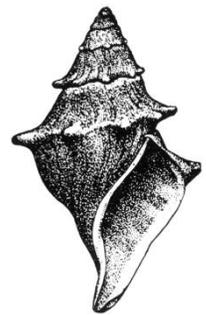




NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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**NEXT MEETING**

**MEETING OF GENERATIONS:  
AMS-WCM JOINT MEETING  
88TH ANNUAL AMS MEETING  
AUGUST 1-6, 2022  
MUNICH, GERMANY**

*Submitted by Kenneth A. Hayes, AMS President*



The American Malacological Society will join the Unitas Malacologia and other malacological societies in Munich Germany August 1-5, 2022 for the “Meeting of Generations” – World Congress of Malacology (WCM) in 2022. The WCM is being organized and structured to emphasize the need for expansion of our scientific societies’ reach and relevance across generations. The venue in Munich, capital of Bavaria, will be hosted by the Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns (State Natural Science Collection of Bavaria) and the Biological and Medical Faculty of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) München.

The AMS President's Symposium has been accepted as one of the ten symposia for this year and will focus on Molluscan Conservation. The symposium will feature a diverse lineup of international researchers with expertise in topics from across molluscan classes relative to molluscan conservation. A plenary speaker, yet to be selected, will kick off the symposium providing an updated picture of molluscan biodiversity and conservation in the Anthropocene. Sections will start with a keynote address, and along with other speakers for each session, highlight the research efforts to understand and mitigate the declines among molluscs across marine, terrestrial, and freshwater habitats.

On the second night of the congress, August 2, the always lively and entertaining AMS auction will be held to raise funds in support of the next generation of malacologists. Following on from the highly successful virtual auction hosted last year, this year's auction will combine the best components of virtual auction with in-person activities to facilitate broader participation and allow items to be auctioned off in person and virtually. This will allow some items to be shipped from donor locations, further reducing the costs and associated carbon footprint of those items.

The AMS Systematics Committee is also working to develop a taxonomic focused workshop that will join with an already planned workshop "Nomenclature: rules and type species in molecular times" to be held August 6. We welcome anyone who would like to help contribute to this effort.

Currently the plan is for the meeting to be primarily in-person in one of Europe's most beautiful cities that will surely feature many opportunities to enjoy the city and surrounding natural attractions during the congress. Some of the field trips already planned for the middle-day of the conference include half-day trips to the Botanical Garden Munich-Nymphenburg, Newshwantst, the Paleontological Museum Munich, the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, and a full-day trip to Neuschwanstein Castle.

Registration and abstract submission for WCM 2022 will open November 15, 2021.

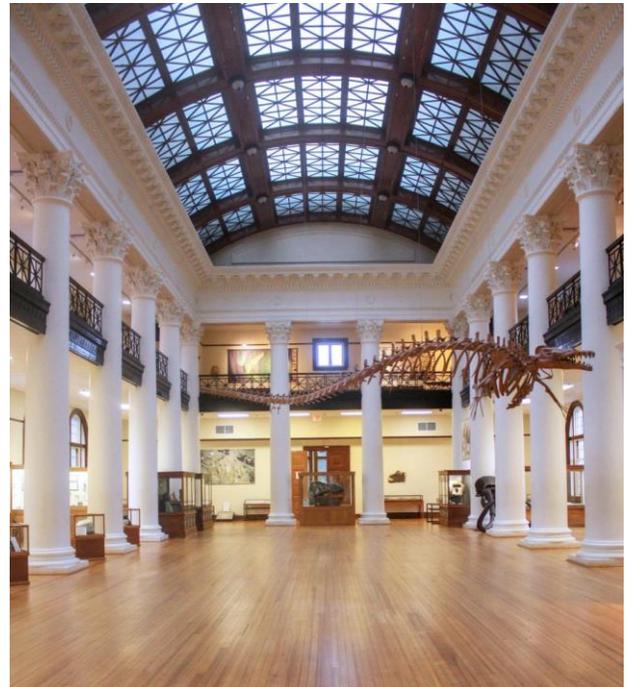
More information on the forthcoming WCM 2022 meeting is available on the WCM conference website <https://www.wcm2022.bio.lmu.de/wcmslider3/index.html>.



## OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

### AMS 2023 TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

*Submitted by Kevin Kocot, AMS President Elect*



Alabama Museum of Natural History, venue for the AMS 2023 welcome reception.

The 89th American Malacological Society meeting is planned for 1-4 August 2023 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama at The University of Alabama and the Alabama Museum of Natural History. The four-day meeting will be held at the Bryant Conference Center and will begin with a welcome reception at the Alabama Museum of Natural History (see photo). Day 2 will begin with an AMS-wide keynote talk and two non-concurrent AMS-wide keynote symposia followed by a poster session. Days 3-4 will consist of two concurrent sessions of contributed talks and/or additional symposia with the AMS Auction on the evening of day 2 and a society-wide banquet on the evening of day 3.

All talks will be streamed live to the web and remote participants will have the opportunity to submit questions to speakers during the Q&A. Only in-

person oral presentations will be possible, but poster presenters will have the opportunity to present in-person and online, or online only. Anyone who is interested in organizing a symposium that would be of broad interest to the AMS membership or a more specific symposium of relevance to the malacofauna of Alabama is encouraged to reach out to Kevin Kocot ([kmkocot@ua.edu](mailto:kmkocot@ua.edu)).

Tuscaloosa is located just one hour from Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham, AL and is easily and affordably accessible by commuter shuttle. Alabama boasts a diverse malacofauna and, if there is interest, we will organize at least one field trip to see some of the 204 freshwater snail and 180 freshwater mussel species native to the state.

[Ed: given Kevin's expertise, I expect to see aplacophoran-themed party favors at the banquet!]



Unidentified solenogaster aplacophoran from Antarctica, possibly a new genus. Photo by Kevin M. Kocot. (From <https://www.kocotlab.com/>)



## RESEARCH NOTES

### **Crawling speed doesn't count as we spread faster than you think! *Viviparus georgianus* in New York State**

*Submitted by Nimanthi Abeyrathna*



A: Apertural view B: sub apertural view of *V. georgianus*. Picture Credits: Sampath Weerasinghe.

Aquatic invasive species are found in all corners of the world and pose one of the greatest dangers to aquatic biodiversity. Theoretically, introduced populations should exhibit relatively low genetic diversity because of founder events and bottlenecks. However, multiple introductions, which are driven by a wide array of vectors, can result in genetically diverse invasive populations.

In the Adirondack region of New York, we are interested in exploring the invasion of the banded mystery snails, *Viviparus georgianus* (Lea 1834). The species is native to the southeastern region of the US, from Florida and the Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi River to Illinois. *Viviparus georgianus* was first introduced to New York in 1867 by J. Lewis, who released 200 individuals from Illinois to the Erie Canal and Mohawk River in Herkimer

County (Jokinen, 1992). Since then, the species has spread throughout the entire state and has colonized many watersheds in the northeastern United States.

The snail tends to live in sandy-bottomed lakes, ponds, and rivers. They are easy to spot as they have olive-green shells containing 4-5 whorls with distinct sutures. Adults are large, and their shell length is about 4-5 cm with four reddish bands that circle the shell; the bands are sometimes visible only from the inside of the shell (Jokinen, 1992).

As the younger snails mysteriously appear as fully formed snails out of nowhere, they are given the name “mystery snails.” However, the real reason for this is that *V. georgianus* is an ovoviviparous snail and has a very fast reproductive cycle, where the females bear young in their second summer and live up to three years while continuing to reproduce in the summer. As the temperatures get colder towards the end of the year, these snails migrate into deeper water for overwintering.

*Viviparus georgianus* can have several negative effects on local communities, although for the most part, these have never been quantified:

1. The snails can outcompete native snails for food and habitat.
2. They are a host species to different types of parasites harmful to both humans and other wildlife like fish.
3. They are a threat to recreational fishing as they feed on the eggs of largemouth bass.



Nimanthi Abeyrathna sampling in the Raquette River. Picture Credits: Sampath Weerasinghe.

From the beginning of 2021, I have been working with *V. georgianus* for my Ph.D. thesis in the David lab with Dr. Andrew A. David as his graduate

student. Eradicating or managing invasive species is a major challenge for ecologists and conservation biologists. Accurate identification of invasive species is often challenging due to the presence of cryptic species. Some challenges we are particularly interested in are assessing the presence of cryptic complexes and identifying barriers and drivers of connectivity within aquatic invasive species. Allozyme data have shown that in its native range, *V. georgianus* is a part of a cryptic species complex. However, whether such a complex is present in its invasive range in the Adirondacks is currently unknown.



Nimanthi Abeyrathna working in the David Lab. Picture Credits: Sampath Weerasinghe.

We also hope to explore genetic connectivity patterns in *V. georgianus* to help us understand the long-term viability of this species and address several questions, including levels of gene-flow and genetic diversity across the species' metapopulation in the Adirondacks along with identifying potential vectors and barriers for dispersal.

Over the past summer, we have sampled and collected snails from about 20 different waterways across the New York Great Lakes Region, which encompasses a large swath of northern New York (Adirondacks and surrounding environments) and western New York (Lake Ontario). These snails were ethanol fixed (95%) and transported to the David Lab for morphometric measurements of their shells. Obtaining sufficient gDNA that was of ample quality for genotyping was challenging, and we had to carry out numerous digestion trials on different parts of the snail tissue to accomplish the task using a QIAGEN® DNA extraction kit.

We will be using the COI barcode marker to genotype each snail, and through phylogenetic and morpho-genetic analysis, we hope to resolve any

cryptic complexes that may exist in *V. georgianus* in its invasive range. Furthermore, we are in the process of designing ten microsatellite markers that will be used to carry out the first comprehensive phylogeographic study of the species. The dispersal of *V. georgianus* may happen in natural (e.g., vectors) and anthropogenic (e.g., boats) ways. Barriers to dispersal (e.g., dams and natural geographic barriers) may significantly impact the connectivity patterns of *V. georgianus*. Our study area includes the Raquette River, the second longest river in New York, and one of the most dammed rivers east of the Mississippi. In terms of conservation implications, our phylogeographic studies on *V. georgianus* will be a great model to explore the effects of anthropogenic or natural barriers to dispersal on the connectivity patterns of other aquatic invasive species, too.

## References

Jokinen, E. H. 1992. *The freshwater snails (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of New York State*. University of the State of New York, State Education Department, New York State.

✧

## Response of snail diversity to the warming process in the Chinese Loess Plateau since the last deglaciation

*Submitted by Yajie Dong*

[dongyajie@mail.iggcas.ac.cn](mailto:dongyajie@mail.iggcas.ac.cn)

Key Laboratory of Cenozoic Geology and Environment, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100029, China

Global warming and the resulting ecological and environmental consequences in recent centuries have aroused widespread concern in the scientific community and the general public. The extent to which climate change will affect biodiversity and species structure is an important research topic. Land snails are an important component of terrestrial ecosystems. However, how snail species will increase or decrease in response to climate warming is still not clear.

In this study, I present data from seven new, well-dated fossil records in the Chinese Loess Plateau (CLP), which occupies 640,000 km<sup>2</sup> in northern China in Shaanxi, Shanxi, and nearby provinces. In the CLP, land snails are widely distributed, occupy a variety of habitats, and are the most widespread fossil remains in the loess-paleosol sequences (Figure 1), showing losses and gains of land snail species during the last natural global warming period at the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. The main results and conclusions obtained are as follows:



Figure 1. Field sampling, washing, and sieving of the mollusk fossil assemblages from profiles in the Chinese Loess Plateau.

The distribution patterns of snail species diversity in the CLP and their relationship with environmental factors have been investigated using 359 snail samples from a modern snail-climate database. The results show that snail species diversity varies significantly on spatial gradients, decreasing from southeast to northwest (Dong et al., 2019). Statistical analysis suggests that the temperature and moisture in the growing season and habit heterogeneity are the most important factors limiting snail distribution and species diversity in the CLP.

Our fossil records suggest that the local snail diversity as measured by species number and the Shannon-Weiner index in the northern sites, Huanxian and Linxia, show an apparent increase with the last deglacial warming. In the southeastern CLP, there was a non-significant fluctuation in species diversity (Dong et al., 2021). Although the effects varied slightly among different sites, overall, there was increasing species diversity through time

at the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. Spatially, species diversity in the southern sites was always greater than that in the northern sites since 25,000 years ago, implying that the spatial pattern is in line with temporal variability. Both spatial and temporal patterns reveal that a warming climate can boost snail species diversity in the CLP, rather than reducing it. Our results may have implications for biodiversity change under future climate warming.

#### Literature Cited

Dong, Y., Wu, N., Li, F., Chen, X., Zhang, D., Zhang, Y., Huang, L., Wu, B. & Lu, H. 2019. Influence of monsoonal water-energy dynamics on terrestrial mollusk species-diversity gradients in northern China. *Science of the Total Environment*, 676: 206-214.

Dong, Y., Wu, N., Li, F., Huang, L., Lu, H. & Stenseth, N. 2021. Paleorecords reveal the increased temporal instability of species diversity under biodiversity loss. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 269: 107147.



## AWARDS & FUNDING

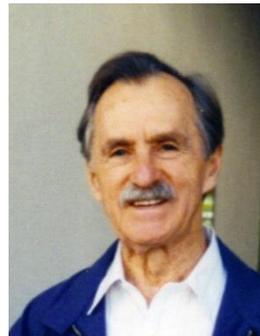
### Announcing AMS 2021 Student Awards and New Research Award Opportunities

*Submitted by Tom Duda (Chair), Kathryn Perez, Tricia Goulding, and Chandra Earl, Student Awards and Education Committee*

The Student Awards and Education committee was very active in 2021 and is pleased to announce awardees of student research and presentation awards as well as a new series of awards that support malacologists from underrepresented backgrounds and community-oriented research. In addition, we further updated and added missing information to the list of [previous award winners](#); please feel free to send any missing information to Tom Duda ([tfduda@umich.edu](mailto:tfduda@umich.edu)).

**2021 Student Research Awards:** The committee met online in early May to evaluate 16 proposals for student research awards and award four. These included three **Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Awards in Malacology:**

- **Melissa J. Betters**, Temple University, “Assessing informative traits: Identification of shell and radula variation in deep-sea *Provanna* snails.”
- **Emily Kunselman**, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, “Thermal limits and bacterial associations of the ostreid herpesvirus in economically and ecologically important Pacific oyster in San Diego Bay, CA.”
- **Ruiqi Li**, University of Colorado Boulder, “Investigating photosymbiotic bivalve shell evolution via micro CT scans of museum specimens.”



Melbourne R. Carriker (L); Richard E Petit (R).  
Petit image from Conchology.be

We awarded the very first **Richard E. Petit Student Research Award for Revisionary Taxonomy and Systematics of Mollusks:**

- **Meghan K. Yap-Chiongco**, University of Alabama, “Taxonomic revision of the genus *Wirenia* (Mollusca, Aplacophora): Integrating modern and classical taxonomic techniques.”

In addition, the committee assembled and provided comments to all students who submitted a proposal and encouraged those who did not win an award to participate in the 2022 competition.

**AMS 2021 Student Presentation Awards:** The 2021 AMS meeting featured poster and oral presentations of 49 graduate and undergraduate students who competed for presentation awards. In addition to the committee, nearly 20 other meeting participants volunteered to serve as judges for the

award competition. Although the list of volunteers is too long to list here, their contributions are very much appreciated! The **Constance Boone Award for Best Student Presentation** was awarded to five students: Alison Irwin (University of Bristol), Tyler Griffin (University of Connecticut), Vanessa Knutson (Harvard University), Emma Rempel (University of Manitoba), and Kanmani Chandra Rajan (University of Hong Kong). In addition, a one-time award that honored the memory and work of Charlie Sturm, the **Charlie Sturm Award for Best Student Presentation on Bivalves**, was awarded to Laura Steeves (Dalhousie University).



Charles F. Sturm. Photo by T.A. Pearce

Given that a relatively large number of undergraduate students presented their work at the meeting, a special award for undergraduate students was organized by Tim Rawlings, the 2021 AMS President and meeting organizer, and supported with funds from [Science Atlantic](#) and AMS. Four **AMS & Science Atlantic Best Undergraduate Presentation Awards** were awarded, to Lauren Douglas (Cape Breton University) and Rory MacNeil (Cape Breton University) for best undergraduate poster presentations, and Daniela Gutierrez Andrade (University of Tampa) and Will Bauer (Acadia University) for best undergraduate oral presentations. In addition, thanks to efforts by volunteer judges and the committee, students who competed in the awards competitions were provided with feedback on their presentations.

**New AMS Research Awards:** A Special Gifts Review Committee (Liz Shea, Rüdiger Bieler, and Tom Duda) was formed in 2020 to develop ideas for new research awards to be funded by a generous donation from the estate of former AMS member and malacologist Dee Saunders Dundee's husband. Given feedback from the Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion workshop that was held at the 2021 AMS meeting and suggestions from AMS Council members, the committee proposed three new research awards to be offered in future years. AMS Council recently approved the proposal and so we are excited to announce these new awards. The first which will debut in 2022, **The Dee Saunders Dundee Memorial Research Grant – Malacology Research Award**, aims to support and encourage graduate students, postdoctoral research associates, and early career malacologists from under-represented groups to pursue careers in malacology and will provide funds for research-related expenses. The two that are slated to debut in 2023 are **The Dee Saunders Dundee Memorial Research Grant – Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities in Malacology Award** and **The Dee Saunders Dundee Memorial Research Grant – Community-Oriented Malacology Research Award**. The undergraduate award aims to attract undergraduate students from under-represented backgrounds to engage in summer research and will provide funds for research-related expenses, a stipend, and attendance at an AMS meeting. The community-oriented award aims to enhance outreach and community involvement in research through support of projects that directly serve and/or involve local communities. Additional details of these awards and instructions for applying to them will soon be posted on the AMS website.



## MALACOLOGIA

International Journal of Malacology

### THE J FRANCES ALLEN INSTITUTE OF MALACOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD: OPPORTUNITY AND 2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Submitted by Ellen Strong, Past AMS President*

The Board of Directors of the Institute of Malacology, publisher of the academic journal *Malacologia*, is pleased to announce the J Frances Allen Student Research Award. The purpose of these awards is to support undergraduate (bachelor's) and graduate (Master's, Ph.D.) research on mollusks conducted by a student enrolled in a degree-granting program. Recipients should plan on submitting the

results of their research to a peer-reviewed journal and are encouraged to consider *Malacologia* as a possible outlet, although this is not a requirement of receiving the award. One or more awards up to \$5,000 will be awarded each year, subject to the availability of funds, in support of field or laboratory research on Recent or fossil mollusks, or on mollusk-related projects. Needs for equipment in excess of \$1,500 must be fully described and clearly justified. Proposals seeking amounts less than the maximum are encouraged; partial funding may be granted at the discretion of the award committee. Both US and non-US citizens are eligible to apply.

To apply:

1. Applicants should submit a three-page summary of the proposed research including title, introduction, objectives, materials and methods, timetable, itemized budget and budget justification, references, and any figures. A complete application package should also include a one-page CV. All applications must be presented in 12-point font, single-spaced throughout, with margins no less than 2.5 cm.
2. The complete application package should not exceed four pages in length. Please craft the file name of the document with the applicant's last name [underscore] IMstudentaward (e.g., Smith\_IMstudentaward.pdf).
3. Students should arrange for a brief letter of recommendation (no more than one page) to be submitted separately. The file name of the letter should be the applicant's last name (e.g., Smith.pdf).
4. All application materials should be sent electronically in pdf format to Dr. Ellen Strong, President, Board of Directors, Institute of Malacology at [StrongE@si.edu](mailto:StrongE@si.edu).

Applications that do not conform to the guidelines or that are submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of the IM Board considering quality, significance, and feasibility of the proposed research.

Application deadline: May 30, 2022.

Award announcements: June 15, 2022.

### Award Recipients

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 J Frances Allen Institute of Malacology Student

Research Award. We received 17 outstanding proposals from undergraduate and graduate students representing nine countries. The proposals were reviewed by a committee of the IM Board and were evaluated on the quality, feasibility, and potential significance of the proposed research.

The first recipients of this award are:

- Noelia Sánchez, National University of La Plata, Argentina: Conoidean gastropods from unexplored Argentine deep-waters: the family Drilliidae.
- Taro Yoshimura, The University of Tokyo, Japan: Sulfur detoxification by biomineralization in the hadal chemosynthetic bivalve '*Axinulus hadalis*' (Thyasiridae).

Congratulations to the successful applicants. We wish them every success in completing their proposed research.



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

### Grad Research Assistant, MSc or PhD Southeast Conservation Genetics Lab Auburn University

*Submitted by Nathan Whelan*

The Whelan Lab at Auburn University ([www.nathanwhelan.com](http://www.nathanwhelan.com)) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Conservation Genetics Lab (SECGL; [www.fws.gov/southeast/warm-springs-fish-technology-center/conservation-genetics-lab/](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/warm-springs-fish-technology-center/conservation-genetics-lab/)) are seeking graduate student applications for the MSc or PhD degree to study freshwater invertebrate evolution and conservation. At least one MSc and one PhD position will be available to start in January or August 2022. Potential masters and PhD projects include conservation genetics and molecular ecology of freshwater mollusks, phylogenetics and systematics of freshwater gastropods, and phylogenomics of Myxobolidae fish parasites. Students will work in museum, lab, and field environments.

SECGL is a joint U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Auburn University research lab. We are in Swingle Hall on Auburn University's main campus. Our research includes both basic and applied science, and students work in an academic research environment while collaborating with government researchers and on-the-ground conservation scientists. Students will have the opportunity to work directly with conservation practitioners and perform cutting-edge research. Current research projects in the lab include (1) phylogenomics of freshwater gastropods, with an emphasis on Pleuroceridae, (2) conservation genomics and molecular ecology of freshwater mollusks, including threatened and endangered mussels and snails, (3) taxonomy of terrestrial snails, freshwater mussels, and freshwater snails, (4) freshwater gastropod life history evolution, and (5) taxonomy of metazoan fish and mollusk parasites. We also work with the National Fish Hatchery program and use genetic data to evaluate and improve hatchery efforts.

SECGL has outstanding facilities, equipment, and capacity for lab- and field-based research. We have all the equipment needed for next-generation library prep and other molecular data generation, including an Agilent Fragment Analyzer, Blue Pippen, Qubit, and Opentrons OT-2 liquid handling robot. We also have multiple computers for bioinformatics (e.g., an 80-core, 512GB RAM machine) and access to additional computing resources through Auburn University and the Alabama Supercomputer Authority. The lab has a 4WD SUV and other equipment for fieldwork.

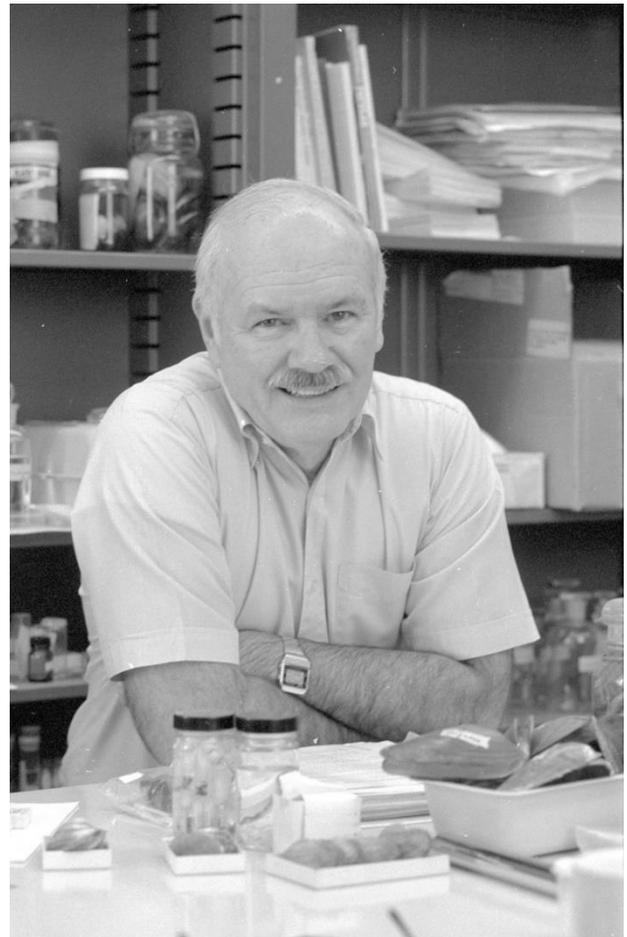
Auburn University is a public land-, sea-, and space-grant institution with internationally recognized research and academics. Auburn and nearby Opelika, Alabama are vibrant towns with excellent quality of life and a relatively low cost of living.

**GRA Stipends and Start Dates:** Students will receive a stipend of \$1,900/month and a tuition waiver. Available start dates are January 2022 or August 2022.

**To apply:** Send a letter of interest, current CV, contact information for 2-3 references, and unofficial transcripts to: [nathan\\_whelan@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_whelan@fws.gov), Dr. Nathan Whelan. Members of historically underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.



## IN MEMORIAM



Jack Burch in the Ruthven Museum (UMMZ) wet collection, 2000s.

### Memoriam of John (“Jack”) B. Burch (12 August 1929 - 3 June 2021)

*Submitted by Tom Duda, former AMS President,  
Tim Pearce, newsletter co-editor, and Diarmaid Ó  
Foighil, former AMS President*

John (“Jack”) B. Burch died peacefully on June 3, 2021 at the age of 92 in Littleton, Colorado after a long illness.

Jack Burch was a beacon of malacology for more than half a century at the University of Michigan (UM) where he obtained his PhD and later served as Professor and Curator of Mollusks. Aside from his vast research contributions involving varied themes, he positively influenced growth in malacology worldwide through his teaching at UM and the UM Biological Station (UMBS), advising of numerous

domestic and international students, collaborations, founding and serving as editor of several journals (*Malacologia*, *Malacological Review*, *Journal of Medical and Applied Malacology*, *Walkerana*), presentations of workshops around the globe, and leadership in several societies.

Jack obtained a B.S. in Biological Sciences at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia (1952), an M.S. in Biology at the University of Virginia (1954), and a Ph.D. in Zoology at UM (1959). He served as a Research Associate in the UM Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) from 1959 to 1963. In 1963, he was appointed as a faculty member of the Department of Zoology at UM (which subsequently became the Department of Biology and then Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) and Curator in the UMMZ. During his time at UM, he also served as Curator of Molluscs at the Australian Museum (1975-1976) and a Regents Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution (1983-1984). He served as the Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UM from 1979 to 1981.



Jack at work in his UMMZ lab, 1960s.

Jack's research took him throughout North America as well as to locations in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the Caribbean, and to "every high island in the Pacific," as he would proudly proclaim. His work largely focused on terrestrial and freshwater molluscs, including snails and bivalves, and involved themes in taxonomy, pathogen transmission, development of cell and tissue cultures, and faunistic surveys. He discovered the presence of cryptic diploid and polyploid (tetra/hexa/octoploid) lineages in populations of the important intermediate host *Bulinus truncatus/tropicus* complex, that were differentially susceptible to infection by human schistosome parasites. This seminal work led to years of research (supported by NIH, NSF, and the

World Health Organization) and international outreach, including the training of scientists from a large diversity of countries. One of Jack's most important curatorial contributions was his comprehensive collection of endemic partulid tree snail populations on Tahiti and nearby Moorea (Society Islands, French Polynesia) in 1970, a few years prior to their mass extirpation by the deliberately introduced carnivorous snail *Euglandina rosea*. These specimens have proven invaluable in supporting ongoing partulid research and conservation.



Trevor Coote (left) and Jack Burch on Mount Marau, Tahiti, 2005. Photo by D. O'Foighil.

His research has been published in more than 270 scientific articles and books and the excellence of his work has been recognized through numerous awards from malacological and scientific societies.

Although Jack's accomplishments and influence speak well to his devotion and intellect, many of our fondest memories relate to his caring and generous nature. He and his wife Peggy regularly hosted visitors to the Mollusk Division at their home and he, and often Peggy, organized or participated in social events that fostered relationships among members of the Division and beyond. Jack too was always rife with stories of his family, his upbringing, his work, and his former colleagues and students that he would regularly (and sometimes repeatedly) share, that further revealed how much he cared for those whose lives he has touched.

See additional personal remembrances and tributes to Jack [here](#) and feel free to add your own.

Addendum. We are very much saddened to report that Jack's wife, Margaret Smith Burch, recently

passed away on October 19, 2021. For those of you unlucky enough not to have met Peggy, she was a remarkable person: highly social, very smart, and extremely generous and supportive with her time and advice. She helped generations of incoming UMMZ Mollusk Division personnel and visitors (including us and our families) settle in Ann Arbor. The recipients of her many kindnesses feel sad at her loss.



Peggy (left) and Jack (right) Burch at the 2010 AMS meeting in San Diego.

Please consider donations in Jack's memory to [The John B. Burch Malacology Fund](#), which supports the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology program in malacology, in particular, supporting students engaged in research on mollusks.



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity in AMS & in Malacology More Broadly**

*Submitted by Vanessa L. Knutson*

The last couple of years have seen a rise in the awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI or EDI) issues in society. Academia in particular has spent much of its existence open to a very limited segment of society and today there is a palpable energy directed towards diversifying faculty (and STEM generally) across American academic institutions and improving conditions for those who have been historically excluded. Diverse minds foster creative hypotheses and can identify

interesting research and conservation areas or approaches that may have been otherwise overlooked or outright ignored. At times I feel as though malacology is particularly behind in addressing DEI issues, but judging from our activities this year as a society, I am hopeful that we are ready to push forward concrete actions to make AMS more welcoming to malacologists of all backgrounds, toward the benefit and survival of our community. In the past year or so, AMS, led by our Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity (JEDI) committee (including myself, Jingchun Li, Kevin Kocot, and Beth Davis-Berg) engaged in some specific activities towards this goal. First, with the input of several AMS members, we crafted and adopted the following statement, which is now posted on our website:

Members of the American Malacological Society spend their lives studying and appreciating the wonderful diversity of form, function, and ecological breadth of mollusks. We recognize that certain aspects of malacological research and collections have benefitted from historical associations with colonization and systems of oppression, such as slavery, and that societies such as AMS, have not been equally accessible to all people. We acknowledge this history and commit to the future of our Society by finding and supporting the next generation of malacologists with this in mind, as we look to advance our field through an inclusive lens. AMS welcomes all malacologists regardless of culture, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, nation of origin, age, languages spoken, veteran's status, religion, or disability. We expect our members to respect the diverse perspectives that come together at our meetings and take every opportunity to help the Society become more diverse, equitable, and inclusive through recruiting, supporting, and encouraging new people of all backgrounds.

Recognizing that we want to see action moving forward, rather than simply declaring our values, we hosted a discussion session on DEI topics and issues as part of the annual AMS meeting. I hope that those who attended felt as we did, that this was a positive way to hear about concerns and ideas from members of our community. I also hope that AMS will continue these discussions at future meetings and drive forward new initiatives stemming from the ideas that are presented in these gatherings of diverse minds. Additionally, AMS is in a unique position this

year, with recently contributed funds, and Council seems ready to put AMS money where our radula is regarding creating funding opportunities for those who have been historically excluded from our field.

Many additional thoughts and ideas came up during the discussion section and I want to highlight a few here, in no particular order, to keep these on our minds as we move forward:

- Conference access – provide digital options for future conference attendance as this broadens the number of participants from all backgrounds.
- Mentorship is key for recruiting new malacologists – mentorship opportunities can be enhanced at AMS meetings in both brief and longer forms, such as a “speed meeting” event among early and later career malacologists.
- AMS bulletin – a paper documenting how slavery/colonialism/imperialism has specifically impacted malacological collections would be valuable. If you are interested or know of someone with this expertise, please let us know.
- Ethics in collecting and “parachute science” – e.g., a symposium or workshop focusing on these issues. Parachute science includes wealthy researchers visiting low-income countries who exclude local scientists. At its worst, it is bioprospecting and biopiracy, but the term describes a lot of systematics work.
- Problematic common names of mollusks – like changes being made in other biological societies, we could evaluate existing common names of mollusks and consider renaming any that are named for awful people or geographic places with offensive or racist names.

I look forward to continuing these discussions within the malacological community and more importantly making changes, but we also need more people in AMS to step up and take a lead on these initiatives. Too often the burden falls to the people who identify with groups that have been historically excluded from the field, but groups cannot be changed by those on the outside. Really, this work is the responsibility of all of us.



## REPORTS

### American Malacological Society Minutes of the Business Meeting June 18, 2021 Virtual Zoom Meeting

*Presented by Amanda S. Lawless, AMS Secretary*

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Rawlings at 12:00pm (CST).

**A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of the 2020 business meeting.**

**Executive and Committee Reports** were presented:

President's Report: Presented by Tim Rawlings. The second, virtual AMS Meeting had 199 attendees from 15 countries, 85 oral presentations (including 37 from students ranging from high school to graduate) and 23 posters. Tim thanked all the plenary and keynote speakers, the meeting and symposia organizers, and sponsors for a successful meeting. WHOVA virtual meeting services platform was used, which is a paid service and worked well. There were various virtual events including a student mixer and a pub trivia mixer, which made the virtual meeting fun and interactive. Tim encouraged the society to do more student events in the future, as well as engage more on social media. A virtual AMS auction was also held and brought in \$2,037 for student funds. It was also a busy year for AMS, and Tim thanked all the committees for their hard work.

President-Elect: Presented by Ken Hayes. AMS will hold a joint meeting with UNITAS Malacologica at the World Congress of Malacology planned for August 1-5, 2022, in Munich, Germany. Gerhard Haszprunar, the current President of UNITAS Malacologica, has invited us to join their society along with others from around the globe for the “Meeting of Generations.” The current plan is to have this as an in-person conference, but contingency plans are being made just in case. AMS will sponsor a symposium on Molluscan Conservation and invite speakers to lead discussions for each group (i.e. bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, etc.). The AMS Systematics Committee agreed to a joint workshop with UNITAS entitled “Nomenclature: rules and type species in molecular time.”

Website:

<https://www.wcm2022.bio.lmu.de/wcmslider3/index.html>

Registration opens: November 15, 2021

Abstract Deadline: April 15, 2022

**A motion was made and passed to accept the 2022 meeting venue.**

Vice-President: Presented by Kevin Kocot. The 89<sup>th</sup> AMS meeting is tentatively planned for late summer 2023 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama at The University of Alabama. All talks will be streamed live to the web and remote participants will have the opportunity to submit questions to speakers during the Q&A. Only

in-person oral presentations will be possible, but poster presenters will have the opportunity to present in-person and online, or online only.

Treasurer’s Report: Presented by Elizabeth Shea. The 2020 AMS finances are strong and the society is on good financial footings. Using QuickBooks to track expenses has been extremely valuable but adds to the time burden of the position. Consequently, we have engaged Michele Harvey to act as our bookkeeper for 1-2 hours/month. We have \$508,952 in the PNC account that is waiting to be moved to a new Vanguard investment account. The bulk of this money was donated by the Estate of Harold Dundee.

AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY		
PROPOSED BUDGET for 2022		
(based on 2020 and as noted)		
	Budget	Notes
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<u>Membership Related</u>		
Life Membership Transfer from Investment Accounts	\$ 840	14 x \$60 as of 13 June 2021
Dues	\$ 6,300	based on membership numbers Jan - Dec 2020
<u>Meeting Related</u>		
Symposium Transfer from Investment Accounts	\$ 8,000	international meeting traditionally gets \$8K
AMS Meeting Auction	\$ 2,000	
<u>Publication Related</u>		
Institutional Subscriptions to AMB	\$ 1,220	based on 2020
BioOne - revenue + surplus share	\$ 20,000	based on 2020 revenue of \$20,562
Page Charges from Authors	\$ 870	revised down based on 2019 & 2020 manuscript sizes
<u>Other</u>		
Book Royalties (Sturm et al; Turgeon et al)	\$ 95	based on 2020 revenue of 108.66
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 39,325</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<u>Membership Related</u>		
Dues for Life/Honorary Life members	\$ 840	
Wild Apricot	\$ 1,470	based on a 2-year subscription to be paid in September 2022. The price has gone up because we don't use their payment processor. This reflects a 15% discount for a 2-year commitment
<u>Awards</u>		
Mel Carriker - Student Research	\$ 4,000	
Connie Boone Award - Best Student Paper/Poster	\$ 4,000	
Charlie Sturm Award - Best Student Bivalve Paper/Poster	\$ 500	This is a placeholder in case it does not get awarded in Canada.
Dick Petit Award - Best Student Systematics Paper	\$ 500	
Dee Saunders Memorial Research Funds	\$ 1,000	
<u>Meeting Travel Support</u>		
Symposium Travel Support	\$ 8,000	
Council Travel Expenses	\$ 6,000	
Student Travel Grants	\$ 2,000	
Student Webmaster meeting travel funds	\$ 500	
<u>Publication Related</u>		
Publication of AMB (Sheridan)	\$ 6,640	based on profit-loss statement for 2020.
Page Charge Support for President's Symposium	\$ 2,000	
Page Charge Support for Students	\$1,425	this didn't get used in 2020. Revised down to meet the requirement of a balanced budget
<u>Other</u>		
Membership to AIBS	\$ 250	
Bank fees	\$ 200	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 39,325</b>	
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

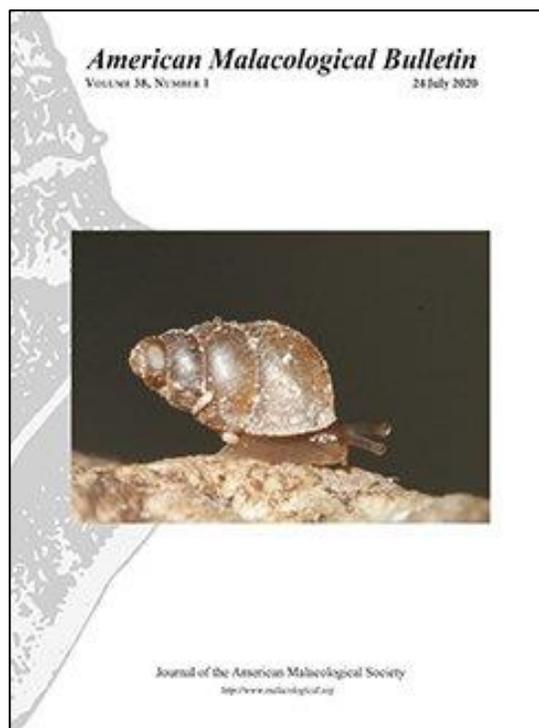
Audit & Budget Committee Report: Presented by Elizabeth Shea. See proposed budget. The 2021 budget, like the 2020 budget, will be considerably off from expectations due to complications from Covid-19. The biggest driver of this adjustment is the change from an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting. As a consequence, we did not spend the travel support money for officers. Page charges for the AMB have also not been as large. However, there were three new student awards given this year (inaugural Petite, Sturm [one time], and Dee Saunders Dundee).

**Motion to pass budget. Motion passed.**

Secretary's Report: Presented by Amanda Lawless. Highlights of the report were working with our new AMS website and online membership database through Wild Apricot. Assisted Tim Rawlings with preparations for the 2021 meeting. Chris Hobbs our current webmaster will be stepping down, so we are looking for a new one. Tim Pearce and Christine Parent are co-editors for the AMS Newsletter and have really refreshed the content, though it is still a struggle to get members to submit material.

Editor and Publications Committee Reports: Presented by Wallace "Marty" Meyer. We have not printed an issue of the AMB since Vol 38(1) was published in July 2020. Since that time, we have moved the journal to a continuous flow model. The low stream of manuscripts has delayed publishing of a hard copy journal for members, we do plan to print the next issue and make it available in December 2021. Hard copies of issues will be printed annually in December until manuscript submission increases. Manuscripts already accepted are either already available on-line or being formatted for online publication now. AMB impact factor for 2020 is 0.79, up from 0.57 last year. We have received good feedback about continuous publishing, especially for authors having papers published on-line right away. Working with the Systematics Committee to make sure all articles are getting loaded on ZooBank and following all the ICZN rules. As a reminder, there is money in the budget to cover student page charges if they are first author. There is an open access option as well. Working on putting a template for AMB on the website.

-It was suggested using an Endnote citation style template.



Endowment Committee Report: Presented by Rüdiger Bieler. (Endowment Committee: Rüdiger Bieler, José Leal, and Alan Kohn) Each invested AMS endowment fund (currently: symposium fund, life membership fund) has a targeted 50/50 stock/bond ratio subject to regular rebalancing. **2020 performance:** Total year-end value was \$355,809.32. The funds performed well in 2020 (with an overall gain of \$45,660.37 (14.7%)). **Glimpse at 2021 performance:** Fund performance has weathered the turbulent COVID-influenced market well so far. The current total fund balance (3/31/2021) stands at \$362,843.52. With the forthcoming addition of the "Dundee" and "Petit" funds, together exceeding \$360,000, our managed Vanguard funds will double in 2021.

- A motion during the Council Meeting was made and passed: "The Endowment Committee will move stock investments into a Social Index Fund and aims to maintain balance of 60/40 stock/bond ratio."

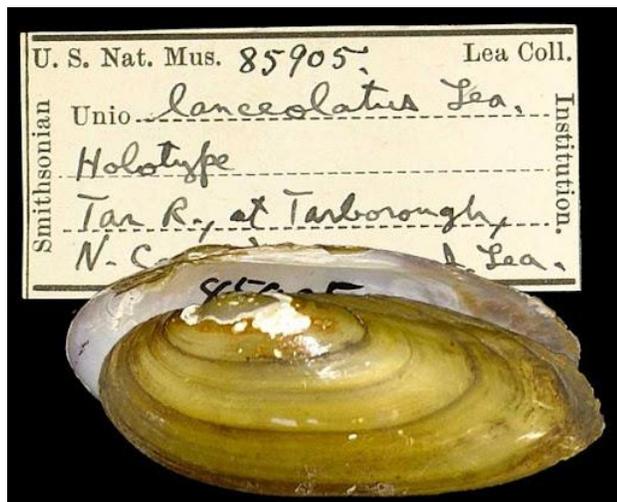
Membership Committee Report: Presented by Beth Davis-Berg. 2021 Membership: 162 members (13 life members, 6 family memberships, 112 regular members, and 34 students). Membership increased by 20 people from last year with 21% of membership being students. Facebook networking is strong with 6664 likes/6846 follows as of June 2021, up from last year. Actions since last meeting include participating

in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) committee and Facebook networking. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/malacology> and our new AMS Mentorship Group Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/956862785138205>, which students and mentors are encouraged to join. Beth is looking for additional people to join the committee.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Presented by Tim Rawlings. (Nominating Committee: Tim Rawlings, Rüdiger Bieler, Tim Collins, and Tricia Goulding) The following nominations were presented: President - Ken Hayes, Bishop Museum; President-Elect - Kevin Kocot, Alabama Museum of Natural History; Vice-President - Patrick Krug, California State University; Past President (>10 years) - Frank "Andy" Anderson, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Councilor at Large - Michael Middlebrooks, University of Tampa; Councilor at Large (Student) - Theresa Rose Osborne, State University of New York.

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

**Conservation Committee Report:** Chair Jay Corderio. Since the last virtual meeting in 2020, there is little activity to report. The triangle pigtoe (*Fusconaia lanceolata*), was not approved for listing as it was determined to be a junior synonym of the Texas pigtoe (*Fusconaia askewi*). Critical habitat for the yellow lance (*Elliptio lanceolata*) was designated on April 8, 2021, along 319 river miles in North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.



*Elliptio lanceolata*, holotype. Image from MusselP (<http://mussel-project.uwsp.edu/>).

The comment period to list the Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*) as threatened and critical habitat designated was reopened September 22, 2020. Canada completed its assessment of three mollusk species in their Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 2021. The Black Hills mountain snail (*Oreohelix cooperi*) has been designated Endangered, the Atlantic mud piddock (*Barnea truncata*) was designated Threatened, and the purple wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*) was designated Threatened. In response to drastic changes in the U.S. Endangered Species Act (50 C.F.R. Part 24 Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Regulations for Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat) President Biden announced on June 4, 2021, he will rescind or revise five regulations that sharply undercut protections for the nation's endangered species. On May 21, 2021, the U.S. Congress introduced the Extinction Prevention Act, which would fund conservation of the four groups of endangered species at the greatest risk of extinction, including freshwater mussels. Additional Conservation Committee news will be reported in the AMS Imperiled Species Newsletter (<http://www.malacological.org/conservation.html>) and contributions are welcomed from all AMS members.

**Student Awards Committee Report:** Presented by Tom Duda. The AMS website now includes information on the Richard E. Petit Student Research Award for Revisionary Taxonomy and Systematics of Mollusks and the Charlie Sturm Award for Best Student Presentation on Bivalves, as well as updated pages for the Carriker and Boone awards. Thanks to the investigative work of Paula Mikkelsen, the list of previous award winners is more complete and traces awardees back to the first awards that were given! We received 14 applications for the Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Awards in Malacology (three awarded) and two for the Richard E. Petit Student Research Award for Revisionary Taxonomy and Systematics of Mollusks (one awarded). (2021 Award Winners detailed in article on p. 6, herein.)

Discussion was had on better ways to get letters from advisors for the awards and the potential for having an undergraduate award category for meetings.

**Systematics Committee Report:** Presented by Ken Hayes. In 2020, the Editor of the AMB, Wallace Meyer, put forth a motion to make a member of the AMS Systematics Committee a permanent member

of the AMB editorial board as the Systematics Editor. The primary responsibility of the Systematics Editor is to work closely with the Editor in Chief and Managing Editor of AMB to keep all submissions in compliance with the ICZN code and update policies and procedures as needed for publication compliance with taxonomic acts.

**Resolutions & Recognition Committee:** Presented by Paula Mikkelsen. Paula would like to remind everyone that we have unfilled Honorary Life Member posts – seven to be exact. The AMS Constitution allows for 10 Honorary Life Members and one Honorary Life President. Alan Kohn is currently Honorary Life President; however, Honorary Life Members now stand at only three: Eugene V. Coan, Carole Hickman, and Gary Rosenberg. Paula encourages anyone interested in nominating a worthy person to consider doing so. This year Rüdiger Bieler and Paula Mikkelsen, both of the Field Museum of Natural History, were nominated as Honorary Life Members!



Rüdiger Bieler and Paula Mikkelsen enjoying a meal together. Photo from Malacological Society of London Bulletin Board.

**Constitution & Bylaws Committee:** Presented by Paula Mikkelsen. Discussed that Paula, Liz Shea, and Beth Davis-Berg are working on reorganizing/restructuring the AMS presidency by separating the positions of Meeting Organizer and President. More information will be presented next year when a vote will be taken to institute the new structure in 2023.

### New Business:

The JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) committee (Jingchun Li, Kevin Kocot, Beth Davis-Berg, Vanessa Knutson) drafted a diversity statement for AMS and engaged the Council for feedback (see statement p. 11, herein). The statement was presented at the AMS2021 meeting and a great discussion was held soliciting feedback from AMS members on ways to diversify AMS and support under-represented minorities (URMs) in malacological research. The committee suggests that a grant be established to support URMs in malacological research, as well as making financial support available for future AMS meetings that could go towards needs such as travel support, childcare, etc., which could help support early career malacologists. Please let Vanessa know if you have additional ideas for the JEDI committee. The committee also thanked Tim Rawlings for his amazing support this year.

- Marty Meyer had an idea about publishing papers on natural history collections and how the field of natural sciences has benefited from slave trade and colonization. It would be interesting to have someone (like a historian, or someone who knows collections) research how malacology has benefited from it.

The Institute of Malacology has a new award: 2021 J. Frances Allen Institute of Malacology Student Research Award. Seventeen proposals from multiple countries were received and three winners were chosen with the awards ranging from \$1,100 to \$3,000.

Tim Rawlings discussed that he felt the AMS Newsletter is an excellent resource to promote AMS and should be distributed widely and not just to AMS members. Since this is not in the bylaws, we can distribute the newsletter to whomever we would like.

Ken Hayes thanked Tim Rawlings for all his hard work on this year's meeting and presented him with a gift.

**A motion to adjourn was made and passed.**

Amanda S. Lawless, Secretary  
Chicago, October 2021

## MEET A MALACOLOGIST



**PAULA MIKKELSEN**

*Past President of AMS, Chair, Resolutions and Recognitions Committee, Chair Constitution and Bylaws Committee*

Auburn, Maine  
[pmm37@cornell.edu](mailto:pmm37@cornell.edu)

Research Associate at Field Museum of Natural History

### **What do you do (related to mollusks)?**

I describe myself as a marine malacologist, emphasizing morphology, systematics, and diversity of Western Atlantic taxa. I have used gross dissection, SEM, histology, and phylogenetic analysis, and have collaborated with others using TEM and molecular methods.

### **How did you come to be doing that?**

I originally wanted to be a vet. That didn't pan out, but a move to Florida for graduate school introduced me to shell collecting. That led to shell clubs, collecting, and the museum at Harbor Branch

Oceanographic Institute. The Smithsonian had a field station at HBOI, and curators were frequent visitors. Joe Houbrock was the first malacologist to take me seriously, showing me his research and always asking about mine.

### **How would you explain to an educated layperson the importance of your research?**

Biological diversity is fascinating, fun, and critical to understanding the environments on which we depend for our own lives. Life on Earth is an intricate interconnected balance, and who can say what organisms will be the next to reveal the next big thing. Think about pteropods, shelled planktonic mollusks now being adversely affected by ocean acidification. "We cannot protect something we do not love; we cannot love what we do not know" (Richard Louv).

### **What accomplishments make you feel particularly proud?**

In addition to my research projects and the few talented students that I have fledged, I am especially proud to have contributed to the mollusk collections at so many different institutions during my career: Harbor Branch, Delaware, American Museum, Field Museum, and PRI. It is encouraging lately to see collections receiving better support, and greater appreciation for the wealth of knowledge and research potential that they hold.

### **Describe an exciting experience in the field.**

I did my first night dive from a small boat in the Florida Keys. I was nervous. It was very dark, and the ocean was inky black. We had flashlights and light sticks of course, but I envisioned all kinds of illogical, scary, toothy things just waiting below. I secured my mask and flipped over the side. When the bubbles cleared, I was face to face with a gorgeous reef squid staring at me. Instant calm and fascination!



### What have you done for AMS and what has AMS done for you?

I've been a member of AMU/AMS since 1977. Since then, I've served as Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Managing Editor, VP/PE/President (2007), and committee Chairs. Through those offices, I met and got to know other malacologists, and as in any field, it's often "who you know" that advances your career. AMS was the conduit to those colleagues, who helped me in many ways. It has been my honor to know all of them, and to serve AMS.

### What is your favorite mollusk or group of mollusks and why?

I began my career as a shell collector, like many of us. I collected all groups from all places, but I was always most interested in the groups that others cared little about. No thanks to cones, cowries, nudibranchs, and scallops (there are enough experts on those). Yes, please to boring bivalves, bubble snails, and micros!! It's fascinating to consider anatomical modification, loss, and innovation. My dissertation was a morphological phylogeny of Cephalaspidea, and I co-wrote two funded NSF grants on bivalve phylogeny. I have learned to appreciate other mollusks, especially of the eastern seaboard and Caribbean, but bivalves and bubbles are still my favorites.

### What advice do you have for young people entering the field of Malacology?

Be flexible and opportunistic. There are precious few jobs in "malacology," and you'll never make a lot of money. But you'll probably enjoy your job every day. And remember – don't wait for the "ideal" job – you probably won't retire from the first one you take – apply for and accept anything that earns you experience while you wait for that "perfect fit."

### What's the best piece of advice anyone ever gave you?

Two things that I've passed on to many others: (1) From my Ph.D. advisor Kerry Clark: When you find in quantity, collect in quantity. Don't overdo, of course. But I guarantee that when you need an unusual species (or anything else) for a project, you won't be able to find it. (2) A great life lesson from Harbor Branch friend Pat Linley: Bloom where you're planted. You may not always be in an ideal situation, personally or professionally, but there is always something good you can achieve in that place and time.

### What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I'm a serious introvert. Spending a weekend talking to the cats and my laptop is hugely satisfying. Although I have taught occasionally, I do not especially enjoy teaching. Field courses (I've done bivalve workshops, and the Shoals invertebrate course 6 times) and one-on-one with students – OK. But classroom semesters – no thanks. Teaching doesn't come naturally to everyone, and I admire all teachers who do it well. It's a huge responsibility, presenting a subject to students in a way that excites them and holds their interest. That's way out of my comfort zone.

### Tell us about one of your interesting hobbies.

I retired in 2015 to return to Maine to care for my 99-year-old mother. For the next 3½ years, I was a caregiver, with very little spare time. When Mom died in 2019, my cousin sent me a check, writing "do something nice for yourself." I signed up for stained glass lessons, with a high school classmate of mine who runs a studio in Lisbon, Maine. One of my first projects was a round panel, 14" in diameter (see image), that included mollusks that I had researched during my career: a *Bulla* for my dissertation, a Queen Conch for the Florida Keys, a Yoyo Clam for the new species from in the Indian River Lagoon, a *Pinctada* for the pearl exhibit and book in NYC, and a *Mercenaria* for my two major NSF grants on bivalves. I'm still making glass projects.



**Do you (voluntarily) share your home with any biota besides *Homo sapiens*, and if so, what?**

Oh, I've always been a cat person. There was Pinky and Katherine as a child; Clyde, Kitten, and Emy in Florida; Emy moved with me to Delaware then New Jersey, followed by Raja and Pearl; they moved with me to upstate New York, joined by Cooper; Cooper and Pearl moved with me back to Maine, where I took care of Mom's Sucy and PJ; I now have Cooper and Pepper. My life would be incomplete without purrs and cat hair.

**What skills do you have that will be useful after the apocalypse?**

I'm a fan of *The Walking Dead*, so I have actually thought about this! Nope. I will be one of the first to go. I can bake cookies like Carol, but I can't run or wield a sword (a scalpel won't get me very far). I definitely need a Rick or a Morgan to save me!

**Tell us something that recently made you smile.**

A little over a year ago, a friend asked me about my snail collection – I collect mollusk figurines, plushies, salt and pepper shakers, etc., mostly without real shells. I posted one on Facebook and the response was HUGE! Since then, I've posted Snail a Day (or Clam or Squid or Shell) and the comments and "likes" never cease to make me smile. It's a silly, dust-catching hobby, but it has been such fun to share it, along with occasional molluscan fun facts, with others.

**Anything else you'd like to tell us?**

I am hugely honored to have been elected an Honorary Life Member of AMS. It is a wonderfully worthwhile society and has brought me many friends

and opportunities. I know that students are less likely to join "clubs" in today's world. Zoom and social media have certainly taught us other ways to communicate and collaborate. But there's really no substitute for sharing coffee during the break or a beer after the banquet.

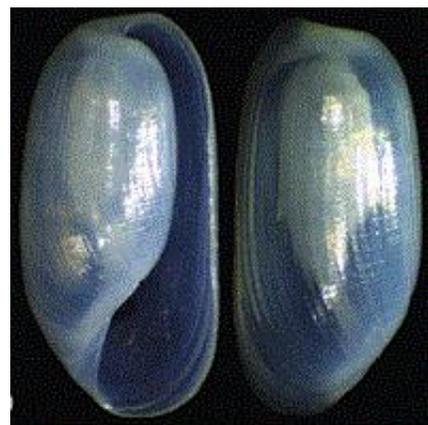
**Selected publications**

Mikkelsen, P. M. 2010. Seventy-five years of molluscs: a history of the American Malacological Society on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. *American Malacological Bulletin*, 28: 191-213.

Mikkelsen, P. M. 1998. *Cylindrobulla* and *Ascobulla* in the western Atlantic (Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia, Sacoglossa): systematic review, description of a new species, and phylogenetic reanalysis. *Zoologica Scripta*, 27(1): 49-71.

Landman, N. H., P. M. Mikkelsen, R. Bieler, and B. Bronson. 2001. *Pearls: A Natural History*. Harry N. Abrams Inc., New York, 232 pp., ISBN: 0810944952.

Mikkelsen, P.M., and R. Bieler. 1989. Biology and comparative anatomy of *Divariscintilla yoyo* and *D. troglodytes*, two new species of Galeommatidae (Bivalvia) from stomatopod burrows in eastern Florida. *Malacologia*, 31(1): 175-195.



*Cylichnatys campanula*. From Oskars, Too, Rees, Mikkelsen, Willassen & Malaquias (2019, A molecular phylogeny of the gastropod family Haminoeidae sensu lato (Heterobranchia: Cephalaspidea): a generic revision. *Invertebrate Systematics*, 33: 426-472).



## 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 contain a secret message.

Words are from the December 2021 issue of American Malacological Bulletin, vol. 38(2). See the bulletin if words intrigue you – member access through [AMS website](#).

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A V I P H A G Y R E T S Y M
C U E S P L A S T I C I T Y
M E C V C I P Y T O N E H P
C C M I C R O M O L L U S K
A I E V R T P E T R E L C P
R R C I R T E M O E G D E R
B T I P E Y E I N T N G P E
O E G A V O F M G A E N H D
N M A R I E G R O W T H A A
A O L I T E T A R H R A L T
T L E D P L I A N S P T O I
E L P A A S H A P E S R P O
S A R E C O I E M R I O O N
Y T I S R E V I D F N S D M
    
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ALLOMETRIC	MICROMOLLUSK
AVIPHAGY	MORPHOMETRIC
CAPTIVE	MYSTERY
CARBONATES	PELAGIC
CEPHALOPOD	PETREL
CUES	PHENOTYPIC
DIVERSITY	PLASTICITY
DNA	PREDATION
EYE	RATE
FRESHWATER	SHAPES
GEOMETRIC	SNAIL
GROWTH	VIVIPARIDAE
MEIOCERAS	

## NEWSLETTER EDITORS

We are grateful to all the contributors in this issue of the biannual AMS newsletter. Contributions to the next 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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Jumping slug, *Hemphillia dromedarius*. Lake of the Angels, Washington. Photo by T.A. Pearce, 23 Sep. 1979.