

# AERS Newsletter

February, 1999

---

---

## In This Month's Newsletter:

[AERS Loses It's First President](#)  
[AERS Poster Contest](#)  
[President's Corner](#)  
[Student News](#)  
[Final Call for Abstracts for Spring '99 Meeting](#)  
[Spring Meeting Highlights](#)  
[\\*Hotel Rooms](#)  
[\\*Directions to VIMS](#)  
[Notice](#)  
[Student Travel Support](#)  
[Attention AERS Student Members!](#)  
[Election](#)  
[Summer Internships at Bigelow Lab](#)  
[15th Biennial International Estuarine Research Federation Conference \(Sept 15-30, 1999\)](#)

---

---

## AERS Loses First President

The first president of AERS, Gene Cronin, died December 18. He was 81. Gene was also the first president of ERF, and his wife Alice is one of AERS' founding members. Gene was the author of over 130 scientific publications, and was a widely acknowledged expert on the fish and shellfish of the Chesapeake, as well as on pollution problems and resource management issues.

A native of Aberdeen, Maryland, Gene Cronin was appointed a biologist at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in 1943. During the early 1950's Gene moved to the University of Delaware, where he established the marine laboratory at Lewes that subsequently became the UD College of Marine Studies. He later returned to CBL, succeeding its founder Reginald Truitt as Director, and oversaw the move into the University of Maryland system, becoming also the first director of the UM Natural Resources Institute (NRI). As director of NRI he was directly responsible for establishment of the University of Maryland's Appalachian Laboratory. In 1975 NRI was merged into the newly created Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies and Gene served for a while as the CEES Associate Director for Research and then as Director of the Chesapeake Research Consortium.

For many years Gene Cronin was one of the most influential scientists in the Chesapeake Bay region as well as a leader in the field of estuarine science nationally and internationally. The popular press often referred to him as "Mr. Chesapeake Bay". For his many contributions to Bay science he was the second

recipient (in 1994) of the Mathias Medal. In 1997 the Estuarine Research Federation created the L. Eugene Cronin Award in his honor to recognize outstanding contributions to estuarine research by a young scientist. Gene thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to present the first Cronin Award to Samantha Joye at the last ERF meeting.

Gene remained active in his retirement, participating last month in the "Across the Generations Dialogue" held at Washington College. Just days before his death, Gene was still actively working on a treatise on the blue crab, which he and Vic Kennedy were editing.

Gene Cronin will be greatly missed by one and all. He leaves behind a rich legacy.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## ANNOUNCING

### AERS Poster Contest

AERS is seeking a creative way to increase the awareness of the organization, so we are going to have a poster contest.

- Any media (acrylics, watercolor, pencils, etc.) may be used. Posters must include the logo and information about AERS.
- Prize - An estuarine book of the winner's choice having a value up to \$75.

Posters will be judged at the Spring meeting.

For more info, contact Tim Morris at [covelab@chesapeake.net](mailto:covelab@chesapeake.net) or Judy Heath at (919) 483-3113 or [jkh38326@glaxowellcome.com](mailto:jkh38326@glaxowellcome.com)

Start work on a poster today. Don't pass up this opportunity to become world famous.

[Back to Top](#)

---

### President's Corner

By now most of you are probably aware that just before the holidays, Dr. L. Eugene Cronin died. Gene's death is a loss all of us in the community of estuarine scientists, managers, and friends share. Gene was one of the founding members of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society and served as the Society's first President. He, as well as several other of the founding AERS members, was also instrumental in forming the Estuarine Research Federation. It was Gene's deep concern for the future of our estuaries, and in particular Chesapeake Bay, that spurred him to play a leadership role in formation of each of these scientific societies. More recently, Gene served on the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

In a video tape shown at the Spring 1998, AERS 50th-year meeting, Gene expressed regret that all the years of research and advancements in understanding the physical, chemical, and biological functions Chesapeake Bay had done little to counter the impact of the constantly increasing human impacts on The Bay. Yet, I believe that he held out hope that the activities of groups like AERS, ERF, and the

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, wise management and scientific innovation would lead to real improvements in the condition of our coastal waters.

In memory of Gene's long and productive career in estuarine science, the AERS Board has approved a donation to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation from the AERS membership.

*Linda Blum*

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Student News

**Tim Dellapenna** defended his dissertation the first week of January at VIMS and started a Post-doc three working days later at Texas A&M University in Galveston, Texas (TAMUG). It turned out to be an interesting way to start the year. His mind was totally numb when he arrived in the Lone Star State, but fortunately he was able to take a three day weekend at the end of his first week to decompress in New Orleans - admittedly an ideal spot for that sort of thing.

Tim's dissertation addressed issues of seabed mixing and fine-scale strata formation in the lower Chesapeake Bay and the York River. At TAMUG, his post-doc research will include working on a Texas Sea Grant project to investigate processes which lead to seabed mixing in shallow Gulf Coast estuaries, including Galveston Bay. One of the processes to be investigated is the role of shrimp trawling on the seabed, which will be examined by means of field experiments using commercial shrimp boats. Additionally, he will be investigating the role of wind induced resuspension and other processes.

Tim is excited about working on an estuary that still has oysters. He also seems to think that shrimp taste better than tube worms. To each his own.

Like Tim, **Giancarlo Cicchetti** also wrapped up his dissertation quickly so as to start a post-doc. He moved to Rhode Island with his wife and two young sons, and is now working for the EPA at the Atlantic Ecology Division lab in Narragansett. He is planning a fish/invertebrate/primary producer project for next year that will examine anthropogenic effects on salt marsh ecosystems.

Best wishes to both Tim and Giancarlo in their new endeavors.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Final Call for Abstracts for Spring '99 Meeting

Abstracts are now being solicited for the spring meeting. If you're planning on presenting at ERF in the fall, the AERS spring meeting should serve as a good practice site. As the ERF abstract deadline is **March 1**, you should have no problem submitting your abstract to **Pat Reilly** by **Friday, April 9th**, preferably by e-mail to [reillygroup@msn.com](mailto:reillygroup@msn.com). If e-mail is not available to you, you may submit your abstract via Internet at the following site: [http://erf.org/aers\\_meetings/aers\\_abstract\\_submission.html](http://erf.org/aers_meetings/aers_abstract_submission.html). If you are not connected, files may be mailed using diskettes (**labeled with author, file name and software used**), or, as a last resort, a high-quality, hard-copy may be mailed to **Pat Reilly**, 67 Meyer Lane, Stafford, VA 22554. Please allow plenty of time if you must use snail mail.

Abstracts should begin with the **title**, then the **names of the authors**, followed by a **brief abstract** (fewer than 250 words). Please indicate your preference of **poster** or **oral presentation**, and the **name of the presenter**. If the presenter will be a student, **include the student's status as undergraduate, MS or PhD candidate** for the purpose of awarding Best Student Presentation Awards. Instructions specific to the Internet address are found at the site, and should be followed.

**All submissions should include an e-mail address and/or phone number where Pat can reach you** if there are any questions. Pat can be reached during the day at (703) 792-6892.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Spring Meeting Highlights

The AERS spring meeting will be held in Gloucester Point, Virginia on the campus of the School of Marine Science (SMS), Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), College of William and Mary. VIMS is the third largest marine research facility in the United States, with a staff of 300 scientists, technicians and support personnel organized into five research departments. The SMS is the graduate school of marine science of the College of William and Mary, with a graduate faculty of 60 and approximately 130 students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees.

All meeting events will be held on campus in the auditorium of Watermen's Hall. Registration and the Thursday evening Beverage Consumption Event (BCE) will be in the lobby of Chesapeake Bay Hall. Registration for the spring meeting will be \$35 for regular members and \$25 for students. This includes the banquet, lunch on Friday, the BCE, and several coffee breaks (with pastries, etc.) that might serve as breakfast for those on a tight budget. So registration is a real deal.

---

## Hotel Rooms

A block of 15 rooms has been reserved at the Duke of York motel, directly across the York River (in Yorktown) from VIMS (see directions below). In addition to the Duke of York, rooms have also been reserved at the Gloucester Inn on Route 17, immediately on the left after crossing the bridge heading for Gloucester. Rooms at the Gloucester Inn are definitely not fancy, but are clean and inexpensive.

Duke of York (757-898-3232), 508 Water Street, Yorktown, VA, 23690. \$50.00 single or double; **make reservations by 4/1/99 and specify that you will be attending AERS**. To get to the Duke of York from VIMS--take the first right after crossing the bridge (in the direction from Gloucester to Yorktown). At the end of the road turn right again. The motel will be on the right (approximately 5 min. from VIMS).

Gloucester Inn ( 804-642-3337). Route 17, Gloucester Point VA. \$34.95 double; \$27.95 single; **make reservations by 4/1/99 and specify that you will be attending a conference at VIMS**.

---

## Directions to VIMS

1. From the south, follow U.S. Route 17 north across the York River (Coleman Bridge). Go to first traffic light after crossing the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light and go one block to the end of the road. Turn right onto Rt. 1208, the Institute will be just ahead.

2. From the north, follow Route 17 South until you reach the traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 17 and Rt. 1206 (Crestar Bank and Amoco Gas Station on opposite corners-last traffic light before you cross the Coleman Bridge). Turn left onto Rt. 1206 and go one block to the end of the road. Turn right onto Rt. 1208, the Institute will be just ahead . Visitors parking is on the left.
3. From the west, get on U.S. 17 and follow either scheme (1) or (2) depending on whether south or north of VIMS
4. From the east, charter a boat.

[Back to Top](#)

---

## Notice

A list of papers to be given at the Spring meeting will be posted on this web site as soon after the abstract due date (**April 9**) as possible.

[Back To Top](#)

---

## Student Travel Support

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 [srebach@umes.umd.edu](mailto:srebach@umes.umd.edu)

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

The deadline for the receipt of applications for a travel support grant is **April 7, 1999**. Grant recipients will be determined one week from that date, and notified a week later.

This support is also available for travel to ERF's 15th Biennial International Conference. The meeting will be held **Sept. 25- 30, 1999** in New Orleans, Louisiana. The ERF deadline for abstracts is **March 1, 1999**, so requests for support for this meeting must be in to Steve by then. For more information about ERF, check out its web page at <http://www.erf.org>.

[Back To Top](#)

---

## Attention AERS Student Members!

It's not too early to start thinking about the 15th Biennial International Conference for ERF.

The meeting will be held **Sept. 25- 30, 1999** in New Orleans, Louisiana. ERF deadline for abstracts is **March 1, 1999**. If you are a student member of AERS in good standing, there is travel money available

to help defray the costs of attending the meeting. Please send requests to: **Steve Rebach, Endowment Committee Chair**, by **March 1, 1999** by e-mail or by snail mail. For more information about ERF, check out its web page at <http://www.erf.org>

[srebach@umes.umd.edu](mailto:srebach@umes.umd.edu)

[Back To Top](#)

---

## Election

This is the meeting of the 1999 election, so plan on coming early and voting all day. We shall elect a President Elect and a Secretary at the Spring meeting. **Dan Dauer** and **Stan Hales** have been nominated for President Elect, and **Iris Anderson** and **Chris Swarth** have been nominated for Secretary. Their bios appeared in the last issue of AERS NEWS.

Next year we shall do the Treasurer bit again.

[Back To Top](#)

---

## Summer Internships at Bigelow Lab

Interested undergraduates and recent graduates are invited to apply for summer internships in subtidal benthic ecology research. Three to four month internships are available from **May to Sept. 1 or Oct. 1, 1999**.

Research during the summer of 1999 continues more than a decade of research on early life history and recruitment processes of the American lobster in New England. This year with support from the Maine/New Hampshire Sea Grant Program, divers will conduct multiple mark-recapture experiments at sites ranging from Maine to Rhode Island to assess mortality and emigration rates of juvenile lobsters in shallow cobble nursery habitats. They will also conduct habitat surveys by visual, video, and suction sampling techniques. Both certified divers as well as non-divers are welcome to apply. Students interested in pursuing a career in marine science, ecology, or fisheries are especially encouraged to apply. Divers can expect cold water (9-18oC), and sometimes low visibility.

Prior experience with outboard motor boats, computer spreadsheets, and statistical software is preferred. Work will be staged from both Bigelow Laboratory in West Boothbay Harbor (website at <http://www.bigelow.org>) and the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole (website at <http://server.dmc.maine.edu>). Interns are housed at the Darling Marine Center where dormitory, kitchen, vessel, and diving facilities are available. Interns are provided a stipend of \$700 per month plus dorm. Application information may be obtained from **Dr. Richard A. Wahle** at the Bigelow Lab, email: [rwahle@bigelow.org](mailto:rwahle@bigelow.org), tel: 207-633-9600, fax: 207-633-9641.

[Back To Top](#)

---

## 15th Biennial International Estuarine Research Federation Conference

Where the River Meets the Sea -- New Orleans, *September 25-30, 1999*.

**CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS** First Call: *April 15, 1998* **Second Call:** *June 15, 1998*

The Estuarine Research Federation has announced the **FIRST CALL** for proposals and letters of interest to develop thematic, contributed, and poster sessions, as well as workshops, for the ERF99 Biennial International Conference. The ERF99 Program Committee is soliciting proposals and ideas for sessions that capture timely developments and syntheses in estuarine science, with particular focus on six Conference Themes described below. These six themes are intended to influence the development of each type of program format including thematic, contributed, and poster sessions, along with workshops. The contributed sessions will assure that the program captures the broad scope of estuarine science, while workshops are to focus on particularly timely research and management topics.

**I. CONFERENCE THEMES:**

1. River-Dominated Coastal Margin Ecosystems
2. Comparative Processes of Tropical and Temperate Estuaries
3. Physical Constraints of Ecological Processes
4. Processes and Consequences of Eutrophication
5. Scientific Principles of Estuarine Restoration and Recovery

**6. Value and Assessment of Estuaries****II. CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS**

1. Estuarine Processes
2. Estuarine Habitats and Ecosystems
3. Perturbations of Estuaries
4. Estuarine Science, Management and Education
5. Analyses and Tools of Estuarine Science

For more info on the conference, including proposal submission, please contact **Dr. Robert R. Twilley**, Department of Biology, PO Box 42451, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504.

Phone: 318-482-6146

FAX: 318-482-5834

email: [rtwilley@usl.edu](mailto:rtwilley@usl.edu)

[Back to Top](#)