

National Shellfisheries Association Quarterly Newsletter



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President's Message

As this summer winds down, I hope you have had an enjoyable and productive time whether it be sampling clams out on the mud flats, fine-tuning that lab experiment, writing up a manuscript, or simply enjoying some R&R out on the beach. Regardless, NSA staff and committee member volunteers have been busy this summer planning the next annual meeting, improving the website, editing our *Journal*, and generally keeping the NSA moving forward. With this issue of the Newsletter, editorial responsibilities have passed from Paul Rawson to LeRoy Creswell and Joth Davis. Thank you Paul for five years of hard work bringing the news of the Association to our membership. Thanks are due to LeRoy and Joth for taking on this important role. With this change in Editors comes a new masthead for this newsletter and we hope you'll like it.



George Abbe's unexpected illness and passing this summer has indeed brought sadness to all who knew him including

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Think Spring in Jacksonville!

Although colder weather lies ahead for most of us, that doesn't mean you can't start thinking about spring in Jacksonville! Make plans now to attend the 106th Annual Meeting of the



National Shellfisheries Association at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel in beautiful Jacksonville, Florida. The "River City by the Sea" boasts over 20 miles of wide, un-crowded beaches and is home to the largest urban park system in the U.S. - 80,000 acres of lush greenery. Authentic cuisine and a cosmopolitan nightlife stretching from beautiful beaches to historic neighborhoods make Jacksonville a unique conference venue. More information on the conference hotel and registration can be found at www.shellfish.org.

National Shellfisheries Association at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel in beautiful Jacksonville, Florida. The "River City by the Sea" boasts over 20 miles of wide, un-crowded

Missing George

There is no Audit-Budget-Finance Report in this issue of the Newsletter. That's the tangible recognition that George Abbe is no longer with us. It's the intangibles that count and the most difficult to capture. George was first and foremost my friend. Sometimes a big brother, other times a level-headed and thoughtful colleague and source of sound advice on matters NSA and not.

George's contributions to the NSA span 40 years and left the organization and its members much better off for it! For about 25 of those years, George and I shared much, not the least of which was the NSA annual meeting - sitting at the EXCOM together and side by side at the Business Luncheon for so many of those years. It was a small tradition, but it was ours, and we enjoyed seeing how



*George R. Abbe
1943-2013*

smoothly those meetings went, often knowing of the turmoil leading to them. Much of that ensuing calm was thanks to George. Quiet and unassuming, contemplative, thoughtful, and reserved - endearing traits, but they made it easy to take George for granted. It also meant for a long time that he

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- ***Lobsters and razor clams***
- ***Behind the scenes at the NSA***

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was not all that well known to the membership at large because he did all of his work behind the scenes. Watching over the financials and long-term stability of the society isn't all that exciting or newsworthy! Anybody remember how many times George was on the ballot for President-Elect? (Answer is 'many') and Why? Because those responsible for selecting highly qualified individuals to lead NSA knew they had a strong and dedicated candidate in George. But in the early days, George lacked the 'name recognition' necessary to capture the votes needed for election. George didn't mind and continued to be an invaluable resource and leader within NSA. It was finally decided that he was simply too important a talent to miss and he was run unopposed. That was a great decision for NSA and George served as a dedicated, involved, yet still quiet and humble leader.

The National Shellfisheries Association was an integral part of George's life - but make no mistake, George was a cherished and beloved asset to the National Shellfisheries Association! George saw NSA through financial hardship, worked closely with several Treasurers, advised on long-term plans, and watched with his usual unassuming manor as all of his efforts slowly but surely put NSA on the path to financial stability and prosperity. Surely it is due in large part to George's diligence, foresight and vision that the association currently enjoys such financial stability. He was so genuinely happy when he was finally able to announce that we were in great financial shape, yet never fully seemed to realize how much his efforts shaped that path.

What a lot of folks perhaps didn't see was the dedication George had to students. George was patient and generous to a fault and a big fan of students - he offered his time and wisdom to all. High school science fair projects, graduate field projects, colleagues in need of advice - George was there for them all. He spent countless hours with his own interns, judging papers and posters, travel applications, and research grant applications for NSA, helping to rewrite student papers to make them acceptable for publication, and he always wanted 'more' for students. If you were lucky enough over the years to secure one of his hand-carved birds or feathers, cherish them. He could regularly be found at the meetings surrounded not by the old guard, but by students, and always with a big smile.

His election as an Honored Life Member was one of the easiest decisions the EXCOM ever made (see *JSR* 27: 249-250, 2008). Discussions were already underway to recognize George's dedication to student advancement with a research award, and it was to be a surprise during the upcoming meeting in Jacksonville. Sadly, those plans were toppled, and the award was established earlier than planned. A special thanks to George's best friend, J Hixson, who presented the award and Resolution on our behalf to George at home, so George

was told one more time how very much he and his efforts meant to his friends and colleagues.

The George R. Abbe Student Research Grant (\$1,250) will be awarded to support a research project in the areas of crustacean biology and fisheries management (check the web page for details) and the first award will be made in Jacksonville.

George also brought us Linda, his wife and, as he told me often, his best long-term investment ever. A regular participant at NSA meetings, overly generous supporter of the student auction, and friend to many of us, Linda became an integral part of the NSA family. For all of this, George's greatest contribution was his friendship. His warm and engaging personality lit up the room, and many a time his was the voice of calm and reason that restored order and progress to the scene, or regaled the assembled with an entertaining yarn. George had a big smile and a bigger heart. The NSA has lost a stalwart of dedication and wisdom, and so many intangibles. I have lost a great friend. Randy Travis perhaps said it best, "it's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, it's what you leave behind you when you go."

THANK YOU, George, for all you left behind.

Sandy Shumway

(Note: a more extended 'In Memoriam' will appear in the *JSR* at a later date)

Online Registration for the 106th Annual Meeting in Jacksonville Opens

OCTOBER 1, 2013

To register, visit:

www.shellfish.org

Early-bird rates expire
January 1, 2014