

# AERS NEWS



All the news  
that'll fit, and  
then some

Volume 2011 Number 1

March 28, 2011

## AERS Spring 2011 Meeting

### Our Changing Coasts: From Observation to Restoration

Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, MD  
April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2011

The Master of Ceremonies for our meeting will be Spring 2010 Venerable Clam Awardee, **Dr. Walter Boynton** (UMCES/CBL). The meeting is organized into three specific sub-themes with keynote speakers for each:

**Technology:** Keynote speaker : **Dr. Scott Glenn**, Co-Director of the Rutgers Coastal Oceans Observation Laboratory (a.k.a., RU-COOL). Dr. Glenn will focus on the various technologies being utilized within global and regional observing systems. Contributed presentations include topics on observation instrumentation, advances in observation technologies, and future observing technology needs.

**Observation:** Keynote speaker: **Ms. Zdenka Willis**, Director of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program. Ms. Willis will focus on the IOOS, and the importance of global and regional observing systems in tracking and understanding our ever changing coastal environment. Contributed presentations include topics on small and large scale observing programs, global climate change, status and trends in our coastal environment, and how observations are allowing us to track our changing coasts.

**Restoration and Ecology:** Keynote speaker: **Dr. Mark Luckenbach**, Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Eastern Shore Laboratory. Dr. Luckenbach will focus on restoring the ecological functions provided by oyster reefs. Contributed presentations include topics on the use of technology and observation in guiding restoration projects and ecological studies, and in measuring the success of these projects and studies.

The fourth session will be for other estuarine and coastal topics. At press time, there were 109 registrants for the meeting, 39 of which are students. A total of 65 abstracts were submitted for oral and poster presentations.

This meeting is being hosted by: Alliance for Coastal Technologies: Dr. Mario Tamburri & Janet Barnes; Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center: Dr. Richard Lacouture; and St. Mary's College of Maryland: Dr. Bob Paul & Dr. Chris Tanner.



Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, MD.

The meeting will kick-off with a Welcome Social at the Calvert Marine Museum on Thursday evening. All of the museum galleries will be open exclusively to AERS during the social, so you will be able to enjoy the newly renovated exhibits. A guided tour by the Museum Director will also be offered that evening.



Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons, MD

### Inside this Issue

AERSNews	
Spring Meeting Information	Page 1, 3
President Elect and Secretary Candidate Statements	Pages 2-3
Spring Meeting Workshops	Page 7
Student Award Winners	Page 4
Fall Meeting Recap	Page 4
Report on Oil Spill Panelists	Pages 5-6

## Chair's Corner-News from Pete

Dear AERSians:

Thank you to everyone who made the AERS Fall 2010 Kitty Hawk, NC meeting one of the most memorable in years. The scientific program was exciting and the insights into the Gulf oil spill and its aftermath were enlightening. The outer banks field trip led by Stan Riggs of ECU was awesome and ECU's Joe Luczcovich was the perfect local host.

Incredibly, I am halfway through my term as your President and I want to thank each and every member for your continued support of this society. There is something organic about the amazing level of commitment that is shown by our members. It is the lifeblood of our professional lives and I am so thrilled to see new students, budding teachers and young professionals gathering with seasoned veterans to share the excitement of what they are studying, their data and their conclusions. It has been this way for over 60 years and AERS has proudly led the way in advancing knowledge and understanding of coastal and estuarine science. With our affiliation with Estuarine Societies around the country and Canada through the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) we have local roots but a global reach.

As I write to you I am representing our Society as an affiliate Society President and member of the CERF board of trustees at the spring board meeting in Airlie, VA. Now, more than ever, CERF is depending on the strength of the local affiliates like AERS to bolster national support for ocean policy, coastal zone management and sustainable use of coastal resources. I especially urge you to check out the CERF public policy initiatives (<http://www.erf.org/policy-and-public-outreach>) and read about the issues facing our science today. For students and professionals, the information from the CERF education committee is invaluable (<http://www.erf.org/education>) and for anyone looking for classic literature and the stories behind the great discoveries in estuarine science, please check out the CERF-Lit link from the education page. AERS has consistently one of the highest representations in the CERF membership of the affiliate societies and I am proud that we at AERS remain one of the staunchest pillars of the Federation. If you are not a member of CERF, please visit the website (<http://www.erf.org>) and see what the Federation is all about. Our fall 2011 AERS meeting will be held at the CERF 2011 meeting, "Societies, Estuaries & Coasts: Adapting to Change," in beautiful Daytona Beach, Florida, November 6-10, 2011.

The Spring AERS meeting next month in Solomons, MD is shaping up to be an amazing gathering from both a scientific and social vantage point. We are deeply indebted to Chris Heyer and his team of local hosts for securing such a perfect venue as the Calvert Museum and putting together such a wonderful package of field trips, social events and the scientific panel. As always, thanks to the AERS board for their support and for making my job easy. Please look over the candidate biographies in anticipation of the election to be held at the Spring meeting where we will select a President-elect and a Secretary to guide AERS into the future. I am heartened that such a wonderful group of people is willing to stand for election to serve you the members and our Society as a whole. Finally I would like to thank all of our sponsors for supporting the meeting and especially Maryland Sea Grant and Dr. Jon Kramer for generous support of student travel and participation. See you in Solomons!

Pete Straub, AERS President

## Spring Elections, AERS President Elect

Every two years, AERS members elect a President Elect. This position is a four year commitment. The elected person will serve one year as President Elect to overlap with current President Pete Straub, two years as President starting Spring 2012, and one year as Past President. We are fortunate to have two excellent candidates with much experience with CERF affiliate groups and with AERS: Treda Grayson and Mark Brush.

### AERS President Elect Candidate Statement: Mark J. Brush

I am an estuarine systems ecologist and VIMS Assistant Professor. My research focuses on nutrient-fueled eutrophication and combines field and laboratory studies with ecosystem modeling. I teach graduate courses in interdisciplinary field research, modeling, and GIS analysis, and mentor graduate students and undergraduate interns. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island where I was a member of NEERS (1996-2002), attending and presenting at nearly every meeting. I was absolutely captivated by the concept of the ERF affiliate societies and loved NERRS and its blend of science, collegiality, and friendliness. Upon moving to VIMS for my postdoc, I transferred my membership to AERS and at my first meeting knew I had found the same "home" with AERS as I had with NERRS. I joined the Board in 2009 as Program Committee Chair and have enjoyed putting together the last three meetings with a great group of hosts and committee members. My experiences with AERS and NEERS have been one of the highlights of my career, and I feel a strong call to give back through service and leadership. I believe that through active engagement of new professional members, recruitment and welcoming of student members, and sound guidance from our long-standing members, we can chart a course for the future of our society that leaves it even stronger, more vibrant, and more relevant than we found it.

### AERS President Elect Candidate Statement: Treda Grayson

I am an environmental protection specialist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water, where my area of expertise is surface water monitoring and assessment. I co-lead the National Coastal Condition Assessment (formerly the National Coastal Assessment), an aquatic resource survey designed to assess the condition of the nation's coastal waters. In addition to monitoring and assessment, my research areas have included tropical planktonic food web dynamics, estuarine ecology, and benthic ecology. Most recently, I have focused on characterizing benthic response patterns to multiple stressors in estuaries to inform water resource management decisions. I have been a member of AERS since 2006, and have proudly served on the Executive Board as Acting Treasurer (2007-2008), Treasurer (2008-2010), and Membership Chair (2010-present). Becoming a member and serving in positions of AERS leadership has truly been a gratifying experience, one that has allowed me to grow professionally, utilize my leadership skills, and increase my knowledge of local estuarine and coastal science and policy issues. As AERS President, I would continue to promote the society's collegial environment of research, education, and awareness through encouraging member involvement, while honoring the society's rich traditions, and maintaining AERS' reputation as one of the leading CERF affiliates.

## Spring Elections for AERS Secretary

The AERS Secretary serves for a term of two years to record Business and Board Meeting Minutes. The secretary position is for one term which allows many AERS members to serve. This year we have two great candidates: Ben Fertig and Jessie C. Jarvis.

### AERS Secretary Candidate Statement: Ben Fertig

AERS serves me as an intimate venue to meet and learn from many regional researchers and academics. In fact, I met Mike Kennish – my new boss – at the AERS meeting in Ocean City, MD. Over the years, I've also shared what I've learned through graduate research by participating and presenting at four AERS meetings and two CERF meetings; only missing November 2008 due to qualifying exams preparations. These services render me obliged to attempt to return the favor, currently manifested – with your approbation - as Secretary. A natural note-taker and quick typist, I enjoy exercising science communication skills including newsletter production and minute taking.

At Rutgers, I focus on developing indices of ecosystem condition in Barnegat Bay, NJ. This project naturally progresses from PhD graduate research at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). There, I developed oyster stable nitrogen isotopes as a bioindicator of human and/or animal wastes, and was advised by Drs. Bill Dennison and Tim Carruthers. Before UMCES, I spent an undergraduate semester away from Brandeis University at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole and later interned with coastal state agencies and non-profits.

Clearly my commitment to AERS and its mission of discussing estuarine/coastal issues and policies is career-long. I appreciate your consideration of me as AERS Secretary, and look forward to seeing you in Solomons!

### AERS Secretary Candidate Statement: Jessie C. Jarvis

Jessie is an Assistant Professor of Marine Science at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey where she teaches ecology, estuarine ecosystem ecology, and marine Botany. Jessie received both her M.S. and Ph.D. in Marine Science from the College of William & Mary, as a student at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in 2005 and 2009 respectively. She worked as a Research Marine Biologist at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer, Research, and Development Center (ERDC) Environmental Laboratory, in Vicksburg, MS prior to joining the Marine Science Faculty at Stockton in August 2010. Overall, Jessie's research focuses on the ecology of estuarine and coastal shallow water environments vegetated with sea-grasses and other submersed aquatic vegetation. Since coming back to the east coast Jessie has been interested in becoming active in AERS again, previously having been a student member from 2004 to 2009 and having also served two separate terms as co-program chair (2004 – 2005; 2006 – 2009). Since AERS has been a huge benefit in my academic life, I would like to contribute to the society by being Secretary.



*Diapatra cuprea*

## AERS MEETING AGENDA (Tentative)

The main venue for the meeting will be the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, MD.

### Thursday, April 7th

- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 12:00 - 5:00 pm | Workshops                     |
| 4:00 - 5:30 pm  | AERS Board Meeting            |
| 6:00 - 10:30 pm | Welcome Social / Registration |

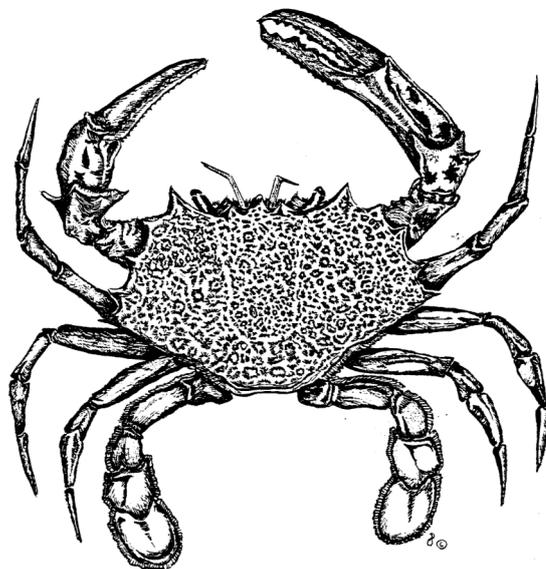
### Friday, April 8th

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8:00 am            | Registration Opens / Breakfast  |
| 8:30 am - 12:30 pm | Scientific Talks                |
| 12:30 - 2:00 pm    | Poster Session - Lunch Provided |
| 2:00 - 5:00 pm     | Scientific Talks                |
| 5:00 - 6:00 pm     | AERS Business Meeting           |
| 6:30 - 11:00 pm    | Banquet                         |

### Saturday, April 9th

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8:00 am             | Registration Opens / Breakfast |
| 8:30 am - 12:00 pm* | Scientific Talks               |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm*    | Student Awards                 |

\*Times subject to change.



*Ovalipes occulatus*

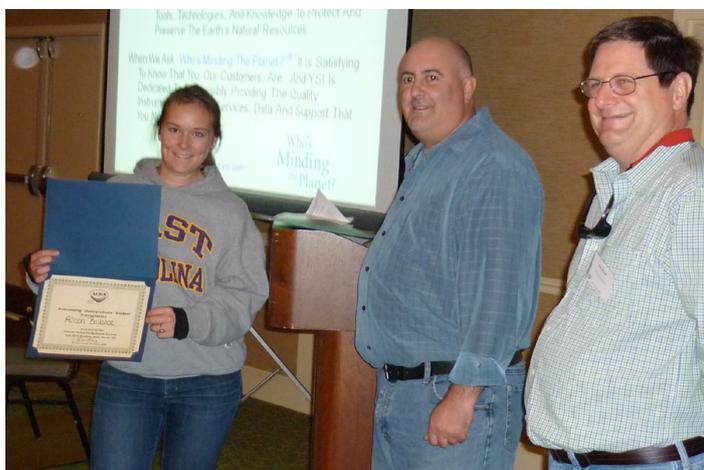
## Student Judging and Awards

The Fall 2010 meeting included a number of outstanding student presentations. However, through the Student Judging process, we honor the very best presentations in select categories (i.e., best undergraduate, best graduate) with a one-year membership to CERF and a subscription to *Estuaries and Coasts*. Congratulations to the students on a job well done, and a special thanks to all those who volunteered to serve as judges.

Studies Institute provided logistical support. Thanks also go to our Program committee of Mark Brush, Juliette Giordano, and Jeremy Testa for a fantastic job.

Dave Yozzo, Endowment Chair.

### Congratulations to Student Award Winners for a job well done!



**Undergraduate Allison Ballance**, a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at East Carolina University, received an award for her poster "What is the correlation between salinity and species composition at two low salinity and two high salinity in estuaries of North Carolina?" with L. Bade, C.S. Krahforst, R.W. Curran, and J.J. Luczkovich.



**Cecilia Krahforst**, an East Carolina University Coastal Resources Management doctoral student, received an award for her presentation "Can Single-Beam Sonar be Used to Accurately Survey the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Beds in North Carolina's Estuaries?" with R.W. Curran, A.M. Ballance, L.M. Bade, G.R. Plaia, and J.J. Luczkovich.

## Fall Meeting at Kitty Hawk a Great Success!

The fall 2010 AERS meeting (Nov. 4-6<sup>th</sup>, 2010) in Kitty Hawk, NC was a resounding success with over 75 participants convening on a beautiful oceanfront setting. Our opening social on Thursday evening allowed everyone to unwind from their trip and relax with friends. Friday morning began with a keynote panel entitled: "Lessons from the Gulf: the role of the coastal scientist when disaster strikes." The keynote panel included presentations from a distinguished group of five scientists based in the Gulf and in the AERS region who are currently involved in research on the Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill. The panel included: Dr. William Boicourt, (UMCES), Dr. Robert Diaz (VIMS), Dr. David Kimmel (ECU), Dr. Janis Kurtz (EPA-Gulf Breeze), and Dr. Siddhartha Mitra (ECU). After a range of presentations including the biology, physical oceanography, chemistry, responses and lessons learned from the spill, the panel convened as a group and took audience questions on response, planning and recovery strategies scientists can pursue in the event of local ecological catastrophes. The rest of the afternoon Friday and continuing Saturday morning was devoted to twenty contributed talks on a range of topics. At the business meeting, the Venerable clam was awarded to longtime member Dan Dauer of Old Dominion University. A knuckle salute from all to Dan and thanks for his long-time support of AERS. The Friday evening posters session and following banquet were held on the Kitty Hawk Pier House which proved to be a dramatic setting as waves crashed below on the pilings.

The post-meeting field trip down the coast was run by Professor Stan Riggs of East Carolina University who imparted a wealth of information on the coastal geomorphology of the outer banks barrier island systems. Thanks to Professor Riggs for a fascinating look at this dynamic and ecologically fragile system.

Our sincere thanks to local host Joe Luczkovich of East Carolina University and our sponsors: CERF, YSI, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and East Carolina University's Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and Institute for Coastal Science and Policy. In addition, the ECU Coastal Resources Management PhD program, ECU Chapter of the Coastal Society, and UNC Coastal

### 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 your 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 to our treasurer at the address provided on the website. Dues remain a bargain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for students.. Pete Straub

**AERS** the Original Research Society

## Report: AERS- OIL Spill Keynote Panel at the Fall meeting in Kitty Hawk, NC. Pete Straub.

The theme of the keynote panel discussion at the Fall 2010 AERS meeting in Kitty Hawk NC was “**Lessons from the Gulf: the role of the coastal scientist when disaster strikes.**” The panel began with presentations from five scientists active in research on the Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill. The panel was made up of: physical oceanographer, Dr. William Boicourt, (University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point); biologist, Dr. Robert Diaz (Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences); biologist Dr. David Kimmel (East Carolina University); ecologist, Dr. Janis Kurtz (Environmental Protection Agency- Gulf Breeze laboratory, FL); and geochemist, Dr. Siddhartha Mitra (East Carolina University). Following the presentations, the panel took questions from the audience and discussed the implications of their research efforts and their applicability to preparation for future disasters of this magnitude.

The morning began with **Dr. Jan Kurtz's** presentation: "Analysis of data on subsurface oceanography and oil in the vicinity of the BP Deepwater Horizon spill: Activities and findings of the National Incident Command Joint Assessment Group (NIC-JAG)." Dr. Kurtz spoke about her experience with the NIC-JAG and the difficulty of working with many agencies to simultaneously assess oceanographic and chemical data coming in and coordinating research needs "on the fly" to target data gaps in the record and help predict the size and track the course of the developing oil plume. The group also released recommendations on standardizing methods of data collection for CTD, hydrocarbons and oxygen. Tracking remaining oil from the wellhead, (not accounted for on the surface or burned off), the group reported that an oxygen depleted zone at 1000-1300 m (low but not hypoxic) coupled with fluorescence measurements indicating hydrocarbons could be tracked over 80 or more km from the wellhead indicating that some of the spill was in transport in moderately deep water and was tracking not to the loop current as some had predicted but to the canyon. Lessons learned were that quality control and data handling need to be standardized to work smoothly before a crisis situation.

**Dr. Bill Boicourt** followed up with a presentation entitled "Where did the oil go?" According to government reports the fate of 4.9 million barrels of oil spilled is: 33% recaptured or burned, 25% evaporated or dissolved, 16% naturally dispersed and 26% is unaccounted for? What happened to the 26% residual? As of yet it appears that some may be just below the surface, some in the deep ocean currents and some on the deep bottom of the Gulf. Weather, wind and the Mississippi river plume are big drivers of where oil will go. In order to continue to track this dispersion of the oil and its future consequences, a concerted effort to maintain ocean observation must be made. In addition, the Gulf region needs HF radar and integration of observing systems like MARACOOS (Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System) to produce higher resolution models.



*Crepidula fornucata*

**Dr. David Kimmel** presented his preliminary work entitled: "The zooplankton community response to crude oil spills: Past lessons and present research." Dr. Kimmel collected zooplankton during a 4 week period in surface waters of the Gulf (August- Sept, 2010) from the R/V Oceanus to determine if zooplankton populations had crashed in response to the oil spill as some had hastily concluded from limited sampling or were surviving but possibly serving as a source to biomagnify oil for higher trophic levels. On this cruise, hydrocarbons were not detected in the surface waters. Initial counts, not yet verified by visual separation did not indicate that there was a statistically significant difference in zooplankton surface populations in the plume compared to recent values but the patchiness of zooplankton populations makes comparison difficult. Also in comparison to earlier oil spills, Prestige in Spain and Ixtoc in Mexico, many factors, affect zooplankton variability in response to oil including oil composition, season, previous contamination and physiological state. In collaboration with Dr. Mitra, (following talk) the zooplankton were analyzed for hydrocarbon signatures.

**Dr. Sid Mitra** gave the next presentation: "Potential chemical impacts from the Deepwater Horizon spill to coastal North Carolina: When "In Prep" is a good thing." Dr. Mitra began by saying that his initial work to determine if oil from the Gulf spill was detected offshore of North Carolina was negative based on comparison using gas chromatography coupled with Mass Spectrometric detectors (GC-MS) of a Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil standard sample. He was then however in a good position to compare the Gulf oil spill standard which he had characterized with biological samples collected by his colleague Dr. Kimmel. Zooplankton collected from the Gulf by Dr. Kimmel's cruise was extracted and analyzed by GC-MS. Initial results are that the zooplankton contains a distinctive GC-MS signature indicative of contamination with oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This may indicate that the zooplankton, despite being sampled from surface waters with no detectable hydrocarbons could be a potential vector for transfer of oil to higher trophic levels.

The final presentation in the panel was by **Dr. Bob Diaz** entitled: "Lessons from the Gulf: Getting it right from the start." Dr. Diaz began with a brief history of oil production in the Gulf and noted that as drilling goes deeper it gets more complicated but noted that the PEMEX Ixtoc spill in the southern gulf was much larger and occurred in 52 ft of water. Basically, the industry has no ability to deal with spills at much deeper depths, and the disaster plan filed with the Minerals Management/ Interior Dept for the BP-Deepwater Horizon was unrealistic. From the start of the spill there was a major credibility gap in the estimates of the size of the spill given to the public by BP and the government and not until a live feed was given to the public was this apparent. The Unified Command coordinating the spill (BP, USCG, Dept Interior, Dept Defense, USFWS, NOAA, EPA) was slow to respond to concerns of the public and there was fractured communication with outside scientists who were ready and willing to help. In particular, there were two basic breakdowns connecting science and the response to the BP spill: 1) Misinterpretation of data and ecosystem processes, and 2) Lack of data to make informed decisions. Diaz stated that controversies over levels of dissolved oxygen provide a good example of the first misinterpretation of data and ecosystem processes particularly as hypoxia is a prevalent and seasonal condition in many areas of the Gulf while the subsea use of oil dispersants provides a good example of the second, response without enough data to make informed choices especially as the effects of dispersants on sensitive

## Report: AERS- OIL Spill Keynote Panel at the Fall meeting in Kitty Hawk, NC. Pete Straub. CONT'D.

processes like bluefin tuna spawning in the Gulf are unknown. In preparation for the next environmental crisis, lessons can be learned from the BP-Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Diaz's advice to individuals, companies and the government for management of future crises is to 1) Stay within your expertise as decision makers have to get it right the first time. 2) Communicate clearly in straightforward language as everyone from politicians to citizens need clear and factual information. 3) Be a facilitator of information flow, a source for fact checking, and an advocate for research needs to fill gaps that are now very obvious.

The following panel discussion was lively and the panelists addressed many questions that the audience posed about the likelihood of oil from the spill ending up on the Atlantic coast: not likely, the preparedness of other areas outside of the Gulf for a major oil spill: not very and what individuals could do to prepare for problems locally: develop good baseline data for your local system and communicate clearly your results and conclusions. Questions about funding through the NSF rapid response were fielded and according to panelists Kimmel and Mitra, the response to their grant proposal was very rapid, on the order of weeks not the usual months.

In addition to the invited panel, there were two contributed papers focusing on the oil spill. The first was by Leila Hamdan and P.A. Fuller from the Naval Research Laboratory: "Effects of the chemical dispersant COREXIT EC9500A on bacterial isolates from a Deepwater Horizon spill impacted beach. This report looked at the effect of chemical dispersants on the microbial communities and found that there appeared to be a differential negative effect on oil degrading bacteria species which could lead to decrease in the ability of dispersant treated microbial communities to degrade the dispersed oil. The second contributed paper was presented by Chris Heyer from YSI Corp: "New Tools for Oil Plume Detection and Mapping." Heyer's talk presented the rapid response of YSI Corp. to requests from the Florida Institute of Oceanography to outfit their research vessel, the R/V Weatherbird II and seakeeper sensor systems with capability to detect oil. In addition, YSI sensors for both crude and refined oil are being deployed on monitoring buoys and AUVs.

The oil spill panel and all the speakers on the topic of the Gulf oil spill brought the impact and lessons of this spill home to scientists from the AERS region who may find themselves one day dealing with an ecological crisis of similar magnitude. The take home lesson is, be proactive, look ahead and try to encourage advanced planning, ways to work together and share quality data.



## Farewell to Mark Brinson, a true AERS friend



Most of you need no introduction to this great man because you were his colleague, friend or one of his many students of the past 30 years. The loss of a friend is always difficult to face and in this case, the loss is accompanied by the dimming light on a too short but entirely remarkable career.

Dr. Brinson received his undergraduate instruction at Heidelberg College in Ohio, and his Master's degree from the University of Michigan. Prior to delving into his doctoral studies he rose to the volunteerism challenge of his generation and served as a fisheries biologist in the Peace Corps. After earning his Doctoral degree from the University of Florida in 1973 he began a long and fulfilling career as a member of the faculty at East Carolina University.

At ECU, Brinson lived up to his full potential as a mentor, teacher and public servant. He is credited with developing some of the most rigorous curriculum in estuarine ecology and with bringing all of his students to a state of respect and gratitude for these rigors because of their lasting impact. The students he chose to mentor have gone on to be inspired estuarine and wetland scientists. During his career he and his students published more than 50 peer reviewed publications, a remarkable accomplishment considering his sustained teaching load at ECU. Dr. Brinson's contributions to estuarine science went far beyond the classroom. He did not only teach concepts in restoration and wetland ecology, he was a leader in developing concepts and contributed to what is taught by all. His achievements in undergraduate and graduate training, mentoring and outreach were incredible, and went beyond what was expected.

Among his many accolades from ECU and the public sector, he was a past-President of the Society of Wetland Scientists, member of the ad hoc committee on Wetlands for ESA, member of the Board of Directors for AIBS, member of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences, and most dear to all of us, a long standing member of AERS and CERF.

Today we mourn the loss of a great educator who had a truly special gift for capturing the hearts and minds of students. But, it is because of this gift that his light dims but it is not extinguished. So long as his memory is carried forward in the hearts of those he touched with his friendship and the minds of those he taught and inspired, his light will continue and will burn bright.

Please join me in a "Knuckle Salute" in Dr. Brinson's honor and in gratitude for all that he has taught us.

Leila Hamdan

Workshop Title	Date & Time	RSVP Information
<b>Oyster Hatchery Tour</b> <b>Morgan State University ERC</b>	<b>Thursday, April 7th</b> <b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Richard Lacouture</b> <b>(410) 586-9721</b> <a href="mailto:richard.lacouture@morgan.edu">richard.lacouture@morgan.edu</a>
<p>Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center (ERC) has developed a pilot program to find market-based solutions to help provide a supply of marketable oysters for local watermen. This pilot program is a partnership between Morgan State University and the Calvert County Watermen's Association (CCWA). At the center of this program is ERC's new oyster hatchery. The hatchery was configured within an existing laboratory space and is capable of producing oyster larvae, spat-on-shell and cultchless spat. The concept requires low capitalization and is designed as a retrofit into the industry's existing infrastructure. The hatchery is being used as the basis for technology transfer and training to support the development of a local aquaculture industry. Last year, 3 million oysters were provided to local waterman from the hatchery.</p> <p>The tour of the hatchery will begin at 1 PM and last an hour or so. It will be conducted by the director of MSUERC, Dr. Kelton Clark and several of the hatchery staff members. The ERC is located on the grounds of Jefferson Patterson Park on the shores of the Patuxent River in St. Leonard, MD.</p>		
<b>Parker's Creek Canoe Trip</b>	<b>Thursday, April 7th</b> <b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Richard Lacouture</b> <b>(410) 586-9721</b> <a href="mailto:richard.lacouture@morgan.edu">richard.lacouture@morgan.edu</a>
<p>Parkers Creek Watershed Nature Preserve protects one of the last remaining pristine watersheds on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Located just north of Calvert Cliffs in southern Maryland, nearly 3,000 acres are conserved and managed here by the American Chestnut Land Trust.</p> <p>The brackish tidal stream known as Parkers Creek meanders through salt marsh to the Bay's shoreline. This canoe trip will allow participants to explore the creek and the adjoining Chesapeake Bay shoreline. The trip will begin at 2 PM and last for 3 hours. Participants will meet at Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center, located on the grounds of Jefferson Patterson Park in St. Leonard, MD at 1 PM. A maximum of 16 participants can be accommodated. Water and snacks will be provided.</p>		
<b>RV Rachel Carson Tour (Tentative)</b>	<b>Thursday, April 7th</b> <b>TBA</b>	<b>Chris Heyer</b> <b>(410) 257-0335</b> <a href="mailto:cheyer@ysi.com">cheyer@ysi.com</a>
<p>A dockside tour of the RV Rachel Carson is being planned. Please contact Chris for more details or check the meeting website: <a href="http://www.aers.info/meetings.htm">http://www.aers.info/meetings.htm</a></p>		
<b>St. Mary's River Kayaking Trip</b>	<b>Saturday, April 9th</b> <b>TBD</b>	<b>Chris Tanner</b> <b>(240) 895-4374</b> <a href="mailto:cetanner@smcm.edu">cetanner@smcm.edu</a>
<p>After the talks are finished, Chris Tanner and Bob Paul will lead a kayaking excursion in the St. Mary's River estuary (about a 20 minute drive from the Calvert Marine Museum). We will provide kayaks or you can bring your own. Depending on the number of participants, we will either launch from Bob Paul's home on the upper St. Mary's River or downstream from the St. Mary's College River Center. We will paddle up tidal creeks surrounded by salt marshes and will see a variety of bird species and possibly muskrats. Length of the trip will be decided by the participants. Sunhats and dark glasses are recommended.</p>		



## AERS Officers

## Executive Committee

**Peter Straub, President**

Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 195Pomona, NJ 08240  
(809)852-4556; FAX: (809)748-5515  
[pete.straub@stockton.edu](mailto:pete.straub@stockton.edu)

**Leila J. Hamdan, Past President**

US Naval Research Laboratory  
4555 Overlook Ave., SW (MC 6114)  
Washington DC 20375-5342  
(202)767-3364 FAX:(202)404-8515  
[lhamdan@ccs.nrl.navy.mil](mailto:lhamdan@ccs.nrl.navy.mil)

**David O'Neill, Secretary**

Community College of Baltimore County  
12 Dalebrook Dr.  
Phoenix, MD 21131  
410-285-9746  
[doneill@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:doneill@ccbcmd.edu)

**Dave Osgood, Treasurer**

Department of Biology  
Albright College, P.O. Box 15234  
Reading, PA 06516  
Tel: 610-921-7726  
Fax: 610-921-8034  
[dosgood@alb.edu](mailto:dosgood@alb.edu)

**Judith Stribling, Member at Large**

Department of Biological Sciences,  
Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410)-548-4767  
[jmstribling@salisbury.edu](mailto:jmstribling@salisbury.edu)

**Sherri Cooper, Member at Large**

Chair, Mathematics and Science Division  
Bryn Athyn College  
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009  
Tel: 287-502-2554  
[sherri.cooper@brynathyn.edu](mailto:sherri.cooper@brynathyn.edu)

**Danielle Kreeger, Member at Large**

Science Director  
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary  
Drexel University  
One Riverwalk Plaza, Suite 202  
100 Poplar Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Tel: 302-855-4990 x104  
[www.delawareestuary.org](http://www.delawareestuary.org)  
[dkreeger@delawareestuary.org](mailto:dkreeger@delawareestuary.org)

## Committee Chairs

**Mark Brush, Program**

Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
P.O. Box 1346  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062  
(804)884-7402  
[mbrush@vims.edu](mailto:mbrush@vims.edu)

**Chris Heyer, Webmaster**

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

**David Yozzo, Endowment**

HDR | LMS, One Blue Hill Plaza  
Pearl River, NY 10965  
(845) 735.8300 ext. 280  
FAX: (845) 735 7466  
[david.yozzo@hdrinc.com](mailto:david.yozzo@hdrinc.com)

**Treda Smith, Membership**

VIMS, P.O. Box 1346,  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062  
(804) 884 -7547  
[treda@vims.edu](mailto:treda@vims.edu)

**David O'Neill, Constitution**

Community College of Baltimore County  
12 Dalebrook Dr.  
Phoenix, MD 21131  
410-285-9746  
[doneill@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:doneill@ccbcmd.edu)

**Stephen Fuller, Parliamentarian**

Department of Biology, College of Mary  
Washington  
1300 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA  
22401-5358  
(540)854-1421 FAX: (540)854-1081  
[sfuller@mwc.edu](mailto:sfuller@mwc.edu)

**Judith Stribling, Honorary Members**

Department of Biological Sciences,  
Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410)-548-4767  
[jmstribling@salisbury.edu](mailto:jmstribling@salisbury.edu)

**Julie Ambler, AERSNews Editor**

Department of Biology Millersville University  
Millersville PA 17551  
(717) 872-379  
[Julie.Ambler@millersville.edu](mailto:Julie.Ambler@millersville.edu)

**Jeremy Testa, Student Affairs**

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
Horn Point Laboratory  
2020 Horns Point Road,  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
410.221.8259  
[jtesta@umces.edu](mailto:jtesta@umces.edu)

**Shelley E. Sullivan, Nominations**

Fisheries Department  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
P.O. Box 1346  
Route 1208 Greate Road  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062-1346  
(804) 684-7315  
[Shelley@vims.edu](mailto:Shelley@vims.edu)

Historian, VACANT



Take 2 or 3 friends to the AERS Meeting with you this time - Heck take 'em every time!