

AERS NEWS



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

Volume 2014 Number 1

September 9, 2014

Recap AERS Spring 2014 Meeting, 27-29 March 2014, Ocean City, MD

Hosted by Judith Stribling (Salisbury University), Danielle Kreeger (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary), Frank Reilly (The Reilly Group) and Dave Wilson (Maryland Coastal Bays).

The theme of the Spring Meeting was "Back to the Future: Ecological Synthesis and Data Integration Address Current and Linger Issues in Coastal Science."

The meeting had 154 attendees and featured 32 contributed talks (12 by students) and 50 contributed posters (30 by students). Highlights of the meeting included five keynote speakers, student lunch with the keynote speakers, election of our new **Treasurer Sam Lake**, founding of the **Ann C. Powel Student Travel Endowment** established by **Chris Jones**, awarding of the Venerable Clam to **Chris Jones**, the traditional Friday evening banquet with music from **Natural Selection**.

Bill Dennison (Univ. Maryland Center for Environmental Science) led off with a keynote talk about "Eutrophication Processes in Chincoteague Bay," was followed by Univ. MD Eastern Shore talks: Northern Bays improving, Southern Bays losing seagrass beds and may be receiving offshore N and P from Ocean City outfall by tidal action. **Denise Breitburg** (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center) gave the after lunch keynote "Linking Nutrients to Fish Across a range of Scales: Upping the Complexity of the Question." She posed the challenge to "think local, act global" for interactions between nitrogen and demersal fish: N negatively affects demersal fish due to hypoxia on a local scale although on larger scales N loading and fish are positively related.



President Mark Brush (right) presents the venerable clam to **Chirs Jones** (left).

Photo: Dave Yozzo.

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Announcing...

FALL MEETING Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, 2014.

At The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Galloway, NJ.

Call for Registration, Abstract Submission and Student Travel Awards by Sept. 15, 2014.

Pete Straub (Richard Stockton College) and Mike DeLuca (Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences) are the local hosts for the Fall Meeting at the Richard Stockton College. The theme of the meeting is "Sandy and Superlative Storms: Resilience, Recovery, and Restoration" Please join us this fall to learn more about the impacts of this superstorm and the progress of restoration.



Dock at Stockton College after Superstorm Sandy.

Photo: Jesse Jarvis

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AERS News – President's Corner

Treda Smith Grayson
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Greetings Fellow AERSians!

I honestly cannot believe that we are swiftly approaching the fall season! If your summer was anything like mine, it was a whirlwind of work, travel and research, with some bursts of relaxation here and there. Now I have football, brisk air and AERS (as always!) on the brain! I trust that most of you have enjoyed the past few months, and are gearing up to reunite with AERS friends old and new at the Fall Meeting in October (more on that later!).

My busy spring and summer kicked off about a month after the Ocean City meeting with the Spring 2014 CERF Governing Board Meeting in Seattle, WA. CERF Executive Director Mark Wolf-Armstrong kicked off the meeting welcoming us to beautiful Seattle (it was sunny and pleasant the entire meeting) and an update on activities at CERF Headquarters. Next, CERF President Ken Heck delivered remarks which focused on an important theme central to both CERF and AERS- Membership. A recent analysis of CERF membership found that the number of members have been slowly declining over the past few years. This decline is attributed to two things: 1) student members that do not convert to early professional or full CERF members and 2) affiliate society members that do not join CERF. While becoming an AERS member is essential, it is also crucial to also become a member of our parent organization of which AERS is a local extension. When you renew your AERS membership (there is nothing like reduced meeting registrations rates for members!), do not forget to also join or renew your CERF membership. Join or renew today!

This mention of membership brings me to the next thing that has kept me busy this summer- Board appointments. I am happy to announce that Shelley Sullivan has assumed the role of Membership Chair, opening up the Nominations Chair position that she previously held. I will be working closely with Shelley as I transition membership duties over. CJ Carroll Schlick, a Ph.D. student from George Mason University, has agreed to be the new Student Affairs Representative. She is eager to represent AERS students on the Board as well as represent AERS on the CERF Outreach and Career Development committee. Welcome CJ and welcome back Shelley!

The last major thing I have been spending time on is planning for the Fall Meeting at the end of October. Local hosts Pete Straub and Mike De Luca are doing a phenomenal job planning this meeting, which takes us back to New Jersey and Richard Stockton College. Pete and Mike have been heavily supported by Program Chair Ben Fertig, new Treasurer Sam Lake, Past-President Mark Brush, and Webmaster Chris Heyer. The theme "Sandy and Superlative Storms: Resilience, Recovery, and Resto-

ration" is fitting as we are meeting just miles from the location where Hurricane Sandy made landfall. I am looking forward to the excellent talks on tap as AERS always draws a plethora of high-caliber talks! What I am also looking forward to is the Halloween costumes that will make an appearance at this meeting (did you notice that we are meeting on Halloween?). There will be a costume contest...so show up ready to win!

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks in New Jersey. Embrace the change of seasons and enjoy! I must go now and begin working on my costume. I know and expect some fierce competition...

Fall Meeting Cont'd

Lodging A block of rooms at the beautiful [Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club](#) has been secured. Please use the link below to reserve your lodging at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club to ensure you receive the group rate within the reserved block. https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=11979526

Meeting Abstract By Ben Fertig

As climate changes and storm frequencies and intensities may change, it is critical to understand and address environmental and societal resilience with respect to strong-storms in order to facilitate recovery and restoration. In this light, estuarine and coastal researchers, managers, and students will benefit by being informed about ecosystem response to disturbances and environmental engineering designed to minimize risk and impact.

As Sandy made landfall October 29 about 15 miles east of the Richard Stockton campus, the timing and venue and theme of this AERS meeting are all very fitting. We particularly encourage abstracts for oral and poster sessions from researchers, students, government, and industry with regard to Sandy and/or that analyze and/or synthesize the assessment, resilience, recovery, and restoration of ecosystems after storms that affect estuarine and coastal areas.

A Special Thanks to Early Sponsors!

A special thanks to our early sponsors for the Fall Meeting: CERF and Richard Stockton College. If your organization would like to sponsor this upcoming meeting, please contact AERS Treasurer Sam Lake: slake@vims.edu

AERS the Original Research Society

Student Awards for Spring 2014 Meeting

Congratulations to the following four students who won awards for their presentations:

Outstanding Undergraduate Oral Presentation.

"*Phragmites australis* Functional Traits and Carbon Fixation are Affected by Anthropogenic Climate Change."

Rachel Hager, Bryn Mawr College

Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presentation.

"Effects of Dissolved and Dietary Microcystin on Clearance Rates of Wedge Clams (*Rangia cuneata*) in the Tidal Fresh James River."

Spencer Tassone, Virginia Commonwealth University

Outstanding Graduate Oral Presentation. "Geospatial Distribution of Ribbed Mussels (*Geukensia demissa*) and Nutrient Removal Services across a Salt Marsh."

Josh Moody, Drexel University.

Outstanding Graduate Poster Presentation. "Hydrology of Ditched and Unditched Atlantic Coast and Chesapeake Bay Marshes, Maryland Eastern Shore."

Dorothea Lundberg, University of Maryland



AERS Endowment Chair **David Yozzo** (center) and President **Treda Grayson** (right) present awards for Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation to **Rachel Hager** and the Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation to **Spencer Tassone** at the AERS Spring 2014 meeting. Photos: David Yozzo



Recap Spring 2014 Mtg. Cont'd

Friday's talks were concluded with an encouraging keynote by **Holly Greening** (Tampa Bay Estuary Program) "A Collaborative Approach to Nutrient Management: Tampa Bay, Florida" about the successful N reduction in Tampa Bay due to public and private collaborations.

Anne Thessen (Arizona State University) began Saturday's talks with a primer on "Data infrastructures for Coastal and Estuarine Science." She strongly urged all scientists to archive their data and receive scientific recognition. **Walter Boynton** (Univ. of Maryland Center for Environmental Science) gave the final keynote where he described the "recovery pathway" for Mattawoman Creek, MD, a small freshwater estuary. Restoration efforts in these small tributaries could make a huge difference for Chesapeake Bay.

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, Salisbury University, Maryland Sea Grant, Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William and Mary, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, HDR and YSI.

Thanks to all for attending the meeting and making it a success. See you at Stockton College, NJ this fall!

Due to the generosity of the membership, sponsors and the recently established Ann C. Powel Student Travel Endowment (thanks to **Chris Jones'** commitment to support AERS students), a total of 23 student travel awards were awarded to the following students:

Golala Arya (George Mason University, G), **Amanda Biederman** (Salisbury University, UG), **Emily Egginton** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, G), **Cassie Gurbisz** (University of Maryland, G), **Rachel Hager** (Bryn Mawr University, UG), **Andrea Korell** (Salisbury University, UG), **Kelly Kunsch** (Mary Washington University, UG), **Michael Kushner** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, G), **Dorothea Lundberg** (University of Maryland, G), **Cameron Myers** (Community College of Baltimore County, UG), **Joshua Moody** (Drexel University, G), **Kristyn Moskey** (George Mason University, G), **Allison Ruglia** (St. Mary's College, UG), **Catherine Schlick** (George Mason University, G), **Amanda Sills** (George Mason University, G), **Matthew Stone** (Delaware State University, G), **Alexander Stuffer** (Salisbury University, UG), **Jennifer Teson** (Millersville University, UG), **Spencer Tassone** (Virginia Commonwealth University, UG), **Brendan Trache** (Virginia Commonwealth University, UG), **Jennifer Walker** (St. Mary's College, UG), **Joe Wood** (Virginia Commonwealth University, G) Photo: David Yozzo.

AERS is pleased to announce the creation of the Ann C. Powel Fund to enhance the AERS Endowment and provide additional support for student travel for this and future meetings and to sustain student participation at AERS meetings.

**Ann Colville Powel
Teacher, Student and
Environmental Advocate**

Ann grew up in Chevy chase, Maryland and obtained a BA from Wellesley College and a master's degree in education from George Washington University. She taught briefly in DC schools and then moved to the Fairfax County Public Schools where she taught third to fifth grade for 20 years. Toward the end of this period she became fascinated with marine biology and attended the summer program at Duke Marine Lab as part of obtaining a BA in Biology at George Mason University. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Chris Jones. Ann went on to complete a MS in Environmental Biology and then worked as a transportation and environmental advocate for over a decade in the metropolitan DC area, with particular interest in transit and air quality issues. She participated in numerous AERS and ERF meeting during this time and never lost her keen interest in marine and freshwater ecology. For the decade preceding her passing in 2013, she became active again in an avocation from earlier years, painting, and participated in numerous classes and shows in the DC area and in Rochester, NY during a sabbatical there.

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. **Shelley Sullivan**, Membership Chair.

AERS Spring14 Meeting, Ocean City, MD.



Holly Greening (Tampa Bay Estuary Program), Keynote Speaker (top).

Program Chair Ben Fertig and Honorary Membership Chair Judith Strbling, Social time at the Poster Session (middle left)

Walter Boynton, (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science), Keynote Speaker (middle right)

Natural Selection Band provided tunes at the Friday Banquet. (bottom)

Photos by Dave Yozzo

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Local Host Fall 2014 Mtg.

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Social time at the banquet: (L-R: Jessica Foley (CBL), Mark Brush (VIMS), Emily Egginton (VIMS), Sara Blachman (VIMS), and Lora Harris (CBL).