
COASTAL LETTERS



NEWSLETTER OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

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Membership Renewal Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership in the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group. When you renew your membership with the AAG, update your E-mail address as well –remind your colleagues as well! Dues have not changed from 2001-02. Membership dues for the Specialty Group are currently \$1 for students and \$5 for regular and associate members.

Editor's Comments and Election Results

- 1) At the last 2001 business meeting we decided to convert over to an electronic copy of the newsletter – if you want a hardcopy please send me the note above so that I can put you on the hardcopy list.
- 2) Have you been getting E-mails? We recently took many e-mail addresses off the list due to incorrect addresses. If you have not been receiving E-mails please send me your e-mail address and I will add updated the COMA list. You should also forward a copy of the change to the AAG.
- 3) The 2002 business meeting in Los Angeles brought several changes in the specialty group leadership. The changes were as follows:

Steve Namikas was voted in as Treasurer

Jennifer Rahn was voted in as Member of the Board of Directors

Michael Craghan was nominated, and agreed to complete Steve Namikas' unexpired term on the Board of Directors.

Richard Daniels was appointed Editor of the newsletter

- 4) Thanks go to Harry Jol for his leadership as a Member of the Board of Directors and past Editor of the newsletter. Thanks go to Wayne Engstrom and Diane Horn (now Vice Chair!). Your work has been very much appreciated!
- 5) You must submit your abstract on-line this year – check out the AAG's website – Deadline for submission is September 30, 2002 and is fast approaching – think of submitting to one the coastal sessions listed in this newsletter.
- 6) You can review current jobs in geography listings on the AAG web site at <http://www.aag.org>
- 7) Welcome to all of you who have recently joined the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (COMA).
- 8) If you have items that you want to be distributed via the e-mail please forward them to Richard Daniels.

Richard C. Daniels, Editor (danielri@wsdot.wa.gov)

Online Mapping of Historical Hurricane Tracks

The NOAA Coastal Services Center (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov>) has just unveiled a new web tool to query and map Atlantic tropical cyclone data from 1851 to 2001. The Historical Hurricane Tracks tool is an interactive mapping application that allows you to easily search and display 150 years of Atlantic Basin tropical cyclone data. The tool is simple enough for the general public to use yet contains useful information for researchers and emergency preparedness officials.

After using this tool, you should be able to better understand

- the history of tropical cyclones in your area,
- the overall climatology of tropical cyclones for different areas within the Atlantic Basin (Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico)
- the problems faced by increasing coastal population from land falling hurricanes and tropical storms.



Los Angeles Field Trip a Success

COMA members participated in a pre-Los Angeles Annual Meeting one-day informal coastal field trip on Sunday, March 17 led by Wayne Engstrom at California State, Fullerton. The field trip focused on the Orange County coastline from Huntington Beach to San Onofre State Park (shown at right), stops were made at the Bolsa Chica wetland, Upper Newport Bay salt marsh, and beach, marine terrace, and 1930s beach cottages at Crystal Cove State Park. Coastal erosional landforms were viewed at Diver's Cove in Laguna Beach, San Mateo Point (Trestles) surfing area in San Clemente, and massive coastal landslides at San Onofre State Beach. In spite of a low turnout, the trip was excellent.



Thanks Wayne!

Call For Papers, Sponsored Sessions in New Orleans

In general CoMa is happy to sponsor a organized or special session as long as the following apply:

1. At least one of the presenters is a member of CoMa.
2. At least two of the five papers in the session are related to a coastal or marine subject (e.g., a paper on 'Wetland Loss from Sea Level Rise in coastal Louisiana' would meet this requirement while a paper on 'Wetland loss from urban growth in Iowa' would not.)
3. Contact the groups current Chair to formally request sponsorship.

That's it! Be sure to inform the AAG that your session is sponsored when you submit your paper work for the session.

If you are planning to present a paper at the 2003 AAG Annual Conference to be held March 4-8, in New Orleans on coastal or marine geographer (human, physical, hazards, or techniques) please consider participating in a session sponsored or co-sponsored by the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (COMA). Special session materials (abstracts and MIN's) must be received by the session organizers and submitted to the AAG Office on-line by 30 September 2002 for oral and illustrated paper presentations or 31 October for poster presentations. The following is a list of the currently proposed sessions. Please contact the session organizers for further information or to reserve your spot! Note: **With the new on-line registration process, you will register your-self for the conference, and then provide your manuscript identifier number (MIN) to the session organizer.**

Coastal Geomorphology I & II

Sponsor: COMA Specialty Group

Session Organizer: Klaus Meyer-Arendt, Dept. of Environmental Studies, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway Pensacola, FL 32514, (850) 474-2746,

Email: kjma@uwf.edu

Coastal and Marine Student Paper Session

Sponsor: COMA Specialty Group

Session Organizer: Klaus Meyer-Arendt, Dept. of Environmental Studies, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514, (850) 474-2746

Email: kjma@uwf.edu

IGU Coastal Sessions & Meeting: Coasts Under Stress II

Co-Sponsor: COMA Specialty Group

Session Organizers: Norb Psuty, DMCS, 71 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 and Douglas Sherman, Texas A&M University, Department of Geography, 810 O&M Building, College Station, Texas 77843

Email: Norb (psuty@imcs.rutgers.edu) or Doug (sherman@geog.tamu.edu).

Please see the IGU Article in this Newsletter for additional information (or visit <http://igu-ccs.ucc.ie/>).

GIS in coastal and marine areas

Co-Sponsor: COMA Specialty Group

Session Organizers: Dr. Dawn Wright, Oregon State University and Tiffany C. Vance, NOAA and Oregon State University, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 4, Seattle, Washington 98115

Email: Tiffany.C.Vance@noaa.gov

Coastal Wetlands

Co-Sponsor: COMA Specialty Group

Session Organizer: Christopher Meindl, Department of History and Geography, Georgia College & State University, CBX 47, Milledgeville, GA 31061-0490

Email: cmeindl@mail.gcsu.edu

GIS and remote sensing research within EPA EaGle (Estuarine and Great Lakes) research programs

Co-Sponsor: COMA Specialty Group

Session Organizer: Xiaojun Yang, Environmental Studies, The University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL 32514

Email: xyang@uwf.edu

Other presentation opportunities:

Dealing with Ethical Conflicts in Client-Driven Research

Session Organizer: Barry Wellar, Professor, Chair, AGSG-AAG, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, 60 University, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, (613) 562-5800 x1065

Email: wellarb@uottawa.ca

Member of the Board of Directors Profile –Jennifer L. Rahn

Jennifer received her B.A. degree from Villanova University (cartography), and her M.A. from Temple University (computer cartography and GIS). She completed her Ph.D. at University of Florida in Gainesville (coastal geomorphology) in 2001, working under Joann Mossa. All degrees were in Geography. She spent a year (1999) as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow at the USGS Headquarters in Reston VA, in the Coastal and Marine Geology Program. Jennifer has been an assistant professor at Baylor University in Waco TX for a year and a half. Her research interests include coral reef geomorphology, sandy beach anthropogeomorphology, and Cartography & GIS education. Her present areas of field work are Padre Island, TX and Jamaica, West Indies. She is an avid SCUBA diver and has had perfect attendance at all of the last ten COMA business meetings. Currently she is incommunicado in Jamaica until mid August.

Student Paper Merit Award Winners for 2002

To our contestants,

Thank you for participating in the AAG'2002 Coastal & Marine Specialty Group Competition! Please consider applying for next years awards. Note that at AAG'2003 in New Orleans there is one Merit Award for Oral presentation and one for Illustrated Paper presentation (more information in this Newsletter and at the CoMa website).

But onto the results,

The Coastal and Marine Specialty Group student paper competition was held at the AAG 2002 annual meeting in LA. The Student Paper Merit Award consists of a \$100.00 check and an award certificate.

The Student Paper Merit Award for best paper on physical processes in a coastal or marine environment goes to Jim McDermott, Department of Geography, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. *Sediment-Level Oscillations in the Swash Zone*.

The Student Illustrated Paper Award for best illustrated paper on a coastal or marine theme goes to Beth Watson, Department of Geography, UC/Berkeley, CA. *Environmental History of a Holocene Tidal Salt Marsh near San Jose, CA*.

The prize included a certificate, enshrinement on our page of fame (at our web site), and a \$100 prize. The special interest group would like to thank all the students for their efforts as well as the reviewers for assisting in the judging process.

Minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting – Los Angeles

MINUTES OF THE 2002 SPECIALTY GROUP BUSINESS MEETING--by Diana Horn

Klaus Meyer-Arendt opened the meeting at 7 pm., Wednesday 20 March 2002, LA Westin Bonaventure, with 16 members present. Apologies were received from Harry Jol and Michael Craghan who were not present.

REPORTS:

Report on Specialty Group Chair Meeting - Klaus Meyer-Arendt reported on the main points covered in the specialty group chairs' luncheon. Several of the items discussed were:

- 1) New format of the Annals of the AAG: 4 sections, 4 editors; no significant problems so far; 16% of total submissions to environmental science, which is about the same as the GIS section; 32-35% to the other 2 sections; the sections will be kept at 25% each despite the different submission rates; Basil Gomez, editor of environmental science section, aims to have 4 papers per volume and seeks more contributions
- 2) New timetable for membership: AAG will be moving to anniversary date for membership renewal starting 2002
- 3) Annual reports: timetable to be changed so reports are due at the end of February
- 4) Specialty group sponsored sessions at regional meetings: AAG would like to encourage this
- 5) Specialty group sponsored sessions: must be sanctioned sessions; chair will be contacted by AAG to confirm
- 6) AAG acting a treasurer for specialty groups

Under item 4, there was some discussion of future plans and the possibility of another CD.

Under item 5, there was discussion of whether 'prime' timeslots should be reserved for sponsored sessions. In 2002, Klaus asked for 3 consecutive sessions, not on Saturday, and the membership agreed that this should continue at future annual meetings.

Under item 6, there was considerable discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of having the AAG act as treasurer of the specialty group. The main advantage is convenience, as the AAG maintains the account and files the annual tax form. The main disadvantage is the loss of interest income to the specialty group (\$83.51 in 2001). Presently the COMA account is with the Royal Credit Union, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. It was decided that the decision should be left to the new Secretary-Treasurer. Later in the meeting, Steve Namikas was elected as Secretary-Treasurer and said that he would continue to manage the COMA account himself.

Minutes of last meeting and financial report. The Secretary-Treasurer, Harry Jol, was not present but sent the minutes of the last meeting and the budget for approval. The minutes of the last business meeting (New York 2001) and the financial report for calendar year 2001 (dated 17 February 2002) were approved. We began 2001 with \$1515.29, spent \$351.70, and received \$710.00 (CD-ROM project = \$309.49) in income. The balance at the end of 2001 was \$1873.59.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was discussion of the deadline for the student illustrated paper award, which is presently 1 March, and whether this would be better with the same deadline as other papers. At an earlier specialty group meeting, the deadline was extended to one month prior to the conference in order to maximize student participation, and this matter is still under consideration. It was agreed that information on student awards should be included in the AAG newsletter and Geomorphology specialty group newsletter, as well as the COMA newsletter, if possible.

AWARDS

Student Paper Award went to Jim McDermott, University of Southern California, for his presentation entitled *Sediment level oscillations in the swash zone*. (This award was given after the specialty group meeting as the student paper sessions were the following day).

Student Illustrated Paper Award went to Elizabeth Watson, UC Berkeley, for her presentation entitled *Environmental History of a Holocene Tidal Salt Marsh near San Jose, California*. (This award was given after the specialty group meeting as the student paper sessions were the following day).

R.J. Russell Award: No nominations were received so the Russell Award was not given in 2002. Dr. Patrick Hesp of Massey University, New Zealand, was present this year and thanked the specialty group for the award in 2001.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Harry Jol's term as Secretary-Treasurer ended this year, and he was thanked in absentia for his work as Secretary-Treasurer and editor of the COMA newsletter.

Jennifer Rahn was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors.

Steve Namikas was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Steve still has one more year on the board of directors, and the bylaws will need to be checked to see if he can hold both positions, or if another member needs to be elected to the board of directors. (After the meeting, Michael Craghan was asked to stay on the Board for another year.)

An editor of the newsletter is still needed. (After the meeting, Rich Daniels volunteered to do this.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wayne Engstrom was thanked for leading the field trip on Sunday. Notes were available for anyone who wished to do this trip in a self-guided format.

It was suggested that someone (Norb Psuty, Karl Nordstrom?) would be asked to lead a field trip on the New Jersey shore for the Philadelphia AAG in 2004, possibly on the Saturday.

Norb Psuty announced that an IGU coastal meeting organized by Norb Psuty and Doug Sherman would be held in conjunction with the New Orleans annual meeting in 2003. It has been 25 years since the last coastal IGU in New Orleans, and this represents an opportunity to have a large number of coastal sessions, jointly sponsored by COMA and IGU. They are planning for two full days of coastal topics through the IGU, as well as field trips and workshops. They are asking for funding from the NSF and are planning to invite researchers from overseas (both 'stars' and more junior people). They also want to have this meeting result in a publication, and are negotiating with publishers at the moment. Membership in the IGU is not required for participation in this meeting – just send your name in to Norb (psuty@imcs.rutgers.edu) or Doug (sherman@geog.tamu.edu).

The AAG runs from Tuesday to Saturday (4-8 March 2003). After discussion, it was agreed that the ideal timing would be to have the COMA sponsored sessions on the Friday and the IGU sponsored sessions on Saturday and Sunday, with field trips the following week. (See the *News and Views from Members* section for more information)

The possibility of a 4 or 5 day field trip was discussed. Steve Namikas is on the AAG committee looking at Louisiana field trips, so he will ensure that there is no conflict between AAG and IGU field trips. Norb and Doug are looking for field visits to sites and workshops – please contact them with any offers. Also, please contact Norb with any suggestions for invited speakers.

DISCUSSION:

The CD produced by the Geomorphology specialty group is now on sale and can be obtained from Mike Slattery, Texas Christian University (m.slattery@tcu.edu).

The problem of the coastal and marine specialty group and geomorphology specialty group meetings being scheduled at the same time was discussed. It was agreed that the AAG should be asked not to schedule these two specialty group meetings at the same time in future. The suggestion was made that the COMA specialty group meeting could be held during one of the COMA sponsored sessions, with 2 papers (possibly given by Russell Award winners) and then the specialty group meeting.

All COMA members were reminded to submit their abstracts to the Chair to ensure inclusion in a sponsored session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Diane Horn – April 2002

News and Views from Members **International Geographical Union, 2003**

Preparations have already begun for the AAG meeting in New Orleans. Norb Psuty announced that an IGU coastal session would be held in conjunction with the New Orleans annual meeting in 2003. It has been 25 years since the last coastal IGU in New Orleans, and this represents an opportunity to have a large number of coastal sessions, jointly sponsored by COMA and IGU. The project is being organized by Norb Psuty and Doug Sherman. They are planning for two full days of coastal topics through the IGU, as well as field trips and workshops. They are asking for funding from the NSF and are planning to invite researchers from overseas (both 'stars' and more junior people). They also want to have this meeting result in a publication, and are negotiating with publishers at the moment. The CoMa specialty group will work closely with the IGU to plan AAG sessions to maximize IGU participation (and vice versa). Since the IGU meeting will follow the AAG meeting, the AAG coastal session may be assigned to the final days of the AAG meeting. They are planning for two full days of coastal topics through the IGU, as well as field trips and workshops. They are asking for funding from the NSF and are planning to invite researchers from overseas (both 'stars' and more junior people).

Coasts Under Stress II

The Coastal Commission and the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers are jointly sponsoring a group of paper and poster sessions at the AAG meetings in New Orleans in March 2003. It is intended that the paper presentations and a separate poster session will be held on the last two days of the AAG meeting, that is Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8. A very informative field excursion will be held immediately after the paper sessions, departing from New Orleans on Sunday, March 9, and returning to New Orleans about mid-day on Thursday, March 13.

This gathering will mark the 25th anniversary of the exciting and rewarding meeting organized by **Jess Walker** at New Orleans in 1978 under the title of **Coasts Under Stress**. We hope that this occasion will be as successful and informative as the first. In keeping with the title, the general theme of many of the sessions will focus on issues of conflict and conflict resolution in the coastal zone. We have identified the following topics for inclusion: stresses associated with oil and gas exploitation, sea-level rise, casino gambling, wetland loss and restoration, recreation and tourism, resource protection and exploitation, coastal erosion, coastal sediment management, coastal hazard management. Papers on other topics are certainly welcome. We will have at least 8 sessions on coastal issues.

Travel Funds Available

Members of the Commission have been applying for funds to support attendance at this meeting by our fellow coastal geographers. We anticipate we will have several categories of support for international participants and for graduate students.

We will provide small awards to subsidize attendance rather than cover complete costs. We hope to have the following: 2 awards @\$1500, 6 awards @\$1000, and 4 awards @\$500. In addition we will have awards for graduate students from both within the USA and beyond. We will have 8 awards @\$250 for students who intend to present posters with coastal topics. Actually, it is a bit more specific. We would like to schedule a poster presentation on Friday evening, March 7. Supported students will be expected to present a poster at that time. Also, we will have a subsidy for graduate students wanting to attend the field excursion. We will make awards to reduce the fees to graduate students by 50%. It is thought that the fee for the excursion will be \$450 or so, but it is not finalized.

This meeting is being held under the auspices of the Association of American Geographers and participants are expected to follow the guidelines established by that organization. Go to the AAG web page www.aag.org to find the instructions for the abstract. Basically, it is one page, no more than 250 words. It is supposed to be filed electronically and it due by Sept 30, 2002. We have asked to have a little leeway for our members in that due date. I can respond to you individually if you plan to attend and need a bit more time. I have also asked for a reduction of the registration fee for our international participants. I can let you know of that outcome if you plan to attend. I do not have an answer on either of these requests at this time, but I should learn shortly.

Persons interested in applying for support to participate in this meeting should send their abstract to **Doug Sherman** and a note indicating the rationale for the request. It is intended that the few large awards would be for persons from developing countries. The small awards would be for those from developed countries. The intermediate awards will be for persons between the two or with high travel costs. Graduate students from the US as well as abroad may apply for the student awards.

Organized Field Excursion

Following the two days of papers and a poster session, we have organized a field excursion to the Gulf Coast. **Denise Reed** is the field excursion organizer. The first two days will be in coastal Louisiana, ending in coastal Mississippi. The third day will include coastal Alabama and western Florida. The fourth day will continue in western Florida. The group will return to New Orleans by mid-day on March 13. The cost will be about \$450. Please contact me if you intend to participate. I will soon have a final cost for this excursion and can communicate it to you.

Call for Award Nominations: The R. J. Russell Award

Nominations for the R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair. Nominations for the current year should be made at least 2 weeks prior to the annual AAG meeting. This specialty group award is presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. These contributions may be in research, teaching, public service, and/or to the specialty group. Previous awardees include Jess Walker (1991), Fillmore Earney (1992), Norb Psuty (1993), Karl Nordstrom (1996), Doug Sherman (1997), Bernard Bauer (1999), Robin Davidson-Arnott (2000), and Patrick Hesp (2001).

Nominations are accepted from COMA members, but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Two nominations are required for consideration for the Award. At least one of the nominations must include a complete letter of nomination which will include one paragraph describing the nominees contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the special interest group and a list of the nominees relevant publications. The R. J. Russell Award is named in honor of Richard Joel Russell (1895-1971). He was Dean of the Graduate School at Louisiana State University for 12 years, an organizer of the Coastal Studies Institute (1954), president of both the Association of American Geographers (1948) and Geological Society of America (1957), and named to the National Academy of Sciences (1959).

In the nomination letter please include one paragraph describing the nominees contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the special interest group and a list of the nominees relevant publications.

Call for Student Papers/Illustrated Papers

Eligibility: Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for the **Student Paper Merit Award** or **Student Illustrated Paper Award** if they (1) are the first or sole author of an oral paper concerning coastal or marine geography which they will be presenting at the 2003 annual AAG meeting, (2) are a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group, and (3) have submitted to the session organizer the completed application form and accompanying materials, to be received by September 27, 2002 (papers) or October 3, 2002 (Illustrated Papers). Poster presentations are not eligible. Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation. The award consists of a \$100.00 grant to be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership dues and travel expenses to the annual meeting as well as an award certificate.

Instructions: Follow the program participation guidelines outlined in the July 2002 Newsletter of the AAG as an individual participating in a sponsored/special paper session. In addition, complete the application form (below) and attach a copy of your abstract to it and mail to:

Klaus J Meyer-Arendt, Chair
Dept. of Environmental Studies
University of West Florida
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514
(850) 474-2746

or E-mail to kjma@uwf.edu. Klaus must receive your materials by September 27, 2002.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Are you a Ph.D., M.A./M.S., or undergraduate student? _____

Thesis/project advisor _____

Are you a member of the AAG? _____

Are you a member of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group? _____

Is your paper primarily focused on human/social or physical geography? _____

Upcoming Conferences

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, 2002 Annual Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon from September 15 to 18, 2002. The Conference will be held at the Portland Marriott Downtown Hotel. A special session on rivers will be included; the conference site is in close proximity to the Columbia River.

For more information visit <http://www.asbpa.org/2002conf.html>

GIScience 2002 will be held in Boulder, Colorado, from September 25 to 28, 2002. GIScience 2002 is the follow-up meeting to the highly successful GIScience 2000 conference with over 300 researchers attending. The meeting will again bring together scientists from academia, industry, and government to analyze progress and to explore new research directions. It will focus on emerging topics and basic research findings across all sectors of geographic information science.

For more information visit <http://www.giscience.org/>

The **National Council for Geographic Education Annual Meeting** will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from October 16 to 19, 2002. The meeting theme will emphasize transforming traditions in the 21st Century for a look at Philadelphia area geography and to showcase new directions in geographic education.

For more information visit <http://www.ncge.org/activities/meetings/>

5th Annual Conference of the Northeast Shore and Beach Preservation Association will be held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts from October 24 to 26, 2002. The conference will be held at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and will foster a creative and open dialogue of topical coastal issues presented by researchers, managers and coastal stewards.

For more information visit <http://attila.stevens-tech.edu/~therring/2002call.html>

Integrating Remote Sensing at the Global, Regional and Local Scale will be held in Denver, Colorado, from November 8 to 15, 2002. The 15th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium/Land Satellite Information IV Conference and the ISPRS Commission I (Platforms and Sensors) Symposium are being held jointly.

For more information visit <http://www.asprs.org/Pecora-ISPRS-2002/index.html>

Coastal GeoTools 2003 will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from January 6 to 9, 2003. The conference will highlight the integration of geospatial tools and methodologies with coastal resource management.

For more information visit <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/GeoTools/htm/glance.htm>

The **99th Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting** will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from March 4 to 8, 2003. The meeting attracts more than 4,000 geographers and related professionals from around the world. It is a forum for discussing research, education, accomplishments, and developments in geography.

For more information visit <http://www.aag.org/AnnualMeetings/Intro.html>

ASPRS Annual Conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, from May 3 to 9, 2003. This event will afford your organization the unique opportunity to meet and work with over 2,500 geospatial data and related technology professionals.

For more information visit <http://www.asprs.org/alaska2003/index.html>

Did you like New Orleans? If so you might check this one out!

Oceanology International Americas'03 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from June 4 to 6, 2003. The conference will include oral and poster presentations on scientific, technical, and operational oceanography topics.

For more information visit <http://www.oiamericas.com/english.asp>

Looking for Coastal Management conferences? Visit <http://www.coastalmanagement.com/interact/conferences.html>

If you know of any related conferences coming up in 2003 or if you have announcements or newsworthy items concerning you, your department, or agency, *please* take a moment to send them to the newsletter editor. Thanks!

In Memory –James R. Allen

James Allen from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Boston, MA passed away on July 30, 2002 at the age of 61. He had a heart attack on his morning train commute to Boston. Dr. Allen was a preeminent geomorphologist who studied erosion on East Coast shorelines for the US Geological Survey.

Dr. Allen spent three decades collecting data on beaches from Florida to Maine, studying shoreline changes caused by erosion and sediment. Mary Foley, regional chief scientist at the USGS's Boston office, said yesterday that Jim loved his job. "You get to spend your life on the beach," she said. "That's not so bad."

Born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on March 3, 1941, Jim received his earlier degrees from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan. With a doctorate in physical geography from Rutgers University, Dr. Allen became an associate professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and Northeastern University in Boston. He was hired by the National Park Service in 1981, which later was absorbed by the USGS. In 1997 the National Park Service named him the Northeast Region Scientist of the Year.

Neighbors said Allen commuted by train daily, taking the 10-minute walk from his home to the Wellesley Hills T stop each morning. His peers said he loved the Red Sox, and it was well known that Allen played hooky from work last week to attend an afternoon game at Fenway with his son, Fletcher.

The memorial service in celebration of his life will be held at 10:30 AM on Monday, August 19th, at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills, 311 Washington Street, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts. Donations in his honor maybe made to the Wellesley Free Library. Donations also may be made out to the Island Alliance, 408 Atlantic Ave; Suite 228, Boston, MA. 02110 (a non-profit organization) at which a fund in Jim's memory has been established for education and research in support of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area (Jim's research was instrumental in the formation of this park, which became part of the National Park system in 1996).

His colleagues yesterday mourned the loss of a devoted scientist and friend.

*Portions of this story ran on page A26 of the Boston Globe on 8/1/2002.
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Musings from the Chair –Klaus J. Meyer-Arendt

Dear CoMa members,

Gosh, it's hard to believe it's that time again. We need to start seriously planning our involvement in the New Orleans AAG meeting, as deadlines for abstracts and registration are looming. We plan to have a major presence at the meeting, and thus I urge you to get your materials together. Norb Psuty is of course working frantically in organizing a joint AAG/IGU coastal meeting, to be held Friday and Saturday (March 7-8). We expect quite a few international participants, and we hope to thematically integrate AAG and IGU presentations. As during last year's registration, please register directly with the AAG. Once you are assigned a PIN number, please send that to me so that I can organize the sessions. The deadline for abstracts for papers and illustrated papers is September 30, but if you could get me the information a few days earlier, that would be really nice. The deadline for a poster session is October 31 (and perhaps we'll be able to make the IGU deadline that same date).

As I'm typing this here in Pensacola, the outer bands of Tropical Storm Bertha are dropping buckets of rain on our rooftops. Phil Chaney and I are heading to the beach after lunch to check out the impacts. Ah, nothing better than dynamic weather and a dynamic coastline!

Hope to hear from ya'll soon!

Klaus J. Meyer-Arendt
Chair, CoMa