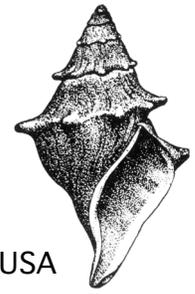


NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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

72nd Annual AMS Meeting

39th Annual WSM Meeting



Meeting Website:

<http://www.malacological.org/meetings/next.html>

Submitted by co-president Dr. Roland C. Anderson

I am very pleased to announce that the joint meeting of the AMS and the WSM will be held together at the University of Washington in Seattle. The meeting will begin with Council meetings during the afternoon of 29 July 2006 followed by the reception at the Burke Museum on the campus that evening. The meeting will end with field trips on 3 August 2006. This is the time of year that we have the least chance of rain in Seattle and daytime temperatures may range from 20-30°C. Evenings usually cool down below 15°C so a light jacket is recommended.

The meeting will include the usual spirited auction and four symposia/workshops, one on cephalopod behavior, one on chitons, one on opisthobranchs and one on non-marine mollusks

(short descriptions of the symposia/workshops can be found following this announcement).

There will be a sale of molluscan reprints to benefit the student fund of the WSM and the traditional spirited auction of books and molluscan memorabilia (no shells) that will benefit the student funds of both organizations. Several notable items of cephalopod art have already been donated and a copy of Abbott's 2nd edition of *American Seashells*. Let's bring some of your unused reprints, books and molluscan art to benefit this very worthy cause! Reprints and auction items can be sent to Roland Anderson at the address below.

Registration forms and information regarding the meeting are available on the meeting web site. For further information please contact Roland Anderson, chair of the annual meeting committee 2006:

Dr. Roland C. Anderson

1483 Alaskan Way

Seattle, WA 98101 USA

Ph: 206-386-4346

roland.anderson@seattle.gov

AMS Symposium: "Cephalopods: a behavioral perspective."

Organizer: Jennifer A. Mather

E-Mail: mather@uleth.ca

Behavior is a neglected area in molluscan research, but one with both links to other areas of study and a challenging area in its own right. Behavior is especially central for the cephalopods, with their learning capacity, individual differences and variety of sensory abilities. This symposium will tap many different aspects of behavior, from learning to personality, from sensory

function to social organization and opportunistic foraging. Listeners should come to appreciate the broad range of this approach and hopefully take away new ideas on techniques to use and questions to ask in their own research.

WSM/AMS Symposium: "Advances in Chiton Research."

Organizer: Doug Eernisse

E-Mail: deernisse@fullerton.edu

Current plans for the symposium include the following: 1) A morning session devoted to presentations by invited speakers; 2) An afternoon session with contributed papers related to any aspect of research on chitons; 3) A special section of a poster session devoted to chitons; 4) A dinner following the symposium open to anyone with an interest in chitons. Please email or call me with other ideas you might have. There is a possibility that the contributions to our symposium will be published together in a single issue of the *American Malacological Bulletin*, similar to the volume that was published in association with the 1987 AMU symposium organized by Bob Bullock on the "Biology of the Polyplacophora" in Key West, Florida [*Amer. Malacol. Bull.* 6(1), 1988]. This possibility is still being negotiated and I welcome your comments.

Contributed Workshop: "Opisthobranchs: Comprehending Diversity."

Organizer: Sandra Millen

E-mail: millen@zoology.ubc.ca

Much has changed in the last decade regarding our understanding of these eye-catching mollusks. They have become a favorite subject for underwater photography and in response to the continuous demand for identification, numerous web sites and books have sprung up to assist diving photographers. This in turn has increased our awareness of species ranges and unidentified species as well as adding to our knowledge of behavioral observations, food and spawning. Researchers are frantically trying to keep up the description of new species while at the same time applying molecular and cladistic tools to more rigorously assess relationships.

Contributed Workshop: "New Frontiers in Western US Non-marine Malacology."

Organizer: Terrence Frest

E-mail: tjfrest@earthlink.net

Western US non-marine mollusks have long been recognized for their diversity and peculiarities of biogeography and distribution. Application of molecular methods and careful detailed study of several at the genus and species levels indicates that diversity estimates of Frest and Roth (1995) may have to be drastically revised up or down, depending upon genus. The first mtDNA phylogenies very recently have become available for some of the most prominent and characteristic western freshwater snails, slugs, and shelled terrestrial forms. Diversity at the species level has often been underestimated; but no single pattern or model can accommodate all western endemic forms.



OTHER MEETINGS

COA 2006 Convention: Sea Treasures

The Conchologists of America will hold their annual meeting, May 31st to June 4th at Mobile, Alabama. For more information, visit the COA website:

<http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/home>



2nd International Workshop on Opisthobranchia

Meeting Website:

<http://www.dzg-ev.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelles.php>

Submitted by Dr. Roland C. Anderson

Bonn, Germany, September 20-22, 2006 at the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum.

Major topic is the phylogeny of the Opisthobranchia (Gastropoda) and how we relate consistent hypotheses to our knowledge on all kinds of biological phenomena observed and described. These include ontogeny, biochemistry, physiology, behaviour and others. Therefore specialists

in other biological disciplines and not working on phylogeny are highly welcome to contribute to our understanding of the evolution of the group. The workshop is meant to be a platform to link separate efforts and to spread new methods and ideas.

Lectures and posters will be presented during two and half days. One afternoon is dedicated to a general discussion of past and future research approaches.

Registration until 31st of May 2006. No fees have to be paid in advance.

Contact: *Heike Wägele*

Institute of Evolutionary Biology

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitaet

An der Immenburg 1

53121 Bonn, Germany

hwaegele@evolution.uni-bonn.de



Dublin Blaschka Congress

Meeting Website:

<http://www.ucd.ie/blaschka>

Submitted by *Dr. Julia Sigwart*

The Dublin Blaschka Congress will be hosted in Ireland by the partnership linking University College Dublin and the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History), in collaboration with the Natural History Museum (London). Conference proceedings will include major contributions from some of the world's leading glass scholars: David Whitehouse (Corning Institute of Glass, USA), Susan Rossi-Wilcox (Harvard University, USA), renowned Blaschka scholar Henri Reiling, and Chris Meecham (National Museum and Galleries of Wales).

'There is growing interest in Blaschka works, because these are the earliest modern objects that directly connect science and art. Scientists call them "models", artists call them "sculptures", but they clearly have a huge value to both,' says Nigel Monaghan, Keeper of Natural History in Dublin. 'This congress is very timely for our collection, and for many scholars.' In their own era, Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka described themselves as 'natural history artisans.' Their work has since been described as 'an artistic marvel in the

field of science and a scientific marvel in the field of art.'

Particularly among malacologists and conchologists, where science and aesthetics find a strong natural fusion, these models have an interesting role. Models of whole animals, looking ready to crawl away, are beautiful. The continuing 21st Century persistence of using only shells to display molluscan diversity can perhaps take a lesson from this 19th Century innovation.

The Dublin Blaschka Congress will take place 28 - 30 September. The main aim of the congress is to network the growing number of people with interest in the Blaschka glass models, their history, and their conservation. The congress will include keynote addresses as well as submitted papers from areas as diverse as scientific illustration, conservation, exhibition, invertebrate anatomy and lampworking. A public exhibition of Blaschka models never before seen on display will be held in the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History), Dublin from September through December 2006.

For further details including congress registration contact:

Catherine McGuinness

E-mail: blaschka2006@ucd.ie

telephone +353 (0)1 6486396



Unitas Malacologica 2007

The next World Congress of Malacology will take place in the summer of 2007 in Antwerp, Belgium. Visit the UM website for details: <http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/congress.html>



STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

The AMS 2006 Student Research Grant Competition

The American Malacological Society is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2006 Student Research Grant Competition. These grants are intended to support

dissertation or thesis research involving mollusks that is conducted by a student enrolled in an advanced degree program. The sponsored research is expected to result in a peer-reviewed publication.

One or more grants will be awarded each year, subject to availability of funds. No single grant shall exceed \$1000 U.S.D. Awardees are requested to present the results of their research at the annual American Malacological Society Meeting. The applicant must be a member of the American Malacological Society.

Applications must include:

1. A two-page summary of the proposed research, including the title, goals, methods, timetable, plans for publication, and a budget specifying the need for the grant.
2. A one-page curriculum vita.
3. Confirmation that the student is enrolled in an accredited college or university.
4. A letter of support from the student's advisor.

Complete application packets should be sent to:

Dr. Janet Voight

Department of Zoology

The Field Museum

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, IL 60605 USA

Electronic submissions (preferred) should be sent to: JVoight@fmnh.org

Applications must be received by **March 15, 2006**.

Note: Eligibility for the Constance Boone Award for the best student paper or poster at the annual meeting is extended to those who receive their degree within 6 months of the meeting's abstract submission deadline.



Student Research Grants in Malacology

offered by the WSM in conjunction with the Southwestern Malacological Society and the San Diego Shell Club

As part of their commitment to the continued study of mollusks, the Western Society of Malacologists, the Southwestern Malacological Society, and the San Diego Shell Club are again pleased to announce the availability of grants to

support student research in malacology. Funds are available for actual research costs, including but not limited to, field and laboratory equipment, chemicals, photographic supplies, computer time and supplies, microscope usage fees, and reasonable research travel costs.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a full time student in a formal graduate or undergraduate degree program. There are no citizenship or affiliation restrictions and students from all countries are eligible.

The thesis, dissertation, or research project must be focused primarily on the systematics, biology, ecology, physiology, biochemistry, or paleontology of marine, terrestrial or freshwater mollusks. Research currently in progress or beginning in the 2005-2006 academic year will be considered.

Application requirements:

1. Cover application page with the following information: proposal title, applicant name, addresses, contact numbers, etc, including a listing of no more than five keywords that describe the proposed research.
2. The proposal, limited to two pages, which discusses the research project and its malacological significance including details of the work to be aided by this grant.
3. A budget which outlines how the grant funds will be used.
4. A resume or outline of the applicant's academic background.
5. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's research advisor (must be transmitted or mailed separately by advisor).
6. A list of grants and amounts that are currently being received or have been applied for in the 2005-2006 academic year.

Membership in the WSM is not required but is certainly encouraged and students receive a discounted rate. Award recipients are also encouraged to present their research at a subsequent WSM meeting. Abstracts are published in the WSM Annual Report.

Application form can be obtained from the WSM website:

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

Applications should be mailed or submitted electronically (either as attached WORD or PDF format documents) at the following address:

Mr. Lindsey T. Groves

WSM Student Grant Chair

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Malacology Section

900 Exposition Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90007 USA

lgroves@nhm.org

Submission deadline is **June 1st, 2006**.

Awards will be announced during the 2006 joint meeting of the WSM and AMS.



MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Endangered Species in Glass: the Blaschka Models.

Submitted by Dr. Julia Sigwart

An essential part of any 19th Century natural history collection, the scientific models made by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka froze the delicate features of organisms in time, to represent specimens that were difficult to preserve for display—particularly cephalopods and nudibranchs. These sculptures famously include anatomically detailed, scientifically correct models of hundreds of species of marine invertebrates (as well as land slugs), and greatly magnified microscopic organisms.

Although molluscs may not have been a natural focus for natural history models, where displaying shells would be considered sufficient, the Blaschka models faithfully reproduced living creatures. Some models included the entire shell and body rendered in glass, whereas other, later versions used real shells fused to a glass body. The sculptures are so detailed that they are in many cases startlingly realistic. The most dramatic examples, and most fascinating to malacologists, are complete dissection models of a few bivalves (*Mytilus* and *Pecten*) and gastropods (*Aplysia*).

Leopold completed his first glass replica commission, 100 glass orchids for a local aristocrat in 1857, the same year his son Rudolf was

born. Over their lifetimes the Blaschkas supplied museums, universities and institutes across Europe and North America with precise glass models of invertebrates from their catalogue of over 700 (predominantly Atlantic and European) species. Every model was hand made and painted to order. As scientific models grew to dominate a trade founded on laboratory glass and taxidermy eyes, the team sought out better “sitters” for their art, and installed large aquaria to keep live molluscs and anemones in their inland studio. In the last phase of their collective career they signed an exclusive contract which resulted in more than 4,000 models still held by the Botanical Museum in Harvard University. Rudolf completed the Harvard commission three years before his death in 1939, leaving no heir to the family trade.

Modern glass artists have been unable to recreate these stunning, intricate sculptures, and the father and son team never recorded their techniques. The workshop where all the models were created in Dresden, Germany, was destroyed during bombing in World War II, as was a major collection of models held in the local natural history museum. Although some of their archives are preserved in the Corning Institute of Glass (Ithaca, USA), there is very little information about how they worked their glass magic. Although a charming mystery, this has led to growing concern among glass conservators, who are struggling to preserve and repair neglected models. Even the simplest forms of cleaning, to remove more than 100 years' worth of dust, is a complicated job on these delicate works of art.

September 2006 will see the first-ever international meeting focussed on the work of glass artists Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka. These 19th Century artists produced a fusion of science and art, which has never been equalled. Art and science museums worldwide hold Blaschka sculptures, which are increasingly recognised for their historical, technical, and artistic importance. Bridging the gap between science and art puts the Blaschka's work in a unique position, which is long overdue for serious study. See “Other Meetings” section on p.3 for more details about this upcoming meeting.

P.S. (by Dr. Paul Callomon): There is a small un-restored collection of the Blaschkas' mollusk models in the Department of Malacology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. It was cataloged, together with the material in the MCZ and the Boston Museum of Science, in a fine illustrated paper by C. G. Kessler and H. D. Russell, 1978, *Nautilus* 92 (4): 167-172.



NEW DATABASES

Submitted by Dr. Paul Valentich-Scott

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has just launched an online collection database: <http://www.sbcollections.org>

The database currently contains over 30,000 records, primarily of marine and terrestrial mollusks, representing approximately 10% of our total holdings. Of these records approximately 80% have been retroactively georeferenced. Georeferenced records are linked to satellite and topographic maps. Included in the online records are over 2,000 molluscan type lots, with the largest numbers in gastropods and chitons.

For further information contact:

Paul Valentich-Scott, Curator of Malacology
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
 2559 Puesta del Sol Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105 USA
 805-682-4711, ext. 146
 805-563-0574 (fax)
pvsconfig@sbnature2.org



NEWS FROM THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY SECTION OF MOLLUSKS, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Submitted by Dr. Timothy Pearce

The Section of Mollusks at the Carnegie Museum is 56% computerized with 73,000 electronic records. Particular strengths of the collection include freshwater mussels (Unionoida) and terrestrial gastropods from eastern USA. We are pre-

paring for Internet access, but in the meantime you can send queries to Tim Pearce (PearceT@carnegiemnh.org) for mollusks of interest.

Tim's recent research focuses on land snails of limestone areas in western Pennsylvania, addressing whether few records from the central mountainous counties reflect real scarcity of snails, or reflect low sampling effort. Updating distribution maps for land snails of Pennsylvania has produced numerous new locality records including first Pennsylvania records for the rare snail *Glyphyalinia raderi*.

<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/mollusks/index.htm>



IN MEMORIAM

Petr Kuchar (1949-2006)

Submitted by Lubos R. Kolouch

Petr Kuchar was born 57 years ago. He died suddenly on the 29 January 2006. He spent most of his life in the northern Bohemian town of Mezi-bori, Czech Republic. Already in 1959 he began to show an interest in terrestrial snails. His most productive time were the years 1977 to 1989. His last collection dates from 1997. Unfortunately his health problems did not allow him to either continue or expand his malacological research. His filing system contained more than 1,600 thoroughly documented entries, from which 90% refer to the Czech Republic. A string of valuable localities, especially in the district of Most, had to make way for coal mining or were flooded by dam water, and thus no longer exist.

He collaborated, among others, with J. G. J. Kuiper, Vojen Lozek, Vaclav Pflieger, Sylvestr Macha, Jaroslav Brabenec, Lubos R. Kolouch. In time he became an acknowledged Czech(oslovak) expert on the taxonomically difficult group of small, aquatic snails of Sphaeriidae.

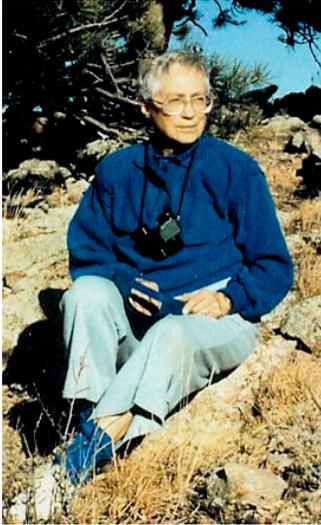
He published his findings, e.g. in 1979 "New record of *Pisidium moitessierianum* ...in the CSSR = Czechoslovakia", and in 1988, in co-authorship with Radovan Kuchar "New record of *Potamopyrgus jenkinsi* ...in the CSSR" (published in "Fauna Bohemiae Septentrionalis"). His some-

times difficult life has come to an end. We shall always remember you, dear friend!



Dorothy E. Beetle-Pillmore (1918-2005)

Submitted by Dr. Jochen Gerber



Dorothy Erna Beetle-Pillmore, a long-standing member of the American Malacological Society, passed away in Fort Collins, CO, on March 13, 2005, 86 years of age. She was born the oldest of six children to Mamie and William Schoof November 19, 1918, in Jersey City, NJ. She received a Bachelor

of Arts degree in paleontology from the University of California at Berkeley. In California she married Dr. Alan Beetle. The couple had a son, Howie, and a daughter, Karen. In 1946, the family re-located to Laramie, WY, where Dorothy completed a Master's degree in Botany at the University of Wyoming. Following a divorce in 1963 she moved to Charlotte, NC, where she was the director of the planetarium at the Children's Nature Museum. In the subsequent two decades she directed planetariums in Newport News, VA, Cincinnati, OH, and Columbus, GA. She retired in 1984 and moved to Colorado. Two years later she married Richard Pillmore, a retired research biologist, whom she had met at professional meetings in the 1950s.

Natural history and astronomy were two fields Dorothy became interested in at a young age and which she pursued for the rest of her life. As a planetarium director she made her fascination with the stars her profession. After her retirement she continued to be active in several astronomical societies and, together with her second husband, travelled to chase total eclipses.

Her interest in mollusks awoke during her time in Wyoming, when she discovered land and

freshwater mollusks in the mountains, streams and lakes of the Rockies. Soon she began to publish her findings. With each move to a new city her malacological interest moved with her and she explored the fauna of each new area. Her shell collection, which she had begun in the 1940s, grew continuously this way. Additional specimens were obtained on journeys in the US and abroad and through exchange with other malacologists. When she donated her collection to The Field Museum in 1993, it had grown to an estimated 5,500 specimen lots. The strength of the collection are the land and freshwater mollusks of the western United States, with thousands of records of often minute and frequently neglected species. This part of her collection in particular is a unique and valuable resource for distributional, conservation and taxonomic studies.

But Dorothy did not just accumulate shells. As a true biologist, she also documented and published ecological and behavioral observations. Her last malacological publication (1997) is the result of an ecological study in Yellowstone National Park that she had undertaken with her husband. Other important papers from her quill are state checklists for the non-marine mollusks of Wyoming (1961, 1989) and Virginia (1973).

Dorothy was a member of the American Malacological Union/Society since 1963. According to the listings of officers in the AMU newsletter she served as the newsletter's editor from 1974 to 1979. She was a frequent attendee of AMU/AMS annual meetings. During her time on the East Coast she was an active member of the North Carolina Shell Club. She gave talks on land snails, organized field trips and contributed to the club newsletter. She was also a member of the Conchologists of America and several other societies devoted to natural history and astronomy. Her contact with The Field Museum goes back to the 1950s, when she first corresponded with then Curator Fritz Haas. While living in Colorado she volunteered in the mollusk collection at the University of Colorado Museum in Boulder.

Although suffering from a chronic illness for a long time Dorothy did not complain nor did she allow her health problems to keep her from remaining active. Reading her papers, for instance the ones in which she brought together her two

- main interests, mollusks on the earth and stars in the sky, her wit and good humor are instantly recognizable. Her amicable character will be remembered by those who knew her. For the malacological community her mollusk-related publications and her collection, which is available for study in The Field Museum in Chicago, will keep her memory alive.
- Malacological writings of Dorothy E. Beetle-Pillmore:
- Beetle, D. 1951. *Menetus coloradensis* F.C. Baker in Wyoming. *The Nautilus* 64(3): 101.
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- Beetle, D.E. 1957. The Mollusca of Teton County, Wyoming. *The Nautilus* 71(1): 12-22.
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- Beetle, D.E. 1973. A checklist of the land and freshwater mollusks of Virginia. *Sterkiana* 49: 21-35.
- Beetle, D.E. 1973. Of stars and shells. *North Carolina Shell Club Bulletin* 7: 36.
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- Beetle, D.E. 1978. Mollusks of the Badlands National Monument. *North Carolina Shell Club Bulletin* 9: 27-28.
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- Beetle, D.E. 1987. The genus *Oreohelix* (Pulmonata: Oreohelicidae) in two western canyons of the Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming. *The Festivus* 19(7): 66-72.
- Beetle, D.E. 1987. Reproduction and growth rates in *Oreohelix subrudis* (Reeve). *Hawaiian Shell News* 35(1): 3.
- Beetle, D.E. 1989. Checklist of Recent Mollusca of Wyoming, USA. *The Great Basin Naturalist* 49(4): 637-645.
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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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