

PERSpectives

Newsletter of the Pacific Estuarine Research Society

April 2002

PERSpectives is published by the Pacific Estuarine Research Society. To obtain a copy of this newsletter, request information, or apply for membership visit our website at <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~gilberj/pers.html>



PERS 2002 MEETING *The tide is flowing...*

Paul Fishman, PERS '02 Conference Organizer
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A sudden seiche of abstracts roared into the PERS2002 e-mail over the past two weeks, quickly inundating the barren program tidal flat. Our program now has 64 presentations (46 oral and 18 poster), which Program Chair Greg McMurray has arranged into 8 sessions: Urban Estuarine Management; Aquatic Nuisance Species and Education; Eelgrass and Restoration; Pelagic Ecology; Benthos; Physics, Chemistry and Methods; Fish; and Posters. This looks like it will be another terrific PERS meeting, and perfect Pacific Northwest weather is guaranteed in Portland!

If you've been wondering about the when and where, the schedule is summarized in the table to the right. The preliminary program, including titles and authors, will be published on the PERS web site during the week of April 22-26; please check for it.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jan Newton, PERS President
newton@ocean.washington.edu

Celebrating 25 years of PERS!

Rumor has it that PERS is in its 25th year. **Happy Silver Anniversary!** As your outgoing PERS President, I'll take this opportunity to reflect on the status of PERS in its 25th year.

PERS has had its ups, downs, and periods of stability, but there are many factors that cause me to say that PERS is currently on an upswing. And I have data to back that up! Membership has steadily climbed in the past few years (97 in 1999, 105 in 2000, 141 in 2001). We now have a fully functional website at which you

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE PERS 25th ANNUAL MEETING

May 2-4, 2002 in Portland, OR

Conference Theme: *Urban Estuaries*

Thursday, May 2

5:30 – 7:30pm PERS Registration and Social
Embassy Suites, Arcadian Gardens Room
7:30 – 9:30pm PERS Social continues in the PERS Suite

Friday, May 3

8:00 – 8:15am Welcome, Jan Newton, PERS President
8:15 – 9:45 Urban Estuarine Management
10:15 – 12:00 Aquatic Nuisance Species and Estuarine Education
12:00 – 1:30 Lunch (no-host)
1:30 – 3:15 Eelgrass and Estuarine Restoration
3:45 – 5:30 Pelagic Ecology
5:30 – 6:30 PERS Business Meeting
6:30 – 9:30pm PERS Banquet @ Great China Restaurant
(short walk from hotel). *Special guest:* Joy Bartholomew, ERF Executive Director
Poster Session: Friday morning and afternoon breaks

Saturday, May 4

8:00 – 8:15am Opening remarks
8:15 – 9:45 Benthos
10:15 – 12:00 Physics, Chemistry, and Methods
12:00 – 12:30 Lunch (hosted)
12:30 – 1:30 Fish
1:30 – 2:00pm Announcements & Awards
Poster Session: Saturday morning and lunch break

can view our newsletters, meeting announcements, and other bits (enormous thanks and kudos to our volunteer web guru, Jeannie Gilbert!). We have financial solvency that allows us to continue to support student travel to the ERF meeting (we assist our two annual PERS prize-winning graduate students to get to each biennial ERF conference). We have well-attended PERS meetings,

ERF 2003 IN SEATTLE!

SEPTEMBER 14th -18th, 2003

Andrea Copping, ERF 2003 Conference Chair
acopping@u.washington.edu

In less than 18 months ERF '03 is coming to Seattle! After such a successful conference in Florida, the ERF '03 Planning Committee is scheming its way towards a meeting with a unique Pacific Northwest flavor.

Themes of the Conference

By now you have probably seen our poster and our theme, *Estuaries on the Edge*, meaning the edge of the ocean, the edge of the Pacific Rim, the edge of decline. When you come to Seattle in September 2003 we will introduce you to some of our regional estuaries that differ from those you may know on the east and Gulf coasts. West coast estuaries are young and many are tectonically active. The ocean plays a major forcing role on the circulation and productivity of many of the estuaries, causing tight coupling of estuarine processes to major climatic and atmospheric events like ENSO and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

Our sub-theme, Convergence of Ocean, Land and Culture, stresses our desire to focus sessions around the interface of land-based influences, ocean forcing, and human activities in our estuaries. We will introduce you to some of the indigenous Native American culture and spotlight their interaction with marine resources.

The Program Committee is working on a number of thematic sessions and ideas. You will find our Call for Special Sessions, Symposia and Workshops at the ERF website (<http://www.erf.org>). Please think about what sessions you would like to create at ERF 2003 and let us know.

Location

The ERF '03 conference will be held on the University of Washington main campus in Seattle. September is usually a lovely month, with little or no rain and day-time temperatures in the 70s. The campus has one of the largest marine complexes in the country, and is located in close proximity to NOAA-NMFS labs and offices. With nearly 10% of NOAA, EPA's Region 10 headquarters, as well as several labs and offices belonging to USFWS and USGS, the University of Washington campus allows you easy access to colleagues.

We will host the oral and poster sessions in several buildings on campus. All the rooms are large and have good A/V equipment. We have several area hotels booked for the conference. As part of the university experience, you can choose to stay in one of the dorms, a low cost, high atmosphere alternative to a hotel.

In case you are unfamiliar with our lovely city, Seattle lies between two mountain ranges, surrounded by salt and freshwater. You can indulge in an amazing array of outdoor activities, especially hiking, boating, fishing and viewing nature. The natives are friendly, the eating and the music are great! We will plan a broad array of field trips to show off some of the natural, scientific and cultural wonders of the area. We

are a car ride or ferry ride from Vancouver and Victoria in Canada, and we have easy access to the Washington or Oregon coasts; even a trip to Alaska is possible! The September dates for the ERF conference presents a great opportunity to plan a vacation to our area.

Want to Get Involved?

Our planning process is underway and we have a great ERF 2003 team onboard. **There is still plenty of room for some energetic and creative people to become a part of that team.** Please contact me if you would like to help a lot or a little.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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typically around 80-100 attendees in the last several years, with high student participation (as much as 35%). And recently we have a new newsletter editor, Rick Reynolds, who has a good knack for getting us to press on deadline (a huge thanks to Rick!). This is our second newsletter this year and I have high expectations for more.

So, what do we need to do now? **For the immediate, come to PERS 2002 in Portland!!!** Paul Fishman is organizing a stellar meeting. Come with ideas of whom to elect for President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. At this meeting, we will welcome our current President-Elect Brett Dumbauld to his new post as President. Brett brings a lot of talent and perspective. We will also sincerely thank Greg McMurray for his many years in service as Secretary/Treasurer. We have to let him retire, but do so with much appreciation. Our guest from the east will be Joy Bartholomew, ERF Executive Director. It has been my pleasure to interact with Joy and the ERF Board in the last two years to represent PERS concerns as well as think about directions ERF should pursue. I was fortunate to be a participant in ERF's recent workshop on the impacts of climate change on estuaries, funded from a National Science Foundation Biocomplexity grant that was submitted by Anne Giblin (ERF Past President) and Don Boesch and spawned out of discussions at an evening ERF Board Meeting. Keep your eyes on ERF's website for more information.

What about the view for longer term activities? In part, stay the course! But also I think a priority should be to increase PERS membership. This society has much to offer...we need more PERSians! Do your part to interest others, colleagues, students, and associates, to come and check out PERS. Increased diversity and numbers will serve us well. And now that we have the website and newsletter established with energetic people backing them, let's use them more effectively. Please contact Rick, Jeannie, and your Board to suggest contributions or things you would like to see developed. Let's also continue to support student participation in meetings while keeping a good focus on professional level science. And don't forget to keep an eye on ERF 2003 in Seattle!

A final note, at the Spring ERF Board Meeting the California Estuarine Research Society (CAERS) was sanctioned as a new Affiliate Society. I view this as a positive move, in order to serve *regional* estuarine scientists better. We will still welcome any Pacific coasters to stay in PERS, but also acknowledge the utility of this new society to better serve California and Mexico. We look to welcome CAERS and perhaps hold a joint function sometime in the future.

OK, my final, final note, thanks to all of the individuals who make PERS an entity that can contribute to the scientific understanding of Pacific coast estuaries. That means you!

PERS OFFICERS

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CALLING ALL PERSians!

*Jeannie Gilbert, PERS Webmaster
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Hopefully by now you are aware that we have a few items of interest on the website, including the newsletter and all the information for the meeting in May. However, as we develop the website I would like it to be a virtual representative for the organization. A bit about the history of PERS (someone has committed to writing this), information for those who might be considering joining, and information for each other. I envision a lively and changing site with links to websites of interest, particularly your individual websites that showcase for others the interesting things our members do, links for students interested in pursuing estuary science, a students page where researchers or companies in need of interns could post links to their companies or organizations, and many more ideas.

What I need to make those dreams a reality is for you, the members, to provide information, links, and your own ideas! PERS is the best kept secret around and increasing awareness of our society requires a strong message to others. The word needs to get out to companies, schools, and individuals who could benefit from PERS membership. Had it not been for a senior project as an undergraduate and a professor who encouraged me, I would never have discovered PERS for myself. So, if you have an idea or a concept you would like to see developed for the website, email me and I will do everything I can to make it a reality.

EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

*Rick Reynolds, Newsletter Editor
reynolds@ocean.washington.edu*

This is my inaugural issue as the new *PERS*pectives editor, and I hope you will appreciate the changes I intend to implement as our society continues to grow and evolve. With the recent creation of our very own PERS website, the newsletter will be designed for broad electronic distribution (Adobe PDF format), archived, and made easily accessible over the world-wide web. A major advantage to this approach is that printing and mailing costs will no longer constrain the length of the newsletter or the use of color. Thus, we are able to solicit and easily accommodate more contributions from our members; news and announcements of general interest, conference and workshop notices, commentary, graphics, or even just a nice photo! If you are working on a great project or have some research results which you would like to share with your colleagues, or know of someone else who might (I won't tell who volunteered them!), please let me know!!!

This is your newsletter, so please don't hesitate to provide feedback or make any suggestions on what you would like to see.

**SEE YOU AT THE
25TH ANNUAL MEETING
IN PORTLAND!**

Membership Form

Pacific Estuarine Research Society



The Pacific Estuarine Research Society (PERS) is a non-profit organization formed to bring together, for educational purposes, persons interested in estuarine and coastal issues of the North Pacific. Serving scientists in the U.S., Canada, and Japan, PERS conducts annual meetings where estuarine and coastal researchers, managers, policy makers, students and others share their work and ideas. As the need arises, PERS also sponsors meetings of special interest. The PERS Newsletter is published regularly and can be accessed, along with other information about the Society, through our website at <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~gilberj/pers.html>. PERS is one of several regional affiliate organizations of the Estuarine Research Foundation (ERF). ERF conducts biennial meetings that draw attendees throughout the world. The journal *Estuaries* and a quarterly newsletter are published by ERF. More information about ERF can be obtained from their website at <http://www.erf.org/>.

Annual dues are \$10(US), \$15(CA); please make checks payable to PERS.

Member's Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

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Email Address: _____

Send completed forms/checks to:

Dr. Gregory McMurray

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