

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
POPULATION MANAGEMENT CENTER, LINCOLN PARK ZOO
2001 NORTH CLARK STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60614, USA

VOLUME 50, No 1. SPRING 2020

<https://ams.wildapricot.org/>

ISSN 1041-5300

NEXT MEETING

**AMS 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING
86TH ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 13-14(+?), 2020**

Submitted by Tim Collins, president AMS



Although the American Malacological Society intended to hold its 86th annual meeting in the Middle Florida Keys (the Conch Republic), the COVID-19 outbreak put an end to that plan. Instead, AMS will hold its first virtual annual meeting this summer. Thanks to all the members who responded to our survey with interest in holding a virtual meeting.

The meeting will be held during the time that was originally scheduled for the face-to-face meeting in mid-July. If turnout is modest, we may be able to have the meeting in two days, 13-14 July 2020, but if turnout is strong, we can expand the number of days or run more concurrent sessions. We will accept both talks

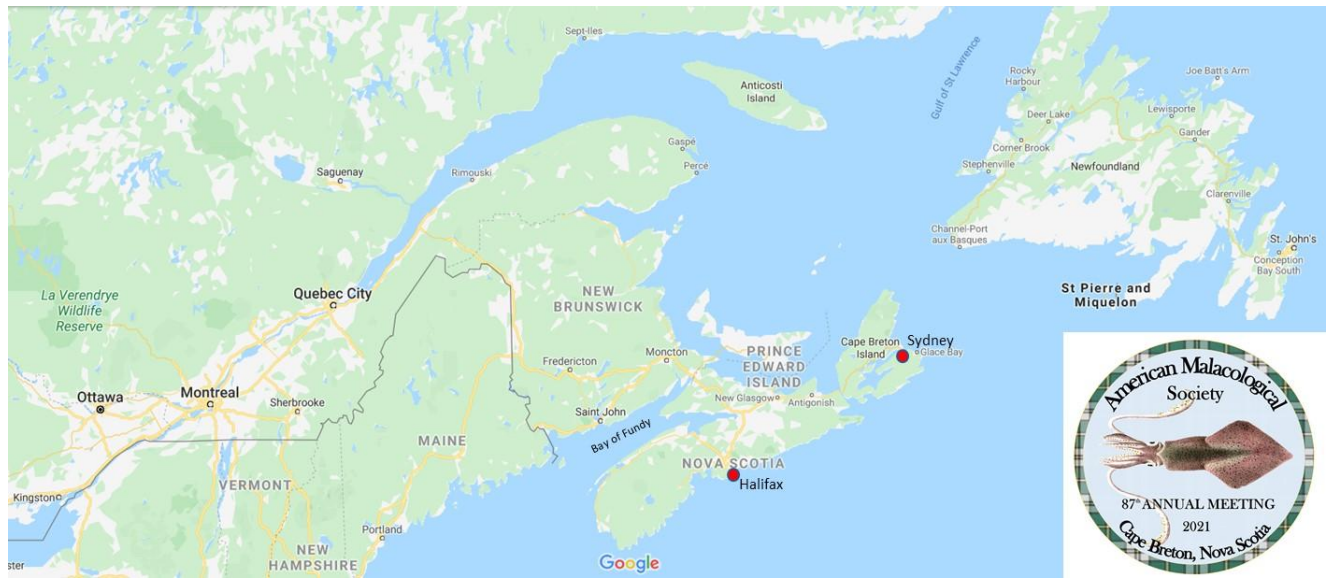
and posters. Talks will be the usual 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions. The meeting will be run in Zoom (<https://zoom.us>), with security to prevent zoombombing, and breakout sessions for posters.

Registration costs will be nominal; \$10.00 for students, \$30.00 for members, \$40.00 for non-members. Watch for additional details including registration details on the AMS website <https://ams.wildapricot.org/FK-2020-Meeting>.

In addition to the talks and posters, there will be opportunities to chat with colleagues. If we are lucky, we might experience the AMS president narrating a virtual trip to see some of Florida's tree snails, once proposed to be endangered! Be sure to attend the closing ceremony, to hear the announcement of the best student paper award winner and to see the virtual passing of the gavel from president Tim Collins to president elect Tim Rawlings.

We hope you are as excited as we are to experiment with holding a virtual meeting. We speculate that this virtual format could result in increased attendance from people who are geographically far away, short on funds, or shun travel for its carbon footprint. We are breaking new ground on a meeting format that might be used to complement face-to-face meetings in the future.





OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

**AMS 2021
CAPE BRETON, CANADA
JUNE 14-18, 2021**

Submitted by Tim Rawlings, president-elect AMS

Planning is now underway for the 2021 AMS meeting in Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada 🇨🇦, scheduled from Monday June 14th – Friday June 18th. The 2021 meeting will be hosted by Cape Breton University (CBU), a small undergraduate-based university located between Sydney and Glace Bay, with local research programs focusing on the conservation ecology of freshwater mussels, oyster diseases (MSX), the development of a sustainable whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) fishery, and the ecology of freshwater and marine snails.

As you can see on the map above, Cape Breton is only a stone’s throw away from Newfoundland (accessible via ferry), Prince Edward Island and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy (including the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and other maritime hotspots such as Halifax, home to Nova Scotia’s Museum of Natural History. Hence, there is great potential to use this conference as a stepping stone to explore other areas of Atlantic Canada. A variety of field trip options will be available on the last day of the conference focusing on local areas of Cape Breton. The AMS Symposium is currently being planned by freshwater mussel ecologists, Dr. André Martel

(Canadian Museum of Nature) and Kellie White (CBU); details will be provided in the coming months. We are also hoping that the Molluscs Subcommittee of COSEWIC will be able to arrange their meeting to coincide with AMS2021 in Sydney.

The squid logo for our meeting has been chosen to recognize the significant research contributions in cephalopod biology of Dalhousie University professor Dr. Ron O’Dor (1944-2020), who passed away in May. Highlights of Ron’s career are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. The central illustration of the Longfin squid, *Doryteuthis pealeii*, was drawn by James Ellsworth De Kay in Zoology of New York (1842–1844). The logo was designed by Kellie White. Please note the ring of Cape Breton tartan!

If you have any questions about the conference, or suggestions for special sessions on topics of interest, please contact the local host: Tim Rawlings (timothy_rawlings@cbu.ca). Sydney is accessible via road from Halifax’s Stanfield International Airport (4.5 hour drive) or via air from Halifax, Toronto, or Montreal (seasonal).



**AMS 2022
MUNICH, GERMANY
JOINT MEETING WITH UNITAS MALACOLOGICA
(Kenneth A. Hayes, vice president AMS)**





Ohio Valley Unified Malacologists (OVUM)

Submitted by Warren Pryor

The 14th annual meeting of Ohio Valley Unified Malacologists (OVUM) will be held 17 Oct 2020 at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This one-day meeting provides a friendly forum for professional and amateur students of mollusks to share their results and ideas. Featured speakers are Dr. Yurena Yanes and Dr. Timothy Pearce. For more information, contact organizer Warren Pryor (wpryor@sf.edu).



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New On-Line Searchable Database from Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Submitted by Vanessa Delnavaz, Invertebrate Zoology Collection Manager, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Invertebrate Zoology collection is excited to announce that its updated database is newly available online: www.sbizcollections.org/iz. The searchable on-line database currently hosts over 153,000 records, of which 134,000 are mollusks. Search results can easily be exported as a spreadsheet, and records can be displayed or searched as pinpoints on a map. We are currently working to have images attached to records in the near future. If you have any questions navigating the database, please contact Vanessa Delnavaz (vdelnavaz@sbnature2.org).



This Snail Walked Into a Bar: Snail Jokes

Submitted by Tim Pearce, Newsletter Editor

Tim Pearce’s snail jokes have become quite a sensation on the social media platform TikTok (www.tiktok.com/@carnegiennh). Pearce’s enthusiastic delivery captivates audiences and is helping him to realize his decades-long goal, to make mollusks as popular as football. The jokes have received more hits than the Pittsburgh Steelers (the local football team).



The jokes are family friendly. One of his jokes didn’t make it onto TikTok (evidently host Carnegie Museum thought it too risqué) but here it is for your amusement: The reason that the Little Mermaid wears sea shells (C-shells)? Because B-shells are too small, and D-shells are too large!

Pearce is curator of collections at Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh where he cares for the research collection and conducts research on mollusks.

He is hopeful that the popularity of the snail jokes will help people become more aware of this incredibly diverse group of animals with whom we share the planet.

Bonus joke: The famous theoretical physicist snail, Snailbert Einslime, finally finished his book, the Theory of Relativity. It’s about time!



New Journal: The Journal of Cephalopod Palaeontology

Modified from Molluscalist post, 14 May 2020, by Didier Bert

The new Journal of Cephalopod Palaeontology (JCP), restricted to fossil cephalopods, is an international open access peer-reviewed online journal (using DOI) with a specialized dedicated editorial team. The journal publishes original research articles with no restriction on geological time or palaeogeographic origin, as long as articles are focused on fossil cephalopods, even as a model for theoretical issues.

Scope of the journal includes evolution, phylogenetics, systematic studies, stratigraphy, palaeobiogeography, palaeoecology, taxonomy, taphonomy, nomenclatural acts, heritage, field data, and research methods. Articles that are taxonomy based or inspired by a population approach (taking into account intraspecific variability and evolutionary patterns and processes) are especially welcome. Submitted works can be discussions of broad interest, monographs, or more local descriptive research.

JCP meets requirements of the current version of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (e.g., ICZN, Article 8, what constitutes published work). Articles are deposited in open online archives, without any embargo period, where they will be permanently and openly accessible. JCP is distributed under a Creative Commons BY licence, which means that all content is freely available without any charge to anyone, including the authors.

JCP is ready for you to submit your work. See: <https://journals.opscidia.com/index.php/jcp/index>.

Didier Bert, Conservateur de la Réserve naturelle nationale géologique de Haute-Provence, France / Curator of the RNNGHP Laboratoire Géosciences Rennes, UMR CNRS 6118, Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de Rennes, Université Rennes 1, France. didier.paleo@gmail.com



IN MEMORIAM

Obituary – Fabio Moretzsohn de Castro Jr.
(19 Oct 1964 – 6 Jan 2020)

Submitted by José H. Leal, past president AMS



Earlier this year I lost a friend, and our Society lost an active member and well-known malacologist at the peak of his productive scientific and educational career. On Monday, January 6, 2020, Dr. Fabio Moretzsohn passed away, of complications from lung cancer.

Fabio received his B.S. in Biology in 1987 from the University of São Paulo, in Brazil. In 1993, he received his M.S. in Biology from the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan, and in 2003 was awarded his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii, working under noted malacologist and environmentalist E. Alison Kay. After receiving his Ph.D., Fabio was hired as an Assistant Invertebrate Zoologist at the Bishop Museum in Hawaii, and between 2004 and 2015 was a Postdoctoral Associate and Assistant Research Scientist at the Harte Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies in Corpus Christi, Texas. At the time of his predicament, Fabio was a Professional Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University.

An accomplished malacologist and author, Fabio had been, among his many professional activities, a Managing Editor for the American Malacological Bulletin, was the Science Editor for the US and Managing editor of Gulfbase.org, an editor for the family Cypraeidae for the World Registry of Marine

Species (WoRMS), and an Academic Grants Committee member for Conchologists of America. Fabio was also a prolific author of reports, scientific articles, and books, including co-authorships with Wes Tunnell, Jr., Jean Andrews, and Noe Barrera in the *Encyclopedia of Texas Seashells* (2010) and with M.G. “Jerry” Harasewych in *The Book of Shells* (2011). Fabio was a kind person, well-liked by his students, and a pleasure to work with, having a youthful and unpretentious quality that made everyone around him feel special. Fabio will be sorely missed by the American, Brazilian, and global malacological communities. He is survived by his wife Heather and two daughters.

Donations can be made via the TAMUCC website, <https://giving.tamucc.edu/>. Indicate your gift is to support the “Dr. Fabio Moretzsohn Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Cancer Research through Marine Biology.” This scholarship will help students at TAMUCC locate more natural remedies found in marine life to cure cancer.

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Obituary – Ronald Keith O’Dor
(20 Sep 1944 – 11 May 2020)

Adapted by Elizabeth K. Shea, past AMS President, from document prepared by Ron’s colleagues at Dalhousie



Image: Ron O’Dor, taken from his 2018 YouTube video, *A New Way to Track Animals and Marine Species*.

Dr. Ron O’Dor passed away on 11 May from complications related to COVID-19 and Alzheimer’s disease.

Ron was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and his career spanned the fields of biochemistry, physiology, and marine biology, with specialties in cephalopod biology and aquatic animal telemetry. He completed his undergraduate degree in biochemistry at the University of California Berkeley and received his Ph.D. in physiology at the University of British Columbia. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Cambridge University in the UK, Ron took up a faculty position in Biology at Dalhousie University in 1973. He was Director of Dalhousie’s Aquatron Laboratory from 1986-1993, Chair of the Biology Department from 1997-2000, and held short-term positions of Visiting Researcher/Scientist at various universities around the world until he became Emeritus Professor at Dalhousie upon his retirement in 2015.

One of Ron’s quests was to understand why squid occasionally fly, propelling themselves like rockets forward up and out of the water. His response to a journalist when he was asked why they fly was typical Ron, “Why be an astronaut when you can be a rocket?”

When the Census of Marine Life (CoML), a 10-year international effort undertaken to assess the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life, formally launched in 2000, the breadth and depth of Ron’s interests and sense of humor made him the obvious candidate for Chief Scientist. He moved to Washington DC to take on this role from 2000-2010. For his work with the CoML, Ron was named Canada’s Environmental Scientist of the Year by Canadian Geographic in 2009.

Ron will be sorely missed but always remembered. He will be remembered for his big ideas on big science, the use of cutting-edge technologies, for his ready smile and laugh, for his inventiveness worthy of MacGyver, and for his kindness and humanity. Ron leaves behind his loving companion Janet, who tolerated his

idiosyncrasies and brought out the best in him for 52 years. He also leaves two children, and four grandchildren. For those of us in the science community who knew him as a colleague, teacher, and friend, the world is a bit dimmer, and science a little less fun, than it was just yesterday.

Here is a link to the published obituary: <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/obituaries/ronald-keith-odor-39357/>. Donations in his memory may be made to the Ron O'Dor Memorial Fund at Dalhousie University to support a student prize in Marine Biology or to the Northwood Foundation.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



American Malacological Society Awards

Adapted from AMS website

The American Malacological Society (AMS) offers awards to students conducting research in the field of malacology, such as the [Melbourne R. Carriker student research award](#). In addition, the [Constance Boone award for best student presentation](#) is given at the society's annual meeting.

This year's deadline for applications for the [Melbourne R. Carriker student research award](#) is extended to June 22. Grants can be up to \$1500, an increase from last year (note: no institutional overhead allowed). Applicants must be current AMS members and applications must focus on topics in malacology. Research funded by the award

is expected to result in a peer-reviewed publication, and awardees are encouraged to present results of their research at an annual American Malacology Society meeting. Within one year of the award date, recipients must present a final written report to AMS's Student Awards Committee and must write a brief summary for publication in the AMS newsletter. Learn more about this award at <https://ams.wildapricot.org/Student-Research-Award>.

The Constance Boone award for the best student presentation (talk or poster) will be given at this summer's virtual meeting of the American Malacological Society, so students are encouraged to participate. Be sure to indicate your interest in being considered for the award when you submit your abstract. Find more information at <https://ams.wildapricot.org/Presentation-Award>.



Canadian Museum of Nature Award

Submitted by Jean-Marc Gagnon

The Canadian Museum of Nature Visiting Scientist Awards provide grants toward travel costs for researchers of plant, animal, mineral, and fossil systematics to visit the museum. The main objective of these awards is to assist collection-based systematics studies by facilitating and supporting access to the collections of the Canadian Museum of Nature and providing external expertise to enhance the state of curation of the museum's collections.

Awards are up to CA\$5,000. This year, due to COVID-19 related delays, the application deadline was extended to June 30. A summary report is due within three months of travel completion.

Find more information and instructions for application at <https://nature.ca/en/research-collections/research-projects/centre-species-discovery-change/travel-grants>



Institute of Malacology Award

Submitted by Ellen Strong, past president AMS

The Board of Directors of the Institute of Malacology, publisher of the academic journal *Malacologia*, is pleased to announce the J. Frances Allen Institute of Malacology Outstanding Publication Award. This cash award of \$500 will be presented for an outstanding paper published in *Malacologia* by a student. There is no formal application or deadline. A student submitting a manuscript must be sole or senior author of the paper, and should indicate that the paper being submitted stems from Master’s or Ph.D. research to confirm his or her eligibility for the award. Find more information about the award at <https://instituteofmalacology.org/announcements/>.

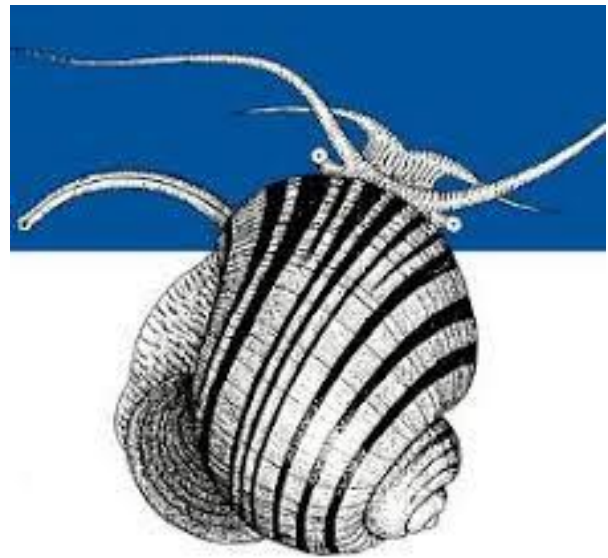


Smithsonian Institution Award

Submitted by Ellen Strong, past president AMS

The Smithsonian Institution offers the Kenneth Jay Boss Fellowship in Invertebrate Zoology. This award provides financial support enabling graduate students to conduct independent collections-based research in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology (IZ) at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). Applicants (both US and non-US citizens are eligible) must be currently enrolled graduate students engaged in collections-based research (e.g., systematics, phylogeny, biogeography, comparative morphology, species conservation). Applicants must contact an IZ research scientist to serve as the fellowship advisor well in advance of submitting their application. Stipend award amounts are

\$750/week for housing and subsistence. Additional funds (up to \$2,000) may be requested for any supplies that will be needed to conduct the research at the museum. A relocation allowance (up to \$1,000) can also be included in the budget request. Deadlines each year are **1 March and 1 September**. Awardees must submit a short report (1 to 2 pages) summarizing their research activities at the NMNH to the Invertebrate Zoology Chairman at the end of their project.



Malacological Society of London Travel Grants

Submitted by John Grahame, President, Malacological Society of London

The Malacological Society of London (MSL) invites applications for its Travel Grants, which are intended to support attendance at a conference or workshop relevant to malacology. Grants are preferentially conferred on students but researchers without professional positions may also apply. The maximum amount for one of these awards is **£500** for Society members and **£300** for non-members. Find more information and the form to apply on the MSL website <http://malacsoc.org.uk/awards-and-grants/travel-grants/>. Especially note the due dates: 15 June and 15 December.



AMS WORD SEARCH

Submitted by Tim Pearce, newsletter co-editor

Locate the given words in the grid, running in any of eight directions: horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. Unused letters yield a secret message.

Words are from the Dec. 2019 issue of American Malacological Bulletin, vol. 37(2). If any of the words intrigue you, read about them in the bulletin – member access through [AMS website](#)).

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| CONIDAE | INVASIVE | SNAILS |
| CONSERVATION | MARINE | TRAP |
| CRYPTIC | MITOCHONDRIA | VARIATION |



Malacologists are Nice People

An email from a satisfied inquirer

“ I’m so incredibly impressed with malacologists in general - you are all so kind and generous with your time and recommendations! Maybe I have a stilted view of the world. I’m an attorney, one of the few professions where some people take pride in being jerks, but it’s so refreshing and wonderful to see this network of malacologists who are all so nice. ”

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Contributions to the biannual AMS newsletter are always welcomed. Send articles, short notes, or news items to either **Christine Parent** or **Timothy Pearce**, the newsletter co-editors. Items can be sent to the following addresses:

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