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Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
August - September 2017

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The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

Sound Stories

August - September 2017



Here at APNEP, we've been hard at work preparing for our *2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium: Eyes on the Horizon*, which will be held this November 1st at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh NC. The day's sessions will focus on emerging issues related to human communities, natural systems, and

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In August, APNEP staff met with our Executive Leadership Team to discuss APNEP initiatives and plan for 2017-2018. Staff are following up on recommendations, including working on a special Request for Proposals for Science and Technical Advisory Committee members, updating an NC Governor's [Executive Order](#), and updating an MOU with Virginia in the management of our shared river basins. Staff also attended the North Carolina Planning Conference as a step towards increasing engagement with local governments, an audience recommended by numerous board members. APNEP has also received the remainder of our EPA grant for this year, fully funding us through October 2018.

We've enjoyed participating in regional outreach events throughout the past few months. This past month, we had a great time sharing some of our K-12 lesson plans with educators at the [2017 SciREN Triangle](#) and participating in a National Estuaries Week event hosted by the N.C. Coastal Reserve. Jimmy Johnson, our Coastal Habitats Coordinator, shared his experiences implementing [North Carolina's Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#) during a [Fisheries Reform Act Summit](#) commemorating the Act's 20th anniversary.

We're also excited that our article celebrating APNEP's 30th anniversary has been published in N.C. Sea Grant's fall issue of *Coastwatch* magazine! [Take a look](#) to learn about the Partnership's thirty years of science and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

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Announcements

November 1st
Raleigh, N.C.

2017
ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO
**ECOSYSTEM
SYMPOSIUM**

Eyes on the Horizon

<http://bit.ly/apsymposium>



Agenda is now online!

Join us November 1st at the 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium, a one-day event bringing stakeholder groups together to discuss how we can continue to identify, protect, and restore the resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. The Symposium is free, although preregistration is required. For details, [visit our website](#).

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Register for the Symposium

Poster Presentations Invited at Symposium

Posters highlighting undergraduate and graduate research, or an APNEP partner project, are invited for display at the 2017 Symposium. Projects should in some way address a topic from APNEP's [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#), and the deadline for poster abstract submission is **October 18th**.

Poster presenters will have the opportunity to discuss their work during breaks and lunch, and posters will be on display throughout the day. When registering for the symposium, please indicate interest in being a poster presenter to receive updates and detailed information about poster requirements.



N.C. Sea Grant & APNEP Announce 2018 Joint Fellow

Congratulations to Mollie Yacano, the recipient of the 2018 APNEP-N.C. Sea Grant joint fellowship. Mollie is a doctoral student at the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences and her research will help us better understand how nitrogen is processed in sediments dominated by the invasive marsh grass *Phragmites australis*, versus those dominated by other native grasses.

[Read more](#)

APNEP 30th Anniversary Article Published in N.C. Sea Grant's *Coastwatch* Magazine

Read our article, published in the fall issue of *Coastwatch* magazine, to discover how APNEP has evolved over the years - from an intensive research study of the Albemarle-Pamlico system, to a program focused on implementing the study's recommendations, and finally to a partnership which seeks to leverage its resources alongside those of its partners to accomplish more than either could alone.

[Read the article](#)



APNEP News



APNEP Staff Speak at Fisheries Reform Act Summit

In September, [Outer Banks Catch](#) hosted a [Summit](#) to commemorate the 20th anniversary of N.C.'s Fisheries Reform Act, the state's first comprehensive fisheries management law. APNEP Coastal Habitats Coordinator Jimmy Johnson, who works to implement the Act's [Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#), was one of the Summit's panelists. While panelists and the audience were divided as to whether the Act should be revised, there was consensus that lack of data is a major challenge when trying to determine the state of N.C. fisheries.

[Read more](#)

Roanoke River Basin Workshop Begins Conversation about Conservation

In August, APNEP staff participated in the Roanoke River Basin Watershed Management Workshop, which brought together stakeholders to discuss collaborative ways to address local and regional water issues. The workshop was hosted by the Upper Coastal Plain and Kerr-Tar Councils of Government, and was possible because of [205j Water Quality Planning Grant](#) funding. For more information or to get involved with this ongoing effort, contact APNEP's Policy and Engagement Manager Stacey Feken at stacey.feken@ncdenr.gov.



APNEP Project Spotlight: Evaluation of Ecological Flows in the NC & VA Coastal Plain

We're currently funding a project by Dr. Michael O'Driscoll and Caitlin Skibiel at East Carolina University's Coastal Water Resources Center to evaluate ecological flows in the Albemarle-Pamlico region using GIS data. Better knowledge of stream flows will help local and regional decision-makers protect the region's communities and aquatic ecosystems.

[Read more](#)



APNEP Project Spotlight: Campus Stormwater Impact and Needs Assessment

APNEP is funding Sound Rivers to plan a stormwater impact and needs assessment for 6 college campuses in the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse River basins, including Vance-Granville Community College, N.C. Wesleyan College, and Nash Community College. Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be recommended for each campus, as well as reports that outline areas of concern and needs, educational materials, and suggested outdoor classroom lessons.

[Read more](#)



THE ASSOCIATION OF National Estuary Programs

National Estuary Program News

Besides sharing some amazing Albemarle-Pamlico [estuary facts](#) throughout National Estuaries Week (September 16th-23rd), we had a great time participating in an Estuaries Celebration hosted by the N.C. Coastal Reserve in Beaufort, N.C.

This year's national outreach included a National Estuaries Week Expo on Capitol Hill, with representatives of the federally funded coastal programs including the National Estuary Program, USFWS Coastal Program, NERR Program, and NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation. The Senate passed a Resolution designating September 16-23, 2017 as National Estuaries Week. [Proclamations](#) were issued by both Governors of North Carolina and Virginia.



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In case you missed it, enjoy these great articles from our partners celebrating Estuaries Week!

- [National Estuaries Week: A Nod to the Importance of Local Waterways - Washington Daily News](#)
- [National Estuaries Week 2017 - Coastal Review Online](#)
- [Sam's Field Notes: National Estuaries Week - Coastal Review Online](#)


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Sound Reflections

To help commemorate our 30th anniversary, we're highlighting the history of APNEP through a series of interviews with past and present partners. Check out the entire archive [on our website](#), and reply to this newsletter to let us know if you would like to participate!

Sound Reflections with Brian Roth
August 29th, 2017 - Brian Roth, the longtime mayor of Plymouth N.C., talks about his memories

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Plymouth's vision for "partnering with nature" intersects with APNEP's mission.

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Sound Reflections with Walter Clark

September 27th, 2017 - Walter Clark has spent his career working to balance the protection of North Carolina's natural resources with the livelihoods of its people. In his *Reflections* interview, Clark shares his experiences protecting the state's estuaries and coasts for all stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

APNEP Outreach



APNEP Showcases Teacher Resources at SciREN-Triangle

This September, APNEP participated in the [Scientific Research and Education Network's](#) 2017 SciREN-Triangle event at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. SciREN events, which are held annually in central and eastern North Carolina, are a chance for scientists to share lesson plans they've created that showcase their research with local educators.

APNEP has participated in SciREN since 2014, and we brought some of our best lesson plans from past years to the 2017 SciREN Triangle event. APNEP staff demonstrated our "[Wetlands Race](#)" activity and provided information about some of the outreach and education initiatives we are involved in, such as [Shad in the Classroom](#) and the [Summer Teacher Institute](#).

For more information about our SciREN involvement and to access our lesson plans, [visit our website](#).

Find more teacher resources

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Soundings Blog

A fresh take on the region's salty affairs



Teaching Teachers to ExPLORE NC

August 18th, 2017 - What happens when you combine 19 teachers, 3 coastal habitats, and 4 days of exploring those ecosystems with the help of scientists and non-formal educators? Welcome to the ExPLORE NC Summer Teacher Institute.

[Read more](#)



Taking Nature's Pulse

September 11th, 2017 - We often hear about ecosystem indicators as ways to evaluate conservation priorities, but how are they created? In our newest Soundings blog post, Hilary Morris of the [South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#) takes us through this process of "taking nature's pulse!"



Current Grant Opportunities

We consistently hear from grant programs that they do not receive as many applications from the APNEP region compared to the rest of North Carolina.

While we know some partners are taking advantage of these resources, we encourage those that haven't to explore various opportunities available to them.

For a one-stop shop, meet representatives from various funding sources at upcoming workshops hosted by the [N.C. Watershed Stewardship Network](#). Details available in the events section below.

Current grant opportunities include the [Water Resources Development Grant Program](#). Give us a call if you're thinking of applying for this or other grants; there may be opportunities to leverage APNEP funding with these other sources!

[Find Grants](#)



Upcoming Events & Meetings

N.C. Watershed Stewardship Network Workshops

Upcoming workshops from the NC Watershed Stewardship Network can help you learn how to obtain funds and leverage resources to support watershed protection/restoration. They'll be held on 10/23 in New Bern and on 11/9 in Fayetteville. Visit [their website](#) for more information and to register.

- 10/18 - [N.C. Division of Water Resources Nutrient Rules Stakeholder Meeting](#), Wilson N.C. Contact John Huisman at john.huisman@ncdenr.gov for details.
- 11/1 - [2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium: Eyes on the Horizon](#), Raleigh N.C.
- 11/30 - [APNEP Science & Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#), Greenville, N.C.
- 12/5 - [NERR Coastal Government Workshop: Planning for Open Space](#), Plymouth N.C.

Partner Spotlight



Chowan River Watershed Algal Bloom Forum

Partners in the Chowan River Watershed (and beyond) hosted a forum about algal blooms for local elected officials in Edenton on September 13. Blooms have been on the rise in the region since 2015, for the first time in over twenty years. Information was shared regarding the causes and types of algal blooms, cyanobacteria and toxins, along with strategies for short term and long term responses, and plans to identify the causes of the blooms. Follow the Albemarle RC&D for the latest [updates](#) and a comprehensive overview of tools and resources available to local citizens.

APNEP has assisted the N.C. Division of Water Resources with purchasing test kits for water quality testing and rapid response, reached out to our Virginia partners to discuss opportunities for interstate collaboration moving forward, and will be assisting the Albemarle Commission with signs to educate the public during blooms.



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