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Atlantic Estuarine Research Society

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

Volume 2009 Number 1

February 2, 2009

Clash of the Populations: Emerging Challenges for Coastal Lagoons March 5-7 Ocean City, MD

By Jessie Jarvis and Rachel Blake

The Spring 2009 AERS meeting is being held in conjunction with the Maryland Coastal Bays Science & Technology Advisory Committee and has been set for **March 5-7, 2009**. The meeting will be held at the Carousel Resort Hotel, and Condominiums in **Ocean City, Maryland** (directly on the Beach!), The conference committee has been working very diligently to provide a conference program that both allows for participation of AERS members in the normal way, but focuses on the conference theme of Coastal Lagoons. A team of organizers from both AERS and the MD Coastal Bays has worked together to come up with the program. An unique format has been arranged that features a well know scientist leading a

*See Spring Meeting
(Continued on page 6)*



Coastal Lagoons will be the feature for this Spring AERS Meeting at the Carousel Resort on the beach in Ocean City MD. Prepare for Leila Hamdan's Ice Spectacular - Cyanobacteria on Ice."

Proposed Changes to the Constitution. See page 7 inside for the ballot and information concerning the proposed changes.

Changes are afoot! Constitutional and Elections for Secretary and President -elect.

By Frank Reilly

At the Spring meeting, we will be holding elections for Secretary and President-elect. The AERS Constitution was set up to ensure continuity across our Governing Boards' terms of office, and has staggered election timing among the elected officers, who make up the Board. The President-Elect is elected in order to serve a year on the AERS Executive Board prior to assuming office - to learn the ropes. This ensures our corporate memory and allows the President-Elect time to select committee chairs and organize for their Presidency. The AERS Secretary takes office immediately after the election and performs the duties for a period of 2 years. At the time that CERF re-organized, AERS adjusted their elections to provide the President a full cycle of office that corresponds with the planning of the CERF Biennial meeting. Nominations for both offices remain open until the elections occur at the Friday Business Meeting. Brief bios for each candidate are provided beginning on page 4.

Due to the recent name change of ERF to CERF it is necessary to change our Constitution wherever we refer to the Federation. These changes along with an instance that ensures gender neutrality have been proposed by the Constitution Committee. The actual proposed changes can be seen at www.AERS.info. The mail-in ballot is on page 7.

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**AERS - The Original
Estuarine Research Society**

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Presidential Ponderings

President Leila Hamdan

A somewhat somber and entirely too personal message from the President

Anniversaries are a great time to step back and celebrate the accomplishments of a long career, a happy marriage, or in our case the coming together of individuals in an idea. Celebrate we did at our Fall 2008 meeting at GMU. We had the chance to enjoy classic AERS moments caught on film and hear funny and poignant stories from our celebrity Historian Kent Mountford. But anniversaries can be solemn also. As Kent reminded us, we are slowly losing our founding members to the inevitability of time. The records he has kept are so important to preserving the heart and soul of our small but intrepid organization. I have a special place in my heart for the history of our fine group. This has caused me to refuse to accept Kent's resignation until we can find a suitable successor (Hint-hint to the AERS history buffs) although he deserves to retire from long and dedicated service. As a scientist, instead of simply accepting this interest, I have sought its origin, and have come up with a theory. I come from a family of immigrants to the US. My father was born in another country, and in some ways, another time. When he set out to seek the American Dream, he took with him memories, reverence for his past, and essentially nothing else. As he could not touch his past through people or relics, his children could only share in his family's history in his words alone. But those words were valuable: Be humble for all that you have - it came at great cost; be thankful to those who paid the price.

Perhaps a missing past is why I look so hard at the past of AERS. Our beginning is not lost, as we can still reach out to some of those who brought that beginning. With AERS, as with research, if you look hard enough into the primary literature, or in this case, the AERS archives, eventually you will find the beginning, present and the end to a question that can be-

gin again with you. By joining AERS, its history becomes your history and you become a lignin infused cell in a family tree boasting broad leaves of the "Greats". But with the turn of 60 years young for AERS, autumn has arrived, and some of our leaves have already begun to fall.

I tell my entirely too personal story to remind myself and hopefully others of the important thing that we are part of, the people who brought AERS to us and of the fact that some of them are slipping into memory. Frank Reilly said to me after learning of the passing of Dr. Bill Hargis in late October, "we let another one slip away without honoring him and dammit, we need to stop doing that". Frank really nailed it on the head. I only met Dr. Hargis once, when I was a new graduate student. I am ashamed to say that back then, I did not know his work. However, I understood that he was revered for his contributions to many communities. Without a professional frame to reference, I measured him by how he appeared as a person: He was warm, buoyant and powerfully approachable. These are not phenotypes one might expect from the "Greats" but fortunately, they are dominant traits in the AERS family. After some time, I came to know Dr. Hargis's work and his legacy. I have come to terms with the lost opportunity at that first and last meeting to simply say "thank you" and implore the membership to not make the same mistake. I hope that everyone will take the time to mark our Anniversary by writing a letter, or placing a call to one of our "Greats" from any decade to let them know that they are appreciated for their contributions to our collective histories. As we close this year of celebration for AERS, I hope that everyone will consider the advice given to me to be both humble and thankful. If AERS's history has taught us anything, it may be a path to greatness.

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Scientific Program

The full scientific program will be posted at : www.AERS.info. Space limitations, and timing have prevented us from publishing it here in its entirety. Please look at the website. You will see that we have arranged for some "Heavy Hitters" to be present to discuss some very important topics that represent the very latest in science and address the intersection of science with public policy. Please join us in Ocean City.

Lodging and the meeting facilities are:

The Carousel Resort Hotel,
118th St. on the Ocean /1700 Coastal HWY
Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: 410-524-1000 / Toll Free: 1-800-641-0011

Be sure to mention that you are with AERS when you make your reservation. A special block of rooms has been reserved and if you use our name when making your reservation you will be eligible for a room rate equal to the Federal Government per diem rate of ~\$85.00 plus any applicable taxes.

NOTE: Condominiums are also available for groups wishing to share accommodations.

Pesky Dues Notice

It is that time of year again when AERS members must decide to either pay up or forever be banished from polite company and AERS membership! Look at the label on the cover of this issue of AERSNews to see if you are in dire straits or not. AERS has Calendar year dues, so no matter when you joined, your membership must be renewed no later than the end of the Spring Meeting or risk being purged from the rolls. If the year above your name on the mailing label is 2009 or later you may continue to hear from us. If it is 2007 or older please pay your dues on-line, or bring them to the pirates working registration at the Spring Meeting if you dare. You can renew by visiting www.AERS.info and using PayPal to pay immediately.

If your mailing label states 2009 or later or if it has HM (Honorary Member) please keep us updated with your mailing and email information, and consider sending a payment in anyway earmarked for the Student Endowment. With all the money those Honorary Members save, they should completely fund the endowment with no real trouble. Just in case they don't, why don't you send in a special gift right now.

Constitutional changes:

BALLOT

Please Read the specifically proposed constitutional changes at www.AERS.info. Briefly, a change was made to ensure gender neutrality in the description of the rules of succession and wherever our AERS Constitution refers to ERF or Estuarine Research Federation, the change has been made to reflect their new official name Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation or CERF. Please vote to accept or reject the proposed changes and return this ballot to:

David O'Neill, AERS Constitution Chair
Community College of Baltimore County
12 Dalebrook Dr.
Phoenix, MD 21131

I accept the Proposed changes

I reject the proposed changes

Register on-line at: www.AERS.info
 \$85- Student Member
 \$105- Regular Member
 \$100- Student Non-member
 \$135- Regular Non-member
 \$70 - Cheapskate retired members
Walk-In registrations will probably be an order of magnitude higher!

Spring Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

panel of presenters on each of several topics. At this time the exact program is not fully set but the meeting will begin with a kick-off talk by Bill Dennison, UMCES before delving into the following specialized sessions:
 Eutrophication
 Coastal Hydrology/Geology
 Harmful Algal Blooms
 Emerging Issues
 Aquatic Vegetation
 Living Resources/Indicators and Monitoring
 Adjacent Land use Issues

Scientific presentations (oral and poster) given by scientists and students from throughout the Mid-Atlantic states will highlight the current state of knowledge and identify knowledge gaps about coastal bay systems in addition to a diverse array of estuarine and coastal topics. Also at this meeting there will be a special event for students only during the lunch hour on Friday. They will have an opportunity to interact in small groups with seasoned scientists and ask everything they wanted to know about jobs but were afraid to ask. On Saturday there will be a choice of 2 field trips:

Assateague Island National Seashore Field Trip

Isle of Wight Wildlife Management Area Field Trip

For more information on the meeting please check out our website at www.AERS.info!

Field Trip Information

You may sign up for field trips before the meeting by contacting the AERS Program Chairs Rachael Blake or Jessie Jarvis. You may also sign up during the meeting at the registration table.

Assateague Island National Seashore Field Trip

When: Saturday March 7, 2009, 1:00pm

Where: National Park Service's Barrier Island Visitor Center

What: Join two resource managers on a trip to the North End of Assateague Island National Seashore to learn about how the park works with local and national government agencies to understand and mitigate the unintended ecological consequences of the Ocean City Jetties and a constructed storm protection berm. The interdisciplinary and iterative management approach strives to restore natural ecologic and geomorphic processes to the ecosystem by restoring sediment transport to the island, manipulating the constructed berm, protecting endangered species, and monitoring changes in vegetation communities, piping plover reproductive success, and island morphology.

Isle of Wight Wildlife Management Area Field Trip

When: Saturday March 7, 2009, early afternoon

Where: Isle of Wight Management Area

What: Join experts on a tour of two habitat restoration projects in the Isle of Wight Wildlife Management Area. The first stop will be a stretch of shoreline where rubble and deteriorating bulkhead was replaced with stone revetments and breakwaters, sand sills, and intertidal marsh grass, creating approximately 10 acres of tidal marsh. The area is now a county park. The second stop will be a site with ongoing marsh restoration. This ditch-plugging effort is part of an initiative specifically targeted at restoring the natural tidal hydrology to areas of the marsh that have been historically ditched or drained. The ditch plugs involve the placement of vinyl sheet piling and earthen fill to block the daily tidal flow into the upper marsh area while allowing for abnormally high tides to continue to flood the marsh area.

NOTE: Site access is by walking through the marsh so appropriate attire (boots, etc.) will be required.

Tentative AERS Spring Meeting Agenda (see web page for final times)









March 5
Thursday PM
 4:00 - 6:00 Executive Board Meeting
 6:00 - 9:00 Registration
 7:00 - 9:00 Beverage Consumption Event with "Skating" and Ice Pageant provided by Leila Hamdan









March 6
Friday AM
 (Registration continues all day)
 8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast
 8:30 - 8:45 Opening Remarks and Introduction
 8:45 - 9:30 Keynote Address
 9:30 - 12:00 Panel Presentations/ Discussion and Technical Session









Friday PM
 1:30 - 4:30 Technical Session
 4:30 - 5:30 Business Meeting
 5:30 - 7:00 Poster Session and no-host Happy Hour
 7:30 - 9:00 Maryland Seafood Feast









March 7
Saturday AM
 8:00 - 12:00 Technical Presentations
 12:00 Student Awards
 1:30-4:00 Field Trips

































































STUDENT NEWS

Students will be treated to a lunch and special activity on Friday at this Spring AERS Meeting in Ocean City, MD. Dave Yozzo, or Past-President and I are organizing a session where students will have a chance to meet with a variety of working AERS members to discuss jobs, strategies, and career paths. Come prepared with your questions about everything or anything you would like to know about how to get that post-graduate job. The lunch and the information are free.

If you have been doing anything of note that you would like your fellow AERS members to know about, email me at sesulliv@odu.edu and so that I can see that [AERSNews](http://www.AERS.info) reports it.

Elections President Elect and Secretary

By Julie Ambler

AERS will hold elections for AERS Secretary and AERS President-Elect at the Spring Meeting in Ocean City, MD. Our out-going Secretary (Louise Wootton), has done a wonderful job and AERS appreciates her excellent service. The newly elected President-Elect will work closely with Leila Hamdan, AERS President, for one year, and then assume the role of the President at the end of the in Spring 2010 meeting. The nominating committee is soliciting candidates for these two positions. A slate of candidates with short biographies follows. Voting will take place on Friday during the Business Meeting at the AERS Spring Meeting in Ocean City, MD, March 5-7, 2009.

Descriptions of the positions:

The **Secretary** serves for a term of two years beginning at the close of the 2009 Spring Meeting. The Secretary is primarily responsible for taking minutes at the AERS Board Meetings and the AERS Business Meetings, distributing notices, and providing summaries of the meetings for [AERSNews](http://www.AERS.info).

The **President-Elect** serves one year as President-Elect to work with the Current President, two years as President starting at the close of the Spring Meeting in 2010, and one year as Past President. The President presides at all the meetings, appoints all members of the committees, and members at large. The AERS President is part of the the CERF Governing Board and attends CERF

(See Elections Continued on page 4)

BY SHELLEY SULLIVAN

(Elections: Continued from page 3)

Governing Board meetings twice per year. Please forward nominations to Julie Ambler (julie.ambler@millersville.edu). Be sure to determine your nominee's willingness to stand before forwarding his/her name to the nominating committee. Self nominations are welcome and, of course, nominations are welcome from the floor at the AERS business meeting until the balloting begins.

Candidates for President-Elect

Julie Ambler

I am a Professor in the Biology Department at Millersville University, where I teach principles of ecology, Chesapeake Bay watershed ecology, marine ecology and ecosystem seminars, ecological applications of GIS, and biological oceanography (at the Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Is., VA). At present, I study how bio-optical and physical factors affect the abundance and distribution of zooplankton in coastal waters off Wallops Is., VA., focusing on the contributions of copepods, tunicates and cladocerans. I received my Ph.D. in 1982 from the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University, where I studied the effects of food quality on *Acartia tonsa*. My postdoctoral research included development of the zooplankton compartment in a model for the U.S. South Atlantic Bight, a review article of San Francisco Bay zooplankton, and the behavior and bioenergetics of copepod swarms in island mangrove prop roots in Belize. During 1996-1999, I was an Associate Editor for *Estuaries*. At Millersville, I have supervised student research which resulted in presentations at ERF and AERS meetings. Since AERS has benefited my students and me, I would like to contribute to the society by being President Elect. I have been on the AERS Board as secretary (2005-2007) and as Nominations Chair (2007-present).

Pete Straub

Pete is a Professor of Biology at Richard Stockton College of NJ where he teaches genetics, biotechnology, botany, tide marsh ecology and scientific diving and serves as the

College dive safety officer. Pete earned a BS in marine science from Richard Stockton College in 1980. He then earned masters and doctoral degrees in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware, College of Earth and Marine Studies in 1990 for work on the genetics of saltmarsh grasses. This was followed by postdoctoral work at Washington University in St. Louis (1989-1994) on the genetics of drought stress tolerance in nitrogen fixing plants. He became active again in AERS after arriving (back) at Stockton in 1994, previously having been a student member and presenter in the mid 1980's. His recent work has been using genetics to look at local populations, and to detect gene expression markers of pollution exposure in estuarine and coastal fish. Pete has been on the board of AERS for four years serving in Endowments (2004-2006) and Membership (2007-2009).

Candidates for Secretary

David O' Neill

Personal education: Born Rhode Island, 1948, raised in RI, MA and MD. I am married, have two adult children and am currently a resident of PA. I earned a BS in BIOL (1970) at (now) Towson University, a MS in Zoology at URI (1974, thesis short title "Shelter competition in the Lobster") and a PhD in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Studies (1998, dissertation title: "Effects of Population Density, Shelter and other factors on *Procambarus clarkii* Agonistic Behavior: Aquacultural and Ecological Implications.") I have published several papers on my academic research but am not currently active in research or publication, however I follow fisheries management issues especially with regard to Lobsters. Employment and Service: have worked as an Environmental Health Sanitarian and Program Director at the Howard Co. MD Health Dept (1975-1982) and am currently employed by the Community College of Baltimore Co. MD as a faculty member (1982-Present). I

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

now serve as Science Chairperson for the Dundalk and Essex Campuses. In the past I have been a member or officer in several homeowners associations, community groups and County committees. I currently serve on the MD state Radiation Control Advisory Board and AERS Constitution Committee and have been active in supporting the recent changes in tanning boot legislation.

Interests: I enjoy the out of doors and in recent years have developed a fondness for the tidal marshes and coastal bays of the VA Eastern shore. I boat, fish and hunt and am interested in learning more about the region.

Lara D. Orensky

I received a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from Hofstra University where I described a new species of Caribbean polychaete. After graduating, I was awarded an internship to study polychaetes in Woods Hole, MA through the University of Massachusetts. I am currently pursuing an M.S. degree in Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University, serving as Treasurer of the Biology Graduate Student Organization and acting as student representative on the Biology Department Budget & Operations Committee. My thesis research will focus on the biogeography of an estuarine polychaete from the east and west coasts of the US. I am currently employed by the Benthic Ecology Laboratory at ODU, which is part of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Since my graduate career began, I have been an AERS member and attended every AERS meeting that has been held. The office of Secretary would allow me to make valuable scientific connections with AERS researchers and employ my strong organizational skills and attention to detail. I look forward to serving AERS and attending CERF and AERS meetings for many years to come.

Gulnihal Ozbay

I would like to express my interest in running for the office of secretary of AERS. I am an Associate Professor at Delaware State University, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

I joined the AERS Family as a member in 2003 and have been serving as a "Member-at-Large" Board Member since 2006. I hosted one of these fantastic AERS meetings in the fall 2008 with Dr. Kathy Coyne at the UDEL-CMES, Lewes Campus in Delaware. I received my Ph.D. in Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama in 2002. I conducted research leading to the development of aquaculture effluent water quality standards for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as my Ph.D. project. I received my Master of Sciences in Marine Bio-resources at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine in 1996. My undergraduate education was in Fisheries and Aquaculture Engineering in Turkey in 1991. My research focuses have been marine aquaculture, habitat restoration, water quality, harmful algae toxicity, nutrient management issues, and mitigation. I hired 10 graduate students over 5 years to assist me with various research projects funded by the competitive grant programs; projects such as oyster stock assessment, oyster gardening, habitat value of shellfish aquaculture gears, bacterial monitoring, harmful algae dynamics. I advised about 28 undergraduate students as interns or work-study students which led to many of them having the opportunity to present research findings at conferences and AERS has been the choice of my students! Personally, AERS meetings are among the most enjoyable professional meetings that I look forward to attending. As a current Board Member, I am fascinated with efforts and thoughts board members put forth for our student members! It is exciting to hear student presentations and appreciate the opportunity to have my students present their research at the AERS meetings.

Elections:
at the Business Meeting Friday Afternoon
March 6, 2009.

Nominations:
are accepted until they are closed and balloting begins

Constitution:
[See page 7](#)