



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMS 2017 83RD ANNUAL MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
NEWARK DE

JULY 17-21, 2017

Submitted by Liz Shea, president AMS



The AMS meeting is just around the corner! Join 90 of your mollusk-loving colleagues who have already registered for the event and meet us in Delaware in July.

The scientific program this year has three major themes.

First, we will explore the creation and use of digital data in molluscan research. Immediately before the regular meeting, 38 natural history collections professionals will gather for 1.5 days of discussion regarding how to facilitate the transfer of high-quality, expertly vetted, georeferenced collections data to public data portals. The conversations will focus on how we can streamline and expedite the process, build on what established collections have been doing, and encourage participation by small and hidden collections. The President's Symposium will extend the conversation by introducing the results of the workshop to the AMS membership, and provide examples of how digital resources are being used for biodiversity and ecological research.

Second, José Leal is organizing a follow up session to the successful 2016 Mollusks in Peril symposium held in Sanibel, FL at the Bailey Matthews National Shell Museum. Despite the fundamental relevance of mollusks to Earth's ecosystems, they have not

received the consideration they warrant from global conservation efforts. Mollusks are threatened by widespread disturbances such as climate change, ocean acidification, range contraction, development, and others. This session will present research on threats and alterations to molluscan populations caused by human-induced changes.

Finally, Heather Judkins of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg is organizing a session on cephalopod biodiversity in the NW Atlantic and NE Pacific oceans. This session will explore our current understanding of cephalopod biodiversity based on recent collecting activities and deep sea explorations.

Social Calendar:

Welcome	Monday July 17th at 5:30pm
Stone Balloon	snacks + drink tickets
Auction	Tuesday July 18th at 7:00 pm
Clayton Hall	snacks + 2 hrs open bar
Banquet	Thursday July 20th at 6:30
DMNH	picnic + open bar

The closing banquet will be a very casual natural history nerd fest. Wear your favorite molluscan themed clothes and accessories. Grab a beer, play some cornhole, and enjoy Fat Rick's BBQ. Plan to be outside, but with access to the inside gallery space if it gets too hot or rainy. Kids welcome!

IMPORTANT: the deadline for registration and abstracts has been extended to June 16th. I will be in the field from 8 – 22 June with irregular access to email. Please register now!

Best wishes and see you soon,

Liz Shea



OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

**AMS 2018
HONOLULU, HAWAII
JUNE 2018**

Submitted by Norine Yeung, president-elect AMS

The AMS 2018 annual meeting will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii in June 2018. Average temperature for June is 27°C (80°F) so please dress accordingly! The dress code is business casual or aloha attire - short-sleeved collared shirts, short-sleeved or sleeveless blouses, khaki pants, jeans and skirts. Sandals and slippers (we do not call them “flip-flops” in Hawaii) are acceptable and there is no need for stockings. Please bring a jacket for air-conditioned indoor spaces. You are also welcome to dress more formally if you wish! More information about the meeting will be forthcoming in 2017.



AMS/WCM 2019

PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

Submitted by Ellen Strong, vice president AMS

The 2019 AMS meeting will be held in Pacific Grove, California as part of the next World Congress of Malacology. The AMS will have not met jointly with the WCM since 2013, so this represents a great chance to catch up with the global malacological community. Our venue will be Asilomar Conference Grounds, hosted by Terry Gosliner, California Academy of Sciences, president of Unitas Malacologica. Be on the lookout for future announcements about workshops and symposia. Asilomar (<http://www.visitasilomar.com/>) was the location of the 1947 and 2005 AMS meetings and we are excited to return.



**CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN
MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETIES 2017**

KRAKÓW, POLAND

Submitted by Dianna Padilla

The 8th Congresses of the European Malacological Societies (EUROMAL), will be held in Kraków, Poland, in September 2017.

The special session will cover the issue of invasive alien molluscs.

Details can be found at <http://www.euromal.pl/>

For questions please contact the organizing committee at euromal2017@iop.krakow.pl.



MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

**Report on the 19th Annual Mid-Atlantic
Malacologists Meeting**

Submitted by Ellen Strong, vice president AMS

On Saturday April 8, 2017, coinciding with the Cherry Blossom festival, the National Museum of Natural History hosted the 19th Annual Mid-Atlantic Malacologists Meeting in Washington DC. Although hosted in recent years by Elizabeth Shea at the Delaware Museum of Natural History, Ellen Strong (NMNH) and Ken Hayes (Howard University) stepped up to give Liz a break from hosting duties to concentrate on planning for the AMS meeting in July. There were 24 participants, and one malacologist in training (David Hayes, 18 months; 3rd from left) representing a diversity of mid-Atlantic museums and universities including the NMNH, DMNH, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, Howard University, University of Maryland and of course, citizen scientists.



Our farthest traveled attendee came all the way from California, representing Los Angeles County Museum and California State University at Fullerton. Chris Meyer (NMNH) kicked the proceedings off with a talk followed by lively discussion on cowries, their beautiful shells and

getting at the roots of how to promote natural history science to the public. This was followed by a full menu of talks on topics ranging from land snail ecology and evolution, apple snail ecology and population genetics, diversity and taxonomy of turrids and ocenebrines, the strange wonderful world of teratological shell monstrosities, and even several talks on shellless representatives of the mollusk world – squids and nudibranchs. Liz Shea gave us all something to look forward to with a preview of the program for AMS at the University of Delaware this summer. It was a fun day and we hope there will be opportunities to bring MAM back to the NMNH in the future!



In Defense of Scholarly Publications - Looking Back Before Lurching Forward

Submitted by Sandra Shumway

What are we losing? Over the past few years I have lost several good friends and outstanding scientists in the global arena - and along with them, the world has lost not only their continued input of wisdom and vision, their accumulated libraries are being thrown into dumpsters with nary a twinge of conscience! Why? Because no one seems to recognize the importance and significance of historic documents, hard-to-obtain publications, or perhaps most salient - the need to know what has been done previously and by whom.

This isn't a new problem, but it is a rapidly escalating one. Over 30 years ago as I took up a new position I noted box after box of books and reprints being tossed in the dumpster outside my office window. When I checked I realized that they were from two individuals who had amassed very impressive libraries during their accumulated 70+ years of research. When I inquired they told me that they were retiring and no longer needed the material - and not a thought that the material might be valuable to the library or other individuals or future researchers. I was appalled, but also thrilled - dumpster diving it was - and I just about tripled my own library resources. I not only used that material for my own efforts over the years, but my library quickly became known to others as a useful and accessible source of references. Over the ensuing decades, I have been able to provide colleagues in many arenas with those hard-to-locate papers, books, proceedings, and other materials.

Scientific research should build on prior knowledge, yet more and more of the published literature is nothing but a rehash of old studies, or worse, complete repeats of prior studies, and all because the authors either couldn't be bothered to look at the historical literature or don't know how to carry out a proper literature survey. Only two years ago I received a paper for consideration and realized that it was almost a carbon copy of a prior study done in 1958. Did I think the authors had plagiarized the effort? No, I assumed (correctly as it turned out) that they simply had not done their due diligence. The paper was rejected, but sadly that represented almost 2 years of a student's efforts, the funds to pay them, and it resulted in an unpublishable effort that could so easily have been avoided had they taken the time to do some reading. Their time could then have been spent moving that prior study forward. Not only is this practice an affront to those who have gone before, it is a waste of time, effort, and precious research funds - and it is becoming all too commonplace.

As an editor for the past 30+ years, I have seen far too often the results of poor literature research, knowledge, and understanding. Authors now routinely cite what I refer to as 'references of convenience', i.e. any old paper that they happen to have on hand that cited one or two other irrelevant or even incompetent papers rather than the key references - or even pertinent references - to the statement made. Why? Because their computer or telephone search didn't provide them with the most important works. Because they don't know how to differentiate good studies from others. Or because they couldn't be bothered going to the library to actually look at the documents and browse other materials or investigate older reference lists to locate the original works. Or because they never actually obtained and read the papers in question, just added them to the reference list. It may be surprising to some that papers from the early days (meaning a century or more ago, not 10 years!) contain highly relevant observations and insight, not to mention the issue of giving credit where it is due.

I have raised my concerns with librarians and asked for guidance as to where one might deposit long runs of scientific journals, large collections of invaluable offprints, and books. It seems there is no accessible graveyard for these materials and much of the material is put in the trash. Most recently I was told by one librarian that "they liken it to the

Nazi book burning in the 1930's", and to "reinventing the wheel over and over again, as all the old research gets lost".

What should be done? What can be done? Students should be trained to carry out a comprehensive literature review and required to do so before they embark on any research effort. That means libraries and reference lists and resources beyond their iPad and telephone screens. Scientists and advisors should do the same and pass along that guidance and influence to their students. Granting agencies should engage more reviewers who know the literature and can identify duplication of effort before it is funded for the second and third time. Overall, there needs to be a concerted effort to instill in students and researchers the appreciation that scientific literature is an important historical entity and needs to be used and preserved.

Scientific research and scholarship are accumulated over time and the new era of 'rush to publication' to enhance personal statistics and feed publishers' greed has severely hampered, if not squashed, the basic quest for knowledge and understanding and scholarship. The value of prior knowledge needs to be preserved and that can only happen if scientists acknowledge that value and pass that sentiment on to ensuing generations.

As I sit here perusing my hard-won collection of over 100,000 offprints and 150 linear feet of books I can only hope that it isn't dumpster bound.

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New Molluscan Blog

Submitted by Amanda Lawless

Please check out the latest blog posting by Charles Lydeard (AMS Systematics Committee Chair) entitled "Discovery of a New Non-native or Potentially Invasive Worm-Snail from an Artificial Reef of the Florida Keys" featuring research by Dr. Rüdiger Bieler of the Field Museum of Natural History and his colleagues (figure below). It can be accessed on Molluscan Musings (molluscanmusings.blogspot.com), which can also be accessed through the AMS website. This blog is another way to promote research, systematics and biodiversity discussions about mollusks. Charles will be contributing regularly and seeking guest contributors. Please check it out at molluscanmusings.blogspot.com!



Thylacodes vandyensis n. sp.

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Obituary - Raymond Walter NECK Jr.

Submitted by Charles Randkev

Raymond Walter Neck Jr., PhD was born Nov. 12, 1946 to Raymond Walter Neck and Joyce Stansbury Neck in Brownsville, Texas. He died on March 23, 2017 in Houston, Texas. Preceded in death by his parents and son, Patrick Kent Neck. He is survived by his wife, Mary Eleanor Rentfro Neck; daughter, Anna Kristine Nickless (John Michael) of Corpus Christi; brother, Stephen Neck (Nora); and many cousins and inlaws. Raymond graduated from Brownsville High School in 1964 and Texas Southmost College in 1966. He continued his education at the University of Texas in Austin culminating with a PhD in Biology in 1974. Raymond was a Conservation Biologist in Master Planning for Texas Parks and Wildlife until 1991. Dr. Neck was a member and past president of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species. He was a member of the American Malacological Union serving as the editor of the Newsletter (1990 - 1993) and the Lepidopterist Society (1968 - 2013). In 1991, he and Pinke moved to Houston to be the Curator of Invertebrates for the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He was the Director in Planning for the Cockrell Butterfly Center. Always a curious and avid scientist, he was published almost 200 times and was the author of the state-wide field guide, "The Butterflies of Texas", 1996, a Texas Monthly Field Guide. He was a co-author of "Freshwater Mussels of Texas", 1996. Unfortunately, health problems in 1993 forced him to retire from his much loved professional life. The next 23 years he lived quietly with his wife as his sole caregiver until his death only 5 months prior to

their 50th wedding anniversary. Always courteous and kind, he endured his disability and fragile health with courage and dignity. Raymond will be interred in Assumption Cemetery next to his son, Patrick, in Austin, Texas. No services as he wished.



Raymond Walter Neck Jr.

Be kind; be compassionate; and make a call to someone you care about while they are still here.

See more at: <http://m.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=raymond-walter-neck-jr&pid=184798458&referrer=0&preview=True#sth.ash.uCSOpUGr.dpuf>



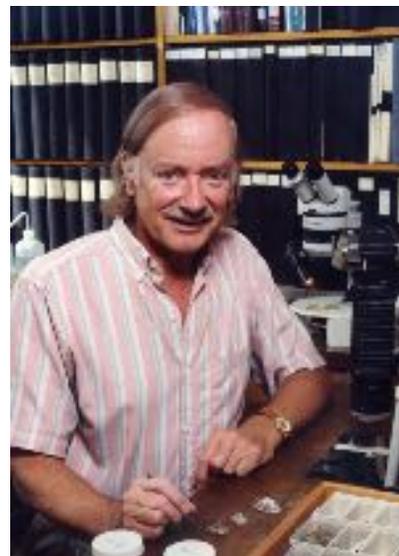
Obituary - James Hamilton McLean (1936-2016) Master of the Gastropoda

Submitted by Lindsey Groves

James Hamilton McLean, long-time curator of Malacology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), passed away on Friday, November 11th, 2016 at The Residence at South Windsor Farms care facility in South Windsor, CT with his family at his side. James, as his family preferred, was a past AMS president and honorary life member. His passing has created a massive hole in the Eastern Pacific marine shelled-gastropod knowledge-base that may never be filled. James joined the LACM staff in September of 1964 whilst completing his PhD at Stanford on the archaeogastropod fauna of the northeastern Pacific Ocean. He retired in March of 2001 but remained a fixture on the 3rd floor of the museum diligently working on research projects until late 2014 when his declining health forced his move to a local care facility prior to the move to CT. From the beginning of his career at LACM he had long-term goals of producing a monograph of the northeastern Pacific shelled-gastropod fauna and building the Malacology collection to its current world-class status. The Malacology collection is currently the largest on the Pacific rim and 3rd largest in the

nation thanks to James' active field collecting program and his acquisition of several major collections and many private collections. James published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in major malacological journals world-wide and described over 300 new molluscan taxa. James was an early contributor to the descriptions of hydrothermal vent gastropod communities, especially the limpets, in the late 1970's and continued through the early 1990's. Work on his northeast Pacific shelled-gastropod identification manual is being continued by over 30 world-wide experts and edited by Daniel Geiger (SBMNH), Jann Vendetti (LACM), and yours truly. James was a devout liberal, a Rolling Stones fan, collected worldwide succulent specimens, especially Euphorbiaceae, and enjoyed bicycling. On a more personal level ... I will always be grateful to James as he hired me in 1988 to fulfill a NSF grant and I'm still here 29 years later.

Thank you Jim!



James Hamilton McLean in his element: identifying fissurellids (ca. 1992).



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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