

Soundings

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

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Director's Note

Greetings!

We celebrated Earth day and National Environmental Education week in a number of ways this year, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter. Venues throughout our program region recognized these important causes, and it was wonderful to see so many citizens come together to support a greener community.

Our Science & Technical Advisory Committee had a productive meeting in April, and we thank all of our speakers and participants for their efforts. We welcome our next policy board meeting at the end of this month, along with our Environmental Protection Agency site visit and evaluation.

Thank you for taking the time to stay current with APNEP. I encourage you to visit our Web site and other new Web options often to learn about all of our projects and activities.

-Bill Crowell, APNEP Director

APNEP Goes Techno Savvy!

You can now stay up to date with the latest news and events for APNEP and our partners the easy way – by visiting our new blog and Facebook page. The easiest way to find these new pages is to visit the APNEP Home page <http://www.apnep.org> and then click on the Facebook and blog icons. Of course, we'll still be announcing events using our Google Calendar, which is accessible using the calendar icon. Also, be sure to read our "What's New" section, where we'll post reports, articles, updates and other items of interest.



Upcoming Events

May

8-9 – Environmental Educators of N.C. Eastern Section Spring Retreat, Washington, N.C.

9 – Pirate Day, Partnership for the Sounds Windsor, N.C.

11-14 – Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, N.C.

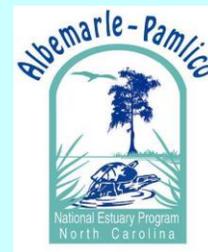
14 – Financial Benefits of Conservation Easements Workshop, Edgecombe Community College, Rocky Mount, N.C.

28 – APNEP Policy Board Meeting

Various – River Roving Educational River Tours, Partnership for the Sounds, Washington, N.C.

June

6 – Watershed & Rivers Day, Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable, Blackwater Boat Landing, Franklin, VA.



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

APNEP Observes National Environmental Education Week



APNEP staff participated in the 2009 B.L.A.S.T. Science Outdoors Program on April 17th at Baskerville Elementary School in Rocky Mount. The B.L.A.S.T. program (Building a Lasting Awareness of Science and Technology) is designed to provide the low performing student population with the opportunity to excel in science. Further, the objective of the program is to influence the enrollment and achievement in science of African Americans in Eastern North Carolina. This event coincided with National Environmental Education Week, which took place from April 12th-18th. APNEP would like to thank the wonderful staff and students at Baskerville Elementary for their enthusiasm and support during this outstanding event.



Pictured: (Top) APNEP Citizens' Monitoring Network Coordinator Chad Smith describes the life cycle of a fish to a first grade class. (Above) Fifth grade students participate in a game called "The Shad Run." (Below, Left) Third grade students make their own watershed and talk about water pollution. (Below, Right) First grade students act out a fish life cycle with APNEP Community Specialist Lori Brinn.



Earth Day 2009: A Celebration

APNEP participated in several Earth Day activities this year, including the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences' 2nd Annual Planet Earth Celebration in downtown Raleigh on April 18th. Thousands of people attended the all-day green festival, which was sponsored by Burt's Bees and filled with fun booths, live music, free activities and sustainable ideas.



Pictured Above: (Left) APNEP Community Specialist Lori Brinn helps a participant reel in his first catch in APNEP's fishing pond. (Right) Lori Brinn, One N.C. Naturally Outreach & Education Coordinator Janine Nicholson and participants enjoy a good laugh with N.C. Division of Water Quality's Johnny Fishpatrick.

APNEP also celebrated Earth Day with the students at Pungo Christian Academy in Belhaven, N.C. Pictured below, APNEP N.C. Field Representative Jimmy Johnson and Lori Brinn play a fun game about water pollution with Mrs. Donna Johnson's kindergarten class.



Feature Project: 2009 Teacher Institute

Environment & Health: Making Connections through Water Quality Investigations
July 12 - 17, 2009 Trinity Center - Salter Path, N.C .

A FREE Professional Development Experience for North Carolina Educators

This week-long teacher institute will provide an in-depth investigation of the diverse environmental science, health and civics issues related to water quality in North Carolina. By using an interdisciplinary approach to environmental education, science teachers will learn how to address important water quality issues with their students both in the classroom and in outdoor environments. Hands-on, real world experiences will be emphasized. Be prepared to get wet, sandy and re-energized!

8th -12th grade science teachers are invited to apply. Content and activities are aligned with the N.C. Standard Course of Study for Earth/Environmental Science (Goals 1 and 4), AP Environmental Science (Goals 4 and 5) and 8th Grade Science (Goal 3). The institute is made available by the Environmental Education Fund, with funding provided by the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program and the UNC Superfund Basic Research Program.

For more information and to fill out the online application, please visit:
http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/summer_form.html



APNEP News in Brief:

N.C. Officials Agree to Private Bridge Construction

State transportation officials have signed a preliminary agreement with private companies to build and finance a toll bridge across Currituck Sound on the North Carolina coast. If the plan works out, the \$650 million, seven-mile bridge could be completed as early as 2013. Projected tolls on what would be the state's longest bridge would be \$10-\$15 for a one-way crossing to the upscale beaches of Duck and Corolla. The turnpike authority would oversee the project and the state and private firms would have to agree on tolls and other details.

Welcome, Dr. Smith

Dr. Bernice Smith will begin as the Chief of U.S. EPA Oceans and Coastal Protection Division's Coastal Management Branch on May 4th.

Spring Time Paddle Cliffs of the Neuse State Park



May 24, from 11:30 a.m.-4p.m.

Join a ranger for an interpretive canoe program down the Neuse River. Participants will see the cliffs, observe plant and animal life, and see many springs seeping from the banks of the river.

Call the park at (919) 778-6234 for details. Visit www.ncparks.gov for an updated list of programs or information about this and other North Carolina state parks.

Workboats of Core Sound Exhibit N.C. Museum of Natural History

Fishermen, boat builders and residents in an area of Carteret County known as "Down East" North Carolina are witnessing a steady decline in the commercial fishing industry, one that has affected traditional fishing communities nationwide. *Workboats of Core Sound* celebrates the native artistry of Down East boat builders and the traditions of these communities. Please plan to see this exhibit, which captures an important part of our state's heritage. Opening date: May 8th.

For more information about the Core Sound Waterfowl Wetland museum, visit:

www.coresound.com.

To learn more about the N.C. Museum of History, visit: www.ncmuseumofhistory.org.

House Bill to Protect Natural Resources facing Climate Change

On April 30, the Climate Change Safeguards for Natural Resources Conservation Act (H.R. 2192) was introduced. The bill would establish an integrated federal program to protect, restore and conserve the nation's natural resources in response to the threats of climate change and ocean acidification.

Nominations Sought for Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

Nominations are being sought for appointment by Secretary of Commerce J. Keith Crisco to serve on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee beginning in October 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 18200, April 21). Nominations must be postmarked by June 5, 2009. For more information, contact Mark Holliday at Mark.Holliday@noaa.gov.

Buxton Middles School Students are Finalists in National Green Competition

Stewards of the Pamlico Sound is one of 22 state finalist teams in the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. Their winning project involves creating an artificial oyster reef to help restore the local oyster population. For more information on the challenge, visit www.wecanchange.com.

