

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

Volume 2013 Number 2

June 26, 2013

AERS Spring 2013 Meeting, Williamsburg, VA

Mark Brush and Sam Lake, meeting co-hosts

The AERS Spring 2013 meeting was held April 11-13 at the Woodlands Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA, adjacent to Colonial Williamsburg, just in time for the spring blossoms and warm weather typical of the lovely springs in Tidewater, VA.

Although admittedly campy, given the location of the meeting the theme was "*Revolutionary Thinking: Historical Reconstructions in Coastal Systems*", and featured keynote and contributed presentations on methods and applications in historical ecology. The meeting began with keynote presentations by **Grace Brush** (Johns Hopkins University), **Norb Jaworski** (US EPA, retired), **Michael Kemp** (UMCES), **Anna Wachnicka** (Florida International University), **Roger Mann** (VIMS), and **John Waldman** (CUNY Queens College), and ended with a special keynote seminar by **Kent Mountford** on the Chesapeake Bay in the time of John Smith.

The meeting had 97 attendees and featured 26 contributed talks (12 by students) and 18 contributed posters (13 by students). Particular highlights of the meeting included a student lunch with the keynote speakers, election of our new President-Elect **Treda Smith Grayson** and Secretary **Danielle Kreeger**, awarding of honorary memberships to **Bob Diaz** and **Jerry Williams** and the Venerable Clam to

Linda Blum, the traditional Friday evening banquet, and a kayak field trip to Powhatan Creek near Jamestown Island led by Chesapeake Experience.



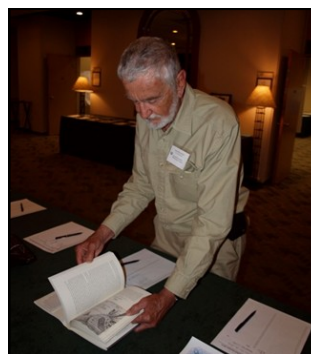
Judith Stribling presents an honorary membership to former AERS President and current CERF Member-at-Large **Bob Diaz** at the AERS Spring 2013 meeting. Photo: Leila Hamdan

Save the Date! AERS Spring Meeting planned for Ocean City, MD, Mar. 6-8.

Judith Stribling is heading up the Planning Committee for a great meeting at the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City, MD. Bring your ice skates!



AERS President **Mark Brush** presents the Venerable Clam to former AERS President and current CERF Secretary **Linda Blum** at the AERS Spring 2013 meeting. Photo: Leila Hamdan



Left: Keynote speaker **Kent Mountford** peruses items during the silent auction. Bottom: Later in the evening, AERS President **Mark Brush** struts his

stuff while auctioneer and friend of AERS Aaron Williams auctions him off for a day in the field during the live auction. Photos: Ben Fertig.



AERSNews Inside this Issue

Recap Spring Mtg. Sp13	Pages 1 and 3
Save the Date: AERS Sp14	Page 1
President's Corner	Page 2
Mullet Toss	Pages 3 and 4
Student Award Winners	Page 3
Officers & Committee Chairs	Page 4

AERS News – President's section

Mark Brush, AERS President, brush@vims.edu

I come to this edition of the AERSNews fresh off of co-hosting our Spring 2013 meeting in Williamsburg, VA and attending the Spring 2013 CERF Governing Board meeting in Dauphin Island, AL. I have to say I am inspired more than ever by the vitality of our membership, strength of our society, and outstanding scientific quality that were on display at the Williamsburg meeting.

At the beginning of the CERF Governing Board meeting, Executive Director Mark Wolf-Armstrong asked us to go around the table and talk about some recent happenings in our lives that give us hope for the future. My hope and faith in AERS have always been strong, but the enthusiasm of the attendees at our spring meeting, the quality of the keynote and contributed presentations (especially students!), and the number of AERS heroes that are always willing to step up and contribute to make our society and its meetings a success created an absolute surge in my "AERSadrenaline".

My enthusiasm for our great parent society CERF is also as high as ever. Let me provide some updates from the recent governing board meeting. First, Dauphin Island is a terrific place! If ever you are in the Gulf, I highly recommend a visit. I have also always wanted to check out Mobile Bay, and was struck by its beauty and that of its expansive delta.

CERF President and AERSian **Walter Boynton** led off the meeting with an overview of the many things that are going great for CERF: the journal, CESN, the transition to Mark Wolf-Armstrong as our new Executive Director and move of headquarters to Twisp, WA, progress building linkages between CERF and the affiliates, progress on the CERF business model, plans for CERF 2013 and a successful 2012 Argentina meeting, and the recent CHOW event on Capitol Hill (check out the website for information on these various activities).

Probably the most significant concern, however, is that CERF has been experiencing declining membership since about 2002-03, which is common to many non-profit organizations. A major cause of this decline appears to be that we are not converting student and young professionals into the full member ranks. CERF will be working hard on this over the coming years, and you will soon see a membership survey coming from headquarters. In the meantime, *we need your help to talk up CERF and the benefits of membership with your colleagues and students.*

All this made me wonder about the status of the AERS membership rolls. Membership Chair and now President-Elect **Treda Smith Grayson** has recently undertaken a massive effort to clean up these rolls, and Webmaster **Chris Heyer** has recently implemented a new online membership/renewal database. Given these recent efforts, Treda and I will be working together over the next year to analyze our membership numbers to look for similar issues to those at CERF, and to explore ways that we can enhance our membership and better serve as a feeder

of new members to CERF. In the meantime, *please talk up AERS and CERF and the benefits of membership in both the parent and affiliate societies to your colleagues and especially your students.* Only through maintaining and bolstering our membership – and of course the hard work of our terrific members who are always willing to step up and serve – will our two societies remain strong into the future.

A few other things I want to highlight about CERF ... First, thanks to Student Member-At-Large Leanna Haefner and her Social Media Committee, CERF has an ever-growing presence on Facebook and Twitter. Our own **Ben Fertig** also has set up an AERS Facebook page. *Please friend, follow, and post to these pages and help us spread the word – we need to be reaching the tech-savvy younger generations especially.*

Second, the Fall 2013 meeting in San Diego ... Don't forget to attend the AERS business meeting, and please come support the AERS team in the first ever CERF Bowl competition (nominations for team members are now welcome). And please be sure to attend – one immediate concern with a declining membership is that we need to meet attendance goals for the San Diego meeting, so *please attend and bring your colleagues and students* (have I emphasized that enough yet?). *Please also help us advertise the meeting at your institution or workplace.*

Third, AERS alum **Janet Nestlerode** and the Education Committee recently hosted a webinar on mentoring undergraduate students by Tim Dellapenna. This very successful event will hopefully lead to development of a webinar series on the CERF website, on both professional development and topical subjects. Stay tuned ...

Fourth, the 2015 CERF meeting will be back in Portland, OR. CERF is currently looking for volunteers to help put on the meeting. Please get in touch with Mark Wolf-Armstrong (mark@erf.org).

Finally, I want to let everyone know that I did my best to make AERS proud at the CERF board meeting. Host Ken Heck treated us to a true southern experience ... a mullet toss. Board members competed to see who could throw a recently caught (albeit expired) mullet the farthest. Apparently there are a number of techniques, including the football "Hail Mary", gripping the tail and hucking a fastball, and the underhand toss. And then you have to select the particular fish you want, considering the physics behind specimens of various lengths and weights, and exactly where to grip the slippery thing. Well, I am proud to say that after extensive calculations and mental preparation, your AERS president won the competition with the longest toss (photographic evidence provided)! Upon returning to VIMS to brag about these exploits, my buddy **Iris Anderson** immediately pointed out that it would have been a lot more interesting if we had all stood in the surf and tried to catch a live mullet as they jumped out of the water. I suppose she is right. I think that covers it. I hope your summer field work and vacationing are off to a great start. See you in San Diego and after that in Ocean City!

Mark J. Brush

Recap Spring 2013 Mtg. Cont'd

Congratulations go to our student presentation award winners:

Cassie Gurbisz (UMCES), Best Graduate Oral Presentation, *"Impacts of extreme weather on a large submersed plant bed in Chesapeake Bay: analysis of time series data"*

Ann Arfken (VIMS), Best Graduate Poster Presentation, *"Salinity effects on bacterial community composition in a tidal freshwater ecosystem"*

Elizabeth Lee (St. Mary's College of Maryland), Best Undergraduate Presentation Award, *"Comparison of substrates for St. Mary's River oyster reef restoration"*

A particular highlight was the inaugural combination silent-live auction to support student travel to AERS and CERF. Members had the opportunity to peruse and make silent bids on a range of items during the poster session, reception, and banquet, as well as purchase raffle tickets for selected items. Contributed items ranged from marine themed art and pottery, books, field services for the day, and 1960s-70s era photos of famous AERS scientists in action. Following the banquet, we were treated to a live auction in which members bid on a number of items including donated boat time, YSI instrumentation, a flight lesson, more classic photos and artwork, a famed Secchi disc fragment storied with AERS lore, and field services by the President. The event was a blast and we are indebted to the herculean efforts of **Chris Heyer**, **Jeremy Testa**, and **Sam Lake** for organizing it.



AERS Endowment Chair **David Yozzo** (left) and President **Mark Brush** (right) present the award for Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation to **Cassie Gurbisz** (UMCES) at the AERS Spring 2013 meeting. Photo: David Yozzo

As always, we thank our terrific Program Committee (**Ben Fertig**, **Jeremy Testa**, and **Sam Lake**) putting together an outstanding meeting, our webmaster **Chris Heyer** for setting up a new online registration and abstract submission page (along with a new online membership/renewal database and our new email listserv – he has been busy!), our Treasurer **Bryce Brylawski**, and our student judging coordinator and Endowment Chair **David Yozzo**. We are also grateful to our incredible sponsors, CERF, the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia, the Coastal Systems Ecology and Modeling Program at VIMS, the College of William and Mary, HDR, Maryland Sea Grant, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, VIMS, Virginia Sea Grant, and YSI.

Thanks to all for attending the meeting and making it a success. See you in San Diego this fall and Ocean City next spring!



AERS Endowment Chair **David Yozzo** (left) and President **Mark Brush** (right) present the student travel awards for the AERS Spring 2013 meeting to **Tunde Adebola** (George Mason University), **Talia Dibbell** (University of Virginia), **Cassie Gurbisz** (University of Maryland), **Peter Jacobs** (George Mason University), **Audrey Pleva** (East Carolina University), **Catherine Schlick** (George Mason University), **Amanda Sills** (George Mason University), **Ryan Weaver** (Virginia Commonwealth University), **Chantel Wilson** (Virginia Tech), and **Joe Wood** (Virginia Commonwealth University). Photo:



The Approach



The Delivery

Mullet toss at the Spring 2013 CERF Governing Board meeting, Dauphin Island, AL. Photos: Gary Williams, PERS President.

Executive Committee**President**

Mark Brush
VIMS, P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
Tel: 804-684 -7402
[E-mail Mark Brush](mailto:Mark.Brush@vims.edu)

President Elect

Treda Grayson
US EPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Tel: 202-566-0916
[E-mail Treda Grayson](mailto:Treda.Grayson@epa.gov)

Past President

Peter Straub
Richard Stockton College
101 Vera King Farris Dr
Galloway, NJ 08205
Tel: 609-652-4556
[E-mail Peter Straub](mailto:Peter.Straub@rst.edu)

Secretary

Danielle Kreeger
Science Director
Partnership for the Delaware
Estuary
One Riverwalk Plaza, Suite
202
100 Poplar Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Tel: 302-655-4990 x104
[E-mail Danielle Kreeger](mailto:Danielle.Kreeger@delawareestuary.org)

Treasurer

Bryce Brylawski
Department of Biology
Albright College
P.O. Box 15234
Reading, PA 06516
Tel: 610-929-6655
[E-mail Bryce Brylawski](mailto:Bryce.Brylawski@albright.edu)

Member at Large

Lora Harris
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
PO Box 38
Solomons, MD 20688
Tel: 410-326-7391
[E-mail Lora Harris](mailto:Lora.Harris@chesapeakebiological.org)

Member at Large

Roberto Llanso

Versar

E-mail RLlanso@versar.com

Member at Large

Joe Luczkovich
East Carolina University
Institute for Interdisciplinary
Coastal Science and Policy
383 Flanagan
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
Tel: 252-328-9402
[E-mail Joe Luczkovich](mailto:Joe.Luczkovich@ecu.edu)

Committee Chairs**Constitution**

David O'Neill
Biology Department
Comm. Coll. Baltimore Co.
Dundalk, Maryland
Tel: 410-285-9746
[E-mail David O'Neill](mailto:David.O'Neill@ccbc.edu)

Endowment

Dave Yozzo
Senior Project Manager
HDR | LMS
One Blue Hill Plaza
Pearl River, NY 10965
Tel: 845-735-8300 ext. 280
[E-mail Dave Yozzo](mailto:Dave.Yozzo@hdr.com)

Historian

Leila J. Hamdan
Marine Biogeochemistry
Section
Code 6114
US Naval Research Lab.
4555 Overlook Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20375
Tel: 202-767-3364
[E-mail Leila Hamdan](mailto:Leila.Hamdan@nrlssc.navy.mil)

Honorary Members

Judith Stribling
Department of Biological
Sciences
Salisbury University
Salisbury, MD 21801
Tel: 410-548-4767
[E-mail Judith Stribling](mailto:Judith.Stribling@salisbury.edu)

Membership

Treda Grayson
US EPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Tel: 202-566-0916
[E-mail Treda Grayson](mailto:Treda.Grayson@epa.gov)

Nominations

Shelley Sullivan
VIMS, P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
Tel: 804-684-7485
[E-mail Shelley Sullivan](mailto:Shelley.Sullivan@vims.edu)

Program Chair

Ben Fertig
Rutgers - IMCS
71 Dudley Road
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Tel: 301-785-7614
[E-mail Ben Fertig](mailto:Ben.Fertig@rutgers.edu)

Parliamentarian

Steve Fuller
Department of Biology
Mary Washington College
1300 College Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22401-
5358
Tel: 540-654-1421
[E-mail Steve Fuller](mailto:Steve.Fuller@mw.edu)

Student Affairs

Joe Wood
Virginia Commonwealth
University
[E-mail woodjd@vcu.edu](mailto:woodjd@vcu.edu)

AERSNews Editor

Julie Ambler
Department of Biology
Millersville University
Millersville, PA 17551
Tel: 717-872-3790
[E-mail Julie Ambler](mailto:Julie.Ambler@millersville.edu)

Webmaster

Chris Heyer
YSI Incorporated
YSI Mid-Atlantic Office
8830 Rymer Way
Owings, MD 20736
Tel: 410-257-0335
[E-mail Chris Heyer](mailto:Chris.Heyer@ysi.com)



Mullet toss winners in various categories. (L-R: Mark Brush, Leanna Haeffner, Walter Boynton, Susan Williams).

Membership in AERS

Membership Corner. Thank you to all for your continuing support of AERS. Remember there are three ways to pay your dues. The easiest is to select and pay for you AERS dues when renewing with CERF. The second is to follow the link from www.aers.info to pay your dues by PayPal. The third is to write a check at the meeting or send it to our Treasurer at the address provided on the website. Dues remain a bargain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for students. Treda Grayson, Membership Chair.