

Retirement of Dick Neves

August 8, 2008



Dick's research on freshwater mussels started upon his arrival at Tech in 1978...



Challenges facing Dick's work

- Research on freshwater mussels ended when Bureau of Fisheries Lab in Fairport, Iowa burned in 1917!
- In late 1970s, 23 mussels were listed as threatened or endangered
- No life history, reproduction, host fish, or habitat information on most species
- Qualitative methods of early 1900s were outdated
- Dick applied modern sampling designs, techniques and equipment to freshwater mussel research



Challenges facing Dick's work

- Need to integrate malacology, freshwater ecology, phycology, physiology, fisheries science, and aquaculture
- Can't sacrifice individuals – non-invasive techniques needed
- Couldn't age mussels for demographic studies
- Had to develop techniques to determine habitat requirements of juveniles and adults, when glochidia were released in the wild, to induce release in captivity, to infest fish with glochidia, ...



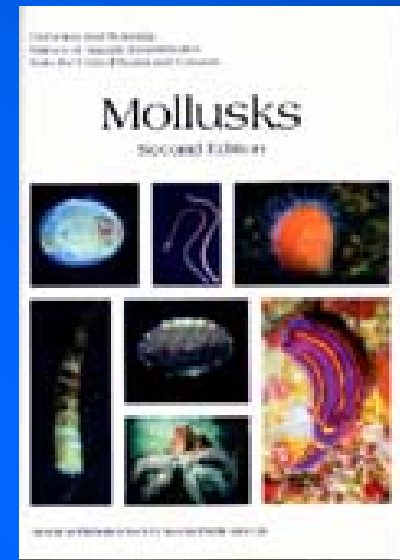
Results of Dick's work

- Field surveys
- Life history investigations
- Recovery planning
- Development of recovery techniques
- Environmental toxicology



Results of Dick's work

- ~100 refereed journal articles
- 1 book co-edited
- 5 book chapters
- 5 keynote addresses



Service

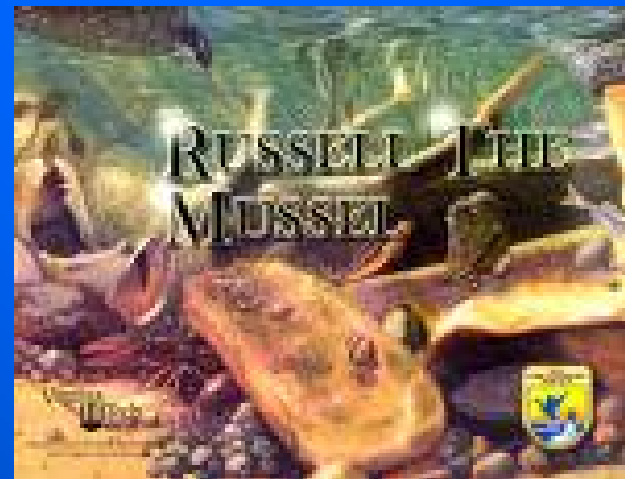
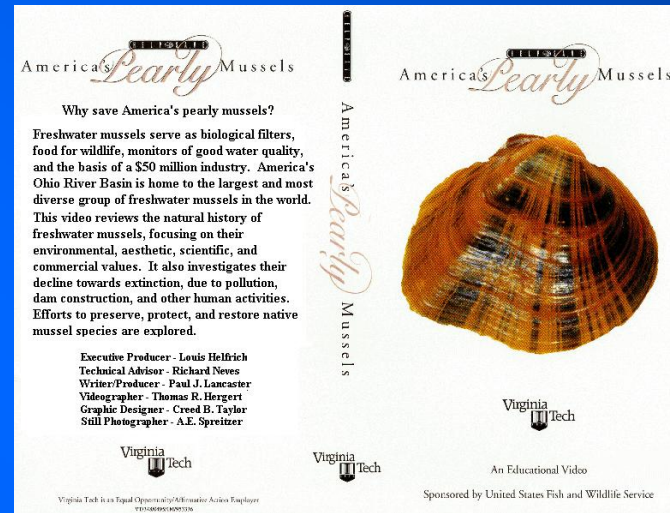
- Unit Leader for the Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
- Supervised two assistant leaders, ~8 graduate students, ~5 technicians
- Research work orders supporting a wide range of projects
- Editorial boards: American Malacological Society, American Fisheries Society, Society for Conservation Biology
- President: Virginia Natural History Society, Freshwater Mussel Conservation Society
- Trustee: Virginia Museum of Natural History

Teaching and mentorship

- Endangered Species Management
- Marine Fisheries

- ~50 graduate students
- Technicians, trainees, ...

Conservation education



Recognition

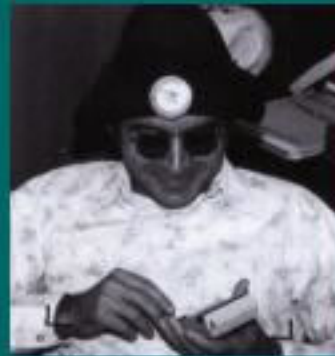


- USFWS Research Director's Conservation Award
- USFWS Director's Commendation

Some historic pictures of Dick Neves....



Faculty Members, 1983









Maybe a little fishing...



Congratulations,
Dick!

