

AERS Newsletter

December, 1999

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AERS Loses Another Charter Member as Austin Williams Dies at 80

Austin B. Williams, 80, a zoologist and leading authority on the classification of eastern American decapod crustaceans, died of cancer Oct. 27 at his home in Falls Church, Virginia. He was president of AERS in 1960 and was also a member of the Biological Society of Washington, and the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature. He was also a co-founder of the Estuarine Research Federation and served as its first Secretary in 1971. He later served as Vice President in 1979 and as President in 1984-85. Since 1971, he had been a research scientist with the systematics laboratory of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, with offices at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. He was the author of more than 115 scientific publications, including a 1965 study of the decapods of the Carolinas, for which he received a Science Citation Classic honor in 1983. He also was co-author of a book, "Lobsters of the World - an Illustrated Guide."

Born in Plattsburg, Mo. He did his undergraduate work at McPherson College and received a doctorate in zoology from the University of Kansas, with a dissertation on Ozark crayfish. Austin had a distinguished career spanning five decades, covering the taxonomy, systematics, biogeography, and evolution of various decapod groups, both fossil and recent. From 1951 to 1955, he was on the staff of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Fisheries Research, studying the history and ecology of penaeid shrimps.

From 1956 to 1963, he was at the University of Illinois, then returned to the University of North Carolina, where he continued his study of marine and estuarine decapods. In 1997, Austin received the Excellence in Research Award of the Crustacean Society. He was the society's associate editor from 1986 to 1991. His wife, Jean McNicol Williams, died in 1982. Survivors include a son, David McNicol

Williams of Beaufort, N.C., and two grandchildren.



Spring Meeting Promises to be Mother of all Spring Meetings

You are invited to a post-hurricane party! The spring meeting of AERS will occur at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on March 9 to 11, 2000. We will be merging with the Benthic Society and SEERS for the Benthic Ecology Meeting (BEM), and, in fact, most of the arrangements are being handled by the Benthic Society. All the details, including registration and abstract submission information, hotel reservations, airline discounts, etc., are included on the meeting website at: <http://www.uncwil.edu/cmsr/bem2000>

Submission of abstracts will be done on the web, as will registration. A few deadlines of some interest are:

- BEM Registration is due:14 January 2000
- BEM Abstracts are due:14 January 2000
- 15% off on airline ticketing until:05 January 2000
- Discount hotel rates until:31 January 2000

On Thursday and Friday nights we will have mixers, and on Saturday night we will have a banquet on the Battleship North Carolina. It's a big reason to stay until Sunday morning. To fill the days on Friday and Saturday, there will be concurrent sessions of lots of science. AERS presentations will be incorporated into the various themed sessions. Student paper awards for AERS students will still be given, but students must indicate their status while submitting their abstract. So put it on your calendar and be ready to see some significant beach erosion! But be prepared. It's expensive to play with the big boys. Registration is \$75 (\$50 for students) and the banquet will be \$20. Please visit the BEM website - all your questions will be answered.



Benthic Ecology Meeting to Feature Two Symposia

The 2000 Benthic Ecology Meeting will be held 9 -12 March at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The meeting is being co-hosted by SEERS and AERS with financial support from NC-SeaGrant and UNCW. A Blue Crab Symposium will be held 7-9 March in advance of the BEM meeting. A symposium on Marine Chemical Ecology will be held as a concurrent session of the meeting.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:

- Thursday, 9 March - 6 PM - 11 PM Registration, Wagoner Hall
8 PM - 11 PM Social, Wagoner Hall
- Friday, 10 March - 7 AM - 5 PM Registration, Dobo Hall

8 AM - 5 PM Meeting and Poster Sessions, Dobo Hall
7 PM - 11 PM Reception, Center for Marine Science

- Saturday, 11 March - 7 AM - 11 AM Registration, Dobo Hall

8 AM - 5 PM Meeting and Poster Sessions, Dobo Hall
7 PM - 12 AM Banquet, Battleship North Carolina

- Sunday, 12 March - Travel Day; no sessions scheduled

PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent oral and poster sessions will be held in the 4 lecture halls and adjoining hallways of Dobo Hall (New Science Building) on the UNCW campus. Attendees should check the website frequently for updates - all information is subject to change! The final schedule of talks will be posted on the website in mid-February 2000.



Student Travel Support to Wilmington

The AERS Endowment Fund provides travel support with a maximum of \$75 per trip for student members in good standing (current dues paid) who play an active role in AERS meetings (e.g. present a paper), and who cannot find sufficient funding from other sources.

To apply for this aid, send the following information to: Dr. Steve Rebach, Department of Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853(email: srebach@umes.umd.edu):

1. A letter describing student activity at the meeting, including the abstract, if appropriate.
2. An itemized list of expenses requiring support.
3. A brief description of other sources of support, which may be inadequate.
4. A letter from the student's advisor documenting the previously described needs and activities.

The deadline for the receipt of applications for a Spring Meeting travel support grant is January 14, 2000. Grant recipients will be determined one week from that date, and notified a week later.



President's Corner

This issue of the President's Corner is a plea for all AERS members to provide the Board with their e-mail address. My immediate reaction to reading this would be to say "No way, I don't want to receive any more e-mail than I do already". BUT, please read on before you decide that you don't want to provide this information for inclusion in the AERS database. It is a statement of the obvious to say that electronic communication had changed how the scientific community communicates. The speed and ease of electronic communication has made e-mail the method of choice to exchange information and ideas with colleagues, advertise jobs to the scientific community, and make professional meeting arrangements. It has also allowed for journals and society newsletters to be available right in your office.

For example, Estuaries has been available over the Internet since early fall at <http://erf.org/journal/journal.html>.

In the past, AERS has made progress toward utilizing electronic media. In particular, AERS has established (admittedly more or less successfully at times) a web page where information about membership, the officers, upcoming meetings, and the newsletter are available (<http://www.evsc.virginia.edu/~lkb2e/AERS/>). As a service to the AERS membership, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences established and currently maintains an AERS list-serve. The list-serve allows AERS members to subscribe and unsubscribe to receive e-mail from anyone who knows the AERS list-serve user ID (aers-l@vims.edu). But as far as I know, the list serve has only been used by AERS members to communicate with other AERS members about job openings, meeting announcements, and to exchange other professionally related information. Unfortunately the list-serve is badly out-of-date. Many members' e-mail addresses are not current and many members do not subscribe. Directions for subscribing to the AERS list-serve are given at the end of the President's Corner.

Currently, then, the only way the AERS officers have of communicating with the entire AERS membership is through the newsletter. In addition to the list-serve, it would be very useful to the AERS officers to have a complete e-mail list of the AERS membership. Many times information is sent to the AERS president which should be passed on to the membership in a more timely manner than is possible through the newsletter. For example, when Dr. Cronin died a year and a half ago, I sent an e-mail via the list-serve to let the membership know about Dr. Cronin's death and to pass on details about the memorial services. Unfortunately only those members subscribing to the list serve were notified. Other uses of an AERS membership e-mail list might include reminders about abstract and hotel reservation deadlines for meetings, for Newsletter deadlines, or notification that important information has been posted on the AERS web page, e.g. meeting programs. Because many members receive more e-mail than they care to, they may not wish to subscribe to the list-serve. This brings me back to my original plea. I would like to compile an up-to-date e-mail list of the AERS membership. To protect members from advertising, spam, and the like, the e-mail list would be made available only to AERS board members and to others on a case-by-case basis subject to review by the President. Furthermore, it would not be possible to reply to all recipients of the e-mail. Replies would only be returned to the e-mail sender to limit the number of e-mail messages that an AERS member would receive. Please, everyone take three minutes from your very busy schedules and send me your e-mail address for our new member e-mail data base (LKB2e@virginia.edu) or take 5 minutes and fill in the form included in the Newsletter and send it to me at the address on the form. As noted above, only the AERS officers will have access to this list. Even if you think we already have this information, please send it again so we can be sure the information we have is current. I'd like very much to be able to pass a complete, up-to-date e-mail list of members on to our new President, Stan Hales, in the spring. It will take your help to make this happen.

To subscribe to the AERS list-serve, send an e-mail to listproc@vims.edu. The text of your message should include only the words SUBSCRIBE AERS-L YOUR NAME. Of course instead of YOUR NAME, print your name not the words YOUR NAME. It is NOT case sensitive. Thus, the text of my message to subscribe would read "SUBSCRIBE AERS-L Linda Blum".

Linda Blum

E-MAIL UP DATE FORM

Name _____

E-Mail address _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

Mailing Address (optional) _____

Phone (optional) _____

FAX (optional) _____

Please detach this completed form and send it to Linda Blum, Clark Hall,
Department of
Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903



ERF Tidbits

ERF's journal Estuaries has a new editor. He is Stephen T. Threlkeld, from the University of Mississippi. He brings a ton of experience in electronic publication to the job, and the immediate evidence of this is that [Estuaries](#) will be available on line - free for the next few months; membership required after that. Check it out.

Arrangements are under way to locate ERF 2001 in St. Petersburg, Florida and ERF 2003 in Seattle, Washington.



Hales and Swarth Elected

It's official. The ballots have been collected and counted. By just a few votes in each case, the new AERS President-Elect is **Stan Hales, Jr.** (Rowan University), and the new Secretary is **Chris Swarth** (Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary). Interestingly enough, both of the new officers are wetlands people, since Stan is pretty closely associated with the Stone Harbor Wetlands Institute

The Secretary assumes his duties immediately, while the President-Elect doesn't move into the presidential chair until next spring.



Best Student Paper Award Winners

A total of four student paper awards were presented at the spring meeting at VIMS. Each of the winners received a certificate and a one year subscription to the journal Estuaries.

- ▣ Judged to be the best Undergraduate Oral Presentation was that of: **Charles V. Metzger** from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.
- ▣ The winner of the best Graduate Oral Presentation at the master's level was **Tracy Buck** from East Carolina University.
- ▣ The best Graduate Oral Presentation at the doctorate level was **Alessandra Sagasti** from The College of William and Mary.
- ▣ Judged to be the best Poster Presentation was that of **Helen E. Woods** from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.



Poster Contest Extended

The AERS poster contest has been extended. There is still time to put together something to adequately present AERS to the rest of the world. Prize is an estuarine book having a value up to \$75. More info from **Tim Morris** (tmorris@chesapeake.net) or **Judy Heath** (jkh38326@glaxowellcome.com).


















Venerable Clam to Frank Reilly

Wild cheers echoed through the auditorium in response to the announcement that **Frank Reilly** was the spring, 1999 winner of the coveted Venerable Clam award. Frank responded by delivering a most meaningful acceptance speech. "The Venerable Clam Award," Frank said, "is a reminder of the fact that AERS is militantly informal with regards to everything except its science." Right on, Frank!

Venerable Clam Recipients Listed

At great expense and effort, AERSNEWS has managed to obtain a complete list of those who have received the Venerable Clam Award. The Clam Veneres (AKA The Venerabilia) are listed below in alphabetical order:

- ▣ Bette Bauereis
- ▣ Dave Cargo
- ▣ Mel Carriker
- ▣ Tom Carver

-  Mike Castagna
-  Bob Christian
-  Dexter Haven
-  Tom Hopkins
-  Tom Jones
-  Vic Kennedy
-  Don Lear
-  Nelson Marshall
-  John McDermott
-  Kent Mountford
-  Steve Rebach
-  Frank Reilly
-  Fred Sieling
-  Dick Williams
-  Jerry Williams



AERS Student Travel Awards

Steve Rebach, Chair of the Endowment Committee, reports that only two students applied for travel money to the Spring 1999 AERS meeting at VIMS, Gloucester Point. One of the students subsequently obtained funding from his advisor, while the second was not a member of AERS. Consequently, no travel funds were awarded for the Spring 1999 meeting.

Four students applied for travel money to the Fall 1999 ERF meeting in New Orleans. One of the four was not a member of ERF and the remaining three students have fulfilled all requirements. These students were awarded \$150 each: **Janet Nestlerode**, **Elizabeth Hinchey**, and **Sandra Rene Hypes**.

