

# Soundings

Newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

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## Director's Note

Greetings! The New Year is full swing and we look forward to working with Dee Freeman, the new N.C. DENR Secretary. Freeman is a career public servant with 36 years as a city manager and regional council director. The secretary's background includes environmental and economic development experiences which will serve him well in his leadership role at DENR.

We are currently gearing up for our program review and Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan updates. Our staff have also been busy revising ecosystem indicators, and we are preparing a follow-up report based on our survey of public perceptions on sea level rise. We are also currently requesting proposals for schoolyard demonstration projects.

Congratulations to Lori Brinn for being elected vice chair of the N.C. DENR Sustainability Team. Our program hopes to continue promoting sustainability among state employees and educating the public with an overall goal of creating a culture of sustainability to protect our environment for future generations.

-Bill Crowell, APNEP Director

## Putting Trees to Work in Your Community

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is offering workshops on tree and landscaping ordinances and tree programs in February, March and April of 2009. Topics covered include urban and community forestry, inventory, assessment, and planning for urban forest management, developing effective tree ordinances, zoning and regulation of trees, programs and ordinances, and presentations from municipalities.

Contact the Forestry Educational Outreach program at [forestry\\_outreach@ncsu.edu](mailto:forestry_outreach@ncsu.edu) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### February

3-4 N.C. Seafood Marketing Workshop  
NOAA National Center for Coastal Fisheries  
& Habitat Research, Beaufort, N.C.

6 – Our Amazing Coast Workshop  
N.C. Estuarium, Washington, N.C.

9-10 – Changing Landscapes Forum  
Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, N.C.

11 – APNEP STAC Meeting  
Pitt County Office Complex, Greenville, N.C.

16 – Ocean Awareness Day  
N.C. Maritime Museum, Beaufort, N.C.

17-19 – Basic Seafood HACCP Training  
Center for Marine Sciences & Technology,  
Morehead City, N.C.

25 – Albemarle-Chowan Watershed  
Roundtable Meeting, Alberta, VA.



Visit our calendar at [www.apnep.org](http://www.apnep.org) for more detailed event information.

# Reminder: Request for Proposals for Schoolyard 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 \$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



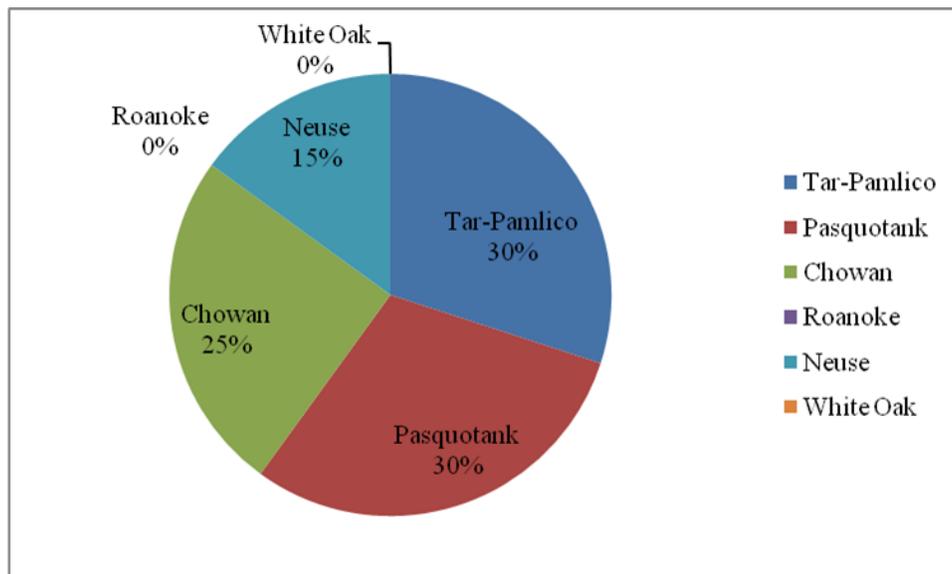
For more information, contact Lori Brinn at (919) 715-4196 or [Lori.Brinn@ncmail.net](mailto:Lori.Brinn@ncmail.net).

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

**Application Deadline:  
March 6, 2009**



## Progress Report: Citizens' Monitoring Network (CMN)



The above figure illustrates 2009 coverage of CMN monitors in the APNEP study area. We currently have 43 volunteers monitoring 20 sites and are in need of volunteers in the Roanoke and White Oak river basin areas. If you are interested in becoming a CMN volunteer, please contact program coordinator Chad Smith at (252) 328-1747, or e-mail [smithmich@ecu.edu](mailto:smithmich@ecu.edu). For more information on the Citizens' Monitoring Network, please visit our Web site, <http://www.ecu.edu/icmr/cmnr>.

### Feature Project: FerryMon Partnership

The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program has been proud to help sponsor FerryMon. FerryMon stands for "Ferry Monitoring" program. The N.C. ferry transportation system is used to monitor and keep a "watch" on water quality. Some ferries are equipped to collect surface water at different times during the ferry's journey. The water is stored on the ferry until it can be taken back to the lab to be studied. These ferries also have sensors that measure salinity, temperature, chlorophyll *a*, and other parameters. This information is sent directly from the ferry to the lab via cell phone line. The information is then converted into graphs that are sent to various agencies for research and teaching purposes.

Scientists, water quality managers and the public (through the Web site) are kept informed of water quality conditions in the Neuse River estuary and Pamlico Sound by simple measurements, such as salinity, temperature, oxygen and chlorophyll *a*.

By using the ferry system to take measurements, scientists and managers spend less time collecting samples, and devote more time to using the information to inform the agencies, researchers and public of up to date water quality and fisheries habitat conditions. FerryMon generates a clear, useful daily picture of the environmental conditions of the Neuse River estuary and Pamlico Sound.

Find out more about the FerryMon program and available education resources at:

<http://www.ferrymon.org>





## APNEP News in Brief:

### Out and About

APNEP co-hosted a booth with One North Carolina Naturally at the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual meeting held in Durham.



Pictured (Left to Right): Janine Nicholson (One N.C. Naturally outreach and education coordinator), Jerry Dorsett (DENR working lands coordinator), Lori Brinn (APNEP community specialist), Bill Ross (former DENR secretary).

### APNEP in the News

North Carolina's Environmental Education Newsletter featured APNEP's outdoor classroom project at Clemmons Educational State Forest in its Winter 2008 edition. You can view the article under "News Tips" at <http://www.eenorthcarolina.org>.



Above: Michael Huffman, supervisor at Clemmons Educational State Forest, shows ribbon-cutting attendees the educational potential of the new river basin deck.

### State of the Environment Report

North Carolina's State of the Environment Report was released in January 2009. It chronicles DENR accomplishments from the past eight years, and many of you played a part in them as partnering agencies. We think you'll enjoy reading it. It is full of beautiful photos and images from around the state, along with intriguing stories about the people and agencies that protect our environment and educate the public about our precious natural resources.



To read the report, please visit <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/html/SOEReport2008.html>.

### Task Force for Offshore Drilling

House Speaker Joe Hackney and Senate leader Marc Basnight have named the members of a task force on offshore drilling. The 24-member committee will examine the economic and environmental impacts of drilling for oil and natural gas off the coast of North Carolina. Members include co-chairs James Leutze, former chancellor of UNC-Wilmington, and Dr. Doug Rader, chief oceans scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund.

### Thanks for Reading!

We thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Have a question or comment?

E-mail [lori.brinn@ncmail.net](mailto:lori.brinn@ncmail.net).

