



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF MALACOLOGY, ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMS /WSM 2010 – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA JUNE 26-JULY 1, 2010

Submitted by Doug Eernisse, AMS President

As the current President of AMS, it is my pleasure to announce the exciting upcoming joint 76th Annual Meeting of the AMS and 43rd Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists. The meeting will kick off in style with a welcome reception the evening of Saturday, June 26th, 2010, with scientific sessions held Sunday to noon on Wednesday, June 27-June 30. We are also exploring options for one or more organized excursion(s) on Thursday, July 1. We are fortunate to have reserved our meeting site at San Diego State University. Their relatively new convention center is not only attractive and accessible via public transportation but will also be affordable for students and close to world class ocean beaches and other well known attractions that make San Diego such a popular destination to visit. The meeting site can be viewed by downloading the following pdf slideshow: http://biology.fullerton.edu/wsm/2010/AMS_WSM_2010_sdsu_PDF.pdf

A new public trolley stop adjacent to the convention center provides convenient access to outstanding restaurants and bars in Old Town, San Diego. The scientific sessions are always great when AMS and WSM meet jointly on the West Coast. Dr. Peter Marko from Clemson University is organizing an AMS-sponsored symposium on "Biogeography of the Pacific". With speakers whose research has emphasized mollusks, the line-up for this symposium line-up is sure to make this a vibrant and memorable highlight of the meeting. Other special sessions on topics such as molluscan fossils and invasive mollusk species will complement the symposium theme. Details of the meeting will soon

be posted on the AMS and WSM websites: <http://www.malacological.org/meetings/>

<http://biology.fullerton.edu/wsm/conferences.html>

Of course, we will also have the ever-popular auction, banquet, and other fun activities. Please plan to attend and spread the word. Help us to make this joint meeting a success by planning to attend, responding when the call for contributed talks and posters is announced, getting involved, and especially encouraging students and colleagues, including those from Latin American countries, to participate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the meeting organizers, myself (deernisse@fullerton.edu) or WSM President, Dr. George Kennedy (gkennedy@bfsa-ca.com).

See you in San Diego!

Doug Eernisse, Professor of Biology, Cal State Fullerton.



OTHER MEETINGS

Molluscs 2009 **University of Queensland, Brisbane** **25-27 November 2009**

Contributed by Winston Ponder

The Malacological Society of Australasia (MSA) holds a conference every three years with previous, very successful, conferences held at Rottnest Island, Western Australia (1997), Sydney (2000), Perth (as part of the World Congress of Malacology, 2004) and Wollongong, New South Wales (2006).

The Molluscs 2009 conference will have, in addition to a general session, five major symposia.

- Fisheries, Aquaculture and Bioactives
- Invasive Species, Parasites and Diseases
- Phylogeny, Systematics & Biogeography
- Physiology and Evolutionary Development
- Ecology, Conservation and Indicators of Environmental Change

If you are interested in participating in a particular symposium please contact the relevant organizer (see details on website) or the conference organizer. For any questions regarding the conference, please email the conference organizer at molluscs2009@bigpond.com

Post meeting workshops: Two concurrent two-day workshops will be held at Moreton Bay Research Station on Stradbroke Island on the weekend after the conference (28-29 November).

- Freshwater molluscs: Organizer Dr Winston Ponder; email: wponder@bigpond.net.au
- Marine bivalves: Organizer Dr John Healy; email: johnhe@qm.qld.gov.au

Each workshop will cover the following core topics: General introduction; overview of the main groups; identification (families, genera and, in some groups, species); resources for species-level identification; conservation (general and special issues); exotic species and their impacts; and collection methods (with demonstrations in the field). Transport will be provided for workshop participants on the late afternoon of the 27th of November from the University of Queensland to Stradbroke Island.

Further details regarding the meeting and workshops (including costs) are available on the society website at:

<http://www.malsocaus.org/molluscs2009/index.html> or from the conference organizer at: molluscs2009@bigpond.com

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**Florida United Malacologists (FUM)
The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum (BMSM)
Sanibel, Florida
January 30, 2010**

Contributed by José H. Leal

The first meeting of the Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will occur Saturday, January 30, 2010, at The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum (BMSM) in Sanibel, Florida. The one-day gathering is designed to enhance communication among

professional, amateur, and student malacologists, with topics including but not limited to biology, ecology, paleontology, archaeology, and conservation.

FUM follows the pattern established by similar informal gatherings such as BAM (Bay Area Malacologists), SCUM (Southern California United Malacologists), MAM (Mid-Atlantic Malacologists), and OVUM (Ohio (River) Valley United Malacologists). There is no formal membership, dues, officers, nor publications. However, submission of brief abstracts is required. Abstracts (limited to 150 words or less) will be posted on the Museum web site. The gathering will be free of charge to presenters and Museum members. Non-members will be asked to donate the Museum admission fee of \$7. Participants are strongly encouraged to ask questions and discuss data, compare notes on methods and problems, and get acquainted with presenters and members of the audience. Presentations, limited to 15 min + 5 min for questions, will be informal and will cover current research, collecting efforts, and collection issues. The Museum will provide projection equipment for PowerPoint programs, brief videos, and slides.

Due to staffing limitations, use of the library and research area and collection visits will be limited to two days prior to the gathering, Thursday, January 28, and Friday, January 29. Museum parking is free. Box lunches and dinner at a local restaurant will be available at cost to participants and presenters. A reservation form for participation in the event (for presenters and participants) will soon be posted in the Museum web site (www.shellmuseum.org). Seating is limited, so please return the reservation form prior to November 30, 2009.

Please send all inquiries, reservations, and submission of presentation topics to Dr. José H. Leal at jleal@shellmuseum.org. The deadline for submission of topics and abstracts is December 15, 2009. The FUM program with abstracts, times, and sequence of presentations will be posted on the Museum web site, www.shellmuseum.org, shortly after the deadline for submission of topics.

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**Studies on Opisthobranch Molluscs
World Congress of Malacology
Thailand
18-24 July 2010**

During the next year WCM opisthobranch researchers will have once more the opportunity to gather and present papers on a dedicated symposium. This model has proved to work well in the past avoiding the hassle of running back and forward between lecture theatres and ensuring no overlap of opisthobranch talks!

Opisthobranch molluscs have received considerable attention during the past years by a growing and enthusiastic research community. This symposium aims to bring together all those interested in the various aspects of opisthobranch biology and evolution, from development to behavior, systematics and phylogenetics, palaeontology and biogeography, genomics and ecology, etc.

We expect the symposium to be a forum of discussion of the latest advances as well as a platform to establish strategies and collaborations that could lead to a fast resolution of old and new questions on opisthobranch research.

The symposium is sponsored by The Malacological Society of London, and authors are encouraged to consider submitting their contributions to the *Journal of Molluscan Studies* (deadline to be announced). Manuscripts that pass the peer-review process will be published together as a collection of papers from the symposium.

We look forward for your registration. Visit the WCM website at:

<http://www.wcm2010.com/registration.asp>

Opisthobranchs Symposium,
<http://www.wcm2010.com/symposium.asp#6>

For further information please contact one of the organizers:

Manuel Malaquias (Bergen Museum of Natural History, Norway); Email:
Manuel.Malaquias@bm.uib.no

Juan Lucas Cervera (University of Cadiz, Spain);
Email: lucas.cervera@uca.es

Terry Gosliner (California Academy of Sciences, USA); Email: tgosliner@calacademy.org

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**FMCS 2010 Workshop – Regional Faunal
Identification and Sampling**

Contributed by Stephen E. McMurray

The 2010 workshop of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society will be held in either late October or early November of 2010 in Kirkwood, Missouri. The workshop will be held at Missouri Department of Conservation's Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, located in a 112-acre oak-hickory forest just southwest of St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to two floors of exhibits, a large aquarium, and 3 hiking trails, the center has 3 classrooms and a 250-seat auditorium. There are numerous nearby lodging, dining, and entertainment options.

The 2010 workshop will focus on regional faunal identification and sampling. A panel of regional faunal experts will give presentations on mussels unique to their area, common species shared with other regions that "just look different here", and the ever popular "problem children". They will also give tips and pointers on unique collecting methods used in the region. In addition to presentations, there will be ample time to view representative species from the regions, and time to spend discussing characters with the experts. To date we have secured commitments from experts representing the Ozarks, Atlantic Slope, upper Ohio, and Gulf Coastal faunal regions.

Following the workshop, field trips to the nearby Meramec River and the U.S. Geological Survey's Columbia Environmental Research Center are planned.

We hope to see you in Fall 2010!

For more information please contact:

Steve McMurray:

Stephen.McMurray@mdc.mo.gov; 573.882.9909

or Heidi Dunn:

hdunn@ecologicalspecialists.com; 636.281.0973

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MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

Investigation of molluscan phylogeny using nuclear protein-coding genes

Kevin M. Kocot* and Kenneth M. Halanych

Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849

*winner of the Melbourne Carriker student Research Grant

Mollusca is the second most diverse lineage of animals and includes many economically and ecologically important species. Despite their diversity and importance, little is known about the phylogenetic relationships among the major lineages of Mollusca, mainly Chaetodermomorpha (Caudofoveata), Neomeniomorpha (=Solenogastres), Polyplacophora, Monoplacophora, Gastropoda, Bivalvia, Cephalopoda, and Scaphopoda (Haszprunar et al. 2008). Most previous molecular investigations of molluscan phylogeny have utilized nuclear ribosomal genes (Passamanek et al. 2004, Rosenberg et al. 1997, Winnepennincks et al. 1996) but support values at higher-levels were generally weak. Giribet et al. (2006) added two mitochondrial genes and histone H3 but also had weak support at higher-levels.

Several studies have demonstrated that conserved nuclear protein-coding 'housekeeping' genes can be very useful as molecular markers for higher-level phylogenetics (e.g., Anderson et al. 2004, Regier and Shultz 1997, Ruiz-Trillo et al. 2002). Therefore, for a portion of my Ph.D. dissertation research, I am working to reconstruct a robust phylogenetic hypothesis for Mollusca using a molecular phylogenetic approach with sequence data from carefully selected nuclear protein-coding genes.

Preliminary analyses of sequence data available in public databases indicated that the genes elongation factor 1 alpha, heat shock protein 90A, Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase, and myosin II could be highly informative markers for mollusc class-level phylogenetics. To date, I have successfully amplified fragments of all four genes from a diverse assemblage of molluscs (although I have had difficulties amplifying some genes from some taxa). In a preliminary Bayesian inference analysis of a nearly complete dataset from 17 taxa, support at higher levels is generally weak but Polyplacophora, Aplacophora, Cephalopoda, and Gastropoda were all recovered monophyletic with a posterior probability value of 1.0 (Figure 1).

Interestingly, Mollusca is not recovered monophyletic with respect to the outgroup taxon, *Capitella* sp. (Annelida). Instead, there is a 3-branch polytomy consisting of *Capitella* sp., Polyplacophora, and the remainder of Mollusca. Also interesting is a clade consisting of Scaphopoda and Aplacophora which is strongly supported (posterior probability = 1.0).

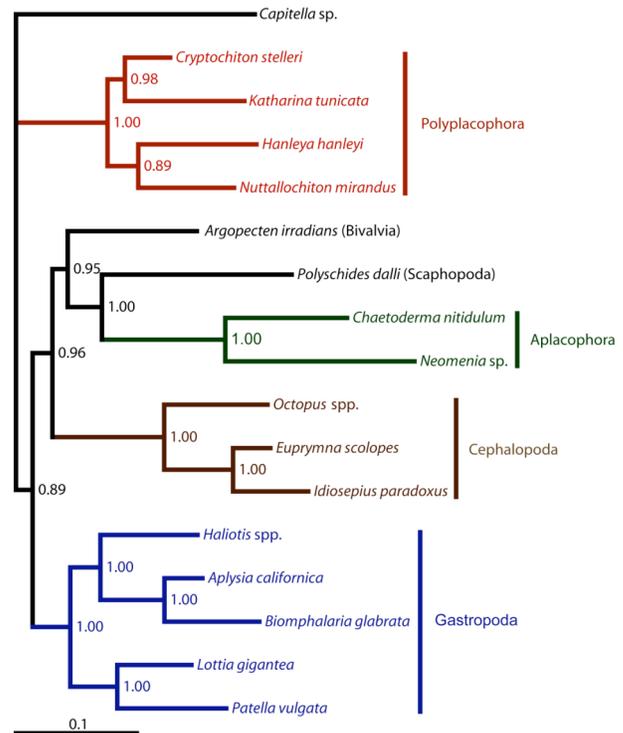


Figure 1. Preliminary Bayesian inference phylogram based on analysis of elongation factor 1 alpha, heat shock protein 90A, myosin II, and Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase amino acid sequence data (1687 positions) performed in MR BAYES using the WAG + Γ model run for 206 generations. Polyplacophora (red), Aplacophora (green), Cephalopoda (brown), and Gastropoda (blue) are all strongly recovered monophyletic.

Most notably, the results of this preliminary multi-gene analysis are strongly consistent with aplacophoran monophyly as hypothesized by Scheltema (1993, 1996). However, Aplacophora is recovered within Conchifera and is significantly separated from Polyplacophora in contrast to the Aculifera hypothesis (which predicts that Aplacophora and Polyplacophora form a monophyletic clade, Ivanov 1996, Scheltema 1993, 1996). I have successfully sequenced myosin II from several aplacophorans and chitons. A similar analysis conducted on these data also strongly supports aplacophoran monophyly but also weakly supports the monophyly of Aculifera (data not shown). Whether the strongly supported Aplacophora + Scaphopoda clade in the multi-gene

analysis presented here is real or the result of long-branch attraction requires further investigation.

Currently, I am focusing on adding a complete dataset for additional bivalves, scaphopods, and aplacophorans. I am also testing primers to amplify other gene fragments that performed well in preliminary screening analyses in order to add additional molecular markers to this investigation. Funding generously provided by the American Malacological Society Melbourne R. Carrier Student Research Award has aided me in purchasing the costly laboratory materials needed for this type of research. These preliminary results are promising and I am hopeful that expanded taxon and gene sampling will help to reconstruct a robust phylogenetic hypothesis for Mollusca.

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Cephalopod Body Patterning and Visual Signaling: Mechanisms for Intraspecific Communication

Contributed by Carl Nicolas Keiser

Undergraduate senior thesis (topical library investigation); Mentor: Dr. Chad Hoefler (Arcadia University)

Thesis abstract: Coleoid cephalopods exhibit a number of unique characteristics that suggest an intricate visual communication system. Three primary physiological attributes of coleoids are sophisticated nervous systems, acute vision, and elaborate body patterning. Cutaneous neuromuscular organs called chromatophores are the principal mechanism behind the conspicuous chromatic signaling. Some taxa perceive polarized light and can manipulate reflective cutaneous cells called leucophores in order to produce polarization patterns, suggesting a signaling system undetectable by predators. The vast patterning repertoires expressed by some species can designate an individual cephalopod functionally polymorphic. Insight from contemporary studies on polarization sensitivity, multi-modal signaling, and context selectivity during signaling reveal the true depth of cephalopod communication.



News from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Contributed by Timothy A. Pearce

Recent enhancements in the Section of Mollusks at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History are noteworthy. These enhancements include cataloging specimen lot number 100,000 and updating organization of the collection and database to a 2005 to 2008 classification scheme.

On August 14, collection assistant Paul Robb, cataloged lot number 100,000, *Io fluviialis* (Say, 1825), the Spiny Riversnail. The specimens were collected from the Clinch River in Tennessee by J.M. Robinett on 10 June 1895. This handsome species, the mascot for the American Malacological Society, occurs in Virginia and Tennessee (extirpated from Alabama) is endangered primarily due to habitat alteration (dams turn rivers into lakes, which are not habitat), and efforts continue toward its recovery.

Computer-cataloging of our mollusk collection began in 2002 and is currently 75% complete; we continue toward 100% by cataloging many specimens that were collected more than 100 years ago. About 30% of the collection is available for searching on the Internet at:

<http://collections.carnegiennh.org/mollusks/specimen>

Also in August, we completed reorganizing the collection according to a modern systematic scheme. At family level and above, we followed Bouchet & Rocroi (2005) for Gastropoda and Mikkelsen & Bieler (2008) for Bivalvia. Below the family level, we followed Millard (2008). This new organization reflects recent advancements in systematic understanding of Mollusca and the new arrangement should facilitate the work of visiting researchers.

Curator Tim Pearce continues with his Pennsylvania Land Snails Atlas Project. We regularly find new county and even state records, reflecting the poor previous sampling of Pennsylvania. The recent Austin Dam BioBlitz in Potter County revealed 16 land snail species of which 12 were new county records. A small amount of effort yields a large payoff in terms of new distribution information, eventually to result in updated distribution maps.

These accomplishments address our mission by improving our ability to serve our users.

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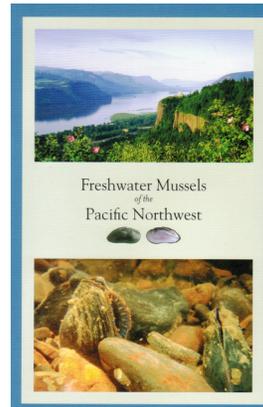
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Freshwater Mussels of the Pacific Northwest

Contributed by Sarina Jepsen

The Xerces Society has recently published the second edition of the field guide: *Freshwater Mussels of the Pacific Northwest* by Ethan Nedeau, Al Smith, Jen Stone and Sarina Jepsen. This expanded edition includes updated information on the status and taxonomy of western freshwater mussels, as well as a detailed bibliography. This book provides an introduction to the freshwater mussel species that occur in western North America, focusing primarily on the Pacific Northwest.

This guide includes information on basic anatomy, life cycle, habitat, ecosystem role, diversity, distribution, human use, conservation, and management of freshwater mussels that occur west of the Rocky Mountains. The species or species groups addressed in this guide include: *Margaritifera falcata*, *Gonidea angulata*, *Anodonta beringiana*, the *Anodonta californiensis* / *Anodonta nuttalliana* clade, and the *Anodonta oregonensis* / *Anodonta kennealyi* clade. For each species or species group, this publication provides a description, a shell photograph, a range map, range, life history, habitat, and conservation information. This publication is 51 pages and printed in full color.



Please visit The Xerces Society website to download this guide for free or to purchase a paper copy:

<http://www.xerces.org/freshwater-mussel-guide/>



The Biomphalaria Snail and Larval Trematodes Coedited by Rafael Toledo and Bernard Fried

Contributed by Bernard Fried

This book will provide an overview of the biology of the planorbid snails belonging to the genus *Biomphalaria* mainly with emphasis in their role as

a host of larval trematode. These snails are of great importance in medical and economic zoology as a vector of important trematode (flake) diseases in human and veterinary medicine and in wildlife biology, particularly schistosomiasis. Moreover, these snails are a useful model for numerous basic studies in biology and chemistry. A book that provides modern coverage of diverse topics from the molecule to the community of this snail as related to larval trematode parasitism is not available. This book should appeal to a wide audience of malacologists, parasitologists, biologists, ecologists, biochemists, public health workers, epidemiologists, and graduate and advanced undergraduate students in biomedical and allied health sciences. The coverage of the book will comprises aspects such as systematic, population ecology, physiology, control, genetics, immunology or molecular biology of these snails in relation to their ability to harbor and transmit parasitic digeneans.

To be published by Springer in 2010.



Another copy of Thomas Say's *American Conchology* and *A glossary to Say's Conchology* come to light.

Contributed by Arthur E. Bogan, Cynthia M. Bogan and Jamie M. Smith

Recently the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences received a donation of the library of the late Dr. Edward Wilbur Berry (1875-1945), who had worked in the Department of Geology, Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Berry was a paleobotanist and his extensive library spanned several disciplines. While organizing and inventorying the donated volumes, Vince Schneider, research curator of paleontology, found a bound copy of Thomas Say's *American Conchology* (1830-1834). This volume contains 6 sections and 60 hand colored plates published by Say before his death. This copy is one of 65 copies reported from institutional libraries out of an estimated 250 copies printed. Bound in the back of this volume is a copy of a glossary to Say's *Conchology* (1832) attributed to Thomas Say. Only 24 copies of the glossary appear to be extant. Both were printed at the utopian community in New Harmony, Indiana. This volume is now housed in the rare book collection of the H.H. Brimley Memorial Library, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.

Say, T. 1830a-1834, 1838. *American Conchology, or descriptions of the shells of North America. Illustrated by coloured figures from original drawings executed from nature.* School Press, New Harmony, Indiana. Part 1 (1830) 31 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 1-10; Part 2 (April 1831) 35 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 11-20; Part 3 (September 1831) 38 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 21-30; Part 4 (March 1832) 31 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 31-40; Part 5 (August 1832) 34 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 41-50; Part 6 (April 1834) 44 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 51-60; Part 7 (1838, published after Say's death, edited by T.A. Conrad) 14 unnumbered printed pages, hand colored plates 61-68, plate 65 unnumbered.

[Say, T.] 1832. *A glossary to Say's Conchology.* New Harmony, Indiana. Printed by Richard Beck & James Bennett. 25 pages.



OBITUARY

Arthur Merrill

Contributed by Alan Kabat

Arthur Merrill, a past president of the American Malacological Union (1972), and a long time researcher and administrator with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (now part of NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service) died earlier this year. As a senior administrator, he oversaw much of the research conducted at the numerous NMFS laboratories along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, from Maine to Texas. He was also very active with the National Shellfisheries Association and was, at various times, on the editorial board of *The Nautilus*, *Proceedings of the National Shellfisheries Association*, and the *Fisheries Bulletin*.

His publications were primarily on shellfisheries, as well as an influential paper published in *Science* with K.O. Emery on "Ancient Oyster Shells on the Atlantic Continental Margin" (1965). He also published several papers on the systematics of the *Architectonicidae* (Gastropoda).

Richard Johnson and Ken Boss will be preparing a more formal obituary, together with a list of his publications.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

July 22, 2009, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Presented by Amanda Lawless, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Warren Allmon at 4:15 pm.

Executive and Committee Reports were presented:

President's Report: Warren Allmon reported that a total of 85 people had registered for this year's meeting. A special thank you was given to Paul Callomon for being the auctioneer of a very successful auction. Special thank yous were also given to Paula Mikkelsen, Kelly Cronin, Larry Brown, Mary Kosloski, the session chairs, and all the students who registered for the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Dawn Dittman. The operating fund as of Dec. 31, 2008 was \$44,009 and the endowment fund was ~\$122,000. Total assets fell \$40,000 last year due to losses in the stock market, but in the last 3 months \$3000 has been gained. Payments in the checking account exceeded deposits by \$11,000 due to paying for an extra issue of the AMB. Eight Melbourne Carriker student research awards were given out this year. There was \$4500 in dividends this year. The Endowment Committee recommends to re-balance the fund to 50% bonds and 50% stocks by the end of July and to split the bond fund between the one we have now and a higher yield bond fund by the end of July.

Endowment Committee Report: Presented by Carol Hickman. Warren Allmon announced that the Endowment Committee is retiring this year. The committee recommended balancing the funds 50/50 between stocks and bonds and did not feel there were funds for a symposium next year due to decrease in assets and endowment. Warren stated that the council recommended money be drawn from reserves for symposia next year.

President-Elect Report: Presented by Doug Eernisse. AMS will be held next year in San Diego at San Diego State University and Convention Center from June 27 – July 1 and there will either be 3 or 4 days of technical sessions and a possible pre-conference workshop held in Ensenada, Mexico. Possible field trips include Scripps Aquarium, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, and Mexico. Dr. Eernisse is working on ways to get Mexican malacologists involved in AMS. A possible focus of the conference could be Eastern Pacific mollusks. The council has approved using reserve funds to sponsor symposia to attract a broad audience of people and students to the conference.

A motion was made and passed to accept the 2010 meeting venue.

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of the 2008 business meeting.

Membership Committee Report: Presented by Colleen Sinclair. Currently, there are 182 members, 34 of whom are students, which is a continuing decline from 2006. The committee is working on ways to increase membership, particularly for students. A Strategic Task Force on membership is being headed by Colleen to create and implement ideas to enhance membership (i.e., talking to past members about why they left AMS and advertising in various journals to make people aware of AMS). Members were requested to contact Colleen with any ideas on how to enhance membership in AMS.

Publications Committee Report: Presented by Ken Brown. The AMB is back on schedule with its publications. The committee will only print one volume with two issues next year to help save money. Volume 27 will be coming out by the end of July and Vol. 28 will be out early next year and will include papers from the land snail symposium in 2008. AMS members will have access to BioOne as part of their membership.

Nominating Committee Report: Four positions are coming open (2 Counselor-at-Large positions, 1 Past President Greater Than 10 years position and vice president). Nominees for the positions were: Counselor-at-Large - Tom Duda (University of Michigan), Student-at-Large - Tracey White, Past President Greater Than 10 years - Carole Hickman, Vice President - Gary Rosenberg.

No nominations were received from the floor, and the slate was approved by motion.

Warren Allmon announced the retirement of Paul Callomon as AMS Secretary and the appointment by council of Amanda Lawless to fill the remainder of Paul's term.

Secretary's Report: Presented by Paul Callomon. Discussed maintenance of the membership database and collaboration with Dawn Dittman and Brian Gollands to reduce the delay between sending in dues and receiving member benefits (i.e., BioOne).

There was no spring newsletter this year, but there will be a newsletter following the 2009 meeting. The proceeds from the sale of the book "Molluscan Taxa Described by Tadashige Habe" donated by author Masatoyo Okamoto were donated to fund student awards and Paul is working on getting more books donated. The new secretary, Amanda Lawless, will be taking over when the new president starts in approximately one month.

Conservation Committee Report: Warren Allmon announced that Jay Cordeiro will be the new chair of the committee and noted the potential for a conservation symposium at next years meeting.

Systematics Committee Report: Presented by Gary Rosenberg. Gary is becoming Vice President and is resigning as chair; therefore, AMS will need a new person to chair the systematics committee. In a separate

session during this year's meeting, a discussion was held of a proposed amendment to the ICZN allowing electronic publication of names of new taxa. AMS members voted: 14 Against, 4 For, and 4 Abstentions. Gary will advise the ICZN of the AMS's stance on the issue. Production of the 3rd edition of the Mollusca volume of the *Common and Scientific names of Aquatic Invertebrates of the United States and Canada* is overdue. Gary has funding from OBIS and NIH to merge existing databases into a new platform for a global list of mollusk species and will help develop the next edition of the "Fisheries List".

Student Awards Committee Report: Presented by Andy Anderson on behalf of Janet Voight. The committee consisted of Andy, Tim Pearce, and Ellen Strong. There were 9 eligible presentations (6 oral and 3 posters). The Constance Boone Award for best student presentation was awarded to Marty Meyer for his talk on "The Importance of Land Snails in Litter Decomposition in a Hawaiian Rain Forest".

Resolutions Committee Report: Presented by Rob Dillon. Announcement of the death of Dorothea S. Franzen (AMU President 1976, granted Honorary Life Membership in 2006).

A resolution was passed granting honorary life membership to John "Jack" Burch (see below for full text).

No Constitution and Bylaws Committee report was presented.

Paula Mikkelsen presented a memorial talk on behalf of Alan Kohn for James "Jim" W. Nybakken who passed away on June 20, 2009 (AMU President 1986).

Tim Pearce stated that many of the student papers have co-authors and therefore are not eligible for awards since the student is not the sole author.

A motion was declared (Tim Pearce) and passed (with 1 Abstention) stating

"A student presentation with two authors is eligible for the Constance Boone Award for the Best Student Presentation only if the student is the primary author and the co-author (normally the major advisor) provides a statement that the student completed the majority of the research".

Doug Eernisse presented a token of appreciation to Warren Allmon. Warren's presidency will conclude one month after the end of the conference when Doug Eernisse will become president. Warren concluded by expressing the importance of being an active member in an organization such as AMS.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed.

Amanda S. Lawless, Secretary
Philadelphia, August 11, 2009

Text of resolution passed

Memorandum

To: Council of the American Malacological Society

Date: July 19, 2009

Re: Nomination of Dr. John B. Burch for Honorary Life Membership

In accordance with the Constitution, Article III, section 1d, we the undersigned do formally nominate Dr. John B. Burch for honorary life membership in the American Malacological Society:

1. Rüdiger Bieler
2. Paula Mikkelsen
3. Alan J. Kohn
4. John Wilk
5. Gary Rosenberg
6. Warren Allmon
7. Paul Callomon
8. Tim Pearce
9. C. Sturm
10. Arthur E. Bogan

Proposed Resolution for Dr. John B. Burch

Be it therefore resolved, that John B. Burch is hereby elected to Honorary Life Membership of the American Malacological Society this 19th day of July, 2009.



MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Contributions to the biannual AMS newsletter are always welcomed. Send articles, short notes or news items to **Christine Parent**, the newsletter editor, at the following address:

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