

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF MALACOLOGY, ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD CONFERENCE OF MALACOLOGY 2004

The WCM will be held in Perth, Australia from July 11 to 16, 2004. A full program of workshops and field trips is planned. For details, go to <http://www.amonline.net.au/malsoc/>



2004 STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

The American Malacological Society is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2004 Student Research Grant Competition.

Conditions for applicants:

- The purpose of the grants is to support student research on mollusks
- The sponsored research should be part of an applicant's graduate thesis and is expected to become published in a peer-reviewed journal
- The applicant must be a member of the American Malacological Society
- One or more grants will be awarded each year, subject to availability of funds. No grant shall exceed \$1000 U.S.D.
- Award winners are requested to present the results of their research at the annual meeting of the AMS

Applications must include the following:

1. A summary of the proposed research, not to exceed two pages, which includes title, goals, methods, timetable, plans for publication, and a budget specifying the need for the grant.
2. A short curriculum vitae.
3. A confirmation of the student's status at an accredited university.
4. A letter of support from the student's advisor.
5. Applications must be received by **March 15, 2004**.

Completed application packets should be sent to:

Dr. Roland C. Anderson
The Seattle Aquarium
1483 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98101 USA

Electronic submissions may be sent to:

Roland.Anderson@Seattle.Gov



CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

From January 1st 2004, the Society's membership database will be maintained by the Secretary. All changes to personal information such as street address, e-mail address and institutional affiliation should be sent to the address at the head of this page. Membership dues should still be sent to the Treasurer:

Dr. S. B. Cook
Division of Marine Science
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
5600 US 1 North
Fort Pierce, FL 34946



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The membership directory is available to all current Society members. It is distributed automatically once a year by e-mail to the majority of members. Postal distribution (in loose-leaf form) is available for those who prefer to receive a printed copy. All corrections or revisions to the directory should be sent to the Secretary at the address at the head of this page.



VI INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM CEPHALOPODS - PRESENT & PAST

<http://www.cephsym.org>

September 16 -19, 2004, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
Full details will be published in early 2004.

AMS BUSINESS



2003 Annual Meeting at Ann Arbor

By Diarmaid Ó Foighil, on behalf of the AMS
2003 organizational team: Sandra Ahn, Liath Appleton, John B. Burch, Rafael Familiar, Yeonju Kim, Taehwan Lee, René Sherman Mulcrone, Susan Jerrine Nichols, Fritz Paper and Andrea Walther.

The 69th annual meeting of the American Malacological Society was held in Ann Arbor, at the University of Michigan's central campus, from June 25-29th, 2003. The official attendance was 147 (this included 18 new members, 28 students and 16 guests) and the program consisted of 116 abstracts that collectively represented the work of 181 researchers based in 20 countries. Our original meeting web page (including the program, abstracts and group photograph) has been archived by AMS webmaster Dan Graf and can be accessed at: <http://data.acnatsci.org/ams/meetings/past.html>.

The meeting got off to an inspired start with outstanding Plenary Presentations by Baldomero Olivera and Geerat Vermeij, respectively, for the two featured symposia: 'Diversification In The Sea - What Can Comparative Molecular Data Tell Us?' and 'Non-Marine Alien Mollusks - The Future Is A Foreign Ecosystem'. There were also two Special Sessions. One focused on molluscan taxonomic projects funded by NSF's PEET program (PEET Meets Molluscan Taxonomy) and featured NSF's Jim Rodman as the lead speaker. The other was in honor of J. B. Burch (J. B. Burch - His Students Speak) and entailed, in reverse chronological order, research presentations by an international selection of his former students. Complementary sets of general contributions ran concurrently with the Symposia/Special Sessions, and sufficient land snail papers were available to assemble an impromptu 'Focus on Land Snails' session. The overall caliber and intellectual scope of the academic presentations, both oral and posters, was impressive and bodes well for the future of our organization.

We tweaked the meeting format on a number of different levels, usually successfully. A *Show Shell & Tell* conchological event ran concurrently with the poster session and featured four focal groups of mollusks, each represented by a subsample of constituent taxa and overseen by an AMS

volunteer. As many organizational elements as possible were placed on-line. These included registration payment options (via *Paypal*), purchase of meeting accessories (still available at <http://www.cafeshops.com/ams2003shop>), and a preemptive on-line placement of meeting abstracts – which allowed participants to edit their submissions prior to printing program hard copies. The vast majority of oral presentations were electronic and, despite a few hiccups, all talks were successfully delivered – due in part to a policy of loading files onto the presentation laptops during registration.

A concerted effort was made to raise external funds to supplement the AMS symposium grant (\$3,567) and we were successful in obtaining such from a variety of sources, including the National Science Foundation (DEB Systematic Biology) and the United States Department of Agriculture (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service). Sponsorship was also obtained from diverse University of Michigan academic units: the College of Literature Science & the Arts, Michigan Sea Grant, International Institute (Advanced Study Center and Latin American & Caribbean Studies), School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Museum of Zoology, Museum of Paleontology, and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Our sincere thanks to all these external sponsors, their support totaled \$13,470 and resulted in a meeting surplus (\$11,563). It is our understanding that the AMS 2003 residual monies will be set aside to equitably top-up AMS symposium grants for the next 3 annual meetings.

Other Meeting-Related Events

- ◆ The AMS Endowment Auction was hosted by legendary MC/Auctioneer, Dick Petit, ably assisted by Hank Chaney, at the historical Michigan Union complex and raised \$1,585 for the AMS student and symposium endowment funds.
- ◆ Kenneth Hayes (University of South Florida) won the Student Competition with his oral presentation, *Phylogeography and Evolution of the Florida Crown Conch (Melongena corona)*, and was awarded a check for \$500.
- ◆ During the Business Breakfast, the membership approved the following candidates nominated for open council positions:
 - President: José H. Leal
 - President-elect: Dianna K. Padilla

- Vice President: Roland C. Anderson
- Councilor at large (non-student): Timothy A. Pearce
- Councilor at large (student): Amy R. Wethington
- Past President (4 -10 years): Rüdiger Bieler
- Past President (11+ years): Robert C. Bullock
- ◆ There were three wrap-up events after the Business Breakfast. Liath Appleton (Collections Coordinator) and Dan Graf (Adjunct Curator) hosted an open session of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology's Mollusk Collection. J.B. Burch lead a well-attended excursion to some of his favorite local freshwater snail samplings sites and René Mulcrone, and Jerrine Nichols lead an ambitious field trip to the Raisin River and to Lake Erie.
- ◆ Robert Cowie is currently shepherding multiple manuscripts, stemming from the *Non-Marine Alien Mollusks - The Future Is A Foreign Ecosystem* symposium, through the review process for publication in the *American Malacological Bulletin*.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the AMS 2003 attendees for traveling to Ann Arbor last June. Your active participation in both scientific and social aspects made for a fun and informative meeting. See you in Sanibel!



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

JUNE 25, 2003

By the Secretary, Paul Callomon

Present:

President	Diarmaid O'Foighil [DO]
President-elect	Jose H. Leal [JL]
Vice-President	Dianna K. Padilla [DP]
Secretary	Paul Callomon [PC]
AMB Editor	Janice Voltzow [JV]
Treasurer	Susan B. Cook [SC]
Councillors	Rebecca Price [RP] Arthur E. Bogan [AB] Angel Valdez [AV]
Past Presidents	Robert T. Dillon Jr. [RD] Eugene V. Coan [EC]

Website Editor Richard E. Petit [RP]
Daniel L. Graf [DG]

Committee chairs

Conservation committee Robert H. Cowie [RC]
Membership committee Ellen Strong [ES]
Resolutions committee Paula M. Mikkelsen
Systematics and collection committee chair Gary Rosenberg
Student Awards Roland Anderson

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The President (DO) gave a short introductory address, acknowledging recent and ongoing changes in the personnel and goals of the Society. He introduced the agenda, and presented a plaque to the previous President, Rob Dillon. The President reported that there are about 130 registrants this year, and pointed out that only the current financial situation has kept several more from attending.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary (PC) reported that the archives of the Society are now being curated, and most of the material at the ANSP is now in reasonable order. He reported on the first issue of the newsletter this year, and agreed to continue preparing it with the Society's assent. The membership register is to be published as a PDF and distributed to members (see below under New Business).

It was agreed that all the back issues of the Bulletin should be collected together at Delaware Museum of Natural History. It was proposed to index the back issues of the Bulletin on the website, and to better publicize their availability.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer (SC) presented a full set of financial figures for the year 2002 and partial projections for 2003. In 2002, the Society spent \$7,824.69 more than it took in. Much of this was expenses incurred at the Charleston meeting, as well as some overruns in operating costs.

The Treasurer expressed concern about the combination of software currently in use, which was inherited from her predecessor. In particular, the 'cost-center' approach required considerable study to render it less confusing. The Treasurer proposed developing a simplified system that retains some aspects of the 'cost-center' system while being easier to use. She also expressed concern that the

previous system does not allow easy preparation of IRS tax returns.

2003 was a better year financially than 2002. Membership increased, and with it the Society's income. The increase in dues also contributed to growth in income. The Society currently had taken about \$5000 more than at the same time in the preceding year. There was some discussion about the nature of the funds in which the endowment is currently placed.

A copy of the full treasurer's report may be obtained on request from the office of the Secretary.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

The Editor of the Bulletin (JV) reported that volume 17 (2) was printed in 2002, but did not get mailed until February 2003. Volume 18 is soon to appear, and will be a single combined issue containing papers from the Vienna symposium. There is a large backlog of manuscripts for volume 19, on which work has already begun. Claims continue to arrive for non-delivery of volume 16; over 50 in the last two years. The subscription spreadsheet and database have been updated to allow efficient billing and sending out of copies. The importance was pointed out of keeping track of those subscribers who have paid several years in advance. The Society intends to seek a new printing company, as the present one is no longer efficient.

A presentation was given by the President-elect (JL) outlining next year's meeting in Sanibel, Florida.

The Vice-President (DP) was introduced to the Council. There was a lengthy discussion of possible new formats for the annual meeting, centering around proposals to hold the AMS meeting jointly with the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology in San Diego in January or with the Western Society of Malacologists at Monterey in summer. The advantages of the former – wider exposure for presentations and students, interchange with biologists in related fields and good organization – were held to be offset by the unusual date, which would mean that most members would have two AMS meetings in the same financial year. It was also pointed out that abstracts of papers might become the property of the SICB and be published in their journal rather than in the AMS bulletin. To the latter proposal there were fewer objections, and the Vice-President is to investigate further.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Motion

That the following nominations be recommended to the membership:

- President* *Jose H. Leal*
- President-elect* *Dianna K. Padilla*
- Vice President* *Roland C. Anderson*
- Clr. at large (non-student)* *Timothy A. Pearce*
- Clr. at large (student)* *Amy R. Wethington*
- Past President (4-10 years)* *Rüdiger Bieler*
- Past President (11+ years)* *Robert C. Bullock*

Passed unanimously

AUDITING COMMITTEE

The chair of the auditing committee (JL) presented its report. It was recommended that the accounts be reviewed by a professional CPA as a matter of course. A full copy of the auditing committee report may be obtained on request from the Secretary's office.

Motion

That the treasurer be authorized to spend an amount equivalent to the dividend income from endowment to support symposia at next year's meeting.

Passed unanimously

It was proposed that the treasurer not be on the auditing committee, and that auditing in future be carried out by an independent party every two or three years. The treasurer should continue to confer and cooperate with the auditing committee. The auditing committee was commended for preparing its report in time for this meeting.

Motion in principle

That the society adopt an independent auditing system

Passed unanimously

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The committee's report was presented. One member (RP) asked that his dissent to its recommendations be noted. It was pointed out that over the last decade the current balanced investment strategy has yielded a return of roughly 9% (\$3-4000 per year), in contrast to the 1 or 2% offered by banks.

A full copy of the report is available on request from the Secretary's office.

Motion

That the report be approved and that the committee's proposals be implemented

Passed unanimously

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The chair (JV) commended the new website and newsletter. There was a report on the progress of the forthcoming special publication 'Mollusks: a guide for study, collection and preservation'. One section remains to be completed, and a suitable printer is to be found. Council is to be consulted regarding a budget once estimates have been received.

The increasing use of electronic and web publication by the society was discussed. It was agreed that the more information that is presented on the Society's website the better, as it renders the site more useful and works to attract potential members. Potential additions to the site include Harold Murray's history of the Society, possibly illustrated with images from the archives. The AMS brochure is to be updated and republished, as it is a useful advertising medium at meetings of related societies.

Any new printer should be able to make digital versions of the Bulletin and other publications available for web-based distribution and for entry in biological publications databases.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A total of 255 members are registered, up from 230 at this time last year. This figure comprises 165 regular members; 48 student members; 18 family memberships and 24 life members. It nevertheless represents approximately half the number recorded a few years ago. Various strategies for increasing membership were discussed, including a reconsideration of the Society's mission statement; a survey of the membership regarding their expectations and joint meetings with other societies and groups, especially the FMCS.

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

The committee's report was presented by the chair (RA). Awards this year were: \$1000 to Elizabeth Boyle for her research entitled 'Colonization and radiation in the deep-sea protobranch subfamily Ledellinae' and \$700 to Christine Huffard for her work on 'Behavior and ecology of a member of the *Octopus (Abdopus)* sub-genus'.

It was noted that the number of applications for grants is somewhat lower this year than last, despite an increase in student members to approximately 50, and that there are no student posters this year.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The following report was presented by R. Cowie, chair.

General

The AMS continues as a member of the Endangered Species Coalition (ESC), supporting the strengthening of the Endangered Species Act. Rob Cowie acts as the AMS contact for the ESC.

The Conservation Committee welcomes input from all members of the society regarding activities that they might wish the Committee to play a part in.

The AMS brochure, developed largely by Chuck Lydeard and focused strongly on mollusk conservation, was reported on in previous annual reports. This is a reminder to Council that it is available for dissemination.

Specific Activities

The Committee, with Chuck Lydeard taking the lead, along with a number of other authors, has drafted a paper entitled "The global decline of nonmarine mollusks" for submission to *Bio-Science*. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the plight of nonmarine mollusks to a wide audience.

Other than this effort, the Committee, as a committee, has had a relatively inactive year. However, individual committee members have continued their personal efforts in support of mollusk conservation, with some notable examples being as follows.

Barry Roth (with Patricia S. Sadeghian) has published a new book entitled "Checklist of Land Snails and Slugs of California" in the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History *Contributions in Science* series. This work presents an inventory and classification of the 279 species and subspecies of land snails and slugs of California and reports their distribution by county. It will be important in the conservation and management of the fauna. Roth continues to be involved in the documentation and formal description of recently discovered high diversity levels among the land mollusks of the Pacific Coast states.

Chuck Lydeard continues to be actively involved with conservation genetics research on freshwater mollusks. He co-wrote the text for a public infor

mation brochure entitled "An ecological portrait of the Black Warrior River Watershed", which is in Alabama, funded primarily by the World Wildlife Fund and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). It includes a major section on biological diversity losses, notably of mussels and freshwater snails, as well as a section on introduced *Corbicula fluminea* and *Dreissena polymorpha*.

Kevin Cummings continues to be heavily involved with the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society. He is also active in trying to have the black carp listed by the USFWS as an injurious species of wildlife under the Lacey Act. The black carp is a voracious predator of mollusks, but is favored by fish farmers as a control for snail infestations in catfish production ponds. The first black carp reported taken in the wild was found in early 2003. It was probably a sterile individual. However, this has demonstrated that black carp can escape and do indeed pose a serious threat to native and endangered mollusks. All members of the AMS should be aware of this situation and do all they can to support the listing of black carp as an injurious species and to prevent its wider use and likely escape into the wild.

Rob Cowie, Chuck Lydeard and Barry Roth continue as members of the IUCN Mollusc Specialist Group; Rob Cowie edits its newsletter, "Tentacle", all issues of which are now available on-line (<http://www.hawaii.edu/ccrt/tentacle.html>).

SYSTEMATICS AND COLLECTION COMMITTEE
Report of the AMS Systematics & Collection Committee, 2003, from Gary Rosenberg.

1. *Etypes workshop*

The second Etypes workshop was held at the National Museum of Natural History, May 12-14. The organizer was the All Species Foundation, which, among other goals, wants images of all the world's primary type specimens online. Three communities were represented: malacology, entomology and cryptogamic botany. One outcome of the meeting was agreement that images of types needed to be placed in the broader context of information strategies for systematic biology, including lists of names, digitized collections and literature, and morphological and DNA sequence data. Ten malacologists attended: Baldinger, Bieler, Bouchet, Gosliner, Harasewych, Kantor, Mikkelsen, Ponder, Rosenberg, and Valdes. Discussions lead to next item.

2. *NSF proposal for linking mollusk collections*

A group of ten malacologists attending the Etypes

workshop (above) agreed to pursue funding for networking malacological collection databases through the BDI program at NSF, which has funded similar efforts for Mammals (MaNIS) and Herpetology (HerpNet). The deadlines for submission are January and July, 2004. Rosenberg will visit NSF in the first week of July to meet with the BDI program officer. The collaboration will be open to US malacological collections; means to include foreign institutions will be explored. A letter of support from AMS may be called for.

3. *NSCA*

At the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA) meeting in Berkeley, CA, June 5-7, two program officers from NSF gave presentations, Gerald "Stinger" Guala (BDI, Biological Databases and Informatics) and Muriel Poston (BRC, Biological Research Collections). Both these programs have relatively small budgets by NSF standards, and the program officers encouraged applicants to form partnerships that would let them approach funding from other areas of NSF, such as ITR (Information

Technology Research). They also emphasized the need for the systematics community to speak with one voice, in order to get larger scale funding, as have physicists, astronomers and oceanographers.

4. *Census of Marine Life*

The Census of Marine Life (CoML) is a ten year international research program aimed at assessing and explaining the diversity and abundance of marine organisms throughout the world's oceans. The formal kickoff of the Census is scheduled for October 23, 2003 in Washington, DC. Since mollusks are 40% of known marine diversity, the program has the potential to provide substantial funding for molluscan research. A related program in incipient stages is the Barcode of Life, which targets short gene sequences for rapid species identification.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

No report was presented. The role of the committee was discussed during discussion of amendments the bylaws (see below)

Motion

That the society issue a resolution commending Jack Burch for his contributions to Malacology.

Passed unanimously

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The amendments to the bylaws proposed by the committee were discussed. A copy of the amended

draft is available on request from the Secretary's office. No amendments were proposed to the constitution.

It was suggested that the post of president no longer entail arranging the annual meeting, and that the president then be allowed to serve longer than a year. This proposal was discussed at length. The role of the Resolutions committee was discussed. It was agreed that the committee is charged with keeping track of commendations and other acknowledgments due from and made by the Society.

It was proposed that the web page editor be added to the Scientific Publications committee. It was pointed out that there is no formal position of Web Page Editor, and it was suggested that the Secretary should be responsible for either acting as or appointing the Webmaster. This proposal was discussed, and it was agreed that the Secretary should do this.

Friendly amendments to main motion [acceptance of amendments to bylaws]

1. That an item 5 be added to Article 3, Section 2(d) reading '[The secretary shall] serve as or appoint a webmaster'.

Passed unanimously

2. That the word 'and webmaster' be added to Article 4, Section 8 after ... 'the newsletter editor'.

Passed unanimously

There was extensive discussion of the responsibility of the chairman of the Editorial Board. The logic of someone other than a member of the committee having authority over the editor-in-chief was questioned. The situation at other publications (Veliger, Nautilus, Northeast Naturalist, Southeast Naturalist and Venus) was discussed. It was agreed that in the case of the AMS the editor-in-chief is already responsible to Council, and that the role of Chair of the Editorial Board is thus redundant.

3. That the words 'chaired by a member other than the editor-in-chief' be removed from Article 9, section 2.

Passed unanimously

Motion

That the amendments to the bylaws be recommended to the membership, as amended above.

Passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

1. A check from the AFS for \$218.17 was received.
2. The membership register was discussed. It was agreed that the Secretary should maintain the list, and provide a copy to every member by PDF or regular mail. It was agreed that in future any messages from the Council to the membership should be channeled through the Secretary to preserve confidentiality. It was suggested that the AMS might have its own listserver, but this was considered to entail too much potential difficulty.
3. A draft archives policy was presented and discussed. It was pointed out that space at the ANSP is not unlimited, and that proper archival storage of the existing archives alone would be a very expensive undertaking; also that the post of archivist or historian does not currently exist. Considerable further discussion was held to be necessary before a final policy is decided upon.

Motion

That the archival material in Rob Dillon's office should be sent to the archives at the ANSP, with the exception of any back numbers of the AMB (which are to be sent to Delaware) and items 1-6, which are to be discarded.

Passed unanimously

MATTERS ARISING

It was suggested that the AMS should send letters of appreciation to institutions that support it with space or other resources.

Motion

That letters of appreciation be sent to the following institutions: The Academy of Natural Sciences; the Delaware Museum of Natural History; the Los Angeles County Museum; the University of Scranton; the University of Michigan, thanking them for their support of our institution.

Passed unanimously



**70th Annual Meeting
Sanibel Island, Florida
31 July-4 August, 2004**

By Society President Dr. J. Leal

I am glad to announce that the 70th Annual Meeting of the American Malacological Society will take place on beautiful Sanibel Island, Florida, from Saturday, July 31, to Wednesday, August 4, 2004. Sanibel Island is a world-renowned, nature-oriented travel destination that is also famous for its bountiful molluscan resources. The event will be hosted by the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and will have as its main venue the Sundial Beach Resort, located on the eastern part of the island.

The AMS is a dynamic international society of individuals and organizations with an active interest in the study and conservation of mollusks. AMS covers a wide range of subjects in the field of molluscan studies, and its meetings, symposia, sessions, posters and special events reflect that.

A symposium on the Relationships of the Neogastropoda will be convened by M. G. Harasewych of the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution. Special sessions will include:

- *Biodiversity of Marine Mollusks* (organized by Gustav Paulay, Florida Museum of Natural History)
- *Coastal Molluscan Assemblages as Environmental Indicators* (Michael Savarese, Aswany Voley, and Greg Tolley, Florida Gulf Coast University)
- *Systematics of Freshwater Gastropods* (Russel Minton, University of Louisiana at Monroe)
- *Terrestrial Mollusks as Agricultural and Environmental Pests* (David Robinson, United States Department of Agriculture/Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia)
- *Global Marine Bivalve Database Workshop* (Gustav Paulay, Florida Museum of Natural History, Paul V. Scott, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Graham Oliver, National Museums & Galleries of Wales)

In addition, a special forum organized by Ken Hayes, Anna Bass, and Amy Wethington, all graduate students in malacology, will focus on and discuss common issues and problems faced by soon-to-be professionals in the field.

The 70th Annual Meeting will be sponsored by the American Malacological Society, The Bailey-

Matthews Shell Museum, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, and the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club, with additional support from the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce, Sundial Beach Resort, J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Captiva Cruises.

The traditional malacological auction will take place on the evening of Monday, August 2, and the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club will sponsor the Shell Museum Open House on Sunday, August 1.

Specially priced rates at the Sundial Beach Resort will be available for meeting participants at \$110/night for regular rooms, \$125 for the Gulf View rooms, and \$175 for two-bedroom suites. Sundial is willing to accommodate up to 6 students per suite, which will lower the cost of accommodations for participants on a budget.

Three field trips are planned for the last day of the meeting, Wednesday, August 4:

A nature-watching visit to J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel, guided by professional ornithologist and Shell Museum volunteer Dr. Jon Greenlaw;

A daylong boat trip to Cayo Costa State Park guided by senior Shell Museum staff (located on isolated and undeveloped Cayo Costa, the park offers pristine views of the Gulf, dunes, lagoons, and opportunities for shell collecting; no live-mollusk collecting is allowed in the park or elsewhere in Lee County);

A visit to a Plio-Pleistocene fossil pit in Sarasota County guided by Roger Portell, invertebrate paleontologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

More than 24 airlines service Southwest Florida International Airport in neighboring Fort Myers (30 minutes from Sanibel). The Lee Island Coast region and surrounding areas offer many opportunities for side trips on your own, depending on your interest: Edison-Ford Winter Estates, Miracles baseball games, and Everglades National Park, to name a few.

More information about the meeting will be provided on the AMS and Shell Museum Web sites as it becomes available.

Cordially,

José H. Leal, PhD

President, American Malacological Society

