

★ **Atlantic Estuarine Research Society**  
 ★ an affiliate of the *Estuarine Research Federation*  
 ★ 67Meyer Lane  
 ★ Stafford, VA 22556-3430

★ Register on-line for the Spring Meeting at [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info) By February 1st



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# AERS NEWS



All the news that'll fit, and then some

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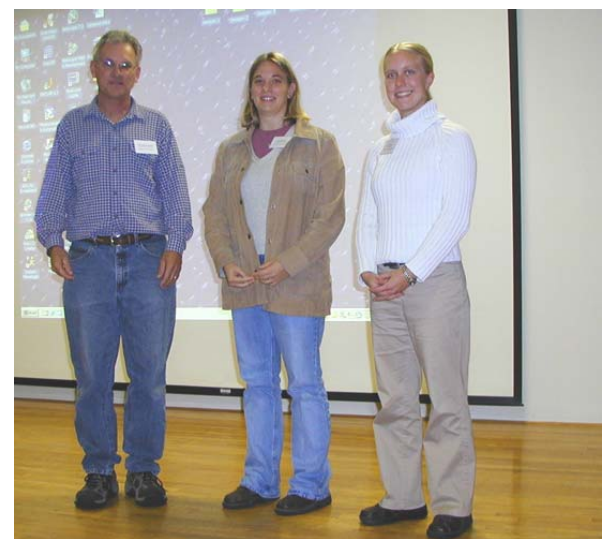
## AERS Fall Meeting Success with a Northern Exposure

By Jennifer W. Stanhope & Jessie J. Campbell

The AERS Fall meeting held at the NJ Meadowlands Environment Center in Lyndhurst, NJ was a great success! A total of 113 scientists, students, and managers from 7 states (NJ, NY, PA, DE, MD, VA, WV) attended the conference. During the two-day meeting we witnessed 7 panel presentations, 26 technical presentations, and 34 posters ranging in topics from salt marsh restoration techniques to essential fatty acid transfer in plankton communities. As usual, all of the presentations were very well thought out and generated many interesting questions.

The Meeting began with a special panel presentation entitled "Challenges and Successes in Es-

See Fall Meeting (Continued on page 5)



President Chris Swarth and student Awards winners Heidi Mahon and Lori Lester at Fall 2004 Meeting. Not pictured is Tiffany Gregg. See Awards page 3 for more information.

Photo by Dave Yozzo

## Spring Meeting to be held on Solomons Island at the Calvert Marine Museum—March 10-12.

The Spring AERS Meeting will be held on Solomons Island at the Calvert Marine Museum, March 10-12. The call for abstracts is currently open, but the deadline for submission is scheduled for February 1. On-line submission and more meeting details are available at [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info). Jennifer W. Stanhope & Jessie J. Campbell will again be the program chairs, and have already managed to arrange several interesting panel discussions and a workshop. The Featured Panel Topic is "Remote Sensing and Shallow Water Monitoring in Estuaries." The keynote speaker, Dr. Hans Paerl, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina will give a presentation entitled "New Indicators and Approaches for Estuarine Water Quality Monitoring: From Microbes to Remote Sensing." . Dr. Paerl studies the nutrient production dynamics of aquatic microbes at the base of the estuarine and coastal food webs, focusing on environmental controls of algal (planktonic and benthic)

See Spring Meeting Plans (Continued on page 4)

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## Chris's Swarthy Sayings

President Chris Swarth

AERS takes pride in our tradition of promoting estuarine science and of holding meetings that have an informal atmosphere conducive to good scientific exchange, fun and camaraderie. Those who attended our meeting in New Jersey at the Meadowlands Commission experienced this first hand. We were very happy to have another great turnout – 130 attendees – at that meeting. This conference confirmed what we learned last spring in Salisbury – a format with a keynote address and a panel of speakers boosts attendance and makes for a livelier meeting. We're planning a similar agenda for the meeting in Solomon's in March.

Almost half of the talks and many of the posters at Meadowlands described investigations of serious environmental issues affecting mid-Atlantic estuaries and coastal wetlands. Issues that impact estuaries – from heavy metal contamination and invasive species to over-enrichment with nutrients – are complex problems that will demand attention and action for many years. AERS helps scientists, managers and students learn about issues of immediate environmental concern by providing a forum for the exchange new information and ideas. AERS meetings are also known for being student friendly. By holding frequent, small conferences with only a single session for oral papers, each speaker can expect a full house and plenty of challenging questions from the audience. AERS offers other opportunities for students, too. Students can take a leadership role by joining one of our committees or by joining the board. We always need help when conference time rolls around and during the meeting there are plenty of jobs large and small. Newsletter editor Frank Reilly is frequently looking for news items and contributors. And, according to Frank, getting a note published in the AERS News is almost as

prestigious as publishing in Estuaries. So students, don't be bashful. Visit our web page and see if there is an area where you might like to get involved.

Endowment and Student Awards chair Stan Hales is leaving the board after serving successfully in this position for the past several years. We'll miss Stan in his official capacity, but we hope to see him at future meetings and not just those in New Jersey. Taking over for Stan and continuing to represent Pine Barrens and the "Shore", is Dr. Peter Straub. Peter is long-time AERS member and he teaches in the Biology Department at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, in Pomona, NJ. Peter jumped into action last October by leading the student judging process.

We also bid farewell to governing board member and webmaster Janet Nestlerode. Janet ably crafted our web page from the hallowed halls of VIMS and she kept at it even after she received her doctorate and moved on to a real job. She passed the torch to fellow VIMS graduate student Joel Hoffman. Welcome Joel, and thanks for taking on this important task.

I hope to see everyone at the Solomon's meeting, set for March 10-12.

### AERS Business Meeting Highlights

By Chris Jones

- Strong financial status of AERS
  - Decision to increase student support to \$150/awardee in future meetings in exchange for helping with AV, etc.
  - Success of PayPal
  - Continuing work on Constitution and incorporation issues
  - Coming ERF meeting at Norfolk
  - New webmaster needed
- The complete minutes of the AERS business Meeting are available at: [http://www.aers.info/meeting\\_minutes/AERSboardF04.pdf](http://www.aers.info/meeting_minutes/AERSboardF04.pdf)

**Student Travel Awards Available**  
A limited number of student travel awards are available for the Spring Meeting. See [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info) for information and apply to Pete Straub (Peter.Straub@stockton.edu)  
**February 1 Deadline**

## Fall Meeting

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uarine Habitat Restoration – the Hudson-Raritan Estuary," featuring Dennis Suszkowski, Director of the Hudson River Foundation and major environmental science force in the New York/New Jersey Estuary. For more information about this special panel please see "Estuarine Habitat Restoration" (page 5).

We would like to thank our meeting co-sponsors, SWS (the Society of Wetland Scientists-Mid-Atlantic Chapter) and the Louis Berger Group, Inc., and our hosts, the NJ Meadowlands Commission and Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute, who all played key roles in the success of the fall meeting. We send a special thank you to Stan Hales, Dave Yozzo, Steve Storms, and Cathy Czerwinski for all their extra effort in the planning and running of the fall meeting. Thank you to all who attended and we hope to see you in Maryland for the AERS Spring 2005 Meeting, March 10-12!

ERF NEWS (Continued from page 4)

agement applications of the scientific findings. The current issue features articles on the history of the fish populations in coastal Louisiana, heavy metals in estuarine sediments, and oyster and sea grass restoration. Just go to the ERF web page to access these well-written summaries.

**Journal Undergoes a Name Change**—At its meeting in November, the ERF governing board made several important decisions. To more accurately reflect the actual breadth of papers published in our journal and to appeal to a broader cross-section of scientists, the governing board voted to change the name of the ERF journal Estuaries to Estuaries and Coasts.

**Conference Enhancement Funds Now Available.** The board also voted to allocate funds to enhance the conferences held by the various affiliate societies. These funds will be used to hold special workshops or to cover the costs of bringing speakers to our meetings. We plan to request funds to help support our workshop on publishing at the Solomons meeting.

## Estuarine Habitat Restoration—The Hudson-Raritan Estuary AERS Fall 2004 Special Symposium

By David Yozzo

The fall 2004 AERS meeting began with an invited panel session entitled "Challenges and Successes in Estuarine Habitat Restoration – the Hudson-Raritan Estuary." AERS Executive Board member Dave Yozzo moderated the session. Dennis Suszkowski, Hudson River Foundation, delivered a keynote address in which he described the long history of pollution impacts to the New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary and the progress which has been made in the past few decades towards restoration. He also described the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program's Contaminant Assessment and Reduction (CARP) Program. Steve Zahn, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, presented the results of a baseline environmental study of borrow pits located in eastern Jamaica Bay. The pits, slated for bathymetric recontouring using dredged material, exhibit striking indicators of degradation caused by decades of hydrodynamic isolation and poor water quality. Both technical and political challenges need to be resolved to undertake this restoration project. Dan Miller, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, presented an overview of historic shoreline changes in the upper Hudson River Estuary, including dredging and filling, shoreline hardening, and construction of stream barriers on tributaries. HRNERR is working to restore lost ecosystem function associated with these changes. Erik Kiviat, Hudsonia, Ltd., reviewed biodiversity resources in the Hackensack Meadowlands, with particular emphasis on the consideration of biodiversity in restoration planning. Peg McBrien, the Louis Berger Group, described a newly developed Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) functional assessment procedure being used for restoration planning and evaluation within the Hackensack Meadowlands District. Len Houston, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, presented an overview of the USACE's Hudson-Raritan Estuary Study, a regional ecosystem restoration consortium of multiple agencies and institutions, with a series of restoration projects currently underway. Carl Alderson, NOAA's Restoration Center, described faunal recolonization of restored salt marshes in the Arthur Kill waterway, the location a catastrophic oil spill in the early 1990s. Unfortunately, audio-visual problems resulted in a late start for the panel discussion, and the scheduled question-and-answer session had to be canceled. However, many of the panelists attended the catered lunch event and participated in lively and informative discussions with AERS members while voraciously consuming deli sandwiches and brownies.

*Spring Meeting Plans (Continued from page 1)*

production, community structure, and assessment of the causes and consequences of human-induced eutrophication of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal oceans.

The panel will consist of Dr. Tom Miller, Staff Scientist, Chesapeake Biological Lab, University of Maryland; Bruce Michael, Director of Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment Division for Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Dr. Kevin Sellner, Director of the Chesapeake Research Consortium, Edgewater, Maryland; Dr. Ken Moore, Associate Professor, School of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Research Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia. The Special panel will be Moderated by Dr. Mark Bundy, Assistant Secretary for Chesapeake Bay Programs, Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

A special workshop is also planned for Saturday featuring the esteemed managing editor of Estuaries, Steven Threlkeld. His presentation will be entitled "Peer Review and Scientific Writing: an editor's advice for authors new and old alike." Steve will provide information on the ins and outs of preparing a scientific paper and getting it accepted for publication. Although the publishing process still remains a dark mystery of science, the insights of an editor should help us all become more efficient in our writing and better prepared when we struggle to crank out a manuscript. Steve will discuss how a paper is evaluated as well as the review and editing process, and perhaps most importantly, what to do when the manuscript is returned with a list of changes and sometimes sharp critical comments. This workshop will be extremely useful for everyone who wants to learn more about publishing their work in a scientific journal.

Advanced registration for this meeting is essential. Failure to register in advance will not only

result in a significantly higher registration rate, but may also result in slurs and innuendo concerning both you and your institution! Register on-line, and pay on line using PayPal. See [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info) for info'.

**ERF NEWS**

AERS is one of seven ERF affiliates located along our coasts. ERF employs two fulltime staff members and a managing editor, in its headquarters office in Calvert County, Maryland. ERF is governed by a board of elected and appointed members. The governing board meets twice each year and at those meetings AERS is represented by our current president and occasionally by the president-elect. For the full picture of what ERF is up to, go to the ERF web page at [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org). Here is a summary of the latest:

**ERF 2005 Conference Website Now Open**

According to the ERF conference organizing committee, "We are preparing for a large and intellectually rewarding conference. Through the conference theme (Estuarine Interactions: Biological-Physical Feedbacks and Adaptations), we are making special efforts to promote interaction among estuarine and coastal scientists and managers and integration across disciplines. We look forward to receiving your abstracts!" The '05 ERF conference set for Norfolk, is taking shape under the able leadership of, among others, AERS own Linda Blum and Bob Christian. The website for the upcoming ERF 2005 biennial conference is open, including the Scientific Program, and abstract submission guidelines and more. Abstracts can be submitted starting January 12 and the deadline for submission is March 15, 2005.

**Coastal and Estuarine Science News - CESN** is a web-based service provided by ERF to its members and to the estuarine management and research community at large. CESN provides summaries of selected articles from the ERF journal Estuaries. The summary articles emphasize man-

*See ERF NEWS (Continued on page 5)*

**Mahon, Gregg & Lester given awards for their presentations at the AERS Meeting, Fall 2004**

At each meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society a panel of judges observes all of the presentations both oral and poster, and can make an award based on the scientific merit of the projected as well as the style and substance of the actual presentation. Awardees receive a student membership in the Estuarine Research Federation and a complimentary membership in AERS.

This Fall the best student presentation by a Ph.D.—level student was delivered by Heidi Mahon, of the Department of Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Her presentation was entitled, "PARTICLE SELECTION DYNAMICS OF SURFACE DEPOSIT FEEDERS: ROLES OF PARTICLE SIZE, ORGANIC COATING AND ADAPTIVE MORPHOLOGIES."

Tiffany Gregg is an undergraduate student at Millersville University in Millersville, PA. Her poster presentation, "CONTRIBUTION OF PHYTOPLANKTON AND FLOATING ALGAL MAT PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO ECOSYSTEM METABOLISM OF A MANGROVE CHANNEL" was judged to be the best poster presentation.

The Judges recognized Lori Lester for her platform presentation, "HATCHLING EMERGENCE PATTERNS FROM NATURAL NESTS OF THE NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN (*MALACLEMYS TERRAPIN TERRAPIN*). Lori Lester did her work at The Wetlands Institute and is an undergraduate at Allegheny College in Monroeville, PA.

**Elections slated—Nominations Needed**

AERS elects officers each Spring for two-year terms of office. In alternate years we select Treasurer, but this year we select President-elect and Secretary. This staggered election schedule keeps some corporate memory on the Governing Board, while allowing our President to serve a term on the ERF Governing Board (as our representative) that is synchronized with the planning cycle for the biennial ERF Meeting. At this time, we are soliciting nominations for the position of AERS Secretary, to be elected at the Solomon's meeting. Feel free to recruit among new AERS members; previous Board experience not needed. Secretary's serve for two years beginning at the end of the Spring Meeting in which they are elected. Duties include recording and disseminating the minutes of the meetings of the Society and the Society's Governing Board. Presidents serve a year as President-elect, two years as President, and an additional year as Past-President. At the time of this writing, two candidates have been named for President, and one for Secretary. Nominations remain open until the election ballot at the Business Meeting. Nominations should be lodged with Dave Yozzo [dyozzo@bvaenviro.com](mailto:dyozzo@bvaenviro.com).



Photo by Dave Yozzo

**Steve Storms named Venerable Clam**

Steve Storms, long—time (very very long time!) member of AERS was tapped out as the Venerable Clam at the fall 2004 meeting in the Meadowlands. Venerable Clams are anointed for their long-term service to AERS and more importantly for their advancing years. Steve was the oldest member present, and therefore received the honor. He uttered his thanks and was heard to say, "I'm not really the oldest—am I?"

**New Honorary Member**

By Mario Vieira

At the Spring 2004 meeting Dr. Joseph A. Mihursky was nominated and elected for honorary membership in AERS. Dr. Mihursky graduated from Lafayette College, Easton, PA in 1954 with a Biology degree. This was followed by a M.S. in Microbiology from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA in 1957, and a Ph.D. in Zoology/Ecology from Lehigh in 1962. Some highlights of Dr. Mihursky's brilliant career:

- Research Professor at what is now the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, 1967-1975.
- Interim Director of CBL, 1975-1976.
- Senatorial Science Fellow, US Senate, 1982.
- Interim Director and Associate Director of CBL, 1982-1985.
- Director of CBL, 1988-1994.
- Professor at CBL, 1977- present.

**Lodging choices—Be sure to mention AERS when registering:****Comfort Inn Beacon Marina**

255 Lore Rd Solomons, MD 20688

Phone: 410-326-6303 <http://www.comfortinn.com> Rooms will be held until February 20, 2005.

**Holiday Inn Select**

155 Holiday Drive Solomons, MD 20688 Phone: 410-326-6311

web reservation info is available at [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info), Rooms will be held until February 11, 2005.