

AERS NEWS



*All the news that'll
fit, and then some*

Volume 2003 Number 1

January 2003

Fabulous Benthic Babes Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

This past November, two of our members, Janet Nestlerode and Beth Hinchey of VIMS took part in an 10 day expedition in the Florida Keys. Janet is the Webmaster for AERS, and Beth is the past Program Chair for AERS. Together they designed the winning logo used on our AERS posters and shirts, and have been a major force in the sales of shirts and huggers.

The two "Benthic Babes" (so named by Dan Dauer of Old Dominion) took part in a Coral Bleaching Study headed up by Mark Patterson, also of VIMS. The study examined causes of coral bleaching, and particularly whether the movement of a body of water over the reef could be associated with any patterns of coral bleaching. They dwelled in the Aquarius, an underwater habitat operated by UNC Wilmington near Key Largo, Florida.

During their adventure, web cams allowed a view of their activities both in and out of the diving habitat. It seemed that whenever this author tuned

(See Benthic Babes Continued on page 4)



Aquarius file photo

The Benthic Babes hard at work on the coral bleaching project.

AERS and SEERS Schedule Joint Meeting

The AERS and SEERS Boards have agreed to hold a joint AERS-SEERS meeting in Atlantic Beach, NC from 20-22 March (Thu-Sat.).

The primary meeting venue will be the Royal Pavillion Hotel in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (See "Lets Stay at the Royal Pavillion," page 3 for more lodging details). The Thursday night social will be held at the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is located five miles west of Atlantic Beach on Highway 58 in the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area and includes a marsh boardwalk and other exhibits (ask Frank about the alligator). The aquarium web site (www.aquariums.state.nc.us/pks/index.htm) includes directions and descriptions.

(See Joint Meeting Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue

The President's Corner	Page 2
Call for Abstracts	Page 2
Student Travel!	Page 3
Meeting Details	Page 3-4
Elections	Page 6-7
Student News	Page 4
Dues Due	Page 5
Tidal Tidbits	Page 7

...from the President

Stan Hales has been doing a yeoman's job bringing together our spring meeting plans. Judy Heath is helping on site, especially with the Thursday night preparations. We will be meeting with SEERS, and we hope to have presentations about the ERF Biocomplexity Initiative. We will be meeting at the Royal Pavilion, which we have found very accommodating in the past, but we will add to the attractiveness of the venue by having the Thursday night gathering at the Aquarium. This should be worth the drive for the northern part of the contingent!

I am planning on attending the Science, Engineering, and Technology Working Group Congressional Visits Day in the spring. If you have insights about this meeting or have matters you would like brought up to our representatives please let me know, either by e-mail or at the spring meeting. I am also scheduled to be at the ERF Governing Board meeting at the end of April. If you have matters which you would like brought up there, please feel free to contact me. In case you missed the announcement, the ERF meeting in 2007 will be in Providence, RI.

Leila Hamden offered to spearhead an effort to put together a display about the history of estuarine science, which was originally planned for the ERF meeting in Norfolk in 2005. We thought that we would offer to have it ready for the Restore America's Estuaries meeting this spring; however, they declined to have it present without a sponsorship fee which was well beyond our budget realities. So Leila will relax her time line, but if you have anything which you would like to contribute to her effort, I'm sure she would welcome suggestions or items.

There are some members who would like to remove the requirement for membership in order to attend and present at meetings. There have been a number of people who have supported that by-law, and others who have presented reasons for changing it. Both groups seem to have good reasons for their position. We need to think about the issue between now and the spring meeting, where we should have a discussion about the matter, and make a decision.

Hope your winter is going well, and that I'll see you in Atlantic Beach in the spring. Please use the AERS web site to pre-register for the meeting.

Steve Fuller
Mary Washington College
sfuller@mw.edu

Call for Abstracts

It is time to submit proposals for papers for the Spring 2003 Meeting. Recently there has been some discussion among Board Members about relaxing the structure of the meeting (i.e., 15 min talk, 5 min questions, and then on to the next talk) and returning to previous AERS-style meetings that included scientific talks but also allowed for more informal, open-forum, scientific discussions. If you have any ideas about how to approach this or potential questions that we might discuss as a group please let Frank Parker, the Program Chair, hear them frank@vims.edu.

At the current time, we anticipate 20 minute Platform Presentations, and Poster Presentations. Platform presenters should consider preparing their presentation formatted for a PC Power Point presentation on a CD. Poster presenters should plan to fill ½ of an 8 by 10 foot (4x5 foot) poster board. The poster presenters should expect to attend their presentation during the breaks on Friday of the meeting.

Those wishing to present should prepare and submit abstracts using the abstract submission guidelines and form found at: <http://www.vims.edu/aers/meetings/spring03registration.htm>

The deadline for submission is February 14! Send Frank an early Valentine greeting. Rumor has it, that he will be scheduling the last paper submitted for 7:50 AM Saturday morning. Don't be that last submitter. Frank will accept the abstracts, and inform presenters of their acceptance. You can contact (the other) Frank at frank@vims.edu.

Student Travel Awards

The AERS Endowment Fund provides travel support for student members in good standing (current dues paid) who play an active role in AERS meetings (e.g., present a paper or serve on the Board) and cannot find sufficient funding from other sources. To apply for this aid, please send the following information to the chair of the Endowment Committee, **Dr. Chris Jones**, Biology Department MSN 3E1, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-993-1127, 703-993-1046 (fax), rcjones@gmu.edu: a letter describing activity at the meeting, itemized list of expenses, description of other support, and a letter from the student's advisor documenting the need and activities. This information is due at the same time as ab-

Please Pre-register for the meeting! Use the web site.

Lets meet and stay at The Royal Pavillion Hotel

The primary meeting venue will be the Royal Pavillion Hotel (RPH, 800-533-3700) in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. The hotel has agreed to provide rooms at \$75 per night for up to 2 people. Additional occupants are permitted for \$10/night. Be certain to identify that you a registering for the AERS/SEERS

meeting. The registration deadline for the reduced rate is 1 March 2003; after that, a much higher rate takes effect. Although no directions are provided, a cornucopia of information about the hotel and its facilities, including its new indoor pool, is available at the hotel web site (www.rpresort.com/royalpav/default.htm).

Directions and driving precautions to the Royal Pavillion Hotel.

1) From I-95 or U. S. 17, take Rt. 70 southeast to Morehead City.

2) Once in Morehead City, turn right onto the Atlantic Beach Causeway and follow it to Atlantic Beach.

3) Turn right onto NC Rt. 58 and go 3.8 miles; the Royal Pavillion is on your left by the ocean

(Note to SEERS members: that's the Atlantic...).

4) Please follow all posted speed limits: rumor has it the local constabulary still has outstanding warrants for Geno Olmi and Ananda Ranasinghe for alleged speeding violations at previous meetings.

Housing for students

Alternative (read inexpensive, *rustic* and a ways from the RPH) housing for students is available at the Duke Marine Lab. A bed with linens for the entire meeting is available for \$50. Because space is limited, students must reserve a bed by 6 March 2003. Students wanting to stay at DML should indicate that on their pre-registration form.

Other housing

Other hotels and B&Bs are listed at <http://www.ncbeach.com/guide/guide.asp>.

(Joint Meeting Continued from page 1)

The Plenary Session on Friday and Saturday, featuring papers from both AERS and SEERS, will be held at the Royal Pavillion. The Plenary Session on Saturday may extend past our traditional noon adjournment depending on the number of submissions received. AERS and SEERS board meetings will be held Thursday evening in separate rooms at the Royal Pavillion, as will the Friday Afternoon business meetings. For more information about the schedule, please see the Tentative Meeting Program page 4. (See Call for Papers on page 2 for the details of abstract submission.) Please pre-register!

Lost Members

Do you know where we can find these members?

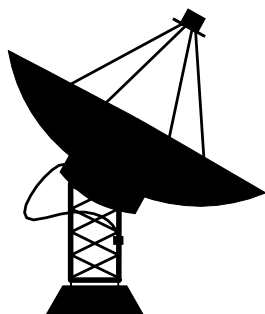
Tamara Williams Richell Hanson

Sosina Tesfa James Salierno

Tami Lunsford Luke Cole

Richelle Hanson Harold Humm (Honorary Member)

If so, please write (or have them write) Chris Swarth, Membership Chair (jugbay@toad.net)





Tentative Meeting Program

Tentative...

Thursday

5:00- 6:30 pm - AERS and SEERS Board meetings, Hospitality Suites 1 & 2, Royal Pavilion Hotel (RPH)

7-10 pm - Joint welcome reception (we call it the BCE), NC Pine Knolls Shores Aquarium

Friday

8-Noon - Joint technical session: RPH Grand Ballroom
Noon-1:30 - Lunch

1:30-5 pm - Joint technical session, RPH Grand Ballroom

5- 6 pm - AERS and SEERS business meetings, Grand Ballroom & Cozumel Room, RPH

6- 9 pm - Happy hour and banquet, RPH Ballroom

Saturday

8-Noon: Joint technical session: RPH Cozumel Room

Lunch

Afternoon session (?) (Get your abstracts in...then we'll know...)

(Benthic Babes Continued from page 1) in for a view, that Beth was eating! A selection of photos from their mission can still be viewed on the UNC-Wilmington, Aquarius Web site (http://www.uncwil.edu/nurc/aquarius/2002/11_2002/images/index.htm)

In addition to their scientific duties, the aquanauts were able to maintain communications using email, and the web cams. They had several "news conferences" with grade school classes that tuned into the Aquarius using the web cams.

Student Presentation awards at the Fall Meeting

Several Students received recognition for the presentation of their work at the Fall AERS Meeting. The awards recognize the students research, as well as their presentation skills, and take into account the education level of the student. A year's membership in the Estuarine Research Federation (including a subscription to Estuaries) and a framed certificate were presented at the banquet Friday Evening in the Alumni Hall of St. Mary's College in Maryland.

Roxanne Koppenhaver and Caitlin Vaughn, undergraduates from Hood College were recognized for their exceptional poster



Caitlin Vaughn (center) and Roxanne Koppenhaver (right) accept their award from Chris Jones at the Friday Evening Banquet in St. Marys. (photo courtesy of Leila Hamden)

presentation entitled "*The Effect of Barley Straw Extract on the Growth of Harmful Marine Algal Species.*" Jennifer Wu Stanhope, a master's student at VIMS was recognized for her presentation entitled "*The Effect of Land Use on Ground Water*



A grateful Timothy Tefteau accepts his award. (photo courtesy of David Yozzo)

Nutrient Discharges to Streams in Watersheds of Eastern Shore Coastal Lagoons, Virginia." Unfortunately, she departed without attending the banquet, and is not pictured here.

Timothy Tefteau, an undergraduate from Salisbury University, received recognition for his presentation entitled "*The Use of the Stable Isotope ¹¹¹Cd to Determine the Uptake of Cadmium from Three Different Uptake Pathways on The Estuarine Fish Fundulus heteroclitus.*"



Theo Thwing a student from Lehigh University received the most coveted award of all - piano and voice lessons (as well as lessons in extreme patience) from Dan Dauer of Old Dominion University. (photo courtesy of Leila Hamden)

Kent Mountford Featured in *Washington Post* Article

Kent Z. Mountford, Estuarine Ecologist and Environmental Historian, Long Standing (sometimes sitting) AERS Member and AERS Historian, was recently featured in an article in *The Washington Post*. His presentation dealing with outhouses (“*you know, the outhouse:*

"I began to think, outhouses, are they so bad?"

the close stool, the temple of ease, the jakes, the bog-shop, the garde-robe, or, as it was most often called

in early America, the necessary”) caught the attention of Nelson Hernandez, *Washington Post* staff writer.

The article, which appeared in *The Washington Post* Maryland Section on Sunday November 17, 2002 can still be viewed at the *Post*'s web site (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A64859-2002Nov16¬Found=true>).

The article describes Kent and another local scholar's fascination with scatological architecture. Although the two scholars have never met, their shared interest in outhouses has brought them both some degree of notoriety. Kent admits to having been contacted by outhouse aficionados from as far away as Texas after the article ran.

Just the facts ma'am...

- 1 Preregister (see page 2 for details)
- 1 Submit Abstracts—Deadline February 14 (see page 2 for details)
- 1 Submit Nominations for Secretary and President (see page 6 for details)
- 1 Make hotel reservations—Deadline March 1 (see page 3 for details)
- 1 Students apply for Travel Award—Deadline February 14 (see page 3 for details)
- 1 Valentine's Day—February 14—mess this up and it could ruin your whole year
- 1 Abstract deadline for ERF Seattle—March 3



Nagging Dues Article

Please disregard this article if your dues have been paid. I knew you would keep reading, because your dues are NOT paid up. Look at your label. The first date is the date from which your dues have been continuously current. That first date may not be when you think you joined, but it IS the date you began paying your dues after letting your membership lapse.

The second year is the date your dues are current. It needs to say either 'HM' (honorary Member) or '2003.' AERS needs the money. We can't continue to mail this fine publication to you if you don't maintain your membership. AERS dues are calendar-year dues, and they are PAST-DUE at the end of the Spring Meeting. Please send your dues in to the Membership chair. Since Steve Storms has begun driving the Lamborghini, I think it is good practice for the Membership Chair to get the dues so we at least have a record before the Treasurer uses them for a another car payment.

AERS Elections Scheduled; Candidates' Statements

The future of AERS is at stake! It is time for our biennial elections. The Offices of President and Secretary are to be filled by a ballot at the Spring Meeting. The person elected President will serve as President-elect for a year, President for 2 years, and Past-President for a year. The person elected Secretary will serve a 2-year term. Both elected officers will assume the mantle of leadership (you know - take office) immediately following the counting of the ballots. According to the AERS Constitution, nominations can be made by anyone, and don't close until the balloting begins. So if you want to run, or suggest someone for the ballot you have plenty of time. Nominations can be made to Iris Anderson (the Nominations Chair), or they can be made from the floor during the appropriate time in the business meeting. It is best that nominations be made in advance so that those nominated can share their feelings, and résumés with us in the *AERS News*.

Several nominations have already been made, and the nominees have accepted (if nominated they WILL run – if elected they WILL serve...yada yada). Remember that the future of AERS does depend on the selections you make for officers, AND you must be present at the election to vote!

Chris Swarth – Nominee for President

I received my B.S. in zoology from Humboldt State University and, in 1983, my M.S. in biology from California State University, Hayward, where my focus was ornithology and estuarine ecology. In the San Francisco Bay area, I was Vice President of the Golden Gate Audubon Society (1983-1985). I joined AERS in 1990, and have served on the board as Secretary (1999-2001) and Nominations (1996-1998) and Membership Chair (2001-2003).

Since 1989, I have been the Director of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, a research station and education center on the Patuxent River in Maryland. I have served on the boards of the Audubon Naturalist Society in Washington D.C., the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators, and the scientific advisory board of Hudsonia at Bard College. I also teach estuarine ecology in the graduate school at Johns Hopkins University and am a site manager with the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. My research interests range from the ecology of the reptiles – principally turtles – and water birds that inhabit tidal wetlands, to nitrogen cycling and sedimentation dynamics.

AERS plays a vital role by linking professionals and students who share an interest in the science of estuaries. As President of AERS, I would maintain our long, successful tradition of holding enjoyable meetings that combine a broad mix of estuarine topics with the informality that make it easy to visit with old friends and to make new friends. Our society does need to work to attract more senior scientists to our meetings, and I would continue to encourage attendance by students and by those who work for local and state resource agencies. I would also explore new opportunities for AERS to provide greater leadership and professional advice on regional issues affecting estuaries.

David Yozzo – Nominee for President

Dr. Yozzo began his professional career as a Re-

search Associate and Lecturer at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in 1994. While at VIMS, he conducted research on secondary production and nekton habitat utilization in tidal wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay. He was also a collaborating Principal Investigator with the Virginia Coast Reserve Long-Term Ecological Research Program. In 1995, Dr. Yozzo accepted a National Research Council (NRC) Research Associateship at the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES). While at WES, Dr. Yozzo worked on the development of an ecological decision framework for aquatic habitat restoration projects. He also participated in the development of functional assessment methods for the evaluation of coastal and freshwater wetlands based on the USACE's Hydrogeomorphic Approach.

Dr. Yozzo joined Barry A. Vittor & Associates, Inc. in 1997 as a Senior Program Manager and Senior Scientist. He currently manages Vittor and Associates' Northeastern Division Office and is responsible for a wide variety of environmental projects. He currently manages several projects in support of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) of the New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He has supervised baseline data collection for the USACE's Hudson River Habitat Restoration (HRHR) Feasibility Study and the Norton Basin/Little Bay Environmental Restoration Study. He has evaluated habitat restoration projects in the Blackwater Estuary, East Anglia, U.K. Dr. Yozzo is currently conducting research on the effects of invasive plant species on habitat utilization and energy transfer in tidal wetlands of the Hudson River, and Long Island Sound (Housatonic River). Dr. Yozzo is currently an adjunct Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences at Purchase College, SUNY.

Drew Ferrier – Nominee for Secretary.

Drew Ferrier is an Associate Professor of Biology at

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Hood College in Frederick, MD. He also directs Hood's graduate program in Environmental Biology and an undergraduate, semester-long program in Coastal Studies. Each spring semester Drew teaches in this program as he and his students travel along the Eastern Seaboard studying at marine laboratories and examining coastal environs from South Florida to the Chesapeake Bay. Drew's formal training in marine science began at the University of Maryland where he studied nitrogen dynamics in algal-cnidarian symbioses under the direction of Dr. Chris D'Elia. After graduating in 1992, he spent one year as a visiting Assistant Professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland, before joining the faculty at Hood. Drew's current teaching and research interests center on the ecology of aquatic systems - both freshwater and marine. He and his students are currently investigating such diverse topics as the control of nuisance algal blooms, heavy metal uptake by crayfish, coral physiology, and the feeding ecology of brittle stars.

R. Christian Jones – Nominee for Secretary.

From a background of freshwater ecology at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chris Jones has worked on tidal freshwater systems for the past 18 years. His specific interests include plankton ecology of the tidal freshwater Potomac as well as bioassessment of watersheds using stream macroinvertebrates. Chris has been at George Mason University since 1980 and has worked his way from green assistant professor to weathered department chair. He has

Tidal Tidbits

Inaugural National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

April 13-16, 2003 - Baltimore, Maryland Register online at www.estuaries.org for "Saving Our Coastal Heritage" – the Inaugural National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration! The Conference, hosted by Restore America's Estuaries, will be held April 13-16, 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel.

The full spectrum of the restoration community will convene for the first time to advance the practice, knowledge, pace and success of habitat restoration. Incorporating the nonprofit, government, business and academic sectors, this gathering will enable networking and communication throughout the growing habitat restoration movement.

Satellite Remote Sensing in Biological Oceanography

Summer 2003 (May 28 - June 7 or June 14) This variable-

credit course is a streamlined version of the highly successful Cornell summer course that was offered from 1999 to 2001. The course will focus exclusively on satellite data processing. It is geared toward oceanographers and prospective oceanographers that have little or no background in satellite remote sensing methods. The goal of the course is to enable participants to work independently to acquire data from a variety of satellite sensors (SeaWiFS, MODIS, AVHRR, SSM/I, SeaWinds and Topex-Poseidon) and merge data sets from different sensors to examine biological response to changes in the physical environment. The course will be taught by Dr. Bruce Monger.

The course is open to advanced undergraduate students, graduate students and post-graduate professionals. Participants have the option of earning either 3 or 5 semester credits of EAS 475 Special Topics in Oceanography. Participants who successfully complete 11 days (May 28 to June 7) of intensive lectures and hands-on computer exercises will earn 3 credits. Participants who spend an additional week (May 28 to June 14) working on a supervised research project will earn 5 credits. Participants seeking the 5-credit option are encouraged, but not required, to come with existing research topics to work on during the supervised research period. The minimum prerequisite for this course is one semester of oceanography and/or marine biology or instructor's permission. Good analytical and computer skills are desirable, but not essential.

Visiting Scientist Awards for Summer- Fall 2003 Baruch Marine Field Laboratory University of South Carolina Georgetown, SC

Applications are being accepted for awards to support investigators interested in spending 2 to 4 weeks in residence at the Baruch Marine Field Laboratory at North Inlet Estuary, during the 2003 field season.

Faculty level investigators who would benefit from the close proximity of a variety of salt marsh/estuarine habitats and a modern research facility are encouraged to apply. We especially encourage scientists with interests in establishing long-term research programs in the area. Proposals for field-based studies that can be supported by existing infrastructure and extant databases will be favored. Information on the BMFL, the study site, and the faculty associated with the Marine Science Program can be found at www.baruch.sc.edu.

Each award will provide \$3000 of support for salary, travel, and research expenses. In addition, we are offering laboratory/office space, access to equipment, use of small boats, and single bedroom accommodations at no charge. Awardees will be expected to present a research seminar during their stay.

Applications are due by February 14. Please direct inquiries and applications to: Dr. Dennis M. Allen, Baruch Marine Field laboratory, USC, P.O. Box 1630, Georgetown, SC 29442, phone 843 546 3623, email dallen@belle.baruch.sc.edu.

Atlantic Estuarine Research Society

an affiliate of the *Estuarine Research Federation*

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Spring Meeting – Call for Papers – Elections!

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