

AERS Newsletter

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In This Month's Newsletter:

[Zehnder, Sin, & Buck Win Student Paper Awards](#)

[Student Travel Awards](#)

[New Honorary Members](#)

[AERS Poster Contest](#)

[Fall Meeting Short & Sweet: Jones Gets Clam](#)

[VIMS to Host Spring Meeting](#)

[Nominees for President-Elect:](#)

* [Dan Dauer](#)

* [Stan Hales](#)

[Nominees for Secretary:](#)

* [Iris Anderson](#)

* [Chris Swarth](#)

[A Temperature Effects Bibliography](#)

[President's Corner](#)

[Call for Abstracts](#)

[Student Travel Support](#)

[15th Biennial International Estuarine Research Federation Conference \(Sept 15-30, 1999\)](#)

[Bytes and Pieces](#)

[Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment \(MAIA\) Conference \(Nov.30 -- Dec.2, 1998\)](#)

Zehnder, Sin, & Buck Win Student Paper Awards

The highlight of the Fall meeting was the Friday night banquet, where three students received awards for their outstanding papers.

The undergraduate Student Paper Awards was presented to **Caralyn Zehnder**, who reported on "A Population Study of Northern Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys Terrapin terrapin*) on the Cape May Peninsula of Southernmost New Jersey."

The graduate Student Paper Award was given to **Yongsik Sin** for his work on "Ecosystem Modeling Analysis of Size-Structured Phytoplankton Dynamics in the York River Estuary."

The Best Student Poster Award was won by **Tracy Buck** for the poster entitled: "Characterization and Hydrologic Manipulation of an Organic High Marsh in the Process of State Change."

Congratulations to the winners, who will receive student membership in ERF for one year, which includes the journal Estuaries.

[Back to Top](#)

Student Travel Awards

As has been done in the past, AERS used the available interest on its assets to help fund student member travel to the Fall meeting. Two student members applied for travel assistance for the fall meeting at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, NJ. Both students, Yongsik Sin from VIMS and Kimberly Aragon from Salisbury State University, received travel awards.

[Back to Top](#)

New Honorary Members

The Governing Board has voted to add two new names to the esteemed list of honorary members. Chosen were Dexter Haven and Willard van Engle, both from VIMS. Both have been members for as long as anyone on the Board could remember, and Van was one of the founding parents. Both have also made significant contributions to estuarine research: Dexter for his work on oysters, and Van for his work on blue crabs.

[Back to Top](#)

ANNOUNCING

AERS POSTER CONTEST

AERS is seeking a creative way to increase the awareness of the organization, so we are going to have a poster contest.

- Any media (acrylics, watercolor, pencils, etc.) may be used. Posters must include the logo and information about AERS.
- Prize - An estuarine book of the winner's choice having a value up to \$75.

Posters will be judged at the Spring meeting.

For more info, contact Tim Morris at covelab@chesapeake.net or Judy Heath at (919) 483-3113 or jkh38326@glaxowellcome.com

Start work on a poster today. Don't pass up this opportunity to become world famous.

[Back to Top](#)

Fall Meeting Short & Sweet: Jones Gets Clam

AERS held its 1998 Fall Meeting at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, New Jersey on October 1-3, ending its 50th year in fine style. Many kudos to **Stan Hales** for a fine job with local arrangements. A

total of 13 papers were presented on Friday, and, in honor of National Estuaries Day, a number of local field trips were substituted for the usual pattern of papers on Saturday morning.

The formal portion of the Fall meeting began on Friday morning with the bestowing of the Don Lear Venerable Clam Award. **Tom Jones**, from Salisbury State, was the latest honoree to join the ranks of the distinguished and elite. Knuckle salutes abounded as the group wished him well.

[Back to Top](#)

VIMS to Host Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting has been set for April 22-24, with VIMS as the host. Iris Anderson, the local arrangements person, is working on setting up the Gloucester Point lab as the actual meeting site, with hotel accommodations at the Duke of York in Yorktown. Further details will appear in the next issue of AERSNEWS.

Mark your calendars now. This will be an important meeting, including, as it will, the biennial election for President-Elect and Secretary. So far, **Dan Dauer** and **Stan Hales** have been nominated for President Elect, while **Iris Anderson** and **Chris Swarth** have been nominated for secretary. Their bios appear below.

[Back to Top](#)

Nominees for President-Elect

Dan Dauer:

Dan Dauer received his Ph.D. from the University of South Florida in 1974 and has been a faculty member of the Department of Biological Sciences of Old Dominion University since 1975. He has been a member of AERS since 1980 and previously has been Nomination Chair and member at-large of the executive board under three previous presidents. Additional administrative experience includes activities as Associate Director of the Applied Marine Research Laboratory and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University, Principal Investigator of the Virginia Water Quality and Living Resources Monitoring Program, member of the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake Research Consortium, and member of the Advisory Council of the International Polychaetologist Association. His research concerns the use of benthic community structure as an indicator of environmental quality; benthic community dynamics, particularly factors that affect the establishment and maintenance of community composition; and the interaction of functional morphology and feeding behavior in determining the distribution and abundance of marine animals.

AERS is a strong society that has effectively promoted communication and understanding of estuarine processes in our region. There are no unique and pressing problems that face AERS. There are always cyclic issues such as improving the efficiency of administration of AERS, promoting the involvement of students and encouraging senior scientists to join and attend our meetings. The president should not only provide leadership and direction to the activities of the Executive Board but should actively encourage participation of students and individuals particularly from institutions that have not recently been active in our society.

Stan Hales:

I received my BS. from Davidson College, my M. S. from the College of Charleston, and my PhD from the University of Georgia. Reflecting this southern heritage, I was a member of SEERS for several years prior to moving north and joining AERS in 1993. After working in temporary positions at Rutgers University and Richard Stockton College, I joined the biology faculty at Rowan University in 1997.

I have worked primarily on the ecology of estuarine and marine fishes, but have begun to dabble with other vertebrate and invertebrate taxa. One major area of my interest lies in the population dynamics of estuarine fishes over a wide variety of temporal scales. I am also interested in how various features of the life history of fishes are shaped by environmental features, such as winter mortality.

As president of AERS, I would continue to develop AERS' recent efforts to promote greater regional awareness of this society. In particular, I would like to foster our involvement with regional educational institutions and provide opportunities for our leadership in regional scientific issues. As the oldest regional affiliate of ERF, AERS is in the unique position of providing a historical perspective that can be invaluable in addressing regional estuarine and coastal issues. This historical perspective can also be important to student members in our society. I pledge my continued encouragement and support for the participation of students in our society.

[Back to Top](#)

Nominees for Secretary***Iris Anderson:***

I would like to express my interest in running for the office of secretary of AERS. I have been a member since I arrived at VIMS in 1993. I am presently a Professor of Marine Science in the School of Marine Science at VIMS. My interests are in the area of microbial ecology and more particularly in nitrogen and carbon cycling processes in intertidal and shallow subtidal ecosystems. I currently have on-going projects at the Virginia Coast Reserve LTER, at the Sweet Hall marsh NERR site on the Pamunkey River, and on the Great Wicomico River. Occasionally I also work in terrestrial systems and have a small project in a nitrogen-saturated watershed in an ILTER site in the Czech Republic.

I have been greatly impressed with AERS and wish to do as much as I can to insure its continued success. AERS meetings are among the most enjoyable professional meeting that I attend. I particularly enjoy hearing from all of the students and appreciate the opportunity to have my students present their work to AERS.

Chris Swarth:

Chris Swarth earned his BS degree in zoology in 1978 from Humboldt State University in California and his MS degree in biology from California State University, Hayward in 1983. His graduate work involved studies of shorebirds and their invertebrate prey on San Francisco Bay tidal mud flats and at hypersaline Mono Lake in eastern California.

For the past ten years he has been the director of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, located on the Patuxent River in central Maryland, where his work is a blend of wetlands research and environmental education. Research interests include bird and reptile use of tidal freshwater wetlands and nutrient

cycling in Patuxent River marshes.

He joined AERS in 1990, served on the board in 1995, and would be happy to serve as secretary.

[Back To Top](#)

A Temperature Effects Bibliography

Vic Kennedy and **Joe Mihursky** have prepared a bibliography on temperature effects on aquatic invertebrates and fish. It contains over 3000 references from the 19th Century until 1993 (available commercial and library search options make it simple to retrieve more recent citations, so they stopped at 1993).

The bibliography is available at the Maryland Sea Grant website:

www.mdsg.umd.edu/MDSG/Research/fishtemp.html

[Back To Top](#)

President's Corner

The President's Corner column in this issue is going to be a hodge-podge of informational topics. First, I'm delighted that our spring meeting will be hosted by VIMS. Several weeks ago I attended a meeting at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences in Gloucester Point, Virginia. What a glorious spot to have a meeting. The weather was beautiful, so eating lunch sitting on the seawall in front of Waterman's Hall was a pleasant break from the meeting discussions. I'm sure Iris Anderson (local arrangements) will order up some extra fine weather for April 22-24 so we will be able to take advantage of the seawall for lunch during the spring meeting. Please be sure to put the spring meeting on your calendars now. Don't forget that at the spring meeting we will be electing a President-elect and a new secretary.

The second item on my list is a new student representative to the AERS board. Amy Russell, has stepped down so this leaves a student position on the board open. If there are students who are interested in serving on the AERS board, please contact me via e-mail at LKB2E@virginia.edu. In your e-mail, please be sure to include your institution, telephone number, address, and degree program (MS or PhD). I encourage students to volunteer for this position. There is some work involved with being a board member, but this is a wonderful opportunity to learn how a professional society operates. It is also an important job because the students on the AERS board are the board members in the best position to provide input to the society officers regarding an issue specifically related to students.

Many thanks to Susan Brazer for getting the AERS webpage back up and running at it's new home. The webpage can be accessed from the Estuarine Research Federation webpage, <http://www.erf.org/>, or directly as <http://www.evsc.virginia.edu/~lkb2e/AERS/>. Because there are plans to move the webpage in the near future, it will probably be most convenient for you to bookmark the ERF webpage and get to the AERS page.

Finally, for AERS members who plan to attend the **September 25-30, 1999 ERF meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana**, please be sure to send your abstracts in early and to make your reservations well in advance of the meeting. The meeting planners have put together an exciting event and they are expecting another record turnout for the meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Gloucester Point on April 22-24, 1999.

Call for Abstracts

Spring Abstracts Deadline April 7

The spring AERS meeting is a lot of frosty mornings away. And ERF is just a few months more down the road. So it is not too late to plan for presentations that you may want to give at either, or both, of those meetings. The spring meeting is the perfect venue to work the kinks out of your presentation before you take it on the road to New Orleans and ERF.

All AERS abstracts must be received by **Pat Reilly** by **Wednesday, April 7, 1999**. Another reminder will follow in the next issue of AERSNEWS and also be on the web site. Should you have questions before then, please feel free to contact Pat at (703) 792-6892.

The preferred method of transmittal is by e-mail to reillygroup@msn.com. If e-mail is not available to you, you may use diskettes (labeled with author, file name and software used), or send a FAX to (703) 792-4630.

As a last resort, a high-quality hard-copy may be mailed to **Pat Reilly, 67 Meyer Lane, Stafford, VA 22554**. This is in the hinterlands (mail from D.C. often takes a week to be delivered!), so allow plenty of time if you must use snail mail.

Abstracts should begin with the **title**, then the **names of the authors**, followed by a **brief abstract (fewer than 250 words)**. Please indicate your preference of **poster** or **oral presentation**, and the **name of the presenter**. If the presenter will be a student, include the student's status as undergraduate, MS or PhD candidate for the purposes of awarding Best Student Paper Awards.

All submissions should include an e-mail address and/or phone number where Pat can reach you if there are any questions.

Student Travel Support

The AERS Endowment Fund provides travel support with a maximum of \$75 per trip for student members in good standing (current dues paid) who play an active role in AERS meetings (e.g. present a paper), and who cannot find sufficient funding from other sources. To apply for this aid, send the following information to: **Dr. Steve Rebach, Department of Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853**.

email: srebach@umes.umd.edu:

1. A letter describing student activity at the meeting, including the abstract, if appropriate.
2. An itemized list of expenses requiring support.
3. A brief description of other sources of support, which may be inadequate.

4. 4. A letter from the student's advisor documenting the previously described needs and activities.

The deadline for the receipt of applications for a travel support grant is **April 7, 1999**. Grant recipients will be determined one week from that date, and notified a week later.

This support is also available for travel to ERF's 15th Biennial International Conference. The meeting will be held Sept. 25- 30, 1999 in New Orleans, Louisiana. **The ERF deadline for abstracts is March 1, 1999**, so requests for support for this meeting must be in to Steve by then. For more information about ERF, check out its web page at <http://www.erf.org>.

[Back To Top](#)

15th Biennial International Estuarine Research Federation Conference

Where the River Meets the Sea -- New Orleans, *September 25-30, 1999*.

CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS First Call: *April 15, 1998* Second Call: *June 15, 1998*

The Estuarine Research Federation has announced the **FIRST CALL** for proposals and letters of interest to develop thematic, contributed, and poster sessions, as well as workshops, for the ERF99 Biennial International Conference. The ERF99 Program Committee is soliciting proposals and ideas for sessions that capture timely developments and syntheses in estuarine science, with particular focus on six Conference Themes described below. These six themes are intended to influence the development of each type of program format including thematic, contributed, and poster sessions, along with workshops. The contributed sessions will assure that the program captures the broad scope of estuarine science, while workshops are to focus on particularly timely research and management topics.

I. CONFERENCE THEMES:

1. River-Dominated Coastal Margin Ecosystems
2. Comparative Processes of Tropical and Temperate Estuaries
3. Physical Constraints of Ecological Processes
4. Processes and Consequences of Eutrophication
5. Scientific Principles of Estuarine Restoration and Recovery
6. Value and Assessment of Estuaries

II. CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS

1. Estuarine Processes
2. Estuarine Habitats and Ecosystems
3. Perturbations of Estuaries
4. Estuarine Science, Management and Education

5. Analyses and Tools of Estuarine Science

For more info on the conference, including proposal submission, please contact **Dr. Robert R. Twilley**, Department of Biology, PO Box 42451, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504.

Phone:318-482-6146

FAX: 318-482-5834

email: rtwilley@usl.edu

[Back to Top](#)

BYTES & PIECES

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National Library for the Environment now On-Line

The on-line National Library for the Environment <http://www.cnie.org> consists of seven very useful information resources, all available at no cost to the user. These are:

1. Over 300 nonpartisan environmental reports produced by the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service.
2. Environmental Education Programs and Resources.
3. Environmental Laws and Treaties
4. Population-Environment Linkages.
5. A Virtual Library of Ecology and Biodiversity.
6. Information on environmental conferences and meetings.
7. Environmental Careers and Jobs.

The Library was recently honored with a Computerworld Smithsonian award for innovative use of technology. Rice University Center for Conservation Biology Network is a major collaborator in this effort. Pace University Law School and several other organizations provide significant on-line resources for the Library.

AERS Bulletin Board

Hang out with the AERS elite. Find out what's going on while it's still hot. A mailing list server (sometimes called an electronic bulletin board) is up and running for AERS. It is available to anyone who has access to email. Once you have subscribed you will automatically be sent any and all messages posted. As a subscriber you will also be able to post messages.

To subscribe to the AERS list (AERS-L), just send a one line message to: MAJORDOMO@VIMS.EDU that looks like:

subscribe AERS-L <your internet address>

After signing up you will receive words of welcome and any messages posted. You will continue to receive all messages posted.

The AERS list server is ready to receive messages 24 hours a day. To send a message, simply:

- 1. Compose your message or select a message to forward
- 2. Send the message to aers-l@vims.edu

That is all there is to it. Any news, job announcements, commentary, or current event items are welcome.

Everyone is encouraged to subscribe. Please take a minute to send MAJORDOMO@VIMS.EDU the magic message.

[Back to Top](#)

Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment (MAIA) Conference

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting a conference focusing on the Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment (MAIA), a pilot program of the EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP). The Conference will take place **November 30 - December 2, 1998**, at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, MD.

The final date to register is currently **September 30** and the final date to reserve a reduced rate hotel room is **October 23**.

Further information on the MAIA Working Conference is available at the MAIA web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/emap/maia>

The Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment (MAIA) is a model ecosystem-based program being conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region III and the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) in partnership with other federal, state and private agencies. MAIA will characterize the condition of individual ecological resources such as estuaries, streams and forests, and identify possible associations with stressors that may explain impaired conditions for both specific resources and the overall ecosystem of the Mid-Atlantic region.

The MAIA Conference will be devoted to the presentation of current scientific research by parties affiliated with the MAIA Program. It is a free Conference organized around major topics of interest to MAIA stakeholders including Region III staff, federal agencies, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, congressional staff, and the press. During the Conference, concurrent sessions are planned to permit a wide range of topics. Sessions will include short talks from invited lectures,

poster presentations and workshops. The 2 1/2-day Conference presents an opportunity for informal discussion and exchange of information and ideas on scientific research within the region and the possibilities for other EPA regions.

[Back to Top](#)