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Greetings from APNEP!

APNEP's business casual dress code has recently been replaced with swimwear and life vests as we take to the sounds for two significant field efforts. Yet we've also found a few occasions to dress up, including an intern reception at the Governor's Mansion and a visit to the NASA Langley Research Center. Whether for work or for play, we hope you also find some time to enjoy our magnificent sounds and the coastal communities that depend on them this summer.

Warmest regards,
APNEP staff



Triangle Sound Series: Dr. Michelle Moorman

This week we're happy to welcome Dr. Michelle Moorman to the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences for the fifth installment of our Triangle Sound Series. Her 30 minute presentation, entitled "Every drop counts: Water monitoring in the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound" is at 11:00 am on Thursday. Whether you're just learning about the sounds or are a seasoned water quality professional, we think you'll be impressed by Michelle's insights.



Hydrilla monitoring



Last week we completed a shoreline monitoring cruise on the western bank of the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound, establishing a baseline for the invasive plant *Hydrilla verticillata* that is establishing itself in the area. Our work is part of an extensive collaboration led by Sea Grant and the Chowan Edenton Environmental Group, with agency participation by [DWR](#), [DMF](#), APNEP, [WRC](#) and a veritable alphabet soup of other contributors. We'll share our findings soon, but in the meantime check out our [Flickr page](#) for more photos from the trip.

Volunteer for hydrilla surveys!

If you want to get in on the hydrilla action, there's still time! A public information and training session will be held in Edenton this Saturday, August 22. Volunteers with boats and on land can intensively sample areas of elevated risk, helping us better understand the extent and density of hydrilla in these locations. Monitoring results are shared with agency and local government partners in real time as we develop strategies for addressing this invasive plant.

[Click here for details](#) about the public information session at 9 am, which will be followed by volunteer training lasting until noon.

National Coastal Condition Assessment underway



We'll be in the field for the next six weeks participating in the National Coastal Condition Assessment. This EPA-coordinated effort measures dozens of water quality, sediment, and fish tissue metrics to provide a snapshot of America's coasts.

We've elected to intensify this effort in the Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds, which allows us to draw statistically rigorous conclusions about the state of our sounds. APNEP scientist Dean Carpenter is leading the effort.

NASA Wetlands Study



We recently visited NASA's Langley Research Center to close out our most recent project. NASA brings graduate students and young professionals together through its DEVELOP program to advance remote sensing techniques for environmental assessment. During this term they applied an indicator of wetland health to examine satellite imagery of our region with some remarkable preliminary results. We'll continue to refine this work and hope to include the results in future [ecosystem assessments](#).

Soundings: We Are Nature Heroes!



Our latest Soundings post provides some context for one of six education grants awarded by APNEP this summer. We dropped in on Rhana Paris of the [N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island](#), who taught a packed house of kids and parents about our coastal habitats. [You](#)

[can also catch a video of her in action.](#) Be forewarned, though- her “have to have a habitat” jingle will stay with you for months!

Read more!

Sea Grant/APNEP Fellowship awarded



Congratulations to Liz Brown-Pickren, our inaugural Sea Grant/APNEP graduate research fellow!

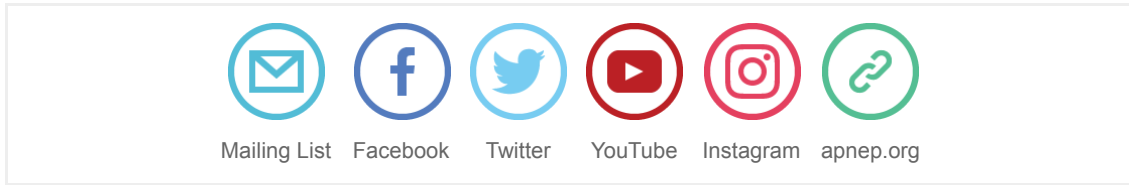
Learn about her work!

Grants

Details regarding two exciting fish habitat restoration opportunities can be found on our [grants page](#).



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