

Dr. Susan E. Ford

2004 David H. Wallace Award

Dr. Susan Ford is one of several individuals I have been fortunate to have worked with in my career who combine the traits of being persevering, talented, and nice at the same time. Susan also tends to be a very private person but she was born in Minnesota and her early schooling was in New York, Washington, DC, Paris, Copenhagen and Williamsburg, VA. She attended Carleton College, in Northfield, MN from 1960 to 1962, and began her career in the study of molluscs as a Laboratory Technician for the Department of Oyster Culture at Rutgers University in 1966. She was hired with considerable trepidation, by Hal Haskin, who was not entirely convinced that a woman could work on boats sampling oysters. It was Hal's working relationships with government and industry that provided the model Susan was to follow throughout her career. She worked in that position while receiving the Thurlow C. Nelson award from NSA in 1970 for an epizootiological analysis of MSX, and until she completed her BA in Zoology at Rutgers in 1978. She then began work on her Ph.D. at Duke University and finished her studies on growth physiology of freshwater snails in 1984. After finishing that degree she returned to the Department of Oyster Culture at Rutgers as an Adjunct Instructor, became an Assistant Professor the following year, an Associate Professor in 1990, and a Professor in 1997. Susan retired, after too short (19 years from receiving a Ph.D) an academic career, as Professor Emerita in 2003, but is still very actively pursuing several studies on molluscs and molluscan diseases.

A prolific author and speaker, Susan has authored or coauthored over 100 publications, and has contributed to over 150 published abstracts. Since she received the Nelson Award she has been active in NSA affairs serving on numerous committees and ad hoc panels and working groups. In spite of the urgings of several NSA administrations she has steadfastly declined to run for an elected office, but prefers to work behind the scenes. An example of these society efforts is the chapter in the newly published "Taming the Oyster" on the contributions of women to NSA, a challenging task which she gladly accepted.



Susan has served the shellfish community with distinction, has a passion for knowledge, and has actively worked on laboratory, and field studies, on government, private sector and academic committees, panels, and workgroups at the local, state and national level. She has been a colleague that is extremely generous with her time whenever NSA, the shellfish community, students, the public or government have asked for her expertise. She spent 6 years on the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Nature Conservancy, provided

testimony to the US Congress on oyster diseases twice, has been on numerous scientific panels, working groups (including International Council for Exploration of the Seas – (ICES)), and been an invited lecturer in Mexico, China, Italy, and France, and was recently on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Introduction of Non-native Oysters in Chesapeake Bay. In 2004 Susan received the Wallace Award for her service to NSA, and her efforts to bridge the communication gaps between the Academic, Governmental and Public sectors of society.

Susan has contributed enormously to our fundamental knowledge of bivalve biology and the effects of pest and parasites on bivalves, but more importantly from a Wallace Award point of view, in applying that basic science to the betterment of the shellfishing industry. One outstanding example of this is the establishment of a recognized diagnostic laboratory which certified the disease status of shellfish to be shipped by the shellfish industry between states and even internationally. This laboratory was built as part of the research mission, but the services it provided often came at the expense of time that could have been spent on more fundamental science efforts. This service was recognized to be of the highest quality by both the industry and the state regulatory communities.

Susan was going to be honored with this award in 2003, and while she is regular attendee of most NSA meetings, she didn't attend because she was busy in France on brown ring disease of manila clams. Unfortunately, she was also not present at the 2004 NSA meeting to receive the award. It is entirely within character that Susan would not attend

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Dedication of Shellfish Lab to Michael Castagna

On July 8, 2004 representatives of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, friends from other institutions, and members of the shellfish industry met at the VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory to dedicate the Shellfish Lab to former Director, Michael Castagna. The dedication, under a tent overlooking the Shellfish Lab and the bay and marshes, was brief but meaningful and brought back very fond memories of our friend and colleague. The naming of the hatchery in his name is a well deserved honor, and a reminder of his generosity in helping so many students, faculty, and fisheries people over many years.

Mel Carriker

Nominations for Elections Requested

For the upcoming election, we will be voting on the following officer positions: President-Elect (2 years), Treasurer (3 years), Member-at-Large (3 years), and Vice-President (1 year). During October, the Elections Committee will narrow the list of candidates and work to prepare the ballot. Members are encouraged to send any nominations to Danielle Kreeger by September 30, 2004. Nominees are expected to be capable of performing the tasks for the office and should have demonstrated a commitment to NSA through past committee service. There should also be a reasonable chance that the nominees might be willing to serve (but don't worry, we'll do the arm-twisting!)

Danielle Kreeger

Metamorphosis

NSA warmly congratulates **Ms. Nancy Lewis** on her retirement from the VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory where she has served as secretary, receptionist and administrative assistant for many years. As you know, Nancy also serves as bookkeeper for our organization. We are most pleased and comforted to know that Nancy's decision to retire from VIMS does not include her role at NSA. It will, however, require a change of address as she begins to work out of her home and eliminates her daily commute to work. Her new contact information is available on the back of the newsletter or on our website. Nancy, we hope you enjoy the new free time you have earned in your retirement from VIMS and continue to appreciate the hard work and dedication you provide to NSA.

Pacific Coast Section Report

The 2004 conference of the National Shellfisheries Association-Pacific Coast Section and the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association is scheduled for October 12-15 and will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Tacoma WA. The second call for papers was announced on August 4. The NSA-PCS chair, Richard Childers, and PCSGA President Mark Schaffel are calling for papers for the conference and requesting abstracts on subjects related to **shellfish biology, ecology, management, culture, disease, nutrition, and genetics**. Special sessions will be held on Echinoderms, Abalone, Crustaceans, Freshwater Mussels, Exotic Species, Estuarine Habitat, Genetics, Geoducks, Assessment, Management and Marketing of Shellfish Resources. Please submit abstracts as indicated no later than September 1 to **both** Graham Gillespie (email: gillespieg@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) and Richard Childers (email: childrkc@dfw.wa.gov). Registration information will be available on the PCSGA website (<http://www.pcsga.org>) and those interested in presenting papers at the meeting can contact Rich Childers (see back page for contact information).

Richard Childers, Chair
Pacific Coast Section

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the triennial meeting with the World Aquaculture Society and American Fisheries Society. She thinks these meetings are too large and too expensive, and she cherishes the small collegial nature of NSA. It was awarded, without her attending, so the record of her being the first woman to receive this honor, could be entered into the Taming of the Oyster book as it was being published. You also now know that even if she had put on her resume when she was born, I couldn't divulge it because in addition to her many accomplishments she is a true lady, and it is never appropriate to divulge a lady's age.

That said, it was my distinct honor and privilege to present, on behalf of the National Shellfisheries Association, the 2004 Wallace Award on a lady, esteemed colleague, and friend, Dr. Susan Elizabeth Ford, Professor Emerita of Rutgers University.

Dr. John N. Kraeuter
Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory