

Soundings

Newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

In this Issue:

Recent Accomplishments
Feature Project
APNEP News in Brief

Page

2
3
4

Director's Note

What a busy year we have had here at the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program. With numerous public meetings on sea level rise, climate change and the CCMP update, as well as our normal advisory committee meetings it has been a fast paced year. We saw Joan Giordano move on to grandmother duties, and the addition to the program of Lori Brinn. We also welcomed Lucy Henry's son, Ellis, to the world.

Next year will also be very busy in continuing our CCMP update, Climate Ready Estuary Pilot, and our program review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We look forward to your participation in the new year.

Bill

NEW online science curriculum from NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve:

Estuaries.gov now offers a complete set of estuarine science curricula to help grade 9-12 teachers incorporate coastal and estuarine science into any general science class. The curriculum uses estuaries as the context for developing content knowledge and skills relevant to biology, chemistry and earth science.

Visit <http://www.estuaries.gov> and click on **Estuaries 101 Curriculum** for more information.

Upcoming Events

December

- 2 – APNEP Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting, Hollister, N.C.
- 2 – N.C. State University Low Impact Development Workshop, JC Raulston Arboretum
- 3 – City of Durham Stormwater Plan Citizen's Participation Group Meeting
- 5-7 – Core Sound Waterfowl Weekend, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Harkers Island, N.C.
- 6 – Wisteria Wreaths Family Crafts, Harris Lake County Park, New Hill, N.C.
- 12 - NCSU Advanced Stormwater BMP Design, Raleigh, N.C.
- 13 – White Deer Dash (5K) & Environmental Expo, Garner, N.C.
- 24-26 – APNEP Offices Closed
Happy Holidays!



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

Recent Accomplishments: 2008 Public Listening Sessions



The Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds region has been named one of the top three areas most threatened by sea level rise in the United States. The combined impacts of population growth and sea level rise will require responses that protect coastal communities. In order to gain a better understanding of what residents of coastal communities think about these threats and to develop community-based responses to these anticipated threats, APNEP has partnered with the Albemarle Pamlico Conservation and Communities Collaborative (AP3C). AP3C is a coalition of community leaders that includes grassroots groups, churches, community development corporations, nonprofits and conservation groups working together to coordinate interests of both community and conservation advocates. The Conservation Fund, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Synergy Group were all part of this project, in which seven public listening sessions were facilitated during the summer and fall of 2008. Information from these sessions is being compiled into a written record of public opinions that will inform conservation and community development in the future.

Sessions were held in Washington, Engelhard, Columbia, Edenton, New Bern, Manteo and Elizabeth City. Over 100 people attended, many of whom were not familiar with the significant threat of sea level rise in their communities and had not had a chance to voice their concerns about this threat. APNEP and the AP3C gained insight into what issues are of greatest concern to citizens in the region and what solutions they might like to see in dealing with these issues. The final report will be distributed to all AP3C members at a spring 2009 meeting and will also be available as a PDF on the APNEP Web site (www.apnep.org). A summary of results will be published in a future newsletter.

**If you have questions about our public listening sessions,
contact Lucy Henry at lucy.henry@ncmail.net**



Home is where the habitat is ...

Fish use habitats: Like seagrass and shellfish beds, wetlands and water, mud flats and the ocean bottom. Many fish use more than one habitat during their lives. Human actions, even hundreds of miles from the coast, can damage the places fish and shellfish live, grow and reproduce. Coastal habitat protection starts in your own habitat: your home, your town and your watershed.

CHPP
NC Coastal Habitat
Protection Plan



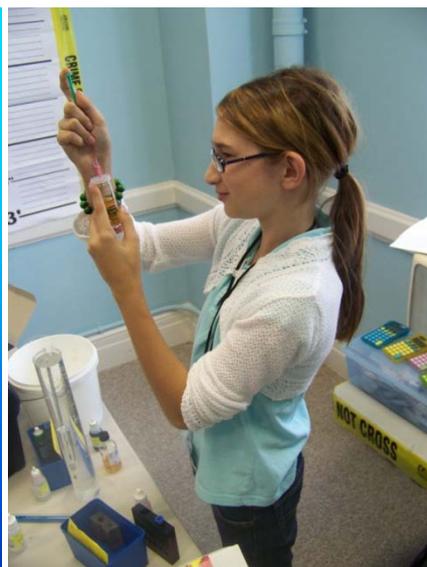
The Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) Annual Report is now available online. The report highlights this past year's CHPP activities and also lists upcoming initiatives which are CHPP-related. Also, a **new publication** has been created that highlights the implementation progress for the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. It was written to educate locals and visitors about issues such as stormwater management, shoreline stabilization, and fisheries management. Both documents can be accessed by visiting <http://www.onencnaturally.org>. To request a hard copy, please contact Jimmy Johnson at Jimmy.Johnson@ncmail.net or by calling (252) 948-3952.

Feature Project: Citizens' Monitoring Network – Outreach at Science Museum

In July 2008, the Citizens' Monitoring Network was invited to attend summer camp at the Imagination Station Science Museum in Wilson, NC. The summer camp was titled "Beyond the Yellow Tape", and middle school campers learned how to apply laboratory science in crime solving.

The campers conducted water quality testing on different samples of polluted water. With given scenarios, the campers were able to use their measurements to help identify whether point-source pollutants affected an area. They also learned how pollution could affect different aquatic ecosystems, whether it is a lake or river.

This is the second year that the Citizens' Monitoring Network has been involved with summer camps at Imagination Station. The previous year, we assisted campers in comparing two different aquatic ecosystems. In both years, the campers enjoyed learning about the different ways you can test the water. Pictures from both events can be found in the photo album on the CMN website.



Do you need a guest speaker for an upcoming school or community event?
Contact Chad Smith at smithmich@ecu.edu

APNEP News in Brief

Request for Proposals

APNEP will soon be sending out a request for proposals for schoolyard demonstration projects in 2009. Please feel free to visit our Web site (<http://www.apnep.org>) in January for more information.

Roundtable

APNEP is partnering with the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable to help craft their strategic plan. The plan should be completed in Spring 2009 and will be available on their Web site, coming soon.

Volunteers Welcome

Volunteers are welcome to help with staffing our educational display, which will be at Lake Benson Park in Garner, NC on the Saturday December 13th. Contact Lori Brinn by calling (919) 715-4196 or email lori.brinn@ncmail.net if you would like to help out.

Indicators

Three of our six monitoring teams including living aquatic resources, water resources, and wetland resources have been hard at work developing monitoring strategies for indicators of ecosystem health in their respective topical areas. Our atmospheric resources, terrestrial resources, and human dimensions teams are gearing up to get started by winter 2009.



Happy Holidays!

On behalf of APNEP, we would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

APNEP Staff

Bill Crowell

Director

Dean Carpenter

Program Scientist

Lori Brinn

Community Specialist

Lucy Henry

Watershed Management Coordinator

Jimmy Johnson

Field Representative (NC)

Chad Smith

Citizens' Monitoring Network Coordinator



Thanks to our Volunteers, Committee Members, and Program Partners!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our CAC, STAC, and MAC (also known as the Citizen's Advisory Committee, Science and Technical Advisory Committee, and Management Advisory Committee) and our Policy Board members for all of your hard work this year. Our program partners and volunteers also deserve special recognition for their tireless efforts. Without you, our work would not be possible.

