

A Legend Lost

When Mike Castagna passed away on January 18, 2004, the shellfish aquaculture community lost an icon, and many of us lost a valued and beloved friend. Factual biographies are easy, tributes far more difficult, but there will be many. John Kraeuter and Mark Luckenbach provided a delightful glimpse of Mike's biography in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Shellfish Research* (Vol. 22 pp. 615-617).

Mike's accomplishments were many and will be delineated elsewhere. The words that keep surfacing are gentleman, leader, teacher and friend. He was all of these. It's been said that what Mike didn't know about shellfish culture simply hadn't been discovered, and he shared that knowledge freely and enthusiastically. NSA simply ran out of awards and accolades after Honored Life Member, Wallace Award and, most recently, the

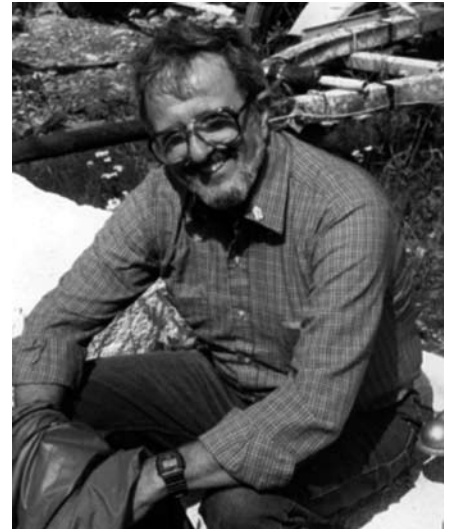
Castagna Scholarship in his honor for applied research in shellfish biology.

Mike was also fun. He was a fixture at NSA and WAS meetings and educated and entertained many with his stories of by-gone days, field trips gone awry and the how-to's of shellfish culture.

Mike was, and will remain, a legend in the field. His contributions have been the basis for many a successful aquaculture venture, and his trouble shooting capabilities and generous spirit have saved many more. The field has lost a giant and many have lost a friend.

—Sandy Shumway

*Contributions in Mike's memory can be made to the **Castagna Scholarship Fund, National Shellfisheries Association**, c/o Sandy Shumway, Dept of Marine Sciences, UCONN, 1080 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340.*



Michael Castagna

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Michael Castagna

Monday, Jan. 19, 2004—

Michael Castagna, 76, died Sunday, Jan. 18, 2004 at his residence. Born in Janesville, Wis., on Oct. 21, 1927, he was the son of Joseph and Jennie DiBenardo Castagna. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary S. Castagna; four children, Kathryn C. Anderson and her husband Richard of Warwick, N.Y., Michael J. Castagna and his wife Tammy of Newport News, Robert J. Castagna of Charleston, S.C., and John S. Castagna and his wife Christine of Pungoteague, Va.; a sister, Beatrice Hedding of Janesville, Wis.; nine grandchildren, Timothy, Geoffrey and Matthew Anderson, Kaitlyn, Caleb and Jacob Castagna, Caroline and Jennifer Castagna and step-grandson, Ben Salisbury; a niece, Lynn Endicott; and nephew, Michael Hedding. Mike graduated from Janesville High School and served in the U.S. Navy as a pharmacist mate in World War II and the Korean Conflict. He attended Florida State University and earned a BS and MS in biology. He began his career in marine biology at Marineland in Florida. After spending several years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Maine and Maryland, he joined the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Wachapreague, Va., in 1962. There he became a division director and retired in 1992 from the College of William and Mary as an emeritus professor. While with VIMS, Mike established a laboratory with an international reputation for the culture of

bivalves. He developed the aquaculture techniques now used worldwide to grow clams, scallops, oysters and other bivalves. These methods are being used throughout the United States, China, Portugal, Chile and many other areas. Castagna was a consultant for national and international projects and many committees. As an experienced scientist and scuba diver, he was chosen as the coordinator for the scientific mission in the Baltic Sea where he lived with German and French scientists for 14 days underwater in the Habitat Lab "Helgoland". He enjoyed a return visit to "Helgoland" and to a habitat in the Caribbean Sea. Mike was president of Atlantic Estuarine Research Society, National Shellfish Association, Estuarine Research Federation and a charter member of World Mariculture Society, receiving numerous awards in his field of research. The Nature Conservancy awarded him the "Oakleaf Award" as conservationist of the year in 1974. Castagna has published over 100 papers, co-edited two marine culture textbooks, and authored a mariculture manual. Community activities included Boy Scouts, PTA president, Elks, Moose, Soil and Water Conservation Board and Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore. Mike's favorite activities had been Habitat for Humanity and the Shore Square Dancing Organization. Prior to his illness, Mike and Mary traveled extensively in Asia and South America. He was loved and respected by his family, friends and peers, and will be greatly missed by all. A funeral mass will be conducted from St. Peter's Catholic Church in Onley, Va., on Wednesday at 10 a.m. with Father Frank Wiggins officiating. Interment will follow in the Fairview Lawn Cemetery in Onancock.