

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

Volume 2013 Number 1

February 20, 2013



Fife and Drums. Source: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

AERS Spring 2013 Meeting

Woodlands
Conference Center
Williamsburg, VA
April 11th – 13th
2013

Calling all history buffs and revolutionaries! The Spring 2013 AERS meeting will take place April 11-13 in Williamsburg, VA, at the beautiful Woodlands Conference Center. At the risk of being a little “campy”, we have drawn our inspiration for this meeting from our setting in Virginia’s “Historic Triangle”, which connects the 1607 settlement at Jamestown Island where it all began to the colonial capital city of Williamsburg, and to the battlefields of Yorktown where the Revolutionary War ended. Given these historical surroundings, it seems only appropriate that the theme of our meeting should be:

"Revolutionary Thinking: Historical Reconstructions in Coastal Systems"

Reconstruction of past estuarine and coastal ecosystem phenology has long been an academic pursuit. The sedimentary record, paleoecological indicators, chemical markers, and compilation of historical records and datasets have all been used to reconstruct historical rates of nutrient loading, fisheries landings, seagrass distribution, habitat type, and extent of hypoxia, and to track the eutrophication of coastal systems from pre-colonial times to the present. Through a series of keynote and contributed presentations, we hope to illustrate the wide variety of methods available for conducting historical ecology, the heuristic value of such exercises, and the practical benefits that can be gained by using the past as prelude to the future.

The meeting will kick off with the traditional Thursday evening social and registration and commence the

following morning with presentations by the following keynote speakers:

Grace Brush, Johns Hopkins University
Michael Kemp, University of Maryland
Norbert Jaworski, EPA (retired)
John Waldman, City University of New York
Anna Wachnicka, Florida International University

We anticipate one additional keynote speaker, with time devoted to discussion, followed by contributed talks Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Continued p. 2



The historical triangle. The Woodlands Conference Center (WCC) is located northeast of William and Marry.

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President's Corner

In thinking about all that has happened over the last few months and the many events coming in 2013, I can't help but get excited about where we are as a society and where we are going. Perhaps it's the State of the Union address that tempts me to assert the following: the state of AERS is truly strong, and made ever more so by our amazing membership.

I will briefly summarize the main highlights over recent months as other articles will address them more fully. Thanks to the herculean efforts of Julie Ambler together with her group of co-hosts, our terrific Program Committee, and our generous sponsors, our Fall 2012 meeting in Chincoteague was a great success. I found myself totally inspired by a great set of keynotes and contributed presentations, and was excited to see us draw in new sponsors and pass the 100 mark for attendance yet again.

We should also celebrate a successful first international meeting for CERF this past November in Argentina. AERS was represented well by Walter Boynton, Pete Straub, and Ben Fertig, who received a travel award from AERS to help defray his costs.

Our Spring 2013 meeting is shaping up to be a great one (although I admit to having a slight bias as co-host). We have a separate article on that, but suffice it to say we can't wait to have everyone down to our neck of the woods to showcase Tidewater and our Historic Triangle.

The CERF 2013 meeting in San Diego is going to be outstanding – the organizers have plans in the works for a variety of new features, including ways to highlight the affiliate societies. Most notable is the new CERF Bowl competition among teams fielded by the affiliates and the CERF governing board and modeled after the National Ocean Science Bowl.

Efforts continue on the CERF governing board to strengthen the linkages among the affiliates and with CERF Headquarters. It is my great pleasure to be chairing the working group of affiliate presidents as we continue to explore the options.

With all of these terrific activities both recent and in the works, I can't help but get all the more excited for our society and its future. Our strength and vitality lie primarily in our outstanding membership, so I encourage everyone to make sure their memberships are renewed for 2013, to recruit new members and especially new students to join, to encourage lapsed members to come back to our meetings, and to consider getting involved. With great excitement for 2013, I'll see you in Williamsburg!

Mark J. Brush
AERS President, 2012-14

Spring 2013 Meeting cont'd

Friday evening will include the typical business meeting, poster session and reception, banquet, and a combination silent/live auction to support student travel. The business meeting will include election of a new President-Elect and Secretary. We are pursuing a variety of field trip options including kayaking in a nearby tidal creek, visits to local historic sites, and tours of the local estuarine research reserve. The conference hotel is located adjacent to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center with direct access to the colonial sites via foot or bus. The hotel provides a discount on passes to Colonial Williamsburg.

We are getting very excited about what is shaping up to be a great meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Your Spring 2013 hosts,
Mark Brush and Sam Lake
Virginia Institute of Marine Science,
College of William and Mary



Woodlands Hotel and Suites



Woodlands Conference Center

Silent Auction to benefit Student Travel

In our continuing efforts to raise funds to support student travel to AERS and CERF meetings, we will hold a silent and live auction to benefit the Student Endowment Fund. A diversity of items will be auctioned off on Friday night, so come prepared to bid away! We are still accepting donations for auction items, so contact Chris Heyer (cheyer@ysi.com) if you wish to donate. See you in Williamsburg!

AERS the Original Research Society

CERF 2012: Mar Del Plata, Argentina

By Ben Fertig

As part of the CERF Strategic Plan, “Visions II”, CERF recently held its first meeting outside the United States in support of efforts to contribute more to international coastal and estuarine science. Held in the beautiful coastal city of Mar Del Plata, Argentina, the conference stimulated collaboration, coordination, and camaraderie within the western hemisphere and beyond. **Paulina Martinetto**, **Robert Christian**, and **Oscar Iribarne** organized this highly successful and interesting conference.

Field trips, organized by **Juan Pablo Isaach**, **Pedro Daleo** and **Juan Albertí** bookended the conference. These fun and informative field trips to *Spartina* marshes adjoining the Mar Chiquita Coastal Lagoon Reserve highlighted ecological research and natural history in the local area. A burrowing owl very kindly posed for participants at the beginning of the first field trip! The *Student and Early Career Committee*, **Diana Montemayor** and **Ben Fertig**, organized a social visit to a local pub (Antares) to partake in locally crafted beverages before guiding nearly thirty students and other attendees to a Tango Lesson!

The meeting kicked off with a *keynote lecture* delivered by **Ivan Valiela** followed by a delicious sit-down meal and tango demonstration. The conference featured *six successive sessions* which all attended: 1) Land-Sea Couplings in Rapidly Changing Environments, 2) Impacts of UVR on Coastal Waters, 3) Shifting Baseline Populations, 4) CO₂: A Driver of Change in Coastal Ecosystems Past, Present and Future, 5) Climate Change and Estuarine Ecosystems; Fluctuations in Fresh Water Use on Land and the Hydrodynamics of Estuaries, and 6) Fisheries Exploitations. The *closing keynote address* was given by **Carlos Duarte**.

AERS is proud to have many members contribute to this first-of-its-kind conference including our very own **Peter Straub**, **David Secor**, **Michael Williams**, and **Walter Boynton** (shown from left to right in front of the conference venue *La Normandina*). Further, CERF and AERS provided an *Early Career Travel Award* to **Ben Fertig** to present a poster.

There was enormous positive response to this experiment and the conference was a huge success. Here's looking forward to another CERF conference held outside the U.S. in the future! In the meantime, see you at *CERF 2013 in San Diego*!



Left to right: Peter Straub, David Secor, Michael Williams, Walter Boynton in front of the conference venue, La Normandina.



A burrowing owl in the Mar Chiquita Bioreserve which contains extensive *Spartina* marsh adjacent to the lagoon.



Endowment Chair Dave Yozzo gives Ben Fertig a check for travel to Argentina from AERS, as Pres. Mark watches. Ben also received a donation from **Robert Christian**, **Michael Piehler**, **Ashley Smyth**, and **Victor Camacho-Ibar**. Congratulations Ben and thanks to Bob and his colleagues!



AERS members present their research at the CERF 2012 meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina. From left to right: CERF President **Walter Boynton**, **Pete Straub**, and **Ben Fertig**

Student Awards at Chincoteague, Cape May & Solomons

By Endowment Chair, Dave Yozzo

Chincoteague (Fall 2012): The award for Outstanding Graduate Oral Presentation went to Joe Wood, of Virginia Commonwealth University, for his presentation entitled "PHYTOPLANKTON CONSUMPTION AND MICROCYSTIN ACCUMULATION BY FISHES OF THE TIDAL FRESH JAMES RIVER." The award for Outstanding Graduate Poster went to Emily Thomas, of The University of Virginia, for her poster entitled "INFLUENCE OF SEAGRASS ON WAVE DYNAMICS WITHIN A SHALLOW COASTAL BAY." The award for Outstanding Undergraduate Presentation went to Hannah Reses, of the University of Michigan (via the Wetlands Institute) for her presentation entitled "TESTING TURTLE FENCES: DETERMINING EFFECTIVENESS OF DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN BARRIERS ON THE ATLANTIC COAST OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY."



Presentation of Student Undergraduate Award Winner at Cape May: Blaire Umhau with AERS President Mark Brush and Endowment Chair Dave Yozzo. Emily Scarpa, not pictured.

Solomons (Spring 2011): The award for Outstanding Graduate Oral Presentation went to Carlos Lozano, of the University of Maryland, for his presentation entitled "VARIABILITY IN SUPPLY OF ATLANTIC MENHADEN (*BREVOORTIA TYRANNUS*) LARVAE TO CHESAPEAKE BAY." The award for Outstanding Graduate Poster Presentation went to Alex Graziano, of George Mason University, for his poster entitled "DIEL AND SEASONAL PATTERNS IN CONTINUOUS WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA FROM A FIXED SITE ON THE TIDAL FRESHWATER POTOMAC RIVER." The award for Outstanding Undergraduate Oral Presentation went to Chelsea McGlynn, of St. Mary's College of Maryland, for her presentation entitled "THE EFFECT OF CLAW CHARACTERISTICS ON THE INTERACTIONS OF MALE RED-JOINTED FIDDLER CRABS (*UCA MINAX*)." The award for Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presentation went to Amanda Liebrecht, of St. Mary's College of Maryland, for her poster entitled "ARE SALICYLIC ACID AND HYDROGEN PEROXIDE INVOLVED IN *ZOSTERA MARINA* DEFENSE AGAINST WASTING DIS-

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



Presentation of Student Award Winners at Chincoteague. From left to right: AERS President Mark Brush, Hannah Reses, Joe Wood, and Endowment Chair Dave Yozzo. Emily Thomas not pictured.

Cape May (Spring 2012): The award for Outstanding Graduate Presentation went to Emily Scarpa, of Rutgers University, for her poster entitled "NATURE VERSUS NURTURE: DEVELOPING METHODS TO INTEGRATE RIBBED MUSSELS INTO LIVING SHORELINES." The award for Outstanding Undergraduate Presentation went to Blaire Umhau, of The University of Miami (via Morgan State University) for her poster entitled "PHYTOPLANKTON SURVEY OF ST. LEONARD CREEK AND NEARBY AREAS."



Presentation of Student Award Winners at the Solomons Meeting (left to right): Chelsea McGlynn, Amanda Liebrecht, Carlos Lozano and Alex Graziano.

Recap of Fall 2012 Chincoteague Mtg.

By President Mark Brush

Our Fall 2012 meeting was a great success, taking place October 11-13 with an opening reception at the Marine Science Consortium in Wallops Island, VA followed by the remainder of the meeting at the Chincoteague Center in Chincoteague, VA. The meeting theme was *"Ecosystem Sustainability & Resilience: From Genetics to Populations, Habitats & Function"* and focused on coastal ecosystem response to environmental change across all levels of biological organization.

The meeting began with keynote presentations and a panel discussion featuring **Rob Condon** (Dauphin Island Sea Lab), **Louis Hinds** (Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge), **Mark Luckenbach** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), and **Michael Peek** (William Paterson University). The meeting had 114 attendees and featured 24 contributed talks (14 by students), and 30 contributed posters (18 by students). Our proximity to the NASA Wallops

Flight Facility also made possible a special seminar by NASA scientist and former astronaut **Piers Sellers** of the Goddard Space Flight Center on observation of environmental impacts from space. And I had the very great pleasure of giving a seminar commemorating the many contributions of my former advisor, friend, and colleague, **Scott Nixon**, who we unexpectedly lost earlier in 2012. For me this was both academic and therapeutic.

Many thanks are due to meeting organizer and lead host **Julie Ambler** (Millersville University), along with co-hosts **Danielle Kreeger** and **Angela Padeletti** (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary), **Ajoy Kumar** (Millersville University), **Tiffany Moisan** (NASA), **David O'Neill** (Community College of Baltimore County), **Dave Wilson** (Maryland Coastal Bays Program), and **Louise Wootton** (Georgian Court University). The Program Committee (**Ben Fertig**, **Jeremy Testa**, and **Sam Lake**) did an excellent job as usual putting the program together.

AERS is grateful to the meeting sponsors, including CERF, the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, the Marine Science Consortium, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Maryland Sea Grant, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, The Nature Conservancy Virginia Coast Reserve, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and YSI.



Mark Brush gives the knuckle salute to Chris Swarth, who received the Venerable Clam at the Chincoteague Meeting.



Endowment Chair Dave Yozzo (left) and AERS President Mark Brush (right) congratulate students who received travel awards to the Chincoteague Meeting.



2013 Spring ELECTION for PRESIDENT ELECT and SECRETARY-- CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

AERS will hold elections for the positions of President-elect and Secretary at the Spring Meeting in Williamsburg, VA. The nominating committee is soliciting candidates for these positions. The list of candidates and short biographies will be distributed electronically and by Newsletter in the weeks leading up to the Spring meeting. Voting will take place on Friday during the Business Meeting at the AERS Spring Meeting in Williamsburg, VA April 11-13th, 2013.

Description of the position of President Elect:

The term of the President-Elect begins at the end of the Spring 2013 business meeting and lasts for one year, coinciding with the last year of service for the current President. At the end of the Spring 2014 meeting, the President-elect will assume the role of President for a two year term. Following these two years, the President will assume the role of past-President for a term of one year. The duties of the President are to preside at all meetings, appoint all members of committees, and Members at Large, oversee the planning and execution of AERS meetings and work with the AERS board and the whole membership to plan for the future of AERS. The AERS President is a member of the CERF Governing Board and participates in CERF Governing Board meetings twice per year.

Description of the position of Secretary:

This is a two year term (2013-2015) and the new Secretary will take office at the end of the Spring Meeting. The Secretary is a member of the AERS Executive Committee. It is the duty of the Secretary to maintain copies of the minutes of the society, accurately record minutes at the Board and Business Meetings, and submit these records in a timely matter to the board and general membership when needed.

Please forward nominations to Shelley Sullivan (Shelley@vims.edu) by February 22th, 2013. Be sure to determine your nominee's willingness to stand before forwarding his/her name to the nominating committee. Self-nominations are welcome. While all persons in good standing with the society are encouraged to run, it would be advantageous for nominees to be members who frequently attend AERS meetings and are thus familiar with the direction of AERS.



Recap of Cape May Meeting, Sp 2012

“Climate Vulnerability and Adaptations: Tactics and Solutions” was the theme for the Cape May Meeting which especially focused on the vulnerability of Mid-Atlantic shores to sea level rise and the need to anticipate and prepare to move the shoreline inland when possible. Keynote speakers were Jim Miller from Rutgers University IMCS who spoke about “A global view of estuaries, rivers and climate change;” Ray Najjar (Dept. of Meteorology, Penn State University) who spoke about “Climate change and mid-Atlantic estuaries;” Jim Titus (U.S. EPA, Climate Change Division) who spoke about “How to let wetlands and beaches move inland;” and Marjorie Kaplan (Rutgers Climate Change Initiative) who spoke about “Preparing for climate change in the region: Policy and management considerations.”

A special thanks to the **Local Hosts** for organizing this meeting: Danielle Kreeger, Angela Padeletti (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary), Stan Hales, Martha Maxwell-Doyle (Barnegat Bay Partnership), David Bushek (Rutgers University, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory), and Peter Straub (Richard Stockton College)!



Dave Yozzo (left) and Pete Straub (second from left) stand with students who received AERS travel awards.



Past President Pete Straub receives appreciation from AERS members with a plaque presented by Pres. Mark Brush, and a custom hoodie and a check for SCUBA stuff!

Recap of Solomons Meeting, Sp 2011

“Our Changing Coasts: From Observation to Restoration” brought AERS members together at the Calvert Marine Museum. Keynote speakers addressed sessions on **Technology: Scott Glen and coauthors O. Schofield and J. Kohut** (Rutgers University Coastal Ocean Observation Lab) “Two decades of technology development for coastal ocean observing, forecasting and adaptive sampling;” tracing the history of remote sensing capabilities; **Observation: Zdenka Willis** (U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Program IOOS) described how IOOS uses remote observations to document HAB and hypoxia, and **Restoration/Ecology: Mark Luckenbach** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Eastern Shore Laboratory, Wachapreague, VA) “Restoring ecological functions provided by oysters reefs: a 20 year retrospective and prescription for the future.”

Walter Boynton gave a brief summary of the meeting: biologists need not have physics envy since they now have technology to make fine scale measurements of interactions of large animals: seal with a fish school; scientists nowadays share data and work in collaborations; and a word to the wise to not limit yourself to the newest literature, but review the old literature to see how the field developed and perhaps get insights into how present research ideas will develop in the future.

AERS thanks **Local Hosts** Janet Barnes and Mario Tamburri (Alliance for Coastal Technologies), Richard Lacouture (Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center), Rob Paul and Chris Tanner (St. Mary's College of Maryland), Carolyn Keefe and Walter Boynton (University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory), and Chris Heyer (YSI, INC.)!



It was a lucky night for Kelly Somers who won the iPod Nano in the raffle, and received a travel award check from Dave Osgood. Thanks to Chris Heyer donating the iPod!



A happy and surprised Carolyn Keefe receives the Venerable Clam award.



Chris Tanner enjoys the field trip.



Grateful student presenters thank Maryland Sea Grant for providing student travel awards.

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Marcio Santos kayaking after the Solomons field trip.



Esteemed (and Colorful!) AERS Member Janet Nestlerode at mile 17 of the Rock and Roll USA Marathon in DC cheering on a fellow AERS runner.

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