

Soundings

Newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP)

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Director's Note

Greetings!

With the coming of spring, many events large and small are taking place outdoors. Earth day and National Environmental Education week are later this month, and I encourage you to get outside and explore the estuary, if you can.

2010 is off to a great start for APNEP. Our staff is working toward the development of a new Comprehensive Conservation and Management plan to be published later this year. The plan will guide our program over the next five years and will involve an ecosystem-based management approach in cooperation with many state, federal, and nongovernmental partners.

I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of Jack Thigpen, who has served as chair of the APNEP policy board for the past three years, and personally welcome our new policy board chair Tony Reevy and vice chair Eric Walberg. I also want to commend the APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee for their work in selecting seven projects to receive 2010 CAC funding in February. More information about these projects and our new leadership can be found in this newsletter.

-Bill Crowell, APNEP Director

Are you looking for a fast, free way to find up-to-date information about grant opportunities, workshops, and relevant news in the APNEP region? Find us on Facebook and become a fan of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program to stay up to date about events and resources. Becoming a fan is easy, just visit www.apnep.org, click on the Facebook icon, and log in.



Upcoming Events

April

Wed.-Fri. mornings in April & May: Free River Roving Educational River Tours offered by Partnership for the Sounds, Washington, NC (reservations required, please call 252-948-0000)

2 – May 31, “Portraits of Wild North Carolina Art Exhibition” Core Sound Waterfowl Wetland Museum, Harker’s Island, NC

11-17 – National Environmental Education Week

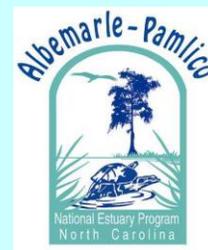
16, 23 - Oyster Reefs: An Edible Essential Habitat Teacher Workshop. To register, visit www.nccoastalreserve.net

17 – Planet Earth Celebration, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC

22 – Earth Day

May

17, 22, and 25 – Marsh Planting by NC Coastal Reserve, Morehead City, NC Visit www.nccoast.org for volunteer information.



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

Winners Selected: 2010 CAC Projects



The APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) has awarded \$118,022 in grants for seven projects that protect the environment and promote environmental education in parts of North Carolina and Virginia. Seventeen proposals for projects totaling \$302,148 were submitted to meet that challenge. The CAC grant program is designed to help increase awareness about the importance of significant natural resources in the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed and promote participation in its protection and restoration. This program is open to schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies. To be funded, projects should have a positive impact on the Albemarle-Pamlico ecosystem and include a strong public education component. The selected projects will reach thousands of residents and visitors in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Listed below are the seven organizations and their projects that will receive funding.

North Carolina

- **The Mid-East Resource Conservation & Development Council** was awarded \$19,800 for J.H. Rose High School's In-Stream Constructed Wetlands Schoolyard Demonstration Project. The grant will be used to plant a 0.75-acre constructed wetland, restore 450 linear feet of stream and provide educational programming at J.H. Rose High School in Greenville.
- **N.C. Sea Grant** was awarded \$20,000 for "Landscaping with Nature in Currituck County," a project that will create an environmental education demonstration site with natural landscape features and native plants at the Currituck County Cooperative Extension Building.
- **The Black Family Land Trust** in Durham was awarded \$20,000 for the Henderson Affordable Housing Wetland Boardwalk Trail. The grant will help create a protected, one-acre wetland park at the center of an affordable housing subdivision.
- **The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries** was awarded \$8,087 to reduce stormwater flowing into Bogue Sound at the division's headquarters in Morehead City. This is part of a comprehensive stormwater project and will involve re-vegetating part of the Bogue Sound shoreline adjacent to the agency's headquarters and educating the community about stormwater pollution.
- **The N.C. Coastal Reserve** in Carteret County was awarded \$14,929 for the Carrot Island Habitat Improvement Demonstration Project. The project will improve a 22,000-square-foot dredge spoil habitat through native plantings and fencing and provide public outreach about habitat improvement.

Virginia

- **Dinwiddie Junior High School** in Dinwiddie, Va., was awarded \$15,206 for its Outdoor Classroom and Nature Trail. The grant will be used to construct an outdoor classroom area with seating, an educational kiosk and a nature trail with signs identifying native plant species.
- **Greensville County, Va.** was awarded \$20,000 for phase 1 of the Uriah Branch Nature Trail. The project will consist of trail development next to the Greensville County Government Complex and construction of an observation deck overlooking the floodplain and wetlands along Uriah Branch stream.

The committee makes grant awards, depending on the availability of funds from the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program. For more information, please visit our www.apnep.org or contact APNEP Community Specialist Lori Brinn at Lori.Brinn@ncdenr.gov to be added to our distribution list.



Welcome New Policy Board Leadership

The policy board provides community involvement, participation, and support to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP) on measures to restore and protect the significant resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. It was established by North Carolina Governor's Executive Order #74. The policy board works with each of the advisory committees (Citizens', Science and Technical and Management) to provide advice and support to the APNEP program office, its partners on implementation of the APNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The board also acts as a forum for the exchange of information on issues relevant to the APNEP watershed. APNEP's policy board elected a new chair and vice chair in March. Below is some information about our new leadership.



Tony Reeve, Chair

Tony Reeve is the senior associate director at the UNC Institute for the Environment (IE), which is the multidisciplinary program leading UNC-Chapel Hill's environmental community in educating practitioners, researching and solving global challenges and informing the public about critical issues. In his nearly 10 years at UNC, Reeve has helped guide the transition from the Carolina Environmental Program to IE, first as the program's chief development and public affairs officer, and more recently as its chief financial and administrative officer.

Prior to joining IE, Reeve was the director of library development at North Carolina State University. He previously held positions as the director of development at WFAE-FM in Charlotte, corporate relations manager at WAMU-FM in Washington, D.C., and others. In addition to his dedication to the environment, Reeve is also an accomplished creative writer, specializing in poetry, and a railroad historian. He has more than 100 publications, including two non-fiction books and four poetry chapbooks, and poems appearing in a number of anthologies. In addition to the Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Program Policy Board, Reeve serves on the boards of directors of the Museum of Durham History, the Norfolk & Southern Historical Society and North Carolina Rail-Trails.

Reeve holds an MBA with a marketing specialty from UNC-Chapel Hill, an M.S. in Mass Communication from Miami University and a B.S. in Chemistry and Civil Engineering from N.C. State. He is married and has two children.



Eric Walberg, Vice Chair

Eric J. Walberg is the Administrator of the Physical and Environmental Planning Department of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) in Chesapeake, Virginia. His responsibilities include oversight of several urban and environmental planning initiatives and supervision of the department's planning and GIS staff. Walberg has been extensively involved in the development of a regional green infrastructure network in southeastern Virginia. He has been on the staff of the HRPDC for twelve years.

Prior to joining the HRPDC staff he was employed by the Department of Community Development in Charlottesville, VA where he was responsible for updating the Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan.

Walberg holds a Master of Planning degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Old Dominion University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a member of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners.





APNEP News in Brief:

Girl Scouts Go Green with Help from APNEP

APNEP and the Citizens' Monitoring Network have partnered with the Girl Scouts of America to assist girls in the completion of the Environmental Ambassadors badge. Girl scouts from around the region come together to spend the weekend learning about the importance of our environment, which ranges from tips on being "green" to aquatic ecology. Through our partnership, APNEP have instructed the girl scouts on the importance of water quality, conducting water quality tests, how pollution can travel downstream, effects on fish and native communities, and better alternatives for a "greener" environment. Girls in the environmental ambassador program will form their own "green teams" and conduct an environmental project in their local community later this year.

For more information and photos of this event, please visit the photo gallery on our Citizens' Monitoring Network Web page:

www.ecu.edu/icmr/cmn/CMN



National Environmental Education Week April 11 – 17, 2010

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.



APNEP Director Speaks at Regional Climate Change Conference

APNEP Director Bill Crowell was recently invited by the Department of the Interior to speak at a workshop entitled "Adapting to Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic." The goal of the workshop was to develop a common understanding of assessment techniques that determine potential climate change impacts to protected areas in the Mid-Atlantic United States and to explore adaptive management approaches that address those impacts.

Bill spoke about community engagement around climate change issues in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine region.

This intergovernmental workshop on climate change was held March 23-25 in Cambridge, Maryland for land, coastal and ocean area managers in the Mid-Atlantic United States. It was cosponsored by the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Capital and the Northeast Regions of the National Park Service, the Eastern Region of the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service's Eastern Region and Northeastern Area, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the Minerals Management Service.

For more information, please visit:

www.fws.gov/northeast/climatechange
and click on the news and events section.

APNEP also helped sponsor a climate change workshop in March that was hosted by the NC Inter-Agency Leadership Team. The workshop was entitled "Planning for North Carolina's Future: Ask the Climate Question," and citizens can go online to view presentations, maps, and other resources at:

www.climatechange.nc.gov

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.





Leadership Training Course

SAVE THE DATE

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE MAY 6, 2010 THIRD ANNUAL

Leadership Training: Growth and Sustainability Strategies Course

CURRITUCK COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FACILITY
120 COMMUNITY WAY | BARCO, NC 27917

Local elected and appointed officials from North Carolina and Virginia are invited to register for this opportunity.

Registration

Registration fee:
\$20 (Due by April 28)
Fee covers breaks, lunch and meeting notebook

To register contact laurenk@nccoast.org
or call Lauren Kolodij
at 252.393.8185

For more details and a complete agenda go
to www.ncseagrant.org/cgs

Additional questions
may be directed to
Gloria_Putnam@ncsu.edu
Gloria Putnam
at 919.513.0117

Featuring North Carolina Communities

This course is designed to help local governing boards effectively integrate community water quality protection goals with growth and redevelopment.

Topics include

- Links between land use, water and development
- Benefits of stakeholder and public involvement for project implementation and funding
- Experiences and sustainable growth strategies of several North Carolina communities
- Local public policy options

Course Recognition

Local government elected officials will receive recognition for attendance through the Local Elected Leaders Academy, a program of continuous education, offered in partnership by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government, the NC League of Municipalities and the NC Association of County Commissioners.

2010 Course Organizers and Sponsors

Currituck County
North Carolina Coastal Federation
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources: Coastal Nonpoint Source Program
North Carolina Sea Grant
North Carolina State University: Cooperative Extension
University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute

Additional Partners

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
City of Wilmington
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources: Division of Water Quality
North Carolina State University: Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program, Natural Resources Leadership Institute, and Watershed Education for Communities and Officials
North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve
University of North Carolina School of Government: Environmental Finance Center