

AERS NEWS



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

Volume 2015 Number 1

Feb. 17, 2015

Come to the Outer Banks for the ...

*Spring Meeting of the
Atlantic Estuarine Research Society
March 12-14, 2015
UNC Coastal Studies Institute*



AERS Spring Meeting.

March 12-14, 2015

**at the University of North Carolina
Coastal Studies Institute in Wanchese, NC.**

Hosted by Joe Luczkovich, Bob Christian, JP Walsh, Robert McClendon, Reide Corbett, Tom Allen, Christine Avenarius, David Kimmel, Hans Vogel song, and Sid Mitra (Eastern Carolina University), and Mike Piehler (Coastal Studies Institute).

"Blue Carbon" theme for AERS Spring Meeting

The program theme for the Spring 2015 AERS meeting is "Blue Carbon." With a majority of Americans now supporting action on climate change, according to a New York Times/Stanford University Poll, the question remains how we can best offset or reduce the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. Estuarine ecosystems, because of their high productivity and carbon sequestration in seagrasses, marshes, mangroves, and "black" carbon in peat, sediments and mudflats are some of the best ways we may have to achieve a carbon neutral future. How much does each of these estuarine habitat carbon sinks store? What is the impact of losses in the carbon-storing habitats? Can carbon sequestration in estuarine systems be increased? Can economic incentives be used to conserve and increase carbon storage in estuaries? This topic is especially timely since most carbon storage models do not include contributions from estuarine systems. Efforts to increase or at least maintain these valuable habitats becomes an even a higher priority.

Key dates:

AERS website for registration and abstract uploads.
www.aers.info

Feb 21, 12am – deadline for abstracts, student travel requests, cut-off for hotel advance rates

March 12-14 - Spring AERS Meeting

Venue for Scientific Sessions: Coastal Studies Institute (CSI), Wanchese, NC <http://csi.northcarolina.edu/>

Thursday Field Trips & Evening Keynote

We have invited some of the nation's experts to talk to us about carbon storage in estuaries. We're starting a new tradition by hosting our first keynote speaker on Thursday evening at 7:30pm: Hans Paerl (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) will speak on "Impacts of human and climatic perturbations on blue, green and black carbon in our estuaries." Keynote speakers on Friday are Robert Twilley (Louisiana State University) on contribution of wetlands to carbon sequestration, and Sid Mitra (East Carolina University) on the role of black carbon sequestration. We have also arranged a series of informative workshops, field trips, poster sessions, and contributed paper sessions on estuarine topics with student awards. See "Brief Meeting Schedule" on page 3.

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AERS News. President's Corner

Treda Smith Grayson
grayson.treda@epa.gov

As the fall meeting drew to a close, I was elated that the location for the spring meeting was agreed upon and set. Joe Luczkovich and colleagues from East Carolina University and University of North Carolina have graciously agreed to host the Spring 2015 at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute in Wanchese, NC! Workshops, student-oriented activities and amazing field trips are planned. I look forward to seeing you in the southern extent of our range March 12-14, 2015. Details on conference theme, abstract submission, and registration and lodging information are available at www.aers.info.

Remember, as an AERS member you receive a reduced registration rate; the same holds true for CERF members registering for 2015 conference! If you are already a member, don't forget to renew both your AERS and CERF memberships. If you are not yet a member, what are you waiting for?! Encourage your colleagues to become and remain active members.

Candidate AERS President-Elect: Danielle Kreeger

I am deeply honored to be nominated for AERS President, and if elected I will do whatever I can to sustain and enhance this wonderful society. Except for a 7-year scientific tour of duty on the west coast and U.K., I have been a member of AERS since 1985 (30 years). I have served as Member at Large and Secretary, and I helped to organize the Philadelphia and Cape May meetings. My past service as treasurer and president for the National Shellfisheries Association also provided good experience for running professional societies. I have always been attracted to our society's casual yet rigorous culture. Drawing on our rich history, I believe that AERS is still strong today because we continue to invest in the future: students, young researchers and innovative research.

For those who don't know me, I'm a wetland and shellfish ecologist serving as science director at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program. My other hat is associate research professor at Drexel University. My research interests include the physiological ecology and restoration of marine and freshwater bivalves, living shoreline R&D, coastal wetland assessment, and climate change. I have taught for about 25 years at regional universities and mentored about a dozen MS and PhD students. Formerly, I was a wetland ecologist for the Academy of Natural Sciences and NSF-NATO post-doc fellow at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. Before that, I was a Nittany Lion (Penn State B.S.), Blue Hen (Univ. of DE M.S.) and Beaver (Oregon State Ph.D.).

Spring Meeting: Candidate Statements for AERS President-Elect and AERS Secretary

The Secretary begins a two-year term immediately, while the President-Elect begins a one-year term as President-Elect, followed by two years as President, followed by a fourth year as Past-President. These officers are the ones who make our Society work on a day-to-day basis. We have two excellent candidates for President-Elect: Danielle Kreeger and David Osgood, and two excellent candidates for Secretary: Joe Wood and Roberto J. Llansó. Nominations from the floor at the Spring AERS meeting are also possible. Please contact Mark Brush (brush@vims.edu).

Candidate AERS President-Elect: David Osgood

I received my PhD in Environmental Science from University of Virginia in 1996. My doctoral research was on natural marsh development on barrier islands with an emphasis on subsurface hydrology, nutrient dynamics, and their influence on the developing vegetation community. My research evolved from there into study of *Phragmites* impact on ecosystem processes in tidal marshes. I presently hold the rank of Full Professor at Albright College in Reading Pennsylvania where I have been since 2001. I currently serve as Director of General Education and Director of the Environmental Science program and formally chaired the undergraduate research program on our campus. My current research focuses on restoration of headwater streams and floodplain wetlands of coastal watersheds.

I started out my time with CERF as an AERS member in the early 90's and have had membership with SEERS, NEERS, and finally back to AERS in 2001. I have historically served the AERS board as Nominations Officer, Endowment Officer and as Treasurer. AERS has done much for me over the course of my career and I value being able to contribute to the continued success of the Society. I would be honored to give back to an organization that has been so important for me throughout my career. I appreciate the nomination for the President-Elect position and would serve AERS to the best of my abilities should I be elected.

Candidate for AERS Secretary: Joe Wood

I'm excited about the potential opportunity to serve as secretary for the AERS Board. The AERS meetings have been a great place for me to develop as a scientist, share my work and learn about all of the other great research that is happening in the region. I am very eager to give back to this excellent organization which has done so much for me.

Joe is the Staff Scientist for Chesapeake Bay Foundation where his primary responsibilities include GIS mapping, permit review, water quality analyses and tracking legislation which influences the status of the Chesapeake Bay. He has been attending AERS meetings since 2010 and has published peer-review journal articles on harmful algal blooms, nutrient limitation and stream restoration. He received a B.A. in Philosophy from Virginia Tech and his M.S. & Ph.D. in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University. He also taught high school biology and ecology in Tappahannock, VA and worked at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to manage storm water grants.

Candidate for AERS Secretary: Roberto J. Llansó

I am a senior scientist at Versar, Inc., where my area of expertise is benthic ecology, environmental impact assessment, and biocriteria development. I am Principal Investigator for the Chesapeake Bay Program benthic monitoring and assessment program in Maryland, but I have also been involved in many varied, interesting, and challenging projects, which typically encompassed characterization of fish and benthic communities in relation to sediment contaminants, water quality, and nutrients; biocriteria and benthic index development; and invasive species studies.

I received my Ph.D. from the College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, in 1990. I was a student of Bob Diaz, who encouraged me to attend my first AERS meeting way back in the mid 1980s. I was quickly hooked on AERS because it was friendly and welcoming to students and a great forum to help me grow professionally. Soon I was attending as many AERS and CERF meetings as I could afford to travel to. I moved to the University of South Florida for a postdoc with Susan Bell, and soon afterwards I was directing the benthic monitoring program in Puget Sound. I have learned much from working with and comparing the benthic communities of three very different estuaries: Chesapeake Bay, Tampa Bay, and Puget Sound. While on the West Coast I joined PERS, attending and presenting at as many meetings as my State job allowed me to, and taught marine benthic ecology at the Evergreen State College. I became Newsletter Editor of PERS (1996-1998), and Secretary (1998-1999). I have been a member of CERF since 1989. I have benefited immensely from these societies, but above all from my long-standing membership in AERS, so I would like to give back to the society and would be truly honored to serve as an officer of AERS.

Brief Meeting Schedule, AERS Spring 2015 Meeting

Thursday, March 12, afternoon:

1- 3 PM: Workshop #1 Mid-Atlantic Coastal Atlas Workshop; Tom Allen Moderator; CSI Room 225B

1- 3 PM: Workshop #2 Student Employment Workshop; CJ Schlick Student Coordinator, and Christine Avenarius, Moderator, CSI Room 262

3-5 PM: Field trip #1 Tour of Jennette's Pier – An Invaluable and Innovative State Facility, led by Mike Remige, Pier Director

4-5 PM: Field trip #2 Informative Hike Through Nags Head Woods to Albemarle Sound, led by Aaron McCall, Nature Conservancy and J.P. Walsh, ECU

AERS Board meeting (3 PM – 5 PM): CSI Room 210B

Poster Session and Opening Social Event 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM CSI Atrium, Hallways. Beer and wine, food served in rooms TBA

Brief Meeting Schedule cont'd

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Opening Keynote and Welcome

7:30 PM Hans Paerl, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences. "Impacts of human and climatic perturbations on blue, green and black carbon in our estuaries"

Friday, March 13, 2015

Morning

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Keynote Speakers:

Robert Twilley (Louisiana State University)

Sid Mitra (ECU) "The color palette of carbon: why black is at the center"

Panel Discussion on Meeting Theme Blue Carbon CSI Room 262

10:30 AM – 12 noon Special Session: Carbon budgeting in the New River Estuary, NC. CSI Room 262

Friday, March 13, afternoon

Afternoon

12:00 – 1:30 PM Catered Lunch at CSI Marine Operations Building

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM Contributed Paper sessions CSI Room 262

5:00 PM – AERS Business meeting CSI Room 262

7:00 PM - Banquet at Pamlico Jack's Pirate Ship restaurant

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Morning

8:30 AM – 12 noon Contributed papers and Student Awards CSI Room 262

Afternoon 1-4 PM Field Trips

1-4 PM Field Trip #1: Outer Banks Environments, Dynamics and Societal Challenges. Visits will be made to a few interesting areas along the Outer Banks to discuss their form, function and challenges regarding their management. Led by J.P. Walsh and Reide Corbett, ECU ICSP & UNC CSI

1-4 PM Field Trip #2. Trawling on R/V Riggs (ECU Research vessel) Led by Joe Luczkovich

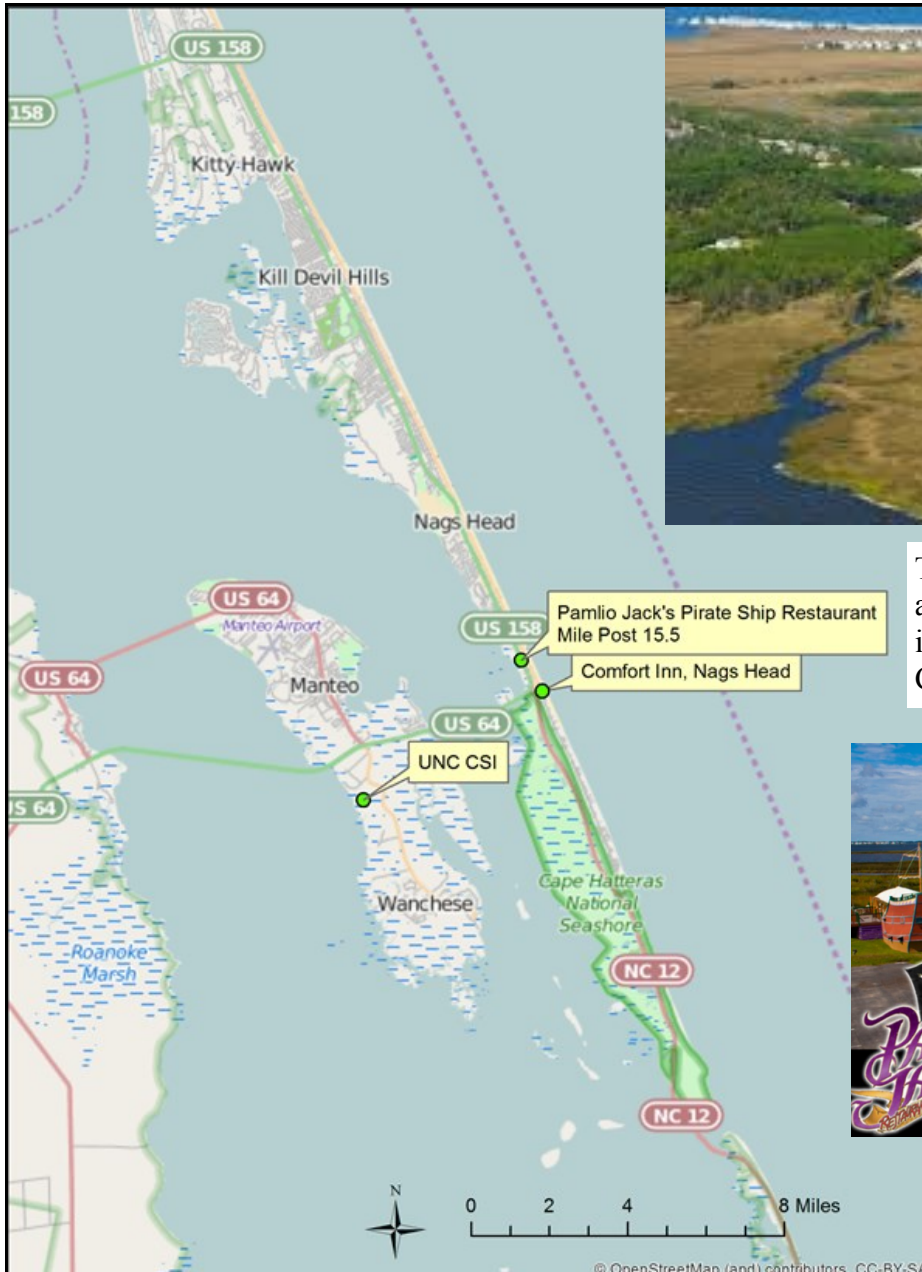
Exhibitors

YSI – In CSI atrium

Sponsors

ECU Department of Biology
ECU Institute for Coastal Science and Policy
ECU Office of Diving and Water Safety,
UNC Coastal Studies Institute
Virginia Sea Grant,
North Carolina Sea Grant.

AERS Spring 2015 Meeting at UNC Coastal Studies Institute, Wanchese, NC, March 12-14,



Thursday evening keynote, Friday talks and poster session, and Saturday morning talks are at the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute.



Friday evening banquet will be at Pamlico Jack's Pirate Ship Restaurant.

Conference Hotel:

Comfort Inn, Nags Head, NC (special rate: \$65 sound side/\$75 ocean view)

Address: 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road, Nags Head, NC 27959

Phone: (252) 441-6315

<http://www.comfortinn.com/hotel-nags-head-north-carolina-NC236>

Banquet on Friday Night:

Pamlico Jack's (Banquet at Pamlico Jack's "pirate ship" restaurant, about 1.5 mi from Comfort Inn).

Address: 6708 South Croatan Highway, Nags Head, NC 27959

Phone: (252) 441-2637



Thursday, 3-5 PM: Field trip #1 Tour of Jennette's Pier – An Invaluable and Innovative State Facility, led by Mike Remige, Pier Director. Jennette's Pier, Nags Head, near Comfort Inn.

Thursday and Saturday afternoon Field Trips.

Thursday, March 12, afternoon field trips.

If you plan to go, please email the following contacts or Joe Luczkovich (luczkovichj@ecu.edu)

Note: Workshops and field trips will be open until the day of the meeting.

1- 3 PM: Workshop #1. Mid-Atlantic Coastal Atlas Workshop; This is an introduction to the NC Coastal Atlas and will include using GIS and coastal web atlases. Tom Allen, Moderator; CSI Room 225B.

Purpose: Demonstrate the use of the NC and VA Coastal Atlas. There are computers provided in the room. The Coastal Atlas will be demonstrated and data are already online. Please attend the workshop to learn about this new resource.

Contact Tom Allen (allenth@ecu.edu).

1- 3 PM: Workshop #2. Student Employment Workshop; CJ Schlick Student Coordinator and Christine Avenarius, Moderator, CSI Room 262.

Purpose: Provide an informal atmosphere for students to *feel more comfortable engaging professionals* about particular career paths. Students will be encouraged to *ask questions* regarding the different types of careers, steps professionals took to get to their current position, and inquire about any fears they have about the career path. *Professionals are encouraged to provide tips* on activities/actions to take or to avoid for students to pursue this particular career path. This workshop aims to provide students with more details about potential career paths, while helping students develop better skills for informal communication between professionals.

Contact CJ Schlick (cjschlick@gmail.com) or Christine Avenarius (Avenariusc@ecu.edu).

3-5 PM: Field Trip #1. Tour of Jennette's Pier – An Invaluable and Innovative State Facility, led by Mike Remige, Pier Director. Contact Joe Luczkovich (luczkovichj@ecu.edu).

4-5 PM: Field Trip #2. Informative Hike Through Nags Head Woods to Albemarle Sound, led by Aaron McCall, Nature Conservancy and J.P. Walsh, ECU. Contact JP Walsh (walshj@ecu.edu).

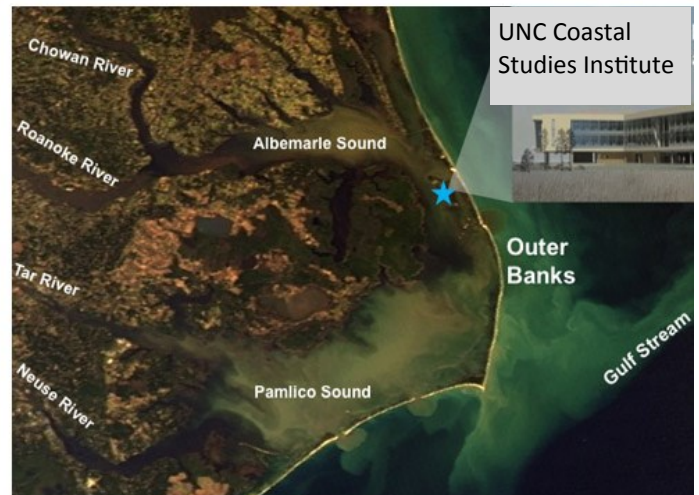
Saturday, March 14, afternoon field trips.

1-4PM: Field Trip #1. Outer Banks Environments, Dynamics and Societal Challenges. Led by J.P. Walsh and Reide Corbett, ECU ICSP & UNC CSI. Contact JP Walsh (walshj@ecu.edu)

1-4PM: Field Trip #2. R/V Riggs Trawling trip – Led by Joe Luczkovich. Contact Joe (luczkovichj@ecu.edu)

Saturday March 14, afternoon Field Trip #1.

Outer Banks Environments, Dynamics and Societal Challenges. Visits will be made to a few interesting areas along the Outer Banks to discuss their form, function and challenges regarding their management. Led by J.P. Walsh and Reide Corbett,



Saturday, March 14, afternoon field trip #2.

Trawling trip on R/V Riggs (ECU Research vessel) led by Joe Luczkovich.



R/V Riggs, ECU Research vessel steaming along.



Trawl being put out to catch benthic organisms. Come see what Joe will catch.

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AERS the Original Estuarine Research Society

Membership in AERS

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.

Shelley Sullivan, Membership Chair.