

AERS NEWS



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

Volume 2004 Number 1

March 2004

AERS Mourns the Loss of Mike Castagna

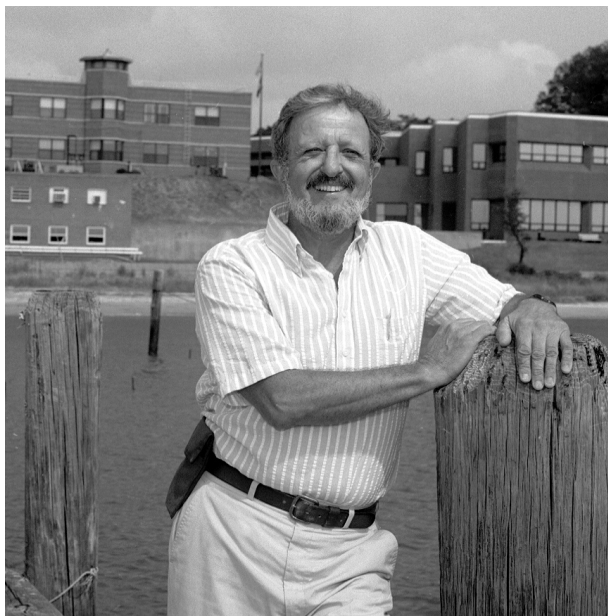
By Mark Luckenbach

Michael Castagna will be fondly remembered by his many friends and colleagues in AERS for his contributions to the Society, the fields of estuarine science, malacology and aquaculture, and, of course, for his friendly nature.

Mike was born in Janesville, Wisconsin on October 21, 1927. He served in active duty in the Navy during World War II and again during the Korean conflict. As an undergraduate at Florida State University, Mike competed on the swim team and this talent led him to become one of the first Navy divers to use SCUBA, taking part in many of the initial dives that led to the development of the now familiar dive tables. Mike received B.S. and M.S. degrees from FSU, the latter in 1955.

After holding positions at Marineland in Florida,

(Continued on page 7)



Mike Castagna

AERS Spring Meeting Celebrates The Chesapeake Bay Program's 25th Anniversary - Features Special Oyster Session

Judith Stribling assures us a fantastic meeting will be held at Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD this March 25-27. The technical sessions will be held in the new Henson Science Building. Special sessions will be held dealing with oysters and the introduction of the Asian oyster (Thursday March 25), and with the condition of the Chesapeake Bay on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Chesapeake Bay Program (Friday the 26th). As of this writing more than 100 have pre-registered, so this may be one of the largest AERS meetings in recent history. See inside for details about:

The Special Oyster Session (page 3)

Chesapeake Bay Past Present and Future (page 3)

Lodging (page 2)

Field Trip (page 3)

Elections (page 4)

Inside This Issue

Chesapeake Bay Program Session	Page 3
Spring Meeting Information	Page 2
Election Info	Page 4
Lodging Choices	Page 2
Constitution & By-Laws Changes	Page 5,6
The Hinchey Report	Page 7

Spring Meeting Lodging

The official hotel for the AERS meeting, offering a reduced conference rate, is the Ramada Inn and Conference Center. There are a limited number of hotel rooms available at the conference rate (\$60 for either 2 doubles or 1 king. Registrants should specify "the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society" when they call) so early reservations are suggested. At the time of this writing, attempts to book these rooms over the internet indicated that the hotel was full. However, a telephone call to the hotel netted a room at the conference rate. Try calling (410) 546-4400.

Conference Hotel:

Ramada Inn & Conference Center
300 South Salisbury Boulevard, Salisbury, MD
21801

Nearby Hotels:

Days Inn
2525 N. Salisbury Blvd. Ph 800-582-5645

Best Western
1735 N. Salisbury Blvd. Ph 800-528-1234

Hampton Inn
121 E. Naylor Mill Rd. Ph 800-HAMPTON

Tom Jones Bed and Beer Breakfast
Reservation Number: 800-867-5309

Spring Meeting Planner *"Just the Facts, Ma'am"*

- **Pre-register** at: <http://www.aers.info/meetings/spring04registration.htm>
- Make hotel reservations at Ramada Inn & Conference Center (410) 546-4400
- **Note the special schedule:** The Oyster Session begins Thursday Morning the 25th!
- **Registration begins** Thursday Morning at the Henson Science Hall on the campus of Salisbury University. 1101 Camden Ave. • Salisbury, MD 21801 • 410-543-6000
- **Be there** Reception, 7:30 PM Thursday, March 25th at the Ward Waterfowl Museum 909 South Schumaker Drive ~ Salisbury, Maryland 21804 ~ 410.742.4988
- **Plenary Session** Friday AM Chesapeake Bay: Past, Present, & Future. Henson Science Hall
- **Poster Session and Exhibit** Lobby of the Henson Science Hall Friday

A Personal Note About Mike Castagna

The following letter was written to Mary Castagna by Kent Mountford. I think it eloquently says what we all feel.

Dear Mary,

I'm not sure we ever met but I wanted to let you know how much of an influence Mike was in my life and career. As many (once young) scientists before me, some of my first papers were at Atlantic Estuarine Research Society meetings, and Mike was always a source of incisive questions. You could not put shoddy work past him without being caught. I recall one young man some years ago who had amputated limbs from poor crustaceans to examine their survivability in the face of predators. His presentation treated this mutilation in a cavalier manner and Mike gently but clearly told him that in science we must always have respect and understanding for the creatures with which we work. Mike just as easily took joy and humor from our collective science and he became both a friend and an admired colleague whom I sought for advice whenever issues in my career turned to shellfish. Having struggled through his own share of internec-

ine battles with shallow bureaucrats, he was a great source of strength when my own career took me into those murky waters. He was never too busy, or too preoccupied with his own problems to offer that comfort. Most recently, over the last year or so, he continued to do that, following an accident in which I lost the use of my right arm for about a year. Mike shared (albeit YOUR experience) the success and struggle you worked through as a couple with that broken bone. My own personal metal plate has stayed in place and I was splitting firewood today, when I heard about the passing of this fine and stalwart friend. We'd hoped to get him together with us at the AERS meeting this spring, but that will now be only in spirit. One of our colleagues said that "we should go out, have a beer and dance in his memory. He was a Hell of a dancer." My wife Nancy (who has a virtually non-dancing husband!) will miss that side of Mike a lot; she would always dance with him! Godspeed to our fine and valuable friend. He leaves a hole in all our lives, but one at least peopled with memories and stories that we will carry on to future generations on his behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Mountford



The Condition of the Chesapeake Bay: Past, Present, & Future

Keynote Speaker :

Dr. Walter Boynton, Chesapeake Bay Laboratory

Panel Discussion Participants:

- **Rob Magnien**, NOAA
- **Bill Dennison**, University of MD Center for Environmental Science
- **Ed Houde**, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
- **Tom Fisher**, Horn Point Laboratory
- **Mark Luckenbach**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- **Tom Horton**, Baltimore Sun
- **Don Boesch**, University of MD Center for Environmental Science
- **Rebecca Hanmer**, Chesapeake Bay Program

On the occasion of the Chesapeake Bay Program's 25th Anniversary AERS will host this special presentation and panel discussion Friday March 26th beginning at 8:00 AM in the Hanson Science Hall of Salisbury University.

Meeting Field Trip

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Tour

Unique to this AERS Spring Meeting will be a Field Trip. It will depart Saturday afternoon, March 27th after the Plenary Sessions end.

Itinerary:
Leave Salisbury University at 1:30,
Return around 5:30PM

Visit and tour Horn Point Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Travel to Blackwater National Wildlife Ref-

uge for a tour guided by Dr. Court Stevenson, with discussion of important issues regarding Chesapeake Bay wetlands.

Wetlands are an aspect of the Bay that is not covered by the panel presentation, but they are intricately tied to water quality and the overall condition of the Bay. Court Stevenson is eminently positioned to cover this topic in detail and with panache! Don't miss it!

Cost: \$10 per person, advance reservations required. See www.AERS.info for details.



Elections



Our Treasurer, Steve Storms, will be stepping down. Thus, nominations for the office of Treasurer are being solicited. Nominations may be submitted to Dave Yozzo (dyozzo@bvaenviro.com) up until the election at the business meeting on Friday. At this point two candidates have been nominated.

Candidate for AERS Treasurer - Dr. Julie Ambler

Dr. Ambler is a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Millersville University, Millersville, PA, where she teaches ecology/ecosystems, and a course about Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. She is also a summer faculty member at the Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, VA, where she teaches biological oceanography. Dr. Ambler conducts research with undergraduates; her students have presented posters and talks at national meetings and at AERS meetings. Current projects include the relationship of calanoid copepod distribution to hydrographic conditions offshore of Chincoteague Inlet, development of a network model in a mangrove channel in Belize, and contribution of floating algal mats to ecosystem metabolism in mangrove channels and small freshwater ponds. Dr. Ambler has attended most of the recent national ERF meetings, and would like to become more involved with AERS.

Candidate for AERS Treasurer - Dr. Leila Hamdan

I graduated from George Mason University's Department of Environmental Science and Policy in August of 2003. My research there was focused on understanding carbon transfer through the microplankton food web of the Potomac River and elucidating the relationship between bacteria, phytoplankton and dissolved organic matter on the development of anoxia. I began a post doc in September 2003 at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, in Washington, DC. I am continuing my research of microplankton food webs by extending the geographic focus of the work to include data collected from the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, San Francisco Bay and marine regimes. My involvement with AERS began in the fall of 2000 when I attended my first meeting at SERC. I was immediately interested in becoming more involved with the business of AERS and its future because of the commitment I had observed among AERS members to understanding and protecting the future of our estuaries. At this time I was offered the opportunity to represent student members of AERS to the Executive Board, a position I have held until the present. I have felt during my tenure with AERS that the connection our members retain to the society's past and the early role that AERS played in advancing estuarine science are the underlying strength of the group. Because of this I feel that it is all of our responsibility to ensure that this strength continues in each new generation of estuarine scientists. I hope to fulfill this obligation in continuing service to AERS.

Special Oyster Session Planned to Kick off the Spring Meeting.

Thursday March 25th, AERS will host a special meeting dealing with Oysters in Chesapeake Bay. A variety of topics will be covered, including Biotoxins, Oyster Reef siting, and the modeling of oyster larvae set. A large part of the special session will be devoted to investigating the science and management options associated with the proposed introduction of the Asian Oyster *Crassostrea ariakensis* into the waters of the Chesapeake. Famed Oyster Biologists Mark Luckenbach, Ken Paynter, Roger Mann & Stan Allen will be featured, and will give in-depth presentations covering not only their own work, but providing a framework for understanding the issues dealing with the proposed introduction. A panel of scientists will also discuss the regulatory aspects of the proposed introduction. See www.AERS.info for more information about this exciting session

Remove this page. Fold along this line so that the address shows. The Post Office will be happier if you use a bit of tape to join the open edges, and will be disturbed if you do that with a staple. Affix \$0.37 postage and mail no later than March 20th to ensure that your vote is counted.

AERSNews
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Helen Woods
Constitution Chair
AERS
PO Box 995
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

...Proposed Changes to the Constitution & By-Laws

Discussion at the past several business meetings of AERS, have led the Constitution Committee to suggest the following changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Atlantic Estuarine research Society. The initial change is a Constitutional Change, and requires voting via a mailed ballot. The second proposed change is to the By-Laws, and will be decided by vote during Unfinished Business at the Business Meeting Friday at 5:15 PM.

Recommended changes to the AERS constitution and bi-laws:

Change 1: (This amendment is part of the constitution and must be approved by mail ballot.)

The constitution currently reads:

MEMBERSHIP:

Active membership shall be limited to persons who are professionally engaged in estuarine and related investigations

If approved, the constitution will read:

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership shall be open to students, professionals and others with an interest in the scientific study of estuaries.

Rationale for changes: Many AERS members are students, and not yet professionals. Many resource managers and policy makers are AERS members yet they may not be carrying out "estuarine investigations." Finally and importantly, AERS should encourage membership in our society by those who share our scientific interest in estuaries.

Change 2: (This amendment is part of the bi-laws and will be voted upon at the next business meeting.)

The bi-laws currently read:

ELECTION TO ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

Names of candidates for active membership shall be submitted by two members in good standing, along with a membership application to the Membership Committee for prompt action. New members will be notified of their acceptance by mail.

If approved, the bi-laws will read:

ELECTION TO ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

A list of candidates for active membership shall be submitted with membership applications of the candidates to the Membership Committee. The committee will present the list for ratification at the business meeting. Those on the list will be considered "provisional members" until the vote is complete, at which time they will either be granted full membership or excluded from the organization. New members will be notified of their acceptance by mail.

Rationale for changes: This simplifies the membership process while still allowing full control over the adoption of new members.

I vote in favor of the proposed Change 1 to the AERS Constitution.

I vote against the proposed Change 1 to the AERS Constitution.

Check a single box. Remove this page. Fold and return no later than March 20.

Castagna

(Continued from page 1)

Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF) in Maine and the BCF in Franklin City, Virginia, Mike took a job as the director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Eastern Shore Lab, Wachapreague, VA. Mike directed the lab from 1962 until he retired as a Professor and Division Director in 1992. He was widely recognized as a leader in the development of hard clam aquaculture along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Mike also established the laboratory's international reputation as a center of excellence for molluscan research, spawning and rearing over 60 species. And, he did it on a shoestring budget at a small field lab. One of the most enduring images from this hatchery was a heat exchanger crafted from an old whiskey barrel and salvaged tubing. Mike often said, "There's no reason to spend \$2 on a valve if pinching a hose will work just as well."

Mike has authored or co-authored more than 75 peer reviewed publications, 37 - plus abstracts, and served as editor for two books.

Mike was a founding member of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society and served as Secretary-Treasurer in 1966-67, President in 1967-68, on the Executive Board in 1968-69 and 1972-73. He was chair of the Endowment Committee from 1986 to 1993. He was given Honorary Membership status in 1983. Honorary Members of AERS are those selected by their peers for their contribution both to Science and to the advancement of AERS ideals. He has been named the Venerable Clam, and chaired the Honorary Members Committee from the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society.

AERS Spring Meeting is bursting at the seams!

There are more than 60 presentations scheduled for this Spring Meeting. This Spring we are providing a variety of presentation forums including platform presentations, poster presentations, panels, and invited speakers. There are too many to list in this issue of *AERSNews*. See www.AERS.info for more information, and up to the minute schedule changes.

AERS MEMBERS EDUCATE SCOUTS ABOUT CONSERVATION

By Beth Hinchey

Current and former AERS members Beth Hinchey, Lauren Batte, and Laura Rear all hosted exhibits at the "Discovering Conservation Expo" held on Saturday, November 15, 2003 in Washington DC. This event was organized by Alexis Kuiper, a highly motivated college freshman, who networked with Lauren through the US Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau's Girls' E-Mentoring in Science, Engineering, & Technology (GEM-SET) program, of which Lauren and Beth are both mentors. The expo was attended by over 300 Girl Scouts and troop leaders from throughout Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia. Over 40 organizations registered to host an exhibit, including the U.S. EPA and NOAA. Beth represented the US EPA and presented details of the fish and shellfish habitat research she and EPA colleagues are conducting in Narragansett Bay. Lauren represented NOAA and Laura represented NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program. Lauren and Beth also co-hosted an exhibit about their adventures as support divers for Aquarius research missions. They displayed the scientific diving gear that they used on the missions, presented an interactive Aquarius computer slide show, and talked to many interested scouts about scuba-related careers. To learn about how to become a GEM-SET mentor go to www.uic.edu/orgs/gem-set/, and for more information about Aquarius go to www.uncw.edu/Aquarius/.



AERS members Beth Hinchey, Lauren Batte and Laura Rear pose with two girls scouts (in vests) and unidentified scuba diver at the 2003 Conservation Expo.

