

Soundings

Newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

In this Issue:

	Page
Winners Selected: Schoolyard Projects	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3
APNEP News in Brief	4

Director's Note

Greetings! Our Citizens' Advisory Committee has done an excellent job this month in selecting schoolyard demonstration projects for funding. I would like to extend a special thank you to our new members for their hard work during the selection process: Roy Flanagan, Christine Mele, Dennis Borton, Harrell Johnson and Jeff Turner. Interest in our schoolyard grants was keen this year, as we had three times the number of funding requests as we were able to fund. Competition was very tough, and our committee had many good applications to select from. We congratulate our winning projects and encourage all of our applicants to apply again if more funds become available in the future.

-Bill Crowell, APNEP Director



APNEP Staff and Citizens' Advisory Committee, 2009

National Environmental Education Week

April 12 – 18, 2009

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. EE Week increases the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums and aquariums. By participating in EE Week, you encourage your students to make a difference in their schools homes, and communities!

Visit www.eeweek.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

April

16 – Integrating LEED, LID and Policy Workshop, Winston Salem, N.C.

16 – Fire Ecology Workshop, Medoc Mountain State Park, Hollister, N.C.

16-20 – Wakefield High School's 7th Annual Spring Plant Sale, Raleigh, N.C.

18 – Planet Earth Celebration, N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, N.C.

21 – Getting to Know Wetlands: Value, Regulations & Conservation Workshop, Beaufort, N.C.

25 – Pamlico Tar River Foundation's 3rd Annual "Race for the River" Kayakalon

25 – What is a Habitat? Workshop, Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, Seven Springs, N.C.

29 – APNEP-STAC Spring Meeting, Greenville, N.C.

29 – Migratory Bird River Roving (Free) Partnership for the Sounds, Columbia, N.C.



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

Winners Selected: Schoolyard Demonstration Projects

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

APNEP would like to thank all of our 2009 Schoolyard Demonstration Project grant applicants. We were delighted by the variety and number of proposals received this year. Such a response clearly demonstrates an understanding of and desire to protect our natural resources.

After careful deliberation, the APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee has selected five projects for funding this year. The committee evaluated schoolyard demonstration project proposals submitted by school systems, community colleges, local governments and non-profit organizations in the program region, which is in 35 counties in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia.

Grant Recipient	Project Title	Funding Level
Edward W. Wyatt Middle School	Edward W. Wyatt Middle School Nature's Classroom and Exploratory Trail	\$12,000
East Wake Academy	EWA Watershed & Wetlands Outdoor Classroom & Boardwalk	\$12,000
Pamlico County Schools	2009 Pamlico County Schools Rainwater Harvesting System Demonstration Project	\$7,000
Kitty Hawk Elementary School	Proposal for Kitty Hawk School Renewable Energy Discovery Zone	\$8,800
N.C. Coastal Federation	Reducing Stormwater Runoff into Core Sound at the CLNS Visitor Center, Harker's Island, NC	\$10,200

The Citizen Advisory Committee hopes to solicit proposals again next year. To receive updates on APNEP activities and future grant opportunities, please visit our Web site (www.apnep.org) and contact APNEP Community Specialist and CAC coordinator Lori Brinn at (919) 715-4196 or Lori.Brinn@ncmail.net to be added to our distribution list.



Pictures taken at Manteo Middle School
APNEP Demonstration Project
See more projects at
<http://www.apnep.org/pages/projects.html>



Volunteer Spotlight: Citizens' Monitoring Network (CMN)

Monitoring
Water
Quality



Contributing
to a Healthier
Community

Pictured above are members of the Citizens' Monitoring Network, a group that helps monitor water quality for APNEP. They are, from left to right, Jerry Rezab, Hal Von Dolln, Norlin Thymes, and Chad Smith (not pictured: Russ Hamby, Tom Houck, Ken Laws, and Paul Miottko) .

The volunteers at Blackbeard's Landing in New Bern along the Neuse river have been monitoring water quality with APNEP for more than 10 years. This dedicated group has made significant contributions toward the health of our estuary by volunteering their time to contribute to our ongoing data set, which is used to identify long-term trends and changes in water quality. The monitoring group at Blackbeard's Landing is also considered a good ambassador to the Citizens' Monitoring Network as they teach others in their community about water quality and its effects on the environment.



Because the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary is so large and human impacts are so diverse, assistance is needed to monitor our estuary. The wide expanse of waters that makes up the estuary is often more accessible to local citizens who live near the estuary. Citizens allow us to monitor areas of the estuary that might not be monitored otherwise due to limited government resources.

For more information about the APNEP Citizens' Monitoring Network, please visit: <http://www.ecu.edu/icmr/cmn>. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact program coordinator Chad Smith at (252) 328-1747, or smithmich@ecu.edu.





APNEP News in Brief:



Mascots March in Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mascots from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources paraded through downtown Raleigh at the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Stars included Conservin' Irvin, Clean Air Maniac, Air Avenger, Can Guy, Johnny Fishpatrick, a park ranger and Smokey the Bear.



Earth Day Celebration April 18 at N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences

APNEP staff will be attending the Planet Earth Celebration at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences on April 18 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. More than 70 stations will provide visitors with much needed information on sustainable innovations available in the Triangle that promote more socially and environmentally aware lifestyles.

APNEP's Web site has been updated

See what's new or visit our calendar. You can even learn about estuaries or read previous APNEP newsletters. The APNEP Web site is your best source for staying abreast of our program's activities and resources. Check back often!

<http://www.apnep.org>

Corps Rejects Asian Oysters in Chesapeake Bay

State and federal officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have decided not to introduce Asian oysters into the Chesapeake Bay.

Instead, Maryland, Virginia and the federal government will try to restore the bay's native oyster population. However, officials caution that the effort will be expensive and there is no guarantee of broad success.

The corps studied the possibility of introducing Asian oysters for five years, which cost about \$17 million that was shared among the states and the federal government. Officials estimate that restoring the native oyster fishery will cost \$50 million per year for 10 years. About \$5 million per year has been spent on this effort since 1994.

Thanks for Reading!

We thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Have a question or comment? E-mail lori.brinn@ncdenr.gov.