

# AERS NEWS



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

Volume 2002 Number 3

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October 10 - 12

## AERS to Meet at St. Mary's College of Maryland

Bob Paul (rwpaul@smcm.edu) and Chris Tanner (cetanner@smcm.edu) will spearhead the local arrangements when St. Mary's College of Maryland hosts this Fall's AERS Meeting October 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

St. Mary's will also host a pre-meeting workshop on Eelgrass Restoration on Thursday afternoon preceding the meeting. (See page 3 for details.)

We will begin with our traditional Beverage Consumption Event Thursday evening from 7:30-10:00 pm in the Daugherty-Palmer Commons. St. Mary's College will provide the refreshments – beer/wine and food. This event will coincide with registration and the beginning of the Poster Session. The poster boards will be available at 7 pm. outside Cole Cinema, Campus Center. For the unlucky few, a Board  
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## AERS Spring 2002 Meeting Report

AERS held its Spring Meeting in Lewes DE, April 4-6. In many ways this was the quintessential AERS meeting...even if some very important elements were lacking.

The meeting was hosted by one of our steadfast institutions, The University of Delaware, and began with the traditional Beverage Consumption Event at the marine labs. It was good to get back to Lewes, and to be hosted in a marine laboratory. Many familiar faces that haven't been present at too many AERS meetings lately were there. Jack Gallagher and Denise Seliskar were there as was Mel Carricker. Perhaps the proximity to NJ was the reason, but we also had a good turnout of NJ members like Mark Botton  
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## AERS Mourns the loss of Jerry Williams

AERS members were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our most esteemed Venerable Clams. Jerry Williams was a long-time member of AERS, a founding father of ERF, ERF's first Executive Director, and the editor of *AERS News*, which he revived in 1992. We'll miss Jerry. Several AERS representative were present at the memorial held for Jerry, and learned a great deal about the "other Jerry." He was among the *first* faculty members of the Oceanography Department at the Naval Academy, and an accomplished thespian in local theater productions. With Secci disk in hand, Linda Blum gave one of several eulogies at Jerry's memorial service. It appears in its entirety below:

### A Tribute to Jerome Williams, May 12, 2002

What would the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society be if Jerry Williams hadn't dedicated a major portion of his professional life to the society? Of course a question like this is impossible to answer,  
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## ...from the President

I want to thank the membership for their support in my election, and more so in their willingness to help run the Society. A resounding thank you to Stan Hales for his leadership over the last two years, and to Beth Hinchey for her work as Program Chairperson. The work of Beth on the program, and of Denise Seliskar on the local arrangements, paid off with a great meeting in Lewes.

Dave Yozzo has joined the board as a Member-at-Large, Mario Vieira will be working as Honorary Members Chairperson, and Helen Woods has agreed to chair the Constitution Committee. The full Board membership and list of committee chairpersons is on the web site, for which we again thank Janet Nestlerode.

The ERF Governing Board meeting this spring was interesting and informative. There are a number of things on the horizon of interest to AERS members.

There is a group called Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) which is working and lobbying for restoration of estuaries. They are planning a conference in Baltimore for April 13-16, 2003. It will be at the Hyatt at the Inner Harbor.

A new goal the Board identified is promoting science-informed management in estuaries and coastal areas. For example, lots of applicable information is in *Estuaries* but may not be in a form which can easily and efficiently be perused by managers. We are looking into having short summaries of relevant scientific articles produced for a newsletter-type document which could be sent to managers and other interested parties. We want to compile a list of websites, newsletters, associations, etc. which would be interested in receiving this type of information. If you have an interest in this, or know someone who might, we would like ideas on how to make it useful. If you would send relevant information to Judith Stribling (JMSTRIBLING@salisbury.edu), we'll get it to the Board working group.

The Estuarine Research Federation Initiative in Biocomplexity: Facilitation of Research on Estuarine Responses to Climate Change and Variability is coming to a meeting near you! ERF is interested in sponsoring a workshop during Affiliate Society meetings on this issue; hopefully this will work in a venue in the near future.

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### Tribute to Jerry Williams

*(Continued from page 1)*

but I do know that AERS certainly wouldn't be what it is today if Jerry hadn't been involved. While Jerry was one of several founding members of AERS, his contributions to the society spanned his entire career. Not only was he an active member of AERS his entire professional life, but he continued to serve the Society well into his retirement. Jerry was AERS President from 1966-1967 and served on innumerable Society committees. When he retired as executive director of the Estuarine Research Federation in 1992, at Frank Reilly's urging, Jerry accepted the position of AERS Newsletter editor. I might add that Jerry often said that it was Lee who graciously allowed him to step into the position. Those of us who reaped the benefits of his outstanding editorship certainly appreciate her willingness to share Jerry with us during their retirement. Jerry was editor of the AERS Newsletter from 1992 until March 2000. During his tenure as editor, he printed, in Jerry's own words, "all the news that would fit". Sometimes it was 14-point font and sometimes 10-point font, but it always fit.

Perhaps few of today's AERS membership, but maybe more of us here today, realize the seminal role that Jerry had in the development of optical systems for measuring water clarity. However, many of the AERS membership would delight in recalling Jerry's witty and highly instructive discourses on the Secchi disk. For those of you who are unfamiliar with a Secchi disk, I've

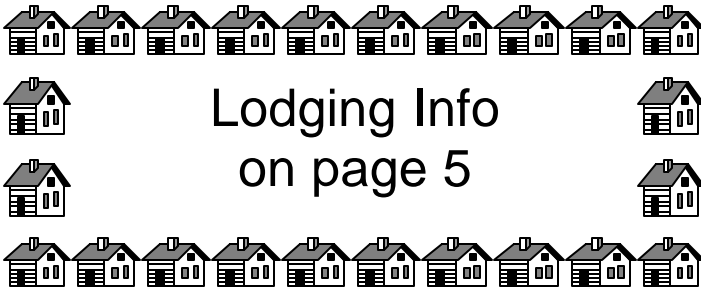
*(Continued on page 4)*

## Call for Papers

It is time to submit proposals for papers for the Fall 2002 Meeting. We anticipate 20 minute platform presentations, and poster presentations. Platform presenters should consider preparing their presentation formatted for a PC MS PowerPoint® presentation on a CD. Poster presenters should plan to fill ½ of an 8 by 10 foot (4x5 foot) poster board. The posters will be mounted in the hallway outside the theater where presentations will be made, and 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/fall2002registration.htm>

Frank Parker, (see "New Program Chair") will accept these abstracts, and inform presenters of their acceptance. You can contact Frank at [frank@vims.edu](mailto:frank@vims.edu).



Lodging Info  
on page 5

## New AERS Program Chair

The Program Chair for this Meeting will be Frank Parker, a student at Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The good news is that we no longer have to kow tow to Beth Hinchey's (the past Program Chair) every whim in order to get our papers accepted. The bad news is that VIMS continues its iron-clad grip on AERS programming.

Beth Hinchey abandoned the Program Committee after several years of faithful service, so that she could finish her studies and get a job. Many thanks to Beth for her efforts, and good luck.

Frank can be reached at:

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However if you want to have your paper accepted for the meeting it is suggested that you contact him only through the AERS web submission form at: <http://www.vims.edu/aers/meetings/fall2002registration.htm>

Oh yeah – I guess you will need to begin to kow tow to Frank now!

### Meeting Workshop

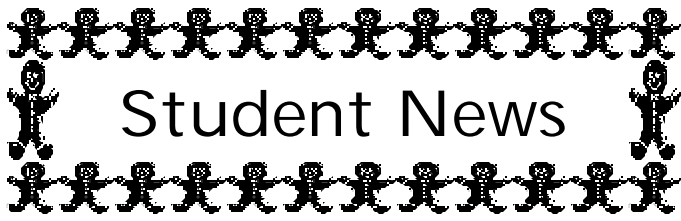
## Special Methods for Eelgrass Restoration

The fall 2002 meeting of AERS will begin with a half-day workshop (1 to 5 pm) on SAV restoration, focusing on culture and planting methods for eelgrass, *Zostera marina*.

Chris Tanner from St. Mary's College will describe methods for growing eelgrass from seeds under controlled culture conditions and will give a tour of culture facilities that he has set up at the Piney Point Aquaculture Center, a Maryland Department of Natural Resources facility used primarily for the culture of oysters, and the Chesapeake Bay Field Laboratory on St. Georges Island. This will be followed by a discussion led by Ryan Davis of Exponent, Inc.

on eelgrass planting methods. Participants in the workshop will help plant eelgrass grown in culture using the TERFS™ (Transplanting Eelgrass Remotely with Frame Systems) method, which does not require getting into the water.

The workshop is limited to 10 participants on a first come basis. There is a \$20 workshop fee. Those interested in the workshop should add "Workshop participant" in the "Additional comments" section of the registration form. Participation requires pre-registration. The form can be found at: <http://www.vims.edu/aers/meetings/fall2002registration.htm>



## Student News

### Student Awards Winners

The following were winners of the student awards at the Spring AERS meeting in Lewes, DE:

Students of Hood College (Frederick MD), who were on a semester-long tour of marine science institutions, presented an award-winning poster in the undergraduate category. Their title was "Nutrient Limitation and Algal Production in a Florida Keys Canal." Congratulations to **Melissa Elmore, Lee Goetz, Anne Harris, Julie Lemay, Kristen Sanderson, Caitlin Vaughn, and Carol Vinton.**

**Tish Robertson** of Rutgers University-Newark received best graduate student poster recognition for her poster entitled "Is *Spartina alterniflora* a better Microhabitat than *Phragmites australis*?"

**Mary Anne Carletta**, also from Rutgers-Newark, gave the best doctoral-level presentation. It was entitled "Lead Exposure Produces Spinal Deformities in Post-Hatch *Fundulus heteroclitus*."

**Heidi Mahon** from Old Dominion gave the best master's-level presentation entitled, "Responses of Juvenile *Streblospio benedicti* (Spionidae) to Chemical Cues Bound to Glass Micro beads."

**M.L. Biscoe** of VIMS was awarded best undergraduate presentation honors for, "Muddy Waters: Takin' Back My Home."

Congratulations to all of the students for jobs well done!



## Harold Haskins Dies

We lost another long-time member of AERS and ERF recently. Harold Haskins died June 26, 2002. Regarded as the father of oyster biology and an internationally regarded expert on marine mollusks, Haskin studied clams and oysters in the Delaware Bay at Rutgers University's research laboratory. For his work, the lab was renamed Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory in 1991.

Beginning his life's work studying clams for Campbell Soup, Haskin joined the Rutgers faculty in 1946 as director of oyster culture. In 1957, the massive oyster die off due to MSX, changed the future of oystering and altered Haskins research. It was Haskin who later named the parasite "MSX." "We'd never seen anything like it anywhere in the world," Haskin recalled in a 1987 interview with The Press of Atlantic City.

Haskin developed the MSX-resistant oyster strains, ones used in current aquaculture programs. Other areas of his studies included the effects of oil and sewage pollution on mollusks and the effects of dredging, damming and development on the estuarine environment.

### Tribute to Jerry Williams

(Continued from page 2)

brought one with me today. No tribute to Jerry would be complete without reference to this simple, yet fundamental piece of equipment used to measure water clarity. Jerry's lectures on the Secchi disk were much in demand at AERS meetings because they were more than a comparison of the methodologies used to measure the optical characteristics of water. They taught us to take conduct our science with all seriousness, but to take ourselves lightly - two of the fundamentals that form the basis of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society today because of Jerry's influence. What a wise and wonderful legacy to leave with multiple generations of estuarine scientists. Conduct your science with all seriousness, but take yourself lightly.

So with the great respect I'd like to conclude with a traditional AERS knuckle salute to one of the most venerable of the AERS Venerable Clams. Thank you Jerry.



## Fall Meeting Lodging

### Some Student housing will be available:

St. Mary's College students have offered to house attending students in the College residence halls and townhouses. A contact person to make these arrangements will be listed when the Meeting Issue is distributed. This contact will be posted on the AERS web site as soon as the name is available.

**Hotels** (all in Lexington Park - about 15-20 minute drive from campus):

\*\*\*\* **Hampton Inn** – (301 863-3200)

**Recommended** - Block of rooms reserved.

Special \$65/night conference rate for all rooms up to 4 occupants, rooms – 2 double beds and single king bed, outdoor pool, continental breakfast, to get the \$65 room rate **you must reserve by 9/15/02**

**Best Western Motel**- (800-500-1482/301 862-4100) all rooms \$67 / night up to 4 occupants, coffee maker in room, outdoor pool, continental breakfast

**Days Inn** – (301 863-6666) \$66 / night + 10% tax for up to 4 in room/night, includes breakfast buffet and local phone calls

**Extended Stay America Motel** –(800 398-7829/240 725-0100) Queen \$69/\$74, King \$75/\$79, 2 Double beds \$69/\$79 / night (single/double occupancy) all units with small kitchen/refrigerator

**Sleep Inn** -(301 737-0000) \$85 / night + tax for all rooms up to 4 occupants, full breakfast, indoor pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center, business center

**Bob Paul's Garage** -(301 555 BR49) 3 suitcases of premium beer / night, no tax. Three sleeping bags, one old mattress, unused fitness equipment, Styrofoam cooler, electrical outlet, off-street parking

## Fall Meeting Planner

*"Just the Facts, Ma'am"*

- **Pre-register** at  
<http://www.vims.edu/aers/meetings/fall2002registration.htm>
- Submit your abstracts to Frank Parker **by September 20**
- Use **web submission** at  
<http://www.vims.edu/aers/meetings/fall2002registration.htm>

*(You really should have these book marked!)*

- Make hotel reservations at **Hampton Inn** – 301.863.3200
- **Be there** for registration, poster session and Beverage Consumption Event Thursday, October 10, 7pm sharp!

## Please Help Locate Photos!

### Photos of Jerry Williams Sought

Remember the roast we gave Jerry Williams on the occasion of his retiring from Editorship of **AERS News**? It was at the AERS Fall Meeting, 2001, at SERC. Lee Williams has asked that we gather any pictures from that event for the family. If you have any photos or electronic pictures of that event please contact Frank Reilly ([frank@TheReillyGroup.net](mailto:frank@TheReillyGroup.net)) to arrange for copying and delivering them to Lee Williams.

*Thanks!*

## Fall Meeting Plans

(Continued from page 1)

Meeting will be held in the Alumni Lodge from 6:00 -7:30 pm.

Friday, registration will begin at 8:00 am and continue throughout the day. Papers will be scheduled for all day Friday in the Cole Theater, Campus Center continuing there on Saturday morning. The Poster Session will also be on display throughout Friday outside the Cole Theater. Coffee, tea, fruit and pastries will be available...if everyone cooperates by pre-registering.

Lunch will be on your own, but since it is a 20-minute drive to the nearest local eatery, it is recommended that attendees eat in the College Snack Bar or in the Great Room (Cafeteria). Lunch can be purchased in the Great Room for \$6.00.

Friday Evening there will be an AERS Business meeting immediately following the last presentation of the day (4:30-5:30 pm). After that there will be a social hour sponsored by St. Mary's College and a boat-dinner from 6:30-10:00 pm on the St. Mary's River. In case of inclement weather, the social hour and dinner will be held at the Daugherty-Palmer Commons. If you don't pre-register, forget all of this.

On Saturday morning, the meeting begins around 9:00 am in the Cole Theater, Campus Center, St. Mary's College, and coffee, tea, fruit and pastries available beginning at 8:00 AM, provided pre-registration went well.

Registration costs for this fall extravaganza include admission to all the presentations and social events including the St. Mary's River Dinner and Social. Student Members of AERS will be charged \$40 Students who are not members of AERS will be charged \$50.00 (of which \$10 will be allocated for dues). AERS Regular members will be charged \$50. Non-members will be charged \$70.00 (of which \$20 will be allocated to dues). Extra banquet tickets will be available for \$30.00 per person. The Workshop is open to those registering for the meeting. It will have an additional lab and materials fee of \$20.00.

The Local Arrangements crew asks that you make their life a little easier by pre-registering. You can pre-register at <http://www.vims.edu/aers/meetings/fall2002registration.htm>. Even if you don't care about the quality of life of the Local Arrangers, if you do not pre-register, both banquet and refreshment arrangements will be in jeopardy. We wouldn't want that to happen, now, would we?

## Spring Meeting Report

(Continued from page 1)

and Bob Loveland. Judy Weiss wasn't there but sent a few of her students in her place. However some of our dearest AERS stalwarts were unable to attend due to health problems. Kent Mountford was unable to attend the meeting because of his losing encounter with a dump truck. He is now happily convalescing at Cove. He sent us an email saying that he had been reduced to typing with just one finger. If you know Kent, that is a mere 50% disability. Also missed was Mike Castagna. He had an illness that prevented him from traveling. Everybody hopes that they both recuperate soon. It is great to see old friends at an AERS meeting, but it makes us realize how much we miss the ones who were unable to attend.

This particular AERS meeting seemed to fit the AERS meeting paradigm in several other ways as well. We had a truly diverse variety of papers presented. The meeting was diverse both in subject matter, and in purpose. Many times the AERS presentations seem to be overly dominated with the "research du jour" - sometimes indistinguishable from a benthic meeting, other time just like a nutrient meeting. This time we had papers from benthic feeding strategies through coastal zone planning. And that was just the first two papers!

However several occurrences distinguished this AERS meeting from others. First, it *snowed* early Saturday Morning. Second, we were lucky to have AERS as a port-of-call for students of Hood College (Frederick MD) who were on a semester-long tour of marine science institutions. These students presented an award-winning poster. (See page 4.)

Other business at the AERS Meeting included Steve Fuller of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA taking over as President for outgoing president Stan Hales of Richard Stockton in Pomona NJ. Thanks to Stan for all he has done in the past two years, and remember to offer your help to Steve Fuller ([sfuller@mw.edu](mailto:sfuller@mw.edu)). Stan also took the opportunity to thank the two Fabulous Benthic Babes from VIMS, Janet Nestlerode (AERS Webmaster) and Beth Hinchey (AERS Program Chair) for their extensive contributions to the health of AERS. We elected Steve Storms as our new Treasurer. Steve is with the Maryland Ports Authority, and is a long-time member of AERS. You can contact Steve at [ssstorms@mdot.state.md](mailto:ssstorms@mdot.state.md). us to pay your back dues and help him with the payments on his new red Ferrari.

## Iris Anderson Appointed Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Iris Anderson, a long-time AERS member and a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS), has accepted the position as Dean of Graduate Studies for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2002.

Iris holds a Ph.D in Pathology/Microbiology from Virginia Commonwealth University and a S.M. in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (A.K.A. Slide-rule U.).

Dean L.D. Wright of Virginia Institute of Marine Science, School of Marine Science, The College of



Iris at a recent meeting of the VIMS Board of Directors.

William and Mary wrote in the announcement that *"...She brings to this office an intense enthusiasm for advancing the graduate education program in the School of Marine Science and is highly engaged herself in graduate student education through classroom teaching, mentoring and advising and service on SMS committees. Iris has achieved both a national and international reputation as a leading research scientist in biogeochemistry especially as related to microbial cycling of nitrogen compounds in both natural and perturbed ecosystems."*

Iris has served for over 36 years at a range of institutions including: Hampton University where she taught Biology; Thomas Nelson Community College where she taught Biology and served 12 years as Biology Department Chair; and, NASA Langley Research Center where she worked as a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow.

Iris has served as an AERS Board Member and currently chairs the Nominations and Elections Committee. Perhaps now that she is an administrator she will allow her hapless students to graduate, and have more time to spend at AERS social events. Congratulations, Iris!

### President

*(Continued from page 2)*

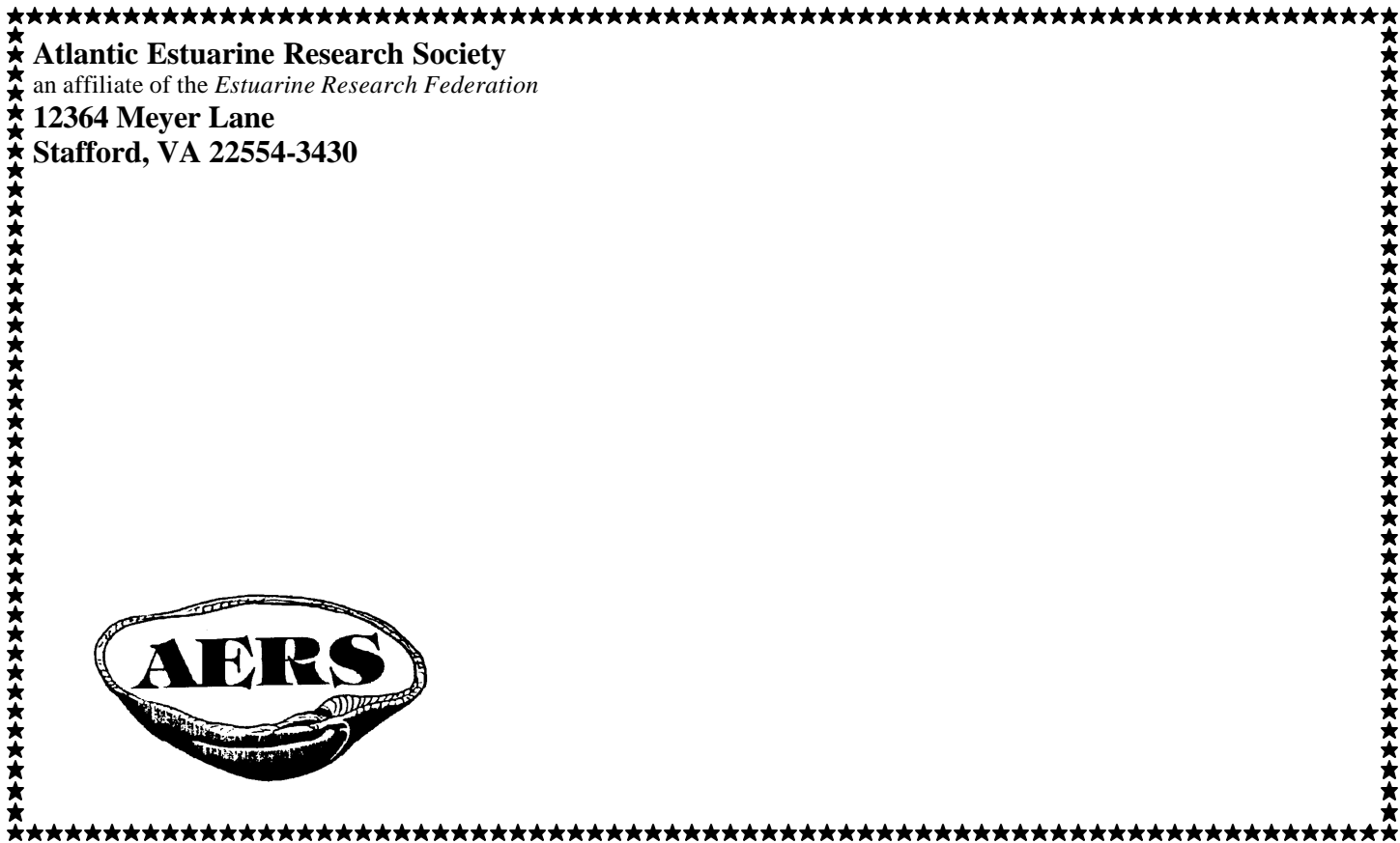
With the introduction of two new Affiliate societies, the Gulf of Saint Lawrence Estuarine Research Society (GSLERS) and the California Estuarine Research Society (CAERS), the Governing Board began looking at the structure and process ERF uses for doing its business. There was a discussion at the meeting; now Linda Schaffner is collecting ideas from Board members, and will report at the fall meeting. I have forwarded the motions passed at the Business meeting in Lewes. 1. Establish an Executive Committee consisting of elected ERF governing board members plus one member selected by and from the affiliate presidents, that will meet on the current regular board meeting schedule. 2. Retain a Governing Board that consists of the affiliate presidents and other elected members that will meet less regularly (once per year?). I have also related to her the sizable portion of our budget which is needed to send our President to these meetings even though half of it is paid by ERF. The next two meetings are being held in Seattle (site of the next ERF meeting), and Sonora, Mexico (in conjunction with the Estuarine and Coastal Science Association meeting being held there).

Hope to see you at St. Mary's College in Maryland in the fall.

Steve Fuller, President

## Student Travel Awards

You know the drill - travel support with a maximum of \$75 per trip for student members with current dues paid who present a poster or paper. To apply for aid, please send the following information to the chair of the Endowment Committee, Dr. R. Chris Jones at rcjones@gmu.edu or FAX (703) 993-1046 (you don't have time for snail mail): a letter describing your planned meeting activities, your anticipated expenses, description of other support, and a letter from your advisor documenting the need and activities. All requests should be submitted **by September 20, 2002**. Questions? Call Chris at (703) 993-1127.



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