

Soundings

Newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

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Director's Note

New Year's Greetings to All!

It looks like it will be another very busy year for APNEP. We will continue with our work in updating the CCMP, development of a system-wide monitoring plan and refinement of our indicators. We will also be formally starting our Climate Ready Estuary Pilot Program with the assistance of the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University. In addition, we will welcome another program review by the U.S. EPA in the spring.

As for last year, I want to note the outstanding efforts of Lori Brinn, Dean Carpenter, Lucy Henry, Chad Smith, Noah Hill, Jimmy Johnson and Fred McManus in making APNEP an excellent and growing program.

-Bill

A new look for *One NC Naturally*

The *One North Carolina Naturally* Web site has been completely revamped. New additions include expanded our offerings to include more news about the conservation successes achieved with various partners and a calendar to help you keep track of key events.

Check it out: www.onencnaturally.org



Upcoming Events

January

4 – Winter Waterfowl Tour - Mattamuskeet, Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education (meets on Roanoke Island, N.C.)

4-6 – N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting Durham, N.C.

12-14 – Pure Farms, Pure Waters Summit (Robert F. Kennedy keynote) New Bern, N.C.

19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday APNEP offices closed

21-23 – N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission, Carolina Beach, N.C.

31 – Nature & Wildlife Photography Workshop (free), Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, Corolla, N.C.

31-2/1 – Symposium for Wildlife Rehabilitation, Centennial Campus Center for Wildlife Education, Raleigh, N.C.



Visit our calendar at www.apnep.org for more detailed event information.

Request for Proposals: Schoolyard Demonstration Projects

\$50,000 IN GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM THE ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM (APNEP)

We want your projects! Schools and local partners are encouraged to present proposals by 5 p.m. March 6, 2009. Details are below. Individual projects may be funded up to \$12,000, but the target range per project is around \$5,000. APNEP grants are for locations in the 36 county APNEP region, which includes five major river basins: the Chowan, Pasquotank, Roanoke, Tar-Pamlico and Neuse.



Examples of previously funded projects:

Nature Trail, Boardwalk and Education Signs Adjacent to New School
Bioswale Construction and Educational Signs at a New School
Stormwater Runoff Interception Project on School Grounds
Schoolyard Wetland Creation and Water Quality Sampling
Green Roof Design and Construction
Nature Trail Construction at School
Student Wetland Plant Nursery
Rain Garden Construction



The following agencies and organizations are eligible to apply for and receive funds:

- 1) Educational Institutions (public, private and charter schools) including K-12, community colleges and universities
- 2) State and local governments
- 3) Interstate and intrastate agencies
- 4) Nonprofit organizations and institutions

The projects must comply with the following five criteria:

- 1) Must benefit the environment
- 2) Must occur on or adjacent to school property
- 3) Must be physical in-ground projects
- 4) Must have a public outreach/education element
- 5) Must allow for permanent public access
- 6) Must have transferable methods



For more information contact Lori Brinn at (919) 715-4196 or Lori.Brinn@ncmail.net

To obtain an application and a copy of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), please visit:
<http://www.apnep.org>

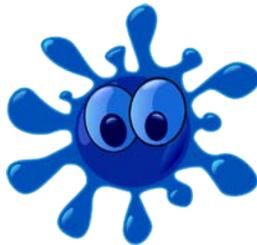
Application Deadline:
March 6, 2009



Progress Report: Citizens' Monitoring Network

Jennifer Garrish has been volunteering with the Citizens' Monitoring Network (CMN) for nearly 10 years. She monitors the Pamlico Sound from Ocracoke, N.C. Her efforts were able to help identify that her monitoring area is healthy with no observable differences between the 2008 dataset and data from the two previous years (see figure to right). The full draft report* can be seen on the CMN Web site (www.ecu.edu/icmr/cmn).

* This information has not been peer-reviewed nor indicates official findings for this monitoring location; distribution of this information is limited to the APNEP newsletter and the CMN Web site.



How you can help

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the Citizens' Monitoring Network, please contact program coordinator Chad Smith at (252) 328-1747 or e-mail smithmich@ecu.edu. **Anyone can be a volunteer!**

Feature Project: Climate Ready Estuary

In 2009, APNEP will serve as a host to the EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries program. Our Climate Ready Estuaries program will use the existing and accelerating impacts of climate change on our estuaries as a catalyst to bring better understanding and cooperation between our research assets in the physical, life and social sciences and our communities that depend on and are affected by changes to our estuarine systems.

Being a climate ready estuary means that people and the institutions that affect and are affected by the estuarine system must have three critical attributes:

- 1) they must be aware of coming changes to the system
- 2) they must have the motivation to adapt to the changes
- 3) they must have the capacity to adapt to the changes

Accordingly, the main focus of our program will be establishing a clear sense of public awareness in key regions of the APNEP system and educating the public and local lawmakers and resource managers about the opportunities and challenges inherent in becoming a climate ready estuary system.

Primary partnering organizations for these efforts will be the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, East Carolina University, Center for Excellence for the Study of Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure, and Emergency Management at UNC-CH, Institute of the Environment at University of North Carolina, North Carolina Sea Grant, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, and Albemarle Pamlico Community Conservation Collaborative (AP3C), but we will use the resources in our region broadly as needed.

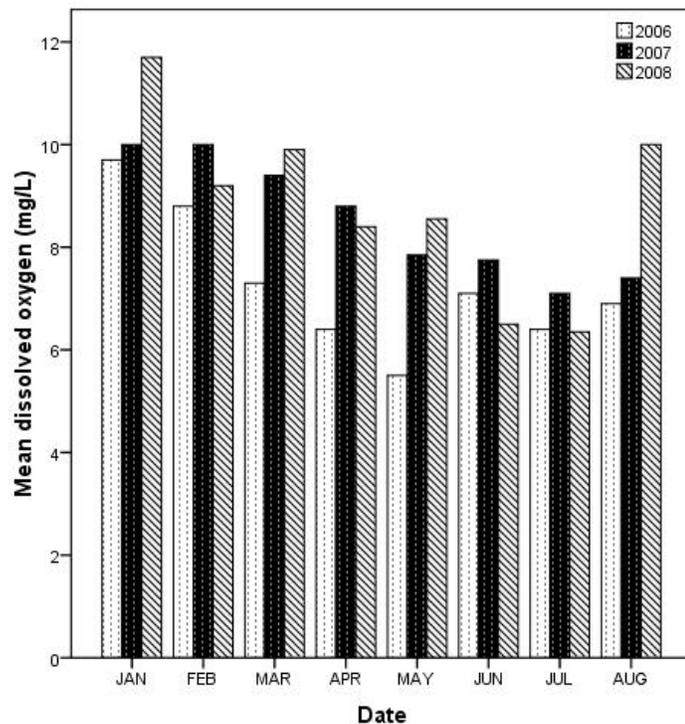


Figure 1. Mean dissolved oxygen (mg/L) during the 2006-2008 monitoring sessions of Pamlico Sound in Ocracoke, N.C. Dissolved oxygen levels fluctuate between 2006 through 2008; lowest measurement was in May 2006. All mean measurements are above 5 mg/L, which suggests that this monitoring location is well oxygenated.





APNEP News in Brief:

Citizens' Advisory Committee

The committee held its winter meeting in December. The committee will play an integral role in the success of APNEP in 2009 by providing input on the development of indicators of ecosystem health, assisting with CCMP revisions and selecting which schoolyard demonstration projects will be funded.

Albemarle-Chowan Roundtable

The Roundtable's Web site (www.acwrt.org) is up and running and showcases the new program logo! Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2nd annual Rivers Day to be held June 6, 2009 in Franklin, Va.

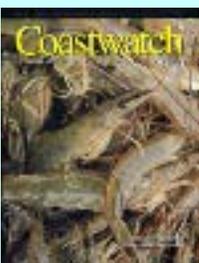
NC EE Certification 2009



The N.C. Environmental Education certification program has updated its certification requirements for 2009. Details are available online by visiting:

www.eenorthcarolina.org

APNEP in the News



Coastwatch Magazine, a seasonal publication by the N.C. Sea Grant, published an article about APNEP's schoolyard demonstration projects in the Autumn 2008 issue. The article is entitled "Education In Action: Schoolyard Projects Protect

Estuaries." Subscriptions to Coastwatch are available by visiting: www.ncseagrants.org

Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

North Carolina's Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) is now five years old. In 2009, the CHPP will undergo a five year review/rewrite. This review will take place over the full calendar year.

Happy New Year!

We thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and wish you all the best in 2009! Have a question or comment about the newsletter? E-mail lori.brinn@ncmail.net.

Out and About



APNEP hosted a booth at the Environmental Expo on Dec. 13, which coincided with the inaugural White Deer Dash 5K and family fun run at Lake Benson Park in Garner, N.C. In summer 2009, the town of Garner plans to open the 96-acre White Deer Park, which will feature two miles of paved walking trails, one mile of greenway space, five picnic shelters, two new playgrounds, wildflower meadows and an arboretum. The park will also have a 2,500 square foot nature center with a 1,100 sq. ft. teaching deck.



Above: Community Specialist Lori Brinn helped children spin the APNEP prize wheel and learn about estuaries. Below: Citizens' Monitoring Network Coordinator Chad Smith brought a display of water sampling equipment.

