

American Malacological Society, Inc. Newsletter

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Spring/Summer 2000



American Malacological Society 1999 Annual Meeting

MINUTES OF
THE AMS
COUNCIL,
SATURDAY JULY 3, 1999
(ANDERSON)



The meeting was called to order at 2:42 pm in the Engine Room of the Sheraton Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh. Those present were Robert Prezant (President), Terry Gosliner (President-Elect; Auditing Committee Chair), Janice Voltzow (Vice President), Gene Keferl (Treasurer), Ron Toll (Editor; Publications Committee Chair), Paula Mikkelsen (Councilor-at-Large), Diarmaid Ó Foighil (Councilor-at-Large), José Leal (Councilor-at-Large), Robert Hershler (Immediate Past President), Rüdiger Bieler (Immediate Past President; Nominating Committee Chair), Carole Hickman (Past-President 5–10 years), Robert Bullock (Past-President 5–10 years), and Harold Murray (Constitution & By-Laws Committee). The agenda was approved. Minutes of the 1998

Council meeting were unavailable for approval.

REPORTS

1998 ANNUAL MEETING (HERSLER): The financial report for the meeting (prepared by Keferl) was accepted as submitted. Following considerable discussion, a motion was passed to recalculate the proceeds of the 1998 meeting (\$12,279.50) as follows: \$7740.04 of this was AMS money carried over from proceeds of the 1996 Chicago meeting; the net surplus is therefore \$4,539.46, which will be split equally with Unitas Malacologica (\$2269.73 each)

SECRETARY (ANDERSON): The report was accepted as submitted by Roland Anderson.

PUBLICATIONS (TOLL): Four reports (Publications Committee, Bulletin, Newsletter [submitted by D. Turgeon], website [submitted by D. Wills]) were accepted as submitted. The publication schedule and available funds for the Bulletin were questioned (Gosliner); lack of symposia contributions and a recently increased rejection percentage were given as reasons for delays. Delays in Newsletter publication were also discussed (Keferl); the Publications Committee will pursue the need for

a hard-copy newsletter versus re-emphasis on the AMS web site. Paula Mikkelsen was thanked for five years of service as Managing Editor; Tim Pearce assumed these duties early this year. Toll has moved recently to the University of Central Arkansas and expects better administrative support for the Bulletin.

STUDENT AWARDS: The report was accepted as submitted by Laura Adamkewicz. Prezant noted that this year's awards will include framed certificates.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: The report was accepted as submitted by Rob Cowie. Appreciation was noted (Toll) of the Conservation brochure prepared by Charles Lydeard. This is recommended for community and classroom distribution. A recommendation that it be posted on the AMS web site (Voltzow) will be discussed by the Publications Committee.

ENDOWMENT AND ARCHIVES: No reports were submitted, but George Davis (Endowment Review/Financial Committee Chair; Archives Chair) sent a message that all is in order (Prezant).

MEMBERSHIP: The report was accepted as submitted by John Wise. The need to recruit new members was discussed (Prezant). Membership is now approximately 550, but it is routine to have many members with dues in arrears (Keferl). Reasons for declining membership were discussed (e.g.,

successful specialty groups [Conchologists of America, Freshwater Conservation group, cephalopod group, NABS] some of whom feel unwelcome at AMS, limited funds for travel and membership). Suggestions included sending representatives, holding joint meetings, and focussing activities at meetings. The charge this year was to recruit students, but was not particularly successful (Prezant). AMS currently has 67 student members (74 last year) but not all of these have renewed (Keferl).

FINANCIAL REPORT (KEFERL): The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted. Total assets (as of December 31, 1998) were \$174,042.52; the report includes documented proof of most totals. The budget is divided into cost centers (Bulletin, Newsletter, Annual Meeting, and General Operations). The Bulletin account now includes funds for two issues in volume 15 and one in volume 16. The newsletter does not cover its cost, a problem which could be solved by migrating to web publication. General operations is funding student research grants until the endowment is built up. Keferl is no longer routinely withdrawing from the Endowment funds for general operations (as is possible and was done by previous Treasurer), at the advice of the Finance Committee several years ago; this results in a net increase. Available symposium funds total \$6,527 this year, and \$7,465 next year. Additional members will be sought for the Finance Committee next year, to broaden the range of advice. A motion was passed to readjust the Treasurer's cost center allocations, to eliminate the annual meeting (formerly 3%, now 0%), and to redirect monies to the Bulletin (formerly 54%, now 60%), Newsletter (formerly 9%, now 12%), and General Operations (formerly 27%, now 28%).

AUDITING COMMITTEE (GOSLINER): No report was available, although the Treasurer's report was

preliminarily viewed as thorough. The Council voted to accept the Treasurer's accounts as satisfactory; a report will come to Council only if a problem is uncovered by the Auditing Committee.

1999–2000 PROPOSED BUDGET (GOSLINER): The budget was prepared "flat-funded" from the previous year. The Council passed an amendment as follows: \$13,000 income deleted (1998 meeting surplus; discussed above), \$6527 income added (unspent endowment funds), \$6000 expenses deleted (annual meeting). The budget was accepted as amended.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE (MURRAY): Changes to the Bylaws relating to student participation on AMS Council were accepted as follows for vote at the Annual Business Meeting (new wording as given below): Article III, Section 1, Item e, Terms of Office, Councilor-At-Large: two years, elected sequentially, two each year. At least one of the four Councilors-at-Large will be a graduate or an undergraduate student.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2, NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Membership in good standing in the AMS for a period of not less than two immediately prior years shall be an eligibility requirement for nomination for any AMS office. The two-year eligibility requirement may be waived for a student representative. An official AMS definition of a student is needed (Bullock).

Articles of Incorporation: The report was accepted as submitted by Gene Coan. An update relative to the name of our society is required by the state of California. A pro bono lawyer has been acquired, but progress is slow.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (BIELER): The following slate was proposed and accepted:

President **Terrence M. Gosliner**,
President-Elect **Janice Voltzow**,
Vice President **Robert T. Dillon Jr.**,
Past President (10+ yr) **Alan J. Kohn**,

Past President (4-10 yr) **E. Alison Kay**, Councilor-at-Large **Charles Lydeard**, Councilor-at-Large **Akiko Okusu**, Student,
Editor **Ron B. Toll**

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was passed to elect Harold D. Murray as Honorary Life Member of AMS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (PREZANT): Reports listing general information and budget for the 1999 meeting were accepted as submitted. Materials about the Association of Systematics Collection are present as a courtesy to ASC; the AMS President serves automatically as the society's representative. \$3000 of student travel was provided by a grant from Bernice Barbour Foundation. Queens College supplied \$20,000 toward the meeting, paid the stipend for an assistant (Fei-Wen Cheng), printed the program, and produced the transcription of the Clench tapes. A surplus of about \$6000 is anticipated; a final report will be available in 30 days. During the year, letters were written on behalf of AMS (Prezant) to the Committee for National Institutes for the Environment (Biocomplexity in the Environment, Rita Colwell) and Bishop Museum (support of malacological collections and position). Plans for an official affiliation between AMS and Unitas Malacologica have been postponed while Unitas reformulates their by-laws relative to affiliations.

2000 ANNUAL MEETING (GOSLINER): The report was accepted as submitted. The meeting will be held July 7–12, 2000, at San Francisco State University Seven Hills Conference Center. A range of accommodations includes dormitories, resident apartments, and maid-serviced guestrooms, and a dining plan will be available. The banquet will be held at the California Academy of Sciences African Hall or at the Steinhart Aquarium. Michael T. Ghiselin will organize a symposium, "Historical Contributions of Malacology to Comparative Biology." Field trips to Monterey Bay Aquarium or Point Reyes, Mt. Tamalpais, Muir Woods, will be offered on the final day of the meeting. A motion was passed that this will be a joint meeting with Western Society of Malacologists.

2001 ANNUAL MEETING (VOLTZOW): An invitation was received from Unitas Malacologica President Luitfried Salvini-

Plawen to meet jointly with Unitas in Vienna, Austria. Extensive discussion revolved around last year's debate over the 2001 meeting, including vagueness in the motion passed to hold a "traditional meeting." Other topics covered were affordability, potential membership attendance, student attendance, international presence of AMS, and effective marketing of AMS (for meeting attendance, membership). A motion to accept the invitation was passed with 10 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention. A report to next year's Council meeting was requested from Voltzow on how finances for the joint meeting will be handled with Unitas.

OTHER BUSINESS: A motion (Bullock) was passed to redirect proceeds of the annual auction from the Symposium Endowment Fund to the Student Research Endowment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Roland C. Anderson; Secretary Minutes were taken by Paula M. Mikkelsen.

MINUTES OF THE AMS BUSINESS MEETING, THURSDAY JULY 8, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Prezant, in the Topeka/Santa Fe Room of the Sheraton Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh, at 3:27 pm on 8 July 1999.

Treasurer Gene Keferl reported on the finances of the 1998 meeting in Washington DC. The joint World Congress of Malacology realized a budget surplus on paper of \$12,279.50, which however included \$7,740.04 of carried-over surplus from of the 1996 Chicago AMU meeting. By vote of Council, the net surplus of \$4,539 from the Washington joint congress will be equally split between Unitas Malacologica and AMS.

Ron Toll, Chair of the Publications Committee, reported on the status

of American Malacological Bulletin, AMS Newsletter, and the AMS web site. Bulletin issue 15(1) is preparing for publication; 15(2) will include symposium and contributed papers from this meeting. Paula Mikkelsen resigned as Managing Editor of the Bulletin after 5 years of service; Tim Pearce has assumed these duties. Donna Turgeon continues as editor of the newsletter. The web site is growing, and will soon include several additions originating from this meeting.

Gary Rosenberg, Chair of the Systematics & Collections Committee, reported that the committee met on 6 July to formulate future plans and activities. The Committee will request a link on the AMS web site hosted by the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. From this, a categorized list of links will appear to various existing malacological Internet addresses; these are being gathered by Sarah Watson (living mollusks) and David Karlen (fossil mollusks), and suggestions for the list are requested. Joe Carter also wishes to post a cladistic dataset on Paleozoic bivalves, for testing and comments by colleagues. The Committee also plans to gather information on existing molluscan databases and to summarize this information as a set of guidelines on the web; lists of fields and structures can be sent to Dr. Rosenberg. The Committee strongly suggests sending representatives to meetings of the Association of Systematics Collections, Geological Society of America, and Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

Harold Murray, Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, summarized needed changes to the Bylaws relating to student participation on AMS Council (new wording as given below):

Article III, Section 1, Item e, Terms of Office, Councilor-At-Large: two years, elected

sequentially, two each year. At least one of the four Councilors-at-Large will be a graduate or an undergraduate student.

Article VI, Section 2, Nominating Committee: Membership in good standing in the AMS for a period of not less than two immediately prior years shall be an eligibility requirement for nomination for any AMS office. The two-year eligibility requirement may be waived for a student representative.

A motion to accept these changes passed, with two votes opposed and two abstentions. Dr. Murray also summarized necessary updates to the AMS Articles of Incorporation filed in 1964 in the state of California due to the societal name change. Gene Coan has obtained a pro bono lawyer for AMS to enact these changes.

Rüdiger Bieler, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers: President Terrence M. Gosliner, President-Elect Janice Voltzow, Vice President Robert T. Dillon Jr., Past President (10+ years) Alan J. Kohn, Past President (4-10 years) E. Alison Kay, Councilor-at-Large Charles Lydeard, Councilor-at-Large (student) Akiko Okusu, and Editor Ron B. Toll. No additional nominations were made from the floor and the slate was passed by unanimous vote.

Robert Prezant summarized the apparent success of this 1999 Annual Meeting. 140 were in attendance, 25% of which were students. 25 new members and many renewals were obtained during the meeting. The presence of two book dealers (Don Dan and Donald Hahn) was seen as positive by them and by participants. Dr. Prezant acknowledged the Bernice Barbour Foundation for a grant that partially funded 11 students to the meeting, Queens College (CUNY) for financial donations, and numerous members for their assistance at the registration table, the auction, symposium and session organization, and field trips. Brian Jacobson drew the meeting logo, featuring a local fossil gastropod (*Worthenia tabulata*) and the city skyline of Pittsburgh. Stuart Yellin drew T-shirt cartoons.



Dr. Prezant summarized plans for the 2000 Annual Meeting for Terry Gosliner. The meeting will be held July 7–12, 2000, at San Francisco State University Seven Hills Conference Center. This will be a joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists. A range of accommodations includes dormitories, resident apartments, and maid-serviced guestrooms, and a dining plan will be available. The banquet will be held at the California Academy of Sciences African Hall or at the Steinhart Aquarium. Michael T. Ghiselin will organize a symposium, “Historical Contributions of Malacology to Comparative Biology,” Field trips to Monterey Bay Aquarium or Point Reyes, Mt. Tamalpais, Muir Woods, will be offered on the final day of the meeting.

Gene Keferl presented the 1999–2000 budget proposed for Dr. Gosliner. The budget was approved as posted.

Carol Hickmen presented plans for the 2001 Annual Meeting for Janice Voltzow. AMS received an invitation from Unitas Malacologica President Luitfried Salvini-Plawen to meet jointly with them at the International Malacological Congress in Vienna, Austria. A motion to accept this invitation was passed by AMS Council. The dates of the meeting are not yet set, but will probably be in late summer. Student support will be sought to allow maximum attendance at this international meeting. Symposium proposals are being sought.

Treasurer Gene Keferl presented Financial Report the 1998. As posted during the meeting, this includes excess funds from the 1998 meeting (\$12,279.50, see elsewhere in this report). Total assets (as of December 31, 1998) were \$174,042.52. Investments included \$14,474.58, plus Symposium/Student Research Endowments of \$74,652.90. At the time of the report, the Student Research Endowment included

only \$900; this now totals \$4,004 with donations and the auction (\$2793) derived from this meeting.

Paula Mikkelsen summarized actions of Council:

- Motion passed to redirect the annual auction proceeds from the Symposium Endowment Fund to the Student Research Endowment.
- Motion passed to readjust the Treasurer’s cost center allocations, to eliminate the annual meeting (formerly 3%, now 0%), and to redirect monies to the Bulletin (formerly 54%, now 60%), Newsletter (formerly 9%, now 12%), and General Operations (formerly 27%, now 28%).
- Motion passed to elect Harold D. Murray as Honorary Life Member of AMS.
- Motion passed to recalculate proceeds of the 1998 meeting (\$12,279.50) as follows: \$7740.04 of this was AMS money carried over from proceeds of the 1996 Chicago meeting; the net surplus is therefore \$4,539.46, which will be split equally with Unitas Malacologica (\$2269.73 each).
- Motion passed to hold a joint meeting with Western Society of Malacologists in San Francisco in 2000.

Ron Toll thanked President Prezant on behalf of the membership for his service to the society and for hosting this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Roand C. Anderson, Secretary; Minutes taken by Paula M. Mikkelsen

FROM AMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR (TURGEON)

There was no 1999 fall issue of the AMS Newsletter because only three small news items were in hand until only the past month. For that issue, I was way too busy to do my usual call-around to any members who would supply me with noteworthy items. Because I

can no longer spare the time to pursue members to assure your usual “meaty” newsletter, and am feeling some concern for my ever-increasing workload, I regret that I am serving notice that this is my last issue as AMS Newsletter Editor. I must resign effective March 31, 2000. For 4 years, I have thoroughly enjoyed providing this service to the membership. I will be especially sorry to leave Dawne Hard, my extremely able Assistant Newsletter Editor—a good friend who well serves the Society. My responsibilities at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as Lead Ecologist and Leader of the Coastal Ecosystem Assessments Team have increased at least a magnitude over that when I first accepted the offer to serve you. Additionally, my administration has recently added the management of harmful algal bloom and coral reef monitoring to my already full-time workload. You can wish me well as I devote more of my time to leading over 200 coral reef resource managers and scientists in developing and implementing a comprehensive national program to assess, inventory, and monitor US coral reef ecosystems.

IN MEMORIAM

OUR GREAT LOSS . . .

Constance E. Boone (Connie), of Houston, Texas, December 3, 1917–September 13, 1999.

Constance E. Boone passed away at 2:30pm September 14, 1999 on a shell collecting trip to Broome Australia. Constance was Past President of AMU, Past President of the Houston Conchology Society, and Co-Editor of the Texas Conchologist. She was an Associate in the Malacology Department of the Houston Museum of Natural Science for many, many years. We will miss her.

Respectfully submitted by Lucille Green, Houston TX, dgreen@comwerx.net.

Members Remember . . . Connie Boone, perhaps more than any other one person, did an incredible amount to boost student participation and development in the American Malacological Society (formerly the AMU). Most students receiving one of the annual AMS Student Paper Awards did not know



that Connie's quiet finances, and not so quiet spirit and enthusiasm frequently backed it. Connie was one very special individual who was able to bridge the perceived gap between so called amateurs and professionals. She will indeed be very widely missed.

One of her many admirers, Bob Prezant, Immediate Past President

Connie will be dearly missed. She was the main reason for my involvement in the Houston Conchology Club (HCS) for almost 10 years. In fact I am still a member of the club even after having had my brain desiccated for 10+ years in the high desert! She is the individual who got me interested in modern Olividae in addition to my studies of the paleontological record. She introduced me to the NW Gulf of Mexico dredged material that is so unique and the extensive molluscan library that the Museum has, which to this day I think very few people outside of the HCS realize how extensive the library holdings are at the museum! I got many a xerox copy of articles from there. Connie had a passion for modern mollusca that is surpassed by very few. The one piece of joy in this tragic event is that like Bing Crosby, Connie died doing what she loved best—shelling!

Paul

She passed away while on a shell collecting expedition in Australia. As such, I am pleased that she was on a trip doing what she loved the most! Here are a few notables about her:

- Past, President, Vice President, Secretary, and more for the American Malacological Union.
- Past President, etc. for the Houston Conchology Society
Past, Curator for the Department of Malacology, Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS).
- Major Donor to HMNS's Strake Hall of Malacology.

- Important Donor to the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science Tate Hall of Malacology.

- Senior Editor of The Texas Conchologist; Contributor to the Journal of Malacology in Texas.

- Genus *Booneostrea* Harry 1985 (Ostreoidae, Ostreidae, Ostreinae) is named for her.

- Sub-genus *Boonea* Robertson 1978 (Pyramidelloidea, Odostomiinae, Odostomaia) is named for her.

- Extremely well traveled.

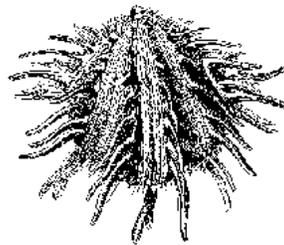
She and her many contributions will be missed in the world of Malacology and by her friends everywhere.

*Sincerely, Leslie Allen Crnkovic,
Halieus Anthropos Research
Foundation, Houston, Texas*

MOLLUSKS IN THE NEWS

CUTTLEFISH TURN TO TRANSVESTITISM TO WOO FEMALES

Cuttlefish, the cousins of octopus and squid, resort to a cunning tactic to woo females — transvestitism, *New Scientist* magazine said Wednesday. Australian researchers noticed that small male cuttlefish disguised as females often tag along with breeding couples during the mating season on rocky reefs at Spencer Gulf in south Australia. They adopt the female body color and pattern and while their bigger male rivals are fending off other ardent suitors, they slip past, reveal their true colors and get the girl. If the bigger male gets wise to what they are up to they can quickly revert back to their more feminine selves, confusing their rivals and averting their wrath. Even the researchers have a difficult time telling the real females from the impostors. “We have to follow them and see when they change back,” said Tom Tregenza, of the University of Leeds, who studied



videos taken by the researchers from James Cook University in Townsville and the University of Tasmania. When the small cuttlefish are big enough to compete for mates openly they abandon the tactic. “As very little is known about the mating behavior of cuttlefish, octopus and squid in the wild, transvestitism may turn out to be more widespread under the waves than anyone realized,” the magazine said.

Reuters, London; an interesting tidbit put onto the web by Sherry Keen.

THE LATEST IN ZEBRA MUSSEL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

A new pulsed-power plasma sparker effectively controls zebra mussel infestation of water intake pipelines at much lower cost than conventional control systems, which depend on chemicals. “Savings of 75% on operating costs and 25% on capital costs are typical,” said Philip Lowry, President of Sparktec Environmental Inc., developer and supplier of the plasma sparker. Operating on standard 120/240 volt service, Sparktec's equipment works like an underwater spark plug, sending a pressure pulse down the inside of the pipeline. The pulsing environment is hostile to zebra mussels at every stage of their life cycle, greatly reducing their numbers.

A typical installation delivers a pulse every 30 to 45 seconds. Discharge time is adjusted to suit the length and diameter of the pipeline. Five years of testing in the United States and Canada, including studies conducted by the

Army Corps of Engineers, Ontario Hydro and the University of Guelph, have shown that the system does not damage pipelines, concrete structures or affect electronic equipment.

Sparktec systems are now in use at five locations in the United States and Canada. One early user (from 1995) is the Vergennes Panton Water District, Vergennes, Vermont that pumps about 650,000 gallons of water daily from Lake Champlain to several municipalities. “While this is unquestionably revolutionary technology, we have found its performance very satisfactory,” said Mike Sullivan, the District's manager.

Zebra mussel infestation is a multi-million dollar headache for municipal and industrial water pipelines in North America. Left untreated, the mussels rapidly colonize and plug pipelines. The mussels arrived in the Great Lakes from Europe in the late 1980s, now range from Lake Superior to New Orleans, and are projected to eventually infest lakes, rivers, and reservoirs throughout North America.

Sparktec holds United States, Canadian, and European patents for the process and technology (patents are pending in China, Poland and Russia).

Source: Sparktec Environmental Inc., Stoney Creek, ON, June 21 /CNW-PRN/; abstracted from Conch-L.

INVASIVE SPECIES—SEA SNAIL MAY THREATEN SHELLFISH

Lower shellfish catches in the Chesapeake Bay may be due to the introduction of the rapa whelk (*Rapana venosa*), a snail native to the Sea of Japan with an appetite for clams and oysters. It is not known when the whelk first entered the area, but researchers say it likely arrived in the ballast tanks of freighters coming into the port of Norfolk. It has shown up only in the Virginia part of the Chesapeake because the salinity in the Maryland section is too low. Researchers are offering fishermen a small bounty in hopes of collecting enough snails for studies. No one knows how many whelks live in the bay, making it difficult to gauge its impact on Virginia's seafood industry. Roger Mann of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science says "We've collected 600 or so of these animals. Now, if that's 90 percent of the population or more, then there's no problem. But if it's only 5 percent, then we have a serious problem."

By Joel McCord, Baltimore Sun, Sept. 8, from NOAA Invasive Species Coordinator, Charles Wahle.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSES ENDANGERED STATUS FOR SCALESHELL MUSSEL

This item is a little old—it was one of the few items I received for the Fall Newsletter—but still of interest if you have not seen it yet . . .

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today [August] proposed to list the scaleshell mussel, a freshwater species once found in many rivers in the eastern United States, as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A plant or animal is designated as endangered if it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Nearly 75 percent of historically known river populations of scaleshells have disappeared, said Bill Hartwig, the Service's regional director for the Great Lakes-Big Rivers region. The species once inhabited 53 rivers or streams throughout most of the eastern United States, with populations found as far west as Oklahoma, but now is found only in 13 rivers. "The decline of the scaleshell is an all-too-common trend in freshwater mussels in the United States," Hartwig said. "Freshwater mussels are valuable members of aquatic ecosystems, and act as excellent indicators of the quality of the water they inhabit—water we all depend upon. Unfortunately, mussels are one of the most endangered groups of animals in the country." The scaleshell is a relatively small freshwater mussel species measuring 1 to 4 inches in width with a thin, fragile shell and faint green rays. This species inhabits medium-sized and large rivers with stable channels and good water quality. Scaleshells currently exist in Missouri (Meramec River, Big River, Bourbeuse River, Gasconade River and possibly Big Piney River); Arkansas (St. Francis River, Spring River, South Fork Spring River, Strawberry River, South Fourche LaFave River, Cossatot River, Saline River, and Little Missouri River); and Oklahoma

(Kiamichi River). Of these populations, 10 are thought to be declining. The status of the scaleshell in the Missouri River in South Dakota is unknown.

Threats to the scaleshell, as with many other mussel species, include degraded water quality due to pollution and sedimentation, alteration of habitat through damming of waterways, dredging and channelization of rivers, and competition with non-native species like the zebra mussel. In particular, pollutants from industrial sources, sewage, and spills can kill mussels, and sedimentation from dredging and erosion along rivers and streams can cover them and impair respiration and feeding. Mussels are sedentary animals and cannot move away from threats.

The scaleshell's range overlaps those of several other mussel species that are already federally listed as endangered or threatened. They include the pink mucket in the Meramec, Big, Gasconade, Spring, Strawberry, and Little Missouri rivers; the fat pocketbook in the St. Francis River; the Curtis pearly mussel in the South Fork Spring River; the Ouachita rock-pocketbook in the Kiamichi River; the Arkansas fatmucket in the Saline River; and the winged mapleleaf in the Little Missouri.

Because the primary threat to the scaleshell—degradation of water quality due to non-point source pollution—is the same as that for listed mussels, steps needed to conserve the scaleshell would be similar to measures already in place for other mussels in its range. In general, recovery actions focus on best management practices and existing technology to control pollutants and sedimentation and minimize their impacts on mussels. As a result, the Service does not expect that a decision to list the scaleshell would have any significant additional impact on activities on the rivers.

The Service's action initiates a thorough review of the scaleshell during which the agency will determine whether endangered status is appropriate. Public comment will be sought on the proposal, and the Service will make a final determination in one year. If the Service determines that endangered status is

appropriate for the scaleshell, the species will benefit from protection and recovery actions under the Endangered Species Act. Species listed as endangered are protected from direct and indirect "take," which includes killing, harming, or harassing. Federal agencies must consult with the Service to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out does not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. In addition, the Service would assemble a recovery team to identify and implement actions to restore populations so that extinction is no longer a threat.

Questions on the current status of this and other endangered species may be directed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Columbia Field Office, 608 East Cherry Street, Room 200, Columbia, Missouri 65201-7712. For further information about the programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our HomePage at <http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/>. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and 78 ecological service field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes

on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

*From Conchologists of America List
CONCH-L@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU.*

WHAT'S IN A COMMON NAME

Can anyone correctly name the shells (probably aquatic or terrestrial) starring in this first paragraph from an article by Peter Rosset, director of Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, on Third World farmers' responses to genetically engineered crops?

"When a group of Filipino farmers were asked recently for their thoughts on genetically engineered rice seeds, a peasant leader responded with what might be called the Parable of the Golden Snail. It seems that rice farmers have long supplemented the protein in their diet with local snails that inhabit rice paddies. At the time of the Marcos dictatorship, Imelda Marcos had the idea of introducing a snail from South America that was said to be more productive and, as such, a means to help end hunger and protein malnutrition. But no one liked the taste, and the project was abandoned. The snails, however, escaped, driving the local snail species to the brink of extinction—thus eliminating a key protein source—and forcing peasants to apply toxic pesticides to keep them from eating the young rice plants. "So when you ask what we think of the new genetically engineered rice seeds, we say that's easy," the leader said. "They are another Golden Snail."

Submitted to Conch-L by David Kirsch, Durham, NC.

MORE ON OYSTERS:

What rhymes with "oyster"?
Ah, I have it!
As you sit within your cloister,
Dipping sauce onto an oyster,
Think of all the years and eons
Needed to evolve these bivalve peons.
Stenzel says the O-stre-ina
Had a Late Trias gena.

And Newell says the Bi-val-via
Started in the mid Cam-bria.
But I say these learned Ph.D.'s,
Despite their much-deserved degrees,
Have strayed from truth in their great
mission:
The oysters must be Hors-d'oeuvrician.

By Andrew K. Rindsberg
Geological Survey of Alabama

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEAR NEOGASTROPODS:

This message concerns the 3rd international workshop in Malacology that will be held in Menfi (Sicily, Italy) in June 15–19, 2000. It will be dedicated to: "Systematics, Phylogeny and Biology of Neogastropoda." Cheers and see you in Menfi for an exciting meeting!

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lab.)
FAX: +39.6.55176321
Web-announcement at
<http://www.futuralink.it/vannarotolo/istituzione/index.htm>].

SNAIL TALES OR LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE:

A sloth named Herman is walking through the forest one day. A gang of snails approach him and beat him up. He is left at the bottom of a tree with several cuts and bruises. Several hours later he gathers up enough strength to go to a local

police station. Herman walks into the Sergeant's office. "What happened to you?" the officer asks. "A gang of snails beat me up," Herman replied. "Can you describe what they looked like?" "I don't know," the sloth says. "It all happened so fast." (from Dan Parish, *Conch-L*).

One day this guy answers his door and there's a snail at his doorstep. So the guy picks up the snail and tosses it into the garden. Two years later, he hears a knock on his door. He opens the door and it's the same snail. And the snail says, "Hey what was that all about?"

From Jeff Nelson, Conch-L.

POETRY IN THE OCEAN

A Lesson from the Oyster

There once was an oyster whose story I tell,
Who found that sand had got under his shell;
Just one little grain, but it gave him much pain,
For oysters have feelings although they're so plain.
Now, did he berate the working of Fate,
Which had led him to such a deplorable state?
Did he curse out the government, call for an election?
No; as he lay on the shelf, he said to himself:
"If I cannot remove it, I'll try to improve it."
So the years rolled by as the years always do,
And he came to his ultimate—stew,
And this small grain of sand which had bothered him so,
Was a beautiful pearl, all richly aglow.
Now this tale has a moral—for isn't it grand
What an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?
What couldn't we do if we'd only begin
With all of the things that get under our skin?

By Elizabeth Elliot

Submitted by Julia Bishop.

66th AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 33rd ANNUAL WESTERN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGISTS
 JOINT MEETING
 "CRAWLING TOWARDS THE NEW MILLENNIUM"
 San Francisco State University and the California Academy of Sciences
 San Francisco, California
 7-12 July 2000

Name _____ Email _____
 Mailing Address _____

 Phone _____ Fax _____
 Affiliation (if different from above) _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES ALL SESSIONS, OPENING RECEPTION, ALL COFFEE/SNACK BREAKS, BANQUET, AUCTION, AND PROGRAMS.

AMS/WSM Member.....\$160.00 \$ _____
 AMS/WSM Student Member\$ 95.00 \$ _____
 AMS/WSM Member/Student "projectionist"\$ 50.00 \$ _____
 Major Professor Signature _____
 Non-AMS/WSM Member.....\$215.00 \$ _____
 After 30 March 2000 please add a \$25.00 late fee \$ _____

Note to non-members: Membership to AMS is \$40 per year U.S. domestic (non-U.S. \$45 with surface mail; non-U.S. \$50.00 with air mail; \$15 U.S. domestic student; \$20 non-U.S. student, surface mail; \$25 non-U.S. student, air mail): If you wish to join with this registration, you can pay membership registration fee (\$160 or \$95 for students) and merely add the appropriate membership fee to your check to cover membership dues.

Check here to receive membership forms add membership fee noted above \$ _____

SINGLE DAY ADMISSION:

Member.....\$ 40.00 \$ _____
 Non-Member\$ 60.00 \$ _____
 Check day(s) attending: Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday
 Extra banquet guests \$50.00 each, number of guests _____ \$ _____

FIELD TRIPS: THE THREE TRIPS ARE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 12TH. PRICE INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION AND LUNCH.

Monterey Bay Aquarium with Angel Valdes.....\$50.00 \$ _____
 Point Reyes and Mt. Tamalpais with Terry Gosliner.....\$40.00 \$ _____
 Mt. San Bruno Land Snails with Neil Fahy\$25.00 \$ _____

COLLECTION USE:

If you plan to visit or use the mollusk collection at the California Academy of Sciences please contact Bob Van Syoc at (750)750-7082 or e-mail: bvansyoc@calacademy.org.

2000 AMS/WSM Annual Meeting T-shirt: _____ @ \$18.00 each \$ _____
 Number of each size ordered ___S, ___M, ___L, ___XL, ___XXL.

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check or money order enclosed (payable to AMS/WSM 2000 in U.S. funds)
 Credit Cards are acceptable: MasterCard Visa
 Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
 Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Make payable to: AMS/WSM 2000. **Send payment and registration form to:** Angel Valdes—AMS/WSM 2000 Registration, Department of Invertebrate Zoology & Geology, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118-4599

American Malacological Society
Western Society of Malacologists

ANNUAL AUCTION

Evening of 10 July 2000
San Francisco State University and the California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, California

AMS/WSM ANNUAL AUCTION

The American Malacological Society and the Western Society of Malacologists will hold its annual auction in San Francisco during the AMS/WSM meeting. Many unique items, including original art, books, reprints, sculptings, paintings, malaco-food items, malaco-music, etc. will all be “on the block” to help raise funds for our society. If you would like to contribute items for the auction, please send them directly to Angel Valdes at the address below or e-mail: ams-sm@calacademy.org.

Items for the auction must be received prior to 15 June 2000 if you plan on mailing them. If you plan to bring them with you to the meeting, please (with the form below) let us know ahead of time the kinds of items you will contribute so we can plan space (and “advertising”) needs. Please include this form with your registration materials.

Thank you on behalf of the MS/WSM.

Remember: **No shells** in the auction as per AMS/WSM policy.

Yes, I plan to contribute items to the annual AMS/WSM auction.
I will bring these items with me to the meeting in San Francisco.

Send Auction Items in advance of the meeting to:

**Angel Valdes – AMS/WSM 2000
Department of Invertebrate Zoology & Geology
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118-4599**

POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please note below any items you already know you might contribute so we can “advertise” ahead of time. If the item is of special value (i.e. unique art, historic text, etc.) please note the specifics.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Thanks again

66th AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY
33rd ANNUAL WESTERN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGISTS
JOINT MEETING
San Francisco State University and the California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, California
7-12 July 2000

LODGING AND TRANSPORTATION:

AMS/WSM 2000 will be held in the Seven Hills Conference Center at San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. The University offers housing, meals, and meeting rooms, and is conveniently located near public transportation, shopping and restaurants, for the annual meeting. The banquet will be held Tuesday evening, July 11th, at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

ARRIVAL:

There will be a welcoming reception Friday evening, July 7th. The meeting begins on Saturday morning, July 8, 2000, at San Francisco State University.

SAN FRANCISCO WEATHER:

Typical Bay Area summer weather is cool and foggy with temperatures ranging from 50° to 80°. It is best to dress in layers.

AIR TRAVEL:

The San Francisco Bay Area is served by all major airlines to the San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

Travel to San Francisco State University from the airport is available from the SuperShuttle transportation service at an approximate cost of \$12.00. Advance arrangements can be made electronically through www.supershuttle.com or upon arrival wait on the upper level of the airport for the blue and yellow vans. Taxi fares are generally in the \$30.00 to \$35.00 range.

Room Reservations (5 days, July 7 – 11, 2000):

Convenient housing is available at San Francisco State University.

RESIDENCE HALL DORMITORIES: \$25.50 per person per day (shared room with two beds).

Breakfast is included.

Name _____ Number of days _____

I wish to share a room with _____

Please assign me a roommate _____ Amount enclosed _____

RESIDENCE APARTMENTS: \$40.50 per person per day (shared two bedroom apartment each with two beds).

Breakfast is included.

Name _____ Number of days _____

I wish to share a room with _____

Please assign me a roommate _____ Amount enclosed _____

GUEST CENTER: \$37.50 per person per day (shared room with two beds).

Breakfast is included.

Name _____ Number of days _____

I wish to share a room with _____

Please assign me a roommate _____ Amount enclosed _____

66th AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY
33rd ANNUAL WESTERN SOCIETY OF MALACOLOGISTS
JOINT MEETING

APPLICATION TO PRESENT PAPER OR POSTER

DEADLINE: 30 April 2000

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ FAX _____

Phone (office) _____ (home) _____

I will present a paper poster

Contributed papers will be 15 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. Symposium and special session times will vary but will be coordinated with general meeting presentation times.

Posters must not exceed 120 cm by 240 cm. Each must have the full title and authorship denoted in large type at the top of the poster.

Student Awards: I wish to participate in the Student Presentation/Poster Awards competition.

Awards include \$500.00 check and fill-in back order to the American Malacological Bulletin. Must be sole author on paper and presently enrolled in degree-seeking program post-high school.

Student year class (e.g. undergraduate, MS. or Ph.D. student): _____

My major research advisor is _____

Major research advisor signature _____

ABSTRACT FORM SPECIFICS:

- Word maximum: 250 words
- Preferred font: 12 pt, Times New Roman
- Spacing: Single space between lines
Double space between paragraphs
- Margins: 2.5 cm left and right; please do not justify text
- Note whether ORAL PRESENTATION or POSTER at top of abstract page.
- Do not introduce new taxa in your abstract (ICZN regulation).
- Denote audio-visual equipment needs _____
- I am willing to serve as a session convener
- Submissions can be sent electronically to: ams-wsm@calacademy.org
- OR by mailing a hard copy and disk (Word for PC or Mac preferred) to:

**Angel Valdes – AMS/WSM 2000 Abstracts/Posters
Department of Invertebrate Zoology & Geology
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118-4599**