

U.S. AQUACULTURE SOCIETY

This has been a hectic year so far! Besides working on my typical research studies, collaborating with colleagues, writing manuscripts and giving presentations, I am also leading USAS activities to make sure the Society and membership are staying the course to keep USAS relevant and up to date on news items that could be of interest to the Society and/or the aquaculture industry.

As President of USAS, I represent our society on the Board of Directors of WAS. Our yearly report was prepared for the WAS Board meeting and I will discuss some highlights below. As a member of USAS, I didn't grasp all the details that goes into our yearly activities at USAS, and even moreso with WAS. It's exhilarating to be a part of it!

By the time this is published, we should be ready for an even more hectic run-up to Aquaculture 2019 in New Orleans. We are glad to be co-sponsors of this event and hosting it in the US. As you will see elsewhere in the magazine, 2019 is a special year for WAS and JWAS as it is their 50th anniversary. Come ready to celebrate, like it's 2019!

SURVEY ACTION ITEMS

To refresh your memory on survey results from my last column:

Webinar: The top five webinars that members would like to see developed were 1) changing public perception of aquaculture, 2) strategies and technologies for improving feed conversion ratios, 3) trends in aquaculture feeds, 4) local foods and aquaculture products, and 5) basics in recirculating aquaculture systems. We propose to develop three webinars this year. The first will be on animal welfare as this has quickly risen to the top of our concerns and is part of the public perception of aquaculture. Future webinars will address the other subjects listed plus any additional emerging issues.

Workshops: The top five workshop topics that members would like to see covered were 1) best aquaculture practices, 2) aquatic animal health, 3) recirculating aquaculture system design/engineering/operation, 4) fish nutrition, and 5) water quality. We will be holding two continuing education workshops for Aquaculture 2019: Best Aquaculture Practices and Water Quality. Future workshops will address the other subjects listed plus any emerging issues.

Meeting Venues: The top five meeting venues that members would like to see considered were Tampa, FL, Charlotte, NC, Savannah, GA, Atlanta, GA and Jacksonville, FL. Conferences are selected and contracts are signed years in advance to allow for our typical dates and favorable exhibit hall/hotel rates. Aquaculture and Aquaculture America conferences are currently scheduled through 2023. Through discussion with our conference organizer, we reviewed the possible alternative venues and a few others from the survey.

Several of the suggested venues are new alternatives and will be explored further like Charlotte, NC and Jacksonville, FL (convention center looked like a possible good fit), Memphis, TN (will look at by the end of the year) and St. Louis, MO (convention center is quite large, but it could be a possible good fit). But others had already been previously investigated and were found unsuitable like Tampa, FL (explored for AA 2021, but hotel rates were too high), Savannah,



GA (explored before, found to be too small), Atlanta, GA (explored before, hall is for big exhibitions and we would be scattered), Fort Lauderdale, FL (same as Miami, at the time of our conference, hotel rates are very expensive), Phoenix, AZ (investigated many years ago; everyone has always asked "why?"), Washington, DC (too expensive) and Los Angeles, CA (downtown LA is bad and unsafe; Long Beach could hold us, but meeting rooms would be quite a distance from exhibits). Therefore, it looks like we have a few possible new venues for the future. Thanks for everyone's input.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE USAS CHAPTER REPORT FOR WAS

As of July, we have 873 members. Membership numbers fluctuate throughout the year, usually between 850 and 1100, with the highest being around conference time. The demographics of our members are currently Academic/Teaching (19 percent), Commercial/Production (19 percent), Commercial/Support Industries (11 percent), Consulting (7 percent), Extension (4 percent), Government/Public Service (7 percent), Research (19 percent), Student (12 percent), and Undeclared (3 percent).

The Election Committee is searching for potential candidates for President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and two open Board of Director seats and has just sent out the initial call for nominations. Please give some consideration to this to have a qualified individual serve the USAS.

The only professional achievement award to be given out this year will be our Lifetime Achievement award due to time constraints at the triennial plenary. The first call for nominations has been sent out so please consider nominating someone deserving of such an honor.

Our Promotions and Membership Committee sponsored two students to attend the North Carolina Aquaculture meeting in March. These students (and your President) used the opportunity to speak to workshop participants about the mission and benefits of joining WAS/USAS.

The Publications Committee is discussing a picture book or "coffee table book" about aquaculture in each State of the US, including relevant statistics.

The Rules and Regulations Committee hopes to have a revised procedures and policies manual and additional amendments awaiting approval at the Aquaculture 2019 USAS Board meeting.

The Social Networking/Communications/Website Analysis committee regularly updates the chapter website (USAquaculture.org) and implemented stricter security protocols per the request of WAS. The chapter was active on several social media platforms (Instagram, Twitter and Facebook), and added two new platforms (YouTube, LinkedIn) in an effort to engage current members, recruit new members, and increase member satisfaction.

The Student Activities Committee has started planning student activities for Aquaculture 2019 in New Orleans.

The Student Subunit Committee is currently recruiting another subunit. Hopefully we'll have more news on this soon. We know that students are our future, so we feel it is important to get these Student Subunits set up.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 72)

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

- APA 2019 India..... 17
- Aquaculture America 2019 14
- Aquaculture Systems Technologies..... 52
- Aquafauna Biomarine 40
- Biomin 28
- Biorigin..... 34
- Blue Aqua International..... *Inside Front Cover*
- Darling Ingredients..... 25
- Evonik 42
- LACQUA18..... 9
- Northern Aquaculture 8
- Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc. *Back Cover*
- Tyson Foods *Inside Back Cover*
- USAS Sponsored Publications..... 27
- WAS Conference Calendar..... 70
- WAS Future Meetings..... 71
- WAS Online Store 41
- World Aquaculture Society 50th Anniversary 21
- Zeigler 4

USAS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

EMERGING ISSUES

As I mentioned above, we try to keep up to date on items that could be of interest to the Society and/or aquaculture industry; we found one recently. The August 2018 issue of National Geographic magazine had a graphic and blurb in its “Year of the Bird” series entitled “What Will Make Us Care Enough to Save Endangered Species?” The graphic pointed to agriculture and aquaculture as the primary “leading risks for threatened bird species.” National Geographic magazine has a readership of 6.5 million people per month with 3.5 million of those being in the US. Therefore, this article implied that US aquaculture is the culprit. We alerted the National Aquaculture Association about this and teamed up to obtain more information. After digging into the data, we found there were 24 bird species globally threatened by activities associated with marine or freshwater aquaculture, and none of these are residents or significant transients in North America. So, we replied to the magazine’s editor with the real facts. It’s yet to be seen if they will respond or comment on our letter. They did their damage without knowing the facts.

I hope to see y’all in NOLA for Aquaculture 2019 next March. As always, we encourage members of USAS (and all the WAS chapters) to support and submit your quality manuscripts to JWAS. Thanks!
— David Straus, President

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – WORLD AQUACULTURE SOCIETY

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP: Quarterly issues of the magazine, *World Aquaculture*; discounts on WAS books; electronic access to the *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society*; access to “members only” section of the website; and discounts for WAS meeting registrations.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:		<input type="radio"/> NEW	<input type="radio"/> RENEWAL (Select one)
_____ Lifetime	\$1,100	Individuals only, for lifetime membership (<i>includes one chapter</i>)	
_____ Corporate	\$255	For-Profit Companies only (assign one individual to receive mailings) (<i>includes one chapter</i>)	
_____ Sustaining	\$105	To support our continuing membership-benefit programs (<i>includes one chapter</i>)	
_____ Individual	\$65	Regular individuals Membership (one person’s name only) (<i>includes one chapter</i>)	
_____ Student	\$45	Attach copy of Student ID or letter regarding status from major professor (<i>includes one chapter</i>)	
_____ E-Member	\$10	No publications, meeting discounts, voting privileges or chapter affiliation and not an active member in last five years	

ADDITIONAL CHARGES OPTIONS:

- \$45 annual payment for mailed *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society* (Hard copy)

CHAPTERS: (includes one chapter; add \$5 each additional chapter) Must be an active member of WAS to join. (*Please choose chapter*)

- United States (USAS)
- Latin American/Caribbean (LACC)
- Asian Pacific (APC)
- Korean
- None (Deduct \$5.00)

Company Name, if corporate membership: _____

Individual Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

P: _____ F: _____ Email: _____ @: _____

INCLUDE PAYMENT TO: World Aquaculture Society (US\$/drawn on a US bank) with Check/Money Order, or VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINER’S CLUB, DISCOVER (NOVUS) OR JCB.

Card Number: _____ Expire Date: _____

Signature on Card: _____

www.was.org World Aquaculture Society PO Box 397 Sorrento LA 70778-0397 USA