

CPRC NEWS
A Quarterly Newsletter of the
Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter of the
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
Vol 14, Number 4, Winter 2005

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CPRC Annual Spring Meeting

Wednesday, April 20 2005

All day

Philip Merrill Environmental Center

See page 3 for more information



Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry



President's Message



greater organization.

Life, it seems, has been in fast forward since I took on the role of President of the Chesapeake Potomac Regional Chapter. Deadlines for reviewing papers (suddenly) loomed, a major project at work was winding down, the furnace acting up, family members were coming down to Washington for a visit, and a new fiscal year is coming up. All these ups and downs have little direct effect on the Chapter or SETAC, but they do interfere with available time. This is the first opportunity I have had to reflect on upcoming events and what I can do to serve you and the

By way of introduction, I am a Senior Environmental Scientist for water issues at American Petroleum Institute, and worked at two other trade associations prior to this job; The Silver Council (photographic industry) and Printing Industries of America. I was with U.S. EPA Office of Water for 5 years before that, and much earlier with College of the Virgin Islands/Caribbean Research Institute and the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center. My science work focused on changes in phytoplankton population composition resulting from environmental stressors.

I will say I was encouraged by the attendance at the Chapter meeting in Portland, because there is an exciting year coming. A great deal of the Chapter's energy will be focused on SETAC 2005 in Baltimore. The Program Committee to organize the meeting is in place and active. There is an impressive amount of experience embodied in this group, and I understand that the National office will provide much of the organizational work. Nevertheless, we can expect them to ask for our assistance as time goes on. I hope all of you want to volunteer some time to help make the meeting enjoyable and memorable. We can all benefit by doing so, participating with people of common interest on a project that is worthwhile.

The Chapter will have a spring meeting in April (see announcement in this newsletter), where we can hear what others in the Chapter are doing, scientifically: each of you should start thinking about putting together a paper or poster about your research. We will also try to have an invited speaker (or more than one) of interest (suggestions?), as well time to talk informally. I think we should also give some thought to a more expansive type of meeting, with a short course or a focused meeting where a single topic is examined in greater depth.

I encourage everyone to participate in Chapter activities. Not just attending the meetings, but also playing an integral part by suggesting formats or topics or helping to organize them. Invite your friends who may have interest (particularly true for students), which will add breadth and depth to the experience. Finally, please feel free to propose any other activities that you think might improve CPRC and what we offer, since many scientifically oriented heads working together ought to be the equivalent of at least one practical mind.

--Tom Purcell



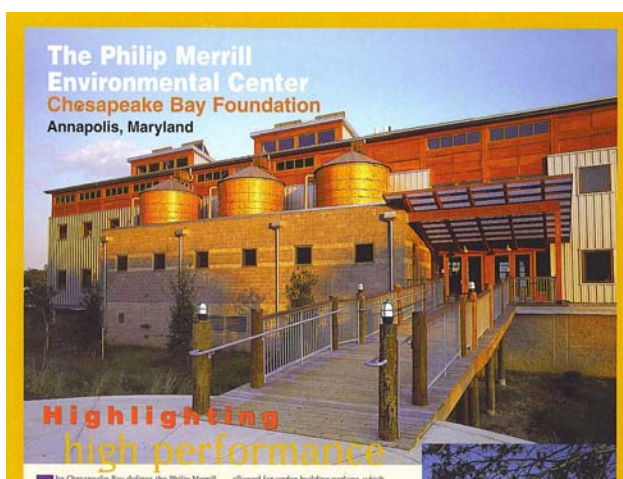
Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Chapter
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry



Annual CPRC Spring 2005 Meeting

Is now scheduled

Join us on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 for the annual CPRC Spring Meeting!!



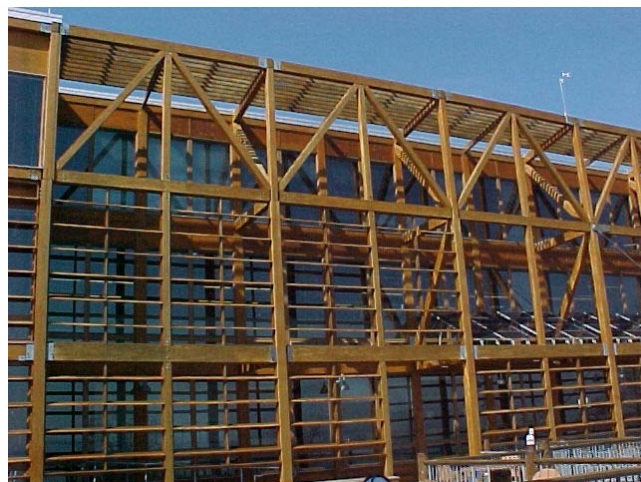
CPRC will return to one of our favorite locations for the 2005 meeting – the **Philip Merrill Environmental Center at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation** offices in beautiful Annapolis, Maryland.

Those of you who joined us in 2003 at the Philip Merrill Center know that every aspect of the design, construction and operation of the very unique building embodies the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's mission to protect and restore the Bay.

SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 20, 2005

More information on the meeting will be coming shortly. For now, make sure you save this date on your calendar. The meeting will be an all day affair, with invited speakers as well as lots of room for CPRC member researchers and students to present papers or posters.

Abstract submissions are now open. Abstracts should be no more than one page in length and indicate a preference for oral or poster presentation. Please send your abstract submissions electronically (Word, WordPerfect, or PDF) to Heather Stapleton at heather.stapleton@nist.gov. Deadline for submissions is COB on March 18th, 2005.



Opportunities to Comment on NEON

by Dan Johnson
Public Information Representative
NEON Project Office
202-628-1500 x 215
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Planning for the NSF-funded National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is on a fast track. A distinguished body of scientists, engineers, and educators has been selected to serve on the committees that will shape the blueprint for NEON's implementation. Members of the biological community will have a number of opportunities to review and comment on draft materials as the NEON Design Consortium produces

documents early in 2005.

In September 2004, AIBS finalized a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation to develop a detailed NEON planning document by June 2006. The NEON Design Consortium – with more than 150 committee and subcommittee members – formally begins its work with meetings in January, March and June of 2005. The committee reports will identify which continental-scale science questions NEON will address, what kinds of sensor technology and cyberinfrastructure will be required, and how to realize NEON's potential for educating new generations of scientists.

The eight Subcommittees of the Science and Human Dimensions Committee will focus on invasive species, land use, biodiversity, biogeochemical cycles, climate change, infectious disease, hydrology, and emerging issues. Additional subcommittees will develop NEON's approaches to research infrastructure, IT and communication, and sensors and sensor networks. Education subcommittees will address NEON opportunities for K-12, the graduate and postdoctoral level, and informal education.

Members of the bioscience community can find the latest news about NEON at www.neoninc.org, including a full roster of NEON's Design Consortium members. Draft documents will be posted online for peer review shortly after each of the three meetings scheduled in 2005: January 4-6; March 15-17, and June 7-9.

WEB SITES

Google has another new feature. This one provides the user various language tools, for example if you want to search for web pages written in a particular language or if you want to translate from one language to another. Check out www.google.com/language_tools.

Need to know if your doctoral dissertation is unique? Check out **PhdData** at www.phddata.org. This site holds an ever-growing database of doctoral dissertations in progress around the world. It's still in development, but the site says it's an open academic community effort to avoid duplications in doctoral dissertations and to create a mechanism for people working on dissertations to interact.

Dream it. Find it. Get it. That's the slogan for **America's Job Bank**. AJB offers resources and job postings. Set up a search scout and be notified of job openings by email. Create an online resume and be contacted by potential employers. The Employability Checkup analyzes jobs and wages in cities nationwide. Go to www.ajb.org/

Have ideas? Check out www.idealists.org. This site, a project of Action Without Borders, is designed as a clearinghouse for over 43,000 nonprofit and community organizations in 165 countries. It can be used to search for different organizations, look for thousands of volunteer opportunities, and set up to receive information on job opportunities, etc.

Project Origins explored the origin of matter, life and the universe. Now you can view the results via interactive media at www.exploratorium.edu/origins/index.html.

OTHER THOUGHTS

Words to Live By

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Eat a live toad in the morning and the rest of the day will almost definitely be better.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Did you know...

...that a "miraculous event" – defined as an event with odds of a million to one, such as thinking of someone just before he/she telephones – happens to the average person about once per month? (according to Scientific American)

Upcoming SETAC Meetings

For those who may have missed it, here is the list of where the next five SETAC meetings will be held:

2005	Baltimore
2006	Montreal
2007	Milwaukee
2008	Tampa
2009	New Orleans

Dumb Science Humor

Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost an electron." The other asks, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "I'm positive."

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 **Moira McKernan** (mokernan@yahoo.com) or send info directly to the editor.

New Student Representative

This issue welcomes a new student representative to the CPRC Board, and says goodbye to our previous representative.

Christina Dryden has finished her work at Old Dominion University and taken a position in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. CPRC wants to thank Christina for her 3 years of service to CPRC as student Board member. We wish her luck in her new position, and know that our loss is a gain for the Hudson-Delaware Chapter.

But just as we say goodbye to Christina, we welcome with open arms our new student representative to the CPRC Board – **Moira McKernan**. Moira is a graduate student of **Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger** and **Dr. Barnett Rattner** in the Marine Estuarine Environmental Science Department at the University of Maryland. She also is a student trainee with Dr. Rattner at the USGS Patuxent Research Center. Her primary duties include compiling data for and maintaining internet-accessible ecotoxicological databases. Moira's research interests include investigating the toxicity of emerging environmental contaminants of concern in avian species.

"I look forward to participating in CPRC this next year, especially as we prepare for the annual SETAC meeting in Baltimore 2005," says Moira. "I enjoyed my tenure as a student board member for 2 years in the

Ozark-Prairie Regional SETAC while I was a graduate student in Illinois."

Moira encourages all student members of CPRC to contact her with ideas and questions. She is your voice on the Board, so please take advantage of her.

Graduate Student Awards

Thanks to continuing corporate support from **ExxonMobil**, **BBL Sciences**, and **Compliance Services International**, we again awarded two Graduate Student Research Awards in 2004. These awards were \$500 each and help support the research costs of area graduate students. The 2004 winners were **Jennifer Ripley** of West Virginia University and **Susan Klosterhaus** of the University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Jennifer is a student of new CPRC Board member Christy Foran. Susan is a student of Joel Baker.

Congratulations to these two deserving students, and also to the other students who submitted applications.

Remember, these are annual awards, so watch for the 2005 Graduate Student Research Award application in the next CPRC newsletter.

CPRC Board News

New Board Members

As all of you should know, elections for new Officers and Board members for CPRC were held in the fall.

The new **President** of CPRC for 2005 is **Tom Purcell** of the **American Petroleum Institute**. Tom gives us a window into his background and his priorities for the new year in his "President's Message" on Page 2. Tom can be reached at purcellt@api.org.

Joining Tom will be our new **Vice-President, Sherry Krest** of the **US Environmental Protection Agency**. Sherry has been on the Board for the last several years, and will follow Tom to the Presidency in 2006. Sherry can be reached at sherry_krest@fws.gov.

The two **new Board members** beginning their three-year terms in 2005 are **Christy Foran** and **Diana Eignor**.

Christy Foran is a faculty member in the Department of Biology at **West Virginia University**. She currently has several undergraduate and PhD students on her research team (who were very active in our last Spring meeting held in West Virginia). Her research interests focus on the broad goal of understanding how environmental factors influence development, physiology, and reproductive mechanisms. Working with several collaborators, Christy and her research team have ongoing projects that explore the effects of emerging contaminants of interest (e.g., pyrethroids and pharmaceuticals), the impact of endocrine disruptors on metabolic function and development, and the ability of exogenous hormones to alter the methylation pattern in the promoter of estrogen responsive genes. A major focus

of her laboratory is the development of pipefishes in the family Syngnathidae as a model for examining the consequences of developmental exposure to contaminants. Christy can be reached at cmforan@mail.wvu.edu.

Diana Eignor has been at the **US Environmental Protection Agency** in the Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Fate and Effects Branch since the fall of 2002. Prior to joining EPA, Diana had worked with various consultants and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Her interests include how to integrate new research developments into ecological risk assessments and ultimately risk management. Since arriving at EPA, she has become very involved in environmental policy development and implementation. Diana can be reached at eignor.diana@epa.gov.

And of course, **Moira McKernan** joins the Board as our Student Representative. Read more about Moira on The Student Pages of this newsletter.

Leaving the Board

As new members join the Board, others must depart. CPRC wishes to acknowledge the work of Past-President **Fred Pinkney** and outgoing student representative **Christina Dryden**. And many thanks for the extraordinary work of outgoing President **Cliff Duke**, who did yeoman duty over the last two years. We are happy that Cliff will have one more year as Past-President to guide us toward the future.

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

Other Items of Interest

Mid-Atlantic Ecology Conference: Urban Landscapes. March 12-13, 2005, University of Maryland – Baltimore County. Hosted by the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education. Abstracts and Registration due by January 29, 2005. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ecological Society of America welcomes interested graduate and undergraduate students, academic, government, and industry ecologists and those in related fields to attend its 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Scientific Meeting. Saturday, March 12th from 8 am to 7 pm will be a day of scientific plenary speakers, posters and oral presentations, a career panel, and more. Sunday, March 13th will be a scientific field trip to the Baltimore Urban Ecosystem LTER site. For more information, please contact Dirk Venderklein at vanderkleid@mail.montclair.edu or check out the ESA chapter web site.

Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: The 5th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: Forecasting Environmental Changes will be held on February 3-4, 2005 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. The conference is a forum for more than 700 leading scientists, engineers, policy makers, government officials, business executives, and educators to assess our ability to understand and forecast environmental changes and to identify opportunities for improving these capabilities. The opening keynote address will be delivered by James Gustave Speth, Dean of the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, who will draw upon his experience as former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Founder and former President of World Resources Institute, and former Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Other speakers and participants in roundtable discussions are expected to include, D. James Baker, Charles Groat, Bruce Hayden, Thomas Lovejoy, Ronald Pulliam, and others. For more information, go to the NCSE web site at www.ncseonline.org/ncseconference/2005conference/

Seasonal Employment Opportunity: Catoctin Mountain Park is seeking a motivated graduate student in the areas of natural resource management, biology, geography, or related sciences, to assist the park in the preparation of several new resource management plans. The selected graduate student will have the opportunity to learn about, and assist in, the preparation of a Resource Stewardship Plan, an Environmental Management Plan, and a Soundscape Management Plan for Catoctin Mountain Park. The selected student should be enrolled as a student in the fall of 2005 in order to qualify for this appointment. Duration is 14 weeks between May and August. For more information, please contact James Voigt, Natural Resource Manager (james.voigt@nps.gov) or Giselle Mora, Center for Urban Ecology (giselle.mora-bourgeois@nps.gov).

AAAS Fellowship Opportunity: Applications are now being accepted for the 2005/2006 AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships in Risk Analysis. AAAS sponsors 10 science and technology policy fellowship programs that provide the opportunity for accomplished and societally-aware scientists and engineers to participate and contribute to the public policy-making process of the federal government. The fellowship year begins September 1, 2005 and is open to U.S. citizens having a PhD or equivalent degree. Approximately 60 fellowships are awarded in the 10 programs. AAAS fellows are placed either at USDA, USFDA, or USACOE. For application instructions and further information, email fellowships@aaas.org or check out AAAS' web site at www.fellowships.aaas.org.

Closing Thoughts



Another year, another opportunity for CPRC members to get involved with the regional chapter. And this year, the annual SETAC meeting comes back to Baltimore.

As a chapter, CPRC has offered to play an active role in the Baltimore meeting. Two projects are being planned. The first is development of a large map to be placed near the registration desk. This map will contain information on local restaurants, museums, night spots, and other attractions near the convention facility. This should alleviate the annual problem of having people plan to meet near the registration desk at lunch and dinner times, then not have the foggiest idea where to go from there. The large map will be keyed to smaller versions that will be placed in the registration packet each attendee receives upon arrival. Both the large and small versions will show that they are complements of CPRC.



The second project will be a full-sized CPRC poster to hang in the exhibits area for the duration of the SETAC meeting. While SETAC has provided space for such posters every year, and other chapters routinely display one, CPRC has only occasionally taken advantage of this opportunity to show everyone in our area what our chapter has to offer. **Diana Eignor**, one of newest Board members, has volunteered to coordinate development of this poster. Please send any ideas or photos you have to her at eignor.diana@epa.gov.

That's all for this time. As always, articles and especially photographs are welcome additions to this newsletter. If you're interested in playing a more active role, please contact **David Kent** at dkent@complianceservices.com.

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