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an affiliate of the Estuarine Research Federation  
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# AERS NEWS



All the news that'll fit, and then some

Volume 2006 Number 1

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## AERS Spring Meeting - The Philadelphia Story!

By Dave Osgood

AERS is excited to announce its spring 2006 meeting (March 9-11) within the dynamic metropolis of Center City Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The meeting will be conducted at the historic Academy of Natural Sciences. The Academy, founded in 1812, is replete with scientific history including significant contributions to the aquatic sciences. It is appropriate that AERS collaborate with the Academy for this meeting featuring a Delaware Estuary theme. The conference is co-hosted by the Academy, Albright College, & ENSR International and will feature a keynote presentation and panel discussion entitled "The Delaware Estuary -

See Spring Meeting  
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Academy of Natural Sciences

Photo courtesy of Academy of Natural Sciences

## ERF 2005 Report from Norfolk

By Chris Swarth

As we would expect, there was a large contingent of AERS members at the Norfolk meeting and many AERS members were on the conference organizing committee. We give a hearty knuckle salute to former AERS presidents Linda Blum and Bob Christian for their leadership role with the Norfolk conference. They worked for two years on this conference with a team of about 30 others. Linda was chair of the entire conference and Bob Christian co-chaired the scientific program. What an undertaking and we thank them for their commitment and hard work! Other AERSians who helped were:

Vic Kennedy and Carl Friedrichs were in charge of the poster sessions.

Dan Dauer and Janet Nestlerode, with the help of Heidi Mahon and Beth Hinchey, organized dozens of student volunteers.

Kevin Sellner organized the special two-day symposium on the Chesapeake Bay.

Bob Orth helped raise funds to support the

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## Chris's Swarthy Sayings

President Chris Swarth

If you were at the Norfolk meeting in October you had the chance to see the large and informative poster that was prepared by Leila Hamdan on the history of estuarine science. Leila put a lot of work into the poster and it received rave reviews from everyone who stopped by to read it. I hope that the text will eventually be posted on the ERF and AERS web pages since there is much of interest for all of us.

Many mid-Atlantic region estuarine scientists in the 1950s in the early days of our science were also members of AERS. As a result, much of the history of estuarine science is intertwined with the history of AERS. (AERS was organized in 1949. ) For example, the dynamics and physics

of estuarine circulation were investigated and explained by Don Pritchard while he was with the Chesapeake Bay Institute south of Annapolis. His discoveries made it possible for generations of estuarine scientists to understand everything from the migration of blue crab larvae and sediment deposition to the development of seasonal anoxia in the deeper parts of the Chesapeake. He, of course, also was the first to put forth a modern and exact definition of an estuary: "an estuary is a semi-enclosed body of water having a free connection with the open ocean and within which sea water is measurably diluted with fresh water derived from land drainage."

Dr. Pritchard, was an early member of AERS, though according to him, not quite an official founding member. At the 1997 ERF meeting in Providence, when he was presented with the Odum Lifetime Achievement Award, he re-

marked, "As my long time friend and colleague Gene Cronin wants to remind me, I was not actually a founding member to the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society, since I did not attend a planning meeting held in early 1949 at the Duke Marine Laboratory, although I did participate in the actual first scientific meeting of the AERS, also held in 1949. I have always felt very honored that AERS included me, together with Gene Cronin and several other estuarine scientists from our era, in the first group to be named 'Honorary Members' of AERS."

In addition to Don Pritchard and Gene Cronin, AERS has honored twenty-seven men and women for their important contributions to estuarine science and to AERS.

Another document that traces our early history is a booklet that recounts the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AERS,

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### AERS HONORARY MEMBERS

J. Andrews	Sidney Galler	Kent Mountford
C. Bookout	William J. Hargis	Nancy Mountford
David Cargo	Dexter Haven	Marria O'Malley-Walsh
Mel Carriker	Victor S. Kennedy	Victor Sprague
Michael (Mike) Castagna	Alice J. Lippson	Willard (Van)Van Engel
Alphonse (Al) F. Chestnut	Nelson Marshall	John Vernberg
John D. Costlow	John McDermott	Austin B. Williams
William B. Cronin	J. L. McHugh	Richard Williams
Ford (Bud) Cross	Joe Mihursky	Jerome (Jerry) Williams

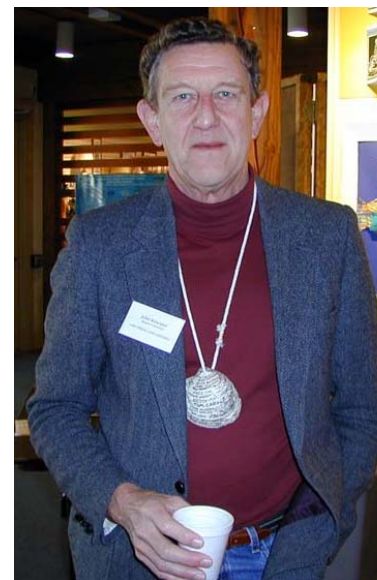
## Spring Meeting

*(Continued from page 1)*

*much improved water quality, but...*" and some sub-themes, including trophic relations and anthropogenic impacts are possible. AERS is currently accepting abstracts up to the submission deadline of Feb. 1 2006. Lodging is being provided through the Best Western Center City and Crowne Plaza Center City. Reservation deadlines for discount rates are Feb. 9th and 16th, respectively. Please remember that student travel awards are currently available and student volunteers will receive a 50% discount on registration. For more information on travel awards, volunteering, and registration please refer to [www.aers.info](http://www.aers.info). More information about the Academy is available at [www.acnatsci.org](http://www.acnatsci.org). See you there!

## VENERABLE CLAM PRESENTED TO VENERABLE CLAM BIOLOGIST JOHN KRAEUTER AT SOLOMONS

On Friday night at the banquet at the elegant Light-house Restaurant in Solomons, long-time AERS member and former Society president John N.



Kraeuter, was presented with the famous Venerable Clam. John is a benthic ecologist/shellfish biologist/aquaculturist with deep roots on the Atlantic Seaboard. He graduated from Florida

John Kraeuter Smiles his BEST smile for the camera on the occasion of winning the Venerable Clam Award

*Photo by Dave Yozzo*

State University (BA), William and Mary (VIMS) (MS) and worked on Scaphopods at the University of Delaware (Ph.D). He worked on a post-doc (marshes and continental shelf) at the University of Georgia and then at Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. He spent many years as a principal scientist at the VIMS Wachapreague, VA, Shellfish Lab with Mike Castagna where the two were instrumental in developing what is now known as the hard clam aquaculture industry. He then moved to Baltimore Gas and Electric where he developed a Striped Bass aquaculture facility and then on to Rutgers University (Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory). John now lives in Cape May, NJ, where his active expertise was put to work at the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory at Bivalve on the Delaware Bay. He is Associate Director and is now building New Jersey's shellfish (hard clams and oysters) and aquaculture programs. AERS members from up and down the coast salute John

### Meeting at a Glance

#### Thursday pm

400-600 Executive Board Meeting  
600-900 Registration  
700-900 Evening Social (North American Gallery)

#### Friday am (Registration all day)

800-830 Continental Breakfast  
830-845 Opening Remarks and Introduction  
845-930 Keynote Address  
930-1215 Panel Presentations/Discussion & Technical Presentations  
100-430 Technical Presentations  
430-530 Business Meeting  
530-700 Poster Session and Happy Hour (North American Gallery)  
700-900 Banquet (Dinosaur Hall)

#### Saturday am

800-1200 Technical Presentations  
1200 Student Awards  
1200 – 400 Field Trip (John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum – Tidal Fresh-water Marsh)



*Solomons (Continued from page 5)*  
During the festivities we managed to award the Venerable Clam to long-time AERS member and former AERS president John Kraeuter. Everyone was up early on

of cartoons. Steve's years of experience steering the journal forward make him uniquely suited to the topic he was discussing. The audience received a morning of solid, useful information (and a good

esting mix of speakers and plenty of encouragement for students

A large number of individuals worked very hard to make the meeting a success. Jennifer Stanhope and especially Jessie Campbell – VIMS students extraordinaire - did a superb job of handling the registration, abstracts, program and a myriad of other tasks. Thanks also to treasurer Leila Hamdan, membership chair Steve Storms for their help during the conference. Joel Hoffman kept the web site humming along with up-to-date conference information. Heidi Mahon organized a well-attended pizza lunch at the Chesapeake Biological Lab. Thanks to Kent Mountford for putting up Steve Threlkeld at his home overlooking St. Leonard's Creek, and to Joy Bartholomew and Janet Barnes for joining us and for helping to make the meeting a success. The Douglass Alves provided the Museum to us at a significant discount.



**Rogues Gallery.** From right to left Tom Jones, Linda Blum, Bob Paul, Chris Swarth, Steve Fuller, John Kraeuter, Dave Yozzo, and Bob (*I did read the AERSNews*) Christian  
*Photo Courtesy Solomons Police Blotter*

Saturday to attend the workshop and discussion on writing and publishing by Estuaries editor Steve Threlkeld. His talk was liberally sprinkled with wit, wisdom and plenty

breakfast too) on the ins and outs of getting yourself into print.

We were pleased that attendance hit or exceeded our goal of 125. Provide an inter-



#### **Jon Sharp to be Keynote at Spring Meeting**

Keynote speaker for the spring meeting is Dr. Jonathon Sharp. Dr. Sharp is Professor of Oceanography at the University of Delaware Graduate College of Marine Studies, in Lewes. He has devoted over twenty-five years to investigations of the biological, chemical and physical properties of the Delaware estuary where his research focuses especially on the estuary's biogeochemical cycles and nutrient dynamics. He is currently assembling a century-long record of dissolved oxygen data in the Delaware. His many graduate students have moved on to important positions in estuarine and marine science around the country. Dr. Sharp's specific research interests center on:

- Microbial biogeochemistry of major bioelements in estuarine, coastal, and oceanic waters.
- Refinement of analytical methodology for improved long-term and large-area trend assessment.
- Coral reef biogeochemistry.
- Translation of aquatic chemistry research for resource management.

*(Continued from page 2)*  
held in Beaufort in March 1998. While reading that short history recently I learned that we held a meeting in Philadelphia in 1961, though I'm not sure where. I also learned that AERS members have a long tradition of meeting in a variety of interesting places: hotel basements, abandoned barracks, church social halls, abandoned pumping stations, college libraries, Naval Officer's clubs, university labs, wetlands research stations, and, in more modern times, even in fancy hotels. Our spring meeting will carry on this tradition.

In March we will meet in

one of the oldest scientific institutions in the United States. The Academy of Natural Sciences was founded in 1812. The Academy is also home to the Ruth Patrick Center for Environmental Research, whose purpose is to understand aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, including the effects of natural processes and human activities. Dr. Ruth Patrick was a founder in 1967 of the Academy's Estuarine Research Center on the Patuxent River (now operated by Morgan State University). She is still on the scene at the Academy today and we hope to see and meet Dr. Patrick in

March. So when you make

your plans to come to Philadelphia for our spring meeting, please: consider the history of science and the history of estuarine science, the history of AERS and also consider the words of Jerry Williams, longtime AERS member, and the first executive director of the Estuarine Research Federation, who said, "AERS is like a 'search engine' which allows efficiently drawing common or diverse information from many sources. AERS meetings should be informal to maximize this exchange."

We hope to honor Jerry's sage advice. See you in Philadelphia!

#### **ELECTION RESULTS**

At the Spring Meeting in Solomons, MD, elections were held during the Friday evening business meeting at the Calvert Marine Museum. Dave Yozzo, of Barry A. Vittor & Asso-



The newly elected President, Dave Yozzo and Secretary, Julie Ambler.

*Photo provided by Dave Yozzo*

ciates, was elected President, and will begin his term at the Spring 2006 Meeting. Julie Ambler, of Millersville University, was elected Secretary, and will begin her term immediately. This will be Julie's first position on the AERS Board. Dave Osgood, of Albright College, will take over as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

#### **BOARD POSITION OPEN**

AERS is requesting nominations for a new Treasurer, to be elected at the Spring Meeting. Our esteemed Treasurer, Leila Hamdan, has announced that she will be stepping down after the Spring Meeting and driving her brand new solid silver Cadillac Escalade to Las Vegas. She has amassed more pairs of shoes in her tenure as Treasurer than Emelda Marcos! To replace her, AERS is currently accepting nominations for a Treasurer to serve a 2-year term. Nominations can be submitted to David Osgood ([dosgood@alba.edu](mailto:dosgood@alba.edu)) up until the election at the business meeting on Friday, March 10.



MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT ELECT

Dave Yozzo

My home is in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. Ten miles to my east lies the Hudson River, the estuary that gets the majority of my professional and recreational attention; chasing killifish through the Phragmites; monitoring habitat restoration projects; organizing kayak trips on warm summer weekends; and fishing for stripers and smallmouth bass in the tidal coves. Less than 30 miles to my west, where for no good reason I rarely venture, lie the headwaters of another great estuary - The Delaware. Yesterday morning I decided to drive west along Route 28. There is a ridge along the Ulster and Delaware County line - sort of a mini-continental divide. To the east, all waters flow towards the Hudson; to the west, several streams (Emory Brook, Vly Creek, Red Kill, and others) flow into the

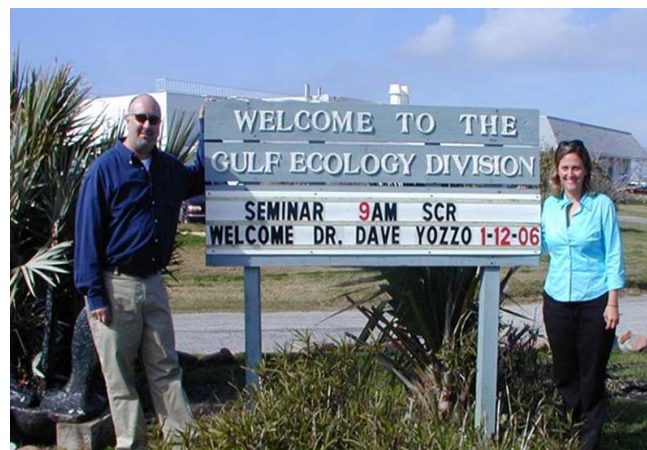
East Branch of the Delaware, which is impounded to form the Pepacton Reservoir. Downstream, at Hancock, NY, 330 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, the East and West branches join to form the Delaware River mainstem, which flows south through the Delaware Water Gap, representing the border between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A major tributary, the Lehigh River, joins the Delaware at Easton, PA., downstream from the Water Gap region. Eventually the river passes Trenton, becoming tidal upstream of Philadelphia and southern New Jersey. The Schuylkill, another major tributary, joins the Delaware in the midst of Philadelphia. South of Wilmington, DE, the estuary widens to form Delaware Bay, reaching the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Henlopen, DE and Cape



Vly Creek, Delaware County, NY, photo by Dave Yozzo

and co-sponsor, the Academy of Natural Sciences, promises to be a fantastic venue for the meeting. During our visit this past summer, Dave Osgood and I had the chance to tour the Academy, and we had the unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and observe an extensive collection of plants (including some from Lewis and Clark's expedition of 1805), fossils, and every possible type of animal specimen that could be stuffed into a jar of formaldehyde, including a hellbender (a salamander the size of a small dog), bats, and monkeys. We also met Dr. Ruth Patrick, the distinguished limnologist and Senior Curator at the Academy. She founded the Academy's Limnology Department, now the Patrick Center for Environmental Research, in 1947. Dr. Patrick mentioned that she was at one time an AERS member, and she promised to attend our meeting, and perhaps say a few words. Hopefully we can encourage her to join the ranks of AERS once again.

May, NJ. I look forward to joining all of AERS in learning more about the Delaware Estuary and Watershed at our Spring Meeting in Philadelphia. Our host institution



Dave Yozzo and Janet Nestlerode holding up the sign at EPA Gulf Breeze Laboratories

*Best Papers (Continued from page 8)*  
"Hydrodynamic behavior of the Cape Fear River estuary: An observational synthesis." (Co-authors: R. A. Luettich and M. A. Mallin)

**First Place**

Michela Burla, OGI School of Science and Engineering, Beaverton, Oregon. "Variability of residence times in the Columbia River estuary and plume: Characterization and ecological implications." (Co-author: A. M. Baptista)

**Second Place**

Thomas Mozdzer, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. "Dissolved organic nitrogen: A neglected pool of bioavailable nitrogen in temperate tidal marsh systems." (Co-authors: Jay C. Ziemann and K. J. McGlathery)

**Poster Honorable Mention**  
Karin Huijts, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands. "Transversal structure of flow, suspended sediment concentration and mud pools in well-mixed estuaries with arbitrary bathymetry." (Co-authors: A. C. Miley, H. E. DeSwart, and H. M. Shuttelaars)

**Best Presentation by an Undergraduate Student First Place**

Gabriella C. Lyons, Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. "Speciation of phosphorus in marine systems."

**Second Place**

Cecilia Lewis, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington. "Behavioral responses of *Oxyrrhis marina* to thin layers of varying prey concentrations."

**IMPORTANT DATES**

March 9-11, 2006 **Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Spring Meeting**. To be held at Philadelphia, PA Academy of Natural Sciences. Abstracts due by February 1. For more information please see: <http://aers.info/>

March 30-April 1, 2006 **Southeast Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Meeting**. To be held at Ponte Vedra Beach/St. Augustine, FL. Abstracts due by February 15th. For more information see <http://links.baruch.sc.edu/seers/meetings.htm>

April 24-27, 2006, **9th National Mitigation & Conservation Banking Conference** to be held in Portland Oregon. Abstracts are now closed. For more information please see: <http://www.mitigationbankingconference.com/>

May 8-11, 2006. **7th Marine & Estuarine Shallow Water Science and Management Conference**. To be held at the Holiday Inn-Boardwalk, Atlantic City. Abstracts due by February 13th. For More Information please see: <http://wetlandsworkgroup.org/>

June 6-8, 2006. **The Ecology and Management of Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) Ecosystems**. To be held at the Holiday Inn-Boardwalk, Atlantic City. Abstracts due by February 10th. For More Information please see: <http://wetlandsworkgroup.org/>

June 9-14. **Society of Wetlands Scientists**. To be held in Cairns Australia. Abstracts due by February 14th. For more information please see: <http://www.catchments.org.au/index.htm>

June 14-15, 2006 "Stream Restoration And Protection In The Mid-Atlantic Region" to be held at Montclair State University's New Jersey School Of Conservation. Abstracts due by January 15. For more information see: [http://awra.org/state/new\\_jersey/mac2006/](http://awra.org/state/new_jersey/mac2006/)

**July 30 - August 5, 2006 "Salt Marsh Restoration & Monitoring - Short Course"** To be held at Humboldt Institute. For more information please see <http://www.eaglehill.us>

August 6-12, 2006. "Advanced Topics in Salt Marsh Restoration & Monitoring - Short Course" To be held at Humboldt Institute. For more information please see <http://www.eaglehill.us>

September 17-23, 2006 "Integrated Ecological Restoration of Rivers & Streams in Floodplains, Riparian Zones & Waterways - Short Course" To be held at Humboldt Institute. For more information please see <http://www.eaglehill.us>

October 23-26, 2006. **9th Wetlands & Water Sheds Workshop in conjunction with Society of Wetlands Scientists - Mid Atlantic Chapter**. To be held at the Holiday Inn-Boardwalk, Atlantic City. Abstracts due by July 18th. For More Information please see: <http://wetlandsworkgroup.org/>

November 5-9, 2006 **27th Annual Society Of Toxicology & Environmental Chemistry**. Montreal, Quebec Canada. Abstracts accepted from February 13 through June 1. For More information please see: [http://setac.org/htdocs/who\\_guna.html](http://setac.org/htdocs/who_guna.html)

December 9-13, 2006 "Restore America's Estuaries." To be held at Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. Deadlines for submissions vary. For More information please see: <http://www.estuaries.org/conference>



## “BEST PAPER” AWARDS PRESENTED TO TEN STUDENTS IN NORFOLK

BY CHRIS SWARTH & JUDITH STRIBLING, STUDENT JUDGING CO-CHAIRS

More than 260 students elected to have their oral presentation or their poster judged at the conference. Judging provides critical feedback by experienced scientists who agree to evaluate a talk or poster. The top students received monetary awards. Judging is only possible through the commitment of many volunteers who agree to take the time to evaluate a presentation. This year in Norfolk there were over 230 judges, including 50 graduate students who judged undergraduate papers. Thanks to everyone! You performed an invaluable service and the students benefited greatly from your time and effort. Helping us at the judging table for three long days were Pat and Frank Reilly, while Erica and Helen Schneider at registration were always there to provide answers to our many questions.

For the coordinators, matching 260 students with 230 judges was like tussling with a long, convoluted logic question on the GRE. Twenty-five variables had to be examined for each student:judge pair and we did this at least three times for each student (three judges were assigned for each presentation). We tried to assign judges to talks related to their specific field of expertise and we tried very hard to keep anyone from racing between the Sheraton to the Marriott to judge back-to-back talks. We

hope we succeeded! After the conference, we mailed the written evaluations to the students (without revealing who the judges were), so they could read the comments made by the judging teams. There were three winners in oral and poster categories, with an Honorable Mention award presented to one student in each category. ERF also awarded prizes to the two best presentations by undergraduate students. The top 50 students in all categories received a copy of Ivan Valiela's book, "Doing Science: Design, Analysis, and Communication of Scientific Research."

Among the ten winning students were:  
Seven women and three men. Eight graduate students (6 PhD. and 2 Masters students) and two undergraduates. Five from the East Coast, two from the West Coast, and one from the Gulf Coast. Two students from other countries (Australia and the Netherlands).

Four presentations focusing on physical processes in estuaries; three on estuarine higher organisms; two on biogeochemistry; and one student studied a non-estuarine subject (corals in the Marshall Islands).

Two students from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences. Congratulations to all! The winning students are shown below:

### Best Oral Presentation by a Graduate Student First Place

Jennifer Spicer, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "Canals vs. Creeks: Channel modification and the distribution of *Spartina alterniflora* and *Geukensia demissa* in a Louisiana tidal salt marsh." (Co-author Eugene Turner)

### Second Place

Meir Sussman, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. "Isolation and identification of the causative agent for a white syndrome coral epizootic in the Marshall Islands." (Co-authors: D.G. Bourne, D. Jacobson, and B. Willis)

### Third Place

Malcolm Scully, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia. "The importance of asymmetries in turbulent mixing to residual circulation in partially-mixed estuaries." (Co-author: C.T. Friedrichs)

### Oral Honorable Mention

Jessie Campbell, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia. "Sexual reproduction of wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*): Why it's worth the effort." (Co-author: K. Moore)

### Best Poster by a Graduate Student First Place

May Ling Becker, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

See Best Papers (Continued on page 9)

ERF Report (Continued from page 1) conference

Judith Stribling and Chris Swarth coordinated student judging and were ably assisted by Pat and Frank Reilly.

Two AERS students won awards for best student papers. Thomas Mozdzier of University of Virginia won 2nd place in the Poster category and Jessie Campbell of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science won honorable mention for her oral presentation. Tom studies the dynamics of nitrogen cycling in tidal marshes, and Jessie works on the reproductive ecology of the SAV *Vallisneria americana*

(wild celery). Congratulations to you both!

We managed to attract about 35 people to the AERS business meeting, held on the 3rd night of the conference. The good turnout might have been due to rumors (true ones) that we'd planned to host a reception along with members of PERS after the business. Thanks to Ted DeWitt for initiating the East meets West party! The main topic of discussion was the location for our spring meeting. Dave Osgood and president-elect Dave Yozzo are firming up plans to hold the meeting in March at the Academy of Natural Sci-

ences. We should have details worked out by the end of November. Treasurer Leila Hamdan announced that she will step down from her post in the spring. We'll be looking for someone to take over this important job in March. We say farewell to program co-chairs Jessie Campbell and Jennifer Stanhope and wish them well so they can devote more time and effort to dissertations and babies. We welcome graduate student David Gillett, also from VIMS, who joins the board as conference program chair.



## REPORT FROM THE AERS SPRING MEETING IN SOLOMONS

Reported by Chris Swarth

AERS set up camp in Solomon's at the amazing Calvert Marine Museum for our two-day spring meeting. The museum was a perfect location and the museum's Curator of Estuarine Biology Ken Kaumeyer, Volunteer Coordinator Leslie King and Director Douglass Alves were friendly and gracious hosts. During the Thursday evening reception, Ken gave a tour of the "Estuarium", a series of fifteen aquariums that display SAVs, wetland plants and animals that live in the Patuxent River estuary from the polyhaline region at the mouth to the tidal fresh region 50 miles up

stream. Then Ken led us on a tour of a new exhibit featuring live batoids (skates and rays) that were swimming in a large circular tank.

We thank our keynote speaker Hans Paerl, University of North Carolina, for delivering an interesting and illuminating presentation on his studies of estuaries using remote sensing and other techniques to assess water quality and nutrient dynamics. The use of the Ocracoke ferry in Pamlico Sound for monitoring was especially fascinating. Our panel of speakers then took turns describing a wide variety of different and new

techniques. Dr. Mark Bundy ably handled the morning session and follow up questions.

The poster session seemed especially productive and lively, perhaps because everyone was packed in a tight space. Intimacy leads to understanding? All posters got a lot of attention, which is what we want!

The banquet at the Lighthouse Restaurant proved to be a hit. Good food, pleasant surroundings and a spectacular view of the Patuxent estuary. Some remarked that this was one of the fanciest banquets AERS has had in some years.

See Solomons (Continued on page 10)

## STUDENT NEWS

BY HEIDI MAHON

## ERF Report

Many AERS students attended the ERF conference that was held in Norfolk, Virginia October 16th-20th. The following students gave exceptional presentations at the conference: Jessie Campbell, Gina Casciano, Sam Flewelling, Amanda Floyd, David Gillett, Stefan Heinemann, Joel Hoffman, James MacDonald, Greg Meyer, Thomas Mozdzer, Frank Park, Jeremy Testa, Frank Thomson, Christine

Voss, and Patricia Willis. We hope to see more outstanding presentations from our AERS students at the upcoming meeting in Philadelphia.

Special congratulations goes to Thomas Mozdzer, who won third place for his poster, "Dissolved organic nitrogen: A neglected pool of bioavailable nitrogen in temperate tidal marsh systems" and to Jessie Campbell, who won an honorable mention for her talk entitled, "Sexual reproduction of wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*): Why it's worth the effort." Unfortunately our AERS winners were not at the social, so we don't have any pictures of them

## Spring 2005 Report from Solomons

At the AERS meeting in Solomons, MD, the students enjoyed pizza during Friday's lunch break. The purpose of the lunch was for AERS students to get to know one another and a little about everyone's research. A majority of the students that registered attended this gathering, indicating a successful event. Hopefully the student lunch will occur at future meetings. The students are thankful to AERS for providing the food and drinks for this lunch.

Student award winners: were Christine Voss, Edward Martino, and Ashley Kruegl. (See Spring 2005 Student Awards, Page 7 for more details).

## THE HINCHEY REPORT

BY BETH HINCHY

Send your news to Beth at: [Hinchey.Elizabeth@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Hinchey.Elizabeth@epamail.epa.gov) Especially if you do not want this section to be dominated by the VIMS mafia.



AERSNews file photo

**Lauren Batte**, a 2001 graduate of the College of William & Mary, is a Congressional Affairs Specialist for NOAA in Washington, DC, working on Gulf of Mexico fisheries issues, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Aquaculture, the International Whaling Commission, and Sea Turtles. **Bruce Vogt**, former AERS M.S. Student Representative, is a 2003 VIMS graduate and 2004 Knauss Marine Policy Fellow now working as a Program Analyst for NOAA, National Ocean Service. His responsibilities include policy issues and congressional requests pertaining to ocean and coastal mapping, navigational services, coastal ocean science, the Integrated Ocean

Observing System and the Gulf of Mexico partnership. **Scott Lerberg** is a coastal specialist at the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. Scott maintains and updates the Coastal Program's various relational databases and serves as Project Manager for a number of Coastal Program initiatives. Scott is also the Coastal Program's primary GIS contact, and is expanding the Coastal Program's ability to integrate and analyze spatial coastal resources data especially related to the state-wide Blue-Green Infrastructure initiative and Virginia Seaside Program.



By Steve Storms

## Membership report:

AERS active membership currently includes 330 individuals. We have 22 honorary members, 63 student members, and 245 regular members. We last received our ERF membership update in Spring 2005. 114 of our members did not renew their membership for 2005, and are in danger of being dropped in early 2006 if they fail to renew. **Remember Dues are Due at the Spring Meeting!!!!**

## SPRING 2005 STUDENT AWARDS

BY PETE STRAUB

There was an excellent crop of student presentations at the spring AERS meeting in Solomons, MD. Congratulations are in order to all the students who worked so hard to plan, execute and communicate their studies. As always, the difficult job for the judging committee was to choose one winner in each category from some truly talented scientists. Many thanks to the dedicated judging staff for their time. The winners will receive a certificate and an ERF membership with subscription to the journal Estuaries. The winners were as follows:

Best oral presentation PhD category: Edward J. Martino, University of MD, Center for Environmental Science with co-author: E.D. Houde, for: "Role of environmental and density-dependent factors in control and regulation of recruitment in Chesapeake Bay striped bass."

Best oral presentation MS/BS category: Christine Voss\*, East Carolina University, with co-authors: D. Knowles and J. Luczkovich, for: "Effects of various thicknesses of thin-layer dredged material applied to a *Juncus roemerianus*-dominated brackish marsh."

Best Poster: Ashley Kruegl, The College of NJ and The Wetlands Institute, with co-author R. Herlands, for: "Scute anomalies in the diamondback terrapin."

In response to the increasing cost of meeting attendance, the Board has allocated additional funds for student travel grants. Three travel grants of up to \$150 will be available through AERS to support students attending the ERF conference. Watch the website for an announcement and details. Travel grants are prioritized to students who are 1) presenting, 2) are members 3) have attended meetings previously and 4) have demonstrated need and background judged through a budget, cv and letter of support.

\*Christine also received an AERS student travel award of \$55 to support her trip to the meeting.

## Travel Awards to the Spring 2006 Meeting in Philadelphia are available!!

To apply for a student travel award (typical award \$75-125), students must do the following:

- Register and submit an abstract and be giving a poster or oral presentation at the meeting for which support is requested
- Be members in good standing (all dues paid)
- Submit a copy of their presentation abstract, letter of a application identifying their estimated meeting costs and other support (if any), their vita, and a letter of recommendation / support from an advisor.

All materials should be submitted electronically to Peter Straub ([pete.straub@stockton.edu](mailto:pete.straub@stockton.edu)).



Student Award recipients at the Spring 2005 AERS Meeting suffer through a long drawn out award speech from outgoing president Chris Swarth.

Photo by Dave Yozzo