit to commercial facilities. Post-symposium tours will offer participants the opportunity to see Australia’s largest commercial shellfish hatchery, as well as the chance to visit many of Tasmania’s premier tourist attractions. For more information about WOS and IOS4 please visit: <http://worldoyster.org> or <http://oysterstasmania.org>.

## Upcoming Events

**14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Shellfish Restoration:** August 23-27, 2011. University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, UK. For more information visit <http://www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/shellfish2011>.

**4<sup>th</sup> International Oyster Symposium:** September 15-18, 2011, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. For more information visit <http://worldoyster.org> or <http://oysterstasmania.org>.

**Pacific Coast Section (NSA) and Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:** September 19-22, 2011, Grand Hotel and Convention Center, Salem, OR, USA. For more information visit [www.hsapcs.org](http://www.hsapcs.org).

**World Conference on Marine Biodiversity:** September 26-30, 2011, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Center, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. For more information visit [www.marine-biodiversity.org/](http://www.marine-biodiversity.org/).

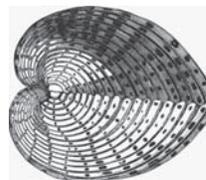
**Aquaculture Europe 2011:** October 18-21, 2011, Rhodes, Greece. For more information visit [www.easonline.org](http://www.easonline.org).

**Virginia Aquaculture Conference:** November 18-19, 2011, The Williamsburg Hospitality House, Williamsburg, VA, USA. For more information visit [www.vaquacultureconference.com](http://www.vaquacultureconference.com).

**National Shellfisheries Association, 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:** March 25-29, 2012, Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA, USA. For more information visit [www.shellfish.org](http://www.shellfish.org).

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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, Paul Rawson ([prawson@maine.edu](mailto:prawson@maine.edu)).



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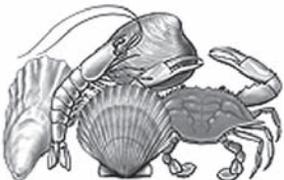
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