

CPRC NEWS
A Quarterly Newsletter of the
Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter of the
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
Vol 14, Number 3, Fall 2004

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Meet us at the SETAC Meeting
In Portland**

Monday, November 15, 2004

Noon to 1 p.m.

**Convention Center
Room A103**

**Come join us to recap 2004 and plan for 2005, meet
friends, network, and eat lots of great food!!!!**



Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry



26th Annual SETAC Meeting

to be held

November 2005 in Baltimore



I know, I know...you're all still preparing for the 25th Annual Meeting being held in Portland, Oregon in just a matter of days (You HAVE completed your poster or platform presentation, HAVEN'T YOU?). The Officers and Board of the Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter look forward to seeing you all there.

However, the Tri-Chairs of next year's Program Committee want to get you started thinking about SETAC 2005...which will be held right here in our own backyard (or back harbor, as the case may be). The chairs for next year include two well-known CPRC members, and a well-known HDC (i.e., Hudson-Delaware Chapter) member. The duties this time will fall to yours truly, **David Kent** (a past President of CPRC and current treasurer and newsletter editor), **Bill Goodfellow** (a veteran of CPRC who also chaired the program committee the last time it was in Baltimore), and **Lisa Baron** (a past President of HDC).

So far we've been kept pretty busy putting together the Program Committee (see below and next page), deciding on a theme, and designing a logo (with substantial assistance from the SETAC Office). The logo is shown above. It highlights the unique heritage of the Chesapeake Bay region and Baltimore.

Our chosen theme for the 26th Annual Meeting is "**Environmental Science in a Global Society: SETAC's Role in the Next 25 Years.**" The idea is to build on the current year's theme "SETAC: 25 Years of Interdisciplinary Science Serving a Global Society." While this year looks backward at the important role SETAC has played over the years, next year's theme will turn this view forward to focus on the role we should play from now on. I'll talk more on the theme and our evolving plans in the next CPRC News.

For now, let me introduce the SETAC 2005 Program Committee. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have ideas for session topics, events, or want to volunteer your time.

Program Committee Tri-chairs

Bill Goodfellow-EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. (wlg@eaest.com)

Lisa Baron-New Jersey Department of Transportation (lisa.baron@dot.state.nj.us)

David Kent-Compliance Services International (dkent@complianceservices.com)

2005 SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**Platform**

Pete Albers-USGS, Patuxent (pete_albers@usgs.gov)
Tom Purcell-American Petroleum Institute (purcellt@api.org)
Carys Mitchelmore-Univ. Maryland (mitchelmore@cbl.umces.edu)

Poster

Chuck Shorten-West Chester Univ. (cshorten@wcupa.edu)
Eric Silberhorn-Arbor Glen Consulting, Inc. (arborglenconsulting@comcast.net)
Christy Foran-West Virginia Univ. (cmforan@mail.wvu.edu)

Plenary [Theme Speakers]

Ken Hayes-Aqua Survey (hayes@aquasurvey.com)
Pat McIsaac-STL (pmcisaac@stl-inc.com)

Special Symposia

Rick Wenning-ENVIRON International (rjwenning@environcorp.com)
Cliff Duke-Ecological Society of America (csduke@esa.org)

Short Course Liaison (with Short Course Committee)

Lisa Totten-Rutgers Univ. (totten@envsci.rutgers.edu)

Exhibits

Tim Ianuzzi-BBL (tji@bbl-inc.com)
Cindy Driscoll-Maryland DNR (cdriscoll@dnr.state.md.us)

Social

Amanda Maxemchuk-Lockheed Martin/REAC (Amanda.maxemchuk@lmco.com)
Cristi Milam-EA Engineering, Science, and Technology (cmilam@eaest.com)
Betty Jane Boros-Russo-NJDEP (betty.boros-russo@dep.state.nj.us)

Students

Jeff Ashley-Philadelphia National Academy of Sciences (Ashley@acnatsci.org)
Teresa Norberg-King-EPA (norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov)

Fund Raising

Larry Lyons-Lockheed Martin/REAC (larry.a.lyons@lmco.com)
Don Nazario-Analytical Laboratory Services (dnazario@analyticalab.com)

Program Committee/Board Liaison

Beth McGee (SNA Board Member) (bmcgee@savethebay.cbf.org)



Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry



JOIN CPRC IN PORTLAND



Here ye, here ye...all CPRC members (and *wanna-be* members)...be it known that CPRC will be holding a Chapter meeting at SETAC in Portland.

The CPRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th from Noon to 1 p.m., Convention Center Room A103.

A FREE lunch will be provided, with costs being picked up by CPRC (2/3) and SETAC (1/3). Please RSVP to Heather Stapleton at heathers@nist.gov so we can have an approximate head count.

Included on the agenda are announcements of the Graduate Student Research Award winners and the student travel award winners. We will also be taking nominations for officers and Board members and discussing plans for a CPRC winter meeting in January.

Congratulations to Bill Goodfellow!!

CPRC member **Bill Goodfellow** has been voted onto the SETAC North America Board of Directors. The official announcement will be made in Portland. Bill is Vice President and National Technical Director for EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. headquartered in Baltimore, where he manages the company's practice for Water, Natural Resources, and Ecotoxicology. Bill has been very active in SETAC and is currently a Tri-Chair for SETAC's 26th Annual Meeting to be held next year in Baltimore.

WEB SITES

We've all heard of the internet search engine Google (www.google.com). But do you know about these lesser-known uses for Google?

Track packages: Enter a FedX or UPS tracking number.

Do calculations: Type in an equation.

Convert units of measurement: For example, type in "teaspoons in a gallon".

Check on stocks: Search a stock symbol to get the company's share price, plus graphs and financial news.

Track airline flights: Type in a flight number for a link to a map of the flights progress.

For Fun

Can't understand your kids? Try Teen Lingo (www.thesource4ym.com/teenlingo/index.asp) to help you figure out what the heck they are talking about (e.g., see "D.L." on their IM? It means "down low", aka "keep it a secret"). You do know what IM is, right?

Anagrams: Did you know that "Clint Eastwood" is an anagram of "Old West Action?" (And you thought he was just old) You can build your own anagrams at: www.wordsmith.org/anagram/index.html

Have you ever wondered how often certain words are used? Check out WordCount at www.wordcount.org/main.php. There are over 85,000 words listed, with each word scaled to its frequency. Number one on the list is the word "the". The last word is "conquistador". Just enter a word to find its ranking.

Other Sites of Interest

Environmental Research Foundation: News and resources for environmental justice: www.rachel.org/home_eng.htm.

Interactive map: Enter a city location or street address and the map zooms in and out. www.us.map24.com.

Satellite images: Get satellite images of cities or even houses. Enter an address at: <http://imageatlas.globexplorer.com>.

Environmental Health Perspectives Online: An open access journal by NIEHS at NIH. <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/admin/openaccess.html>.

Chesapeake Bay Program: A calendar of upcoming workshops, conferences, etc. is at www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm.

Looking for Government Info?

Regulations: One stop shop for finding federal documents open for public comment: www.regulations.gov

Science: Fourteen scientific and technical information organizations from 10 major science agencies: www.science.gov.

Play this Mind Game

Amazing others with your mastery of mathematics will relieve tension and stress, or at least make you feel superior. Ask someone to think of a number between 1 and 100, and then tell him to count the letters in his name to obtain a second number. Ask him to do the same thing with the second number. After the sixth round, tell him the number he's thinking of is four. It always is!

THE STUDENT PAGES

These pages are designed specifically for the benefit of student members of the Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter. Let us know what is important to you and what we can do to make CPRC work for you. Please contact your student representative **Christina Dryden** (cdryden@odu.edu) or send info directly to the editor.

Student Travel Awards

Two lucky students have been awarded travel funds to help them make the long trek out to Portland to attend the SETAC meeting. This year we are happy to be able to give two awards of **\$800 each**, thanks to the very generous grants of **Compliance Services International, ExxonMobil, and BBL Sciences**.

And the winners are...**Jennifer Ripley** of West Virginia University and **Susan Klosterhaus** of the University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

This has been a good year for **Jennifer**, who also won the best student oral platform presentation award at the CPRC spring meeting. That's her arm-wrestling with CPRC past-president **Fred Pinkney** below.



Jennifer (with co-author **Christy Foran**) will be presenting a poster entitled "Comparison of reproductive physiology of the placenta-like brood pouch in two sympatric pipefishes (PW129)", which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th.

Susan will be presenting her platform paper entitled "Geochemistry and bioavailability of decabromodiphenyl ether in the

Chesapeake Bay estuary." Her presentation (#811; w/co-author **Joel Baker**) is scheduled for 3:40 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th in Room 202, Oregon Ballroom.

Please come out to see these award-winning presentations!!

These student travel awards are CPRC's way to support our student members (we all were students once...sometimes twice). To be eligible, students must have a platform or poster presentation accepted by the SETAC program committee. They also must compete against fellow CPRC student members, with a panel of reviewers evaluating the substance and quality of their presentations, as well as their resume and qualifications.

Graduate Student Awards

Thanks to continuing corporate support from **ExxonMobil, BBL Sciences, and Compliance Services International**, we will again offer two Graduate Student Research Awards of \$500 each.

As this newsletter went to press, the 2004 applications were still being reviewed.

See who won...the Announcement will be made during the CPRC meeting at SETAC on Tuesday Noon !!

NEW STUDENT REP NEEDED

Anyone interested in replacing **Christina Dryden** as the student representative to the CPRC Board should contact **Tom Purcell**.

CPRC Member News



Sarah Gerould

Most of you know **Sarah Gerould** from her long and active history with CPRC. Or perhaps you know her as the Bureau Program Coordinator of the Contaminant Biology Program at the U.S. Geological Survey.

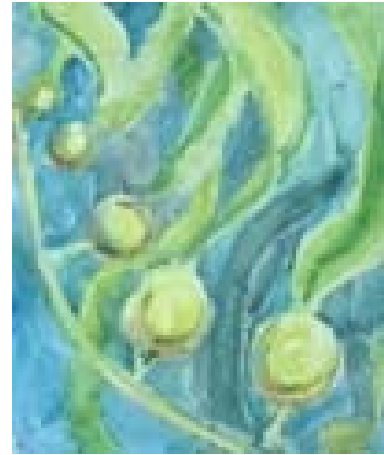
But Sarah is also an artist. And as we are prone to do here occasionally at the CPRC Newsroom, this issue profiles one of Sarah's many "beyond the office" activities.



"Catch"

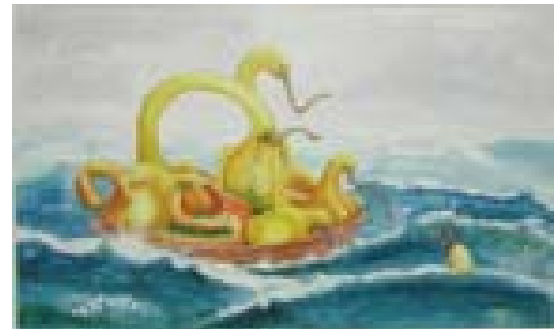
According to Sarah: "My paintings are a window on our world: humorous, serious, grotesque and serene. They are an observation and a passion, an escape and a commitment. My landscapes and creatures are an escape back to places I've been, and a commitment to the natural world I love so well. In contrast to the

natural scenes, my vegetables convey, in a darkly humorous way, aspects of the human condition. I am particularly drawn to the expressiveness of root vegetables."



"Caught in the Kelp"

Sarah often highlights her watercolors with poems like the one below:



"Rescue?"

Oh have you ever felt that you were drifting lost at sea,
And a boatload of buffoons approaches near to rescue thee?
Your choices never grimmer as you bob up to your chin.
D'you swim towards the unseen shore or let them pull you in?

For much more of Sarah's artwork, see her website at www.sarahgerould.com or email her at sarah@sarahgerould.com.

Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2005

Online application: <http://chapters.setac.org/cprc/index.htm>

SETAC: the **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry** is an independent, nonprofit professional society that provides a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of environmental issues, management and conservation of natural resources, environmental education, and environmental research and development.

CPRC: the **Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter** of SETAC is a non-profit organization started in the year 1983. CPRC's mission is to promote the exchange of information among environmental scientists in the Mid-Atlantic States

Note: you do not have to be a SETAC member to be a member of CPRC.

Name: _____

Employed by: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **Fax Number:** _____

Email: _____

Please Check the Appropriate Membership Class: Regular ___ (\$15) Student ___ (\$5)

Employment Class: Academic ___ Government ___ Business ___ Consulting ___

Education: _____
(highest degree, discipline, year)

Please enclose a check made out to CPRC. This form and check should be sent to:
David J. Kent - c/o Compliance Services International
2001 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Suite 1010. Arlington, VA 22202

CPRC Members at Work

Some of you may have seen a recent article in the Washington Post (“Male Bass in Potomac Producing Eggs, by David A. Fahrenthold, October 15, 2004), but did you realize that some of our home-grown CPRC members are right in the thick of things?

The article talked about how many of the bass in the South Branch of the Potomac river are producing eggs. While egg production would normally be a good thing, the problem is that many of the egg-producing fish are male!! The phenomenon was discovered by accident, when scientists from West Virginia and the Geological Survey were called in to investigate reports that fish in the South Branch were “developing lesions and dying en masse.” While they found no obvious cause for the lesions or deaths, they were extremely surprised to find that 42% of the male bass had developed eggs inside their sex organs.

Enter CPRC member **Vicki Blazer**, of the USGS. Vicki is currently working with the West Virginia DNR to sample six stations in the South Branch, one in the Cacapon, one in the North River, and one in Lost River. They sampled in the spring during spawning, in the summer post-spawn, and again last month. A complete necropsy-based fish health assessment is done, along with collection of plasma for reproductive hormones, vitellogenin, etc., and are doing histopathology on all organs. The intersex is so high in smallmouth but Vicki reports they really don't have a baseline for them. She does the histopathology for largemouth bass as part of the ISGS BEST program, so there is a huge amount of background data for them...though the incidences of intersex in largemouths are less (based on small sample sizes to date). Vicki says that they also took water samples at each site that are still being worked up.

At this point, scientists don't know what might be causing the egg producing males, though the Post article speculates that this might be the “latest example of an emerging national problem: hormones, drugs and other man-made pollutants appear to be interfering with the chemical signals that make fish grow and reproduce.”

Despite this assertion, we really don't know yet. Vicki and her colleagues have a proposal into our very own **Fred Pinkney** and others at the Fish and Wildlife Service for a project to do a more in-depth study.

We'll keep our eye out for additional information, and perhaps Vicki and Fred can provide an update in a future issue of CPRC News.

Closing Thoughts



Well, folks, another SETAC meeting is upon us, and CPRC goes through the annual changeover of CPRC Officers and Board members. This is as good a time as any to reevaluate your participation in CPRC activities and governance. With my Officer's cap on I ask: Are you an active contributor – serving on the Board...helping to plan upcoming events...guiding our future – or are you more of an attendee, not serving directly but supporting the

Chapter through your attendance at CPRC-sponsored events? Both are important contributions, though I encourage everyone to take advantage of the leadership opportunities that CPRC Office or Board membership provides.

Now, wearing my editor's cap I ask: Would you like to contribute to the production of this newsletter? While quarterly issues are the intent, the production and distribution is too often at the whim of my work schedule. Therefore, I would like to propose a restructuring of the CPRC Newsletter to allow other CPRC members to play a more active role. Under the new scheme, I would remain as Editor-in-Chief, and one or two Associate Editors would be added. As the newsletter continues to develop, there may also be opportunities for special section editors to join. The editorial staff would also solicit "Contributors" who would routinely write articles (or solicit them from others), provide humor and web site entries, etc. As we succeed in bringing on additional contributors, the newsletter can be expanded to include additional coverage of CPRC member activities, features, debates, opinions, etc.

If you're interested in playing a more active role in this newsletter, please contact David Kent at dkent@complianceservices.com.

As always, articles and especially photographs are welcome.

Questions/Comments/Ideas for Articles - Please send an email to the editor at DKent@ComplianceServices.com.