



*Welcome to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program E-Update – a monthly summary of selected activities of the APNEP staff, committees and our partners...*

### **The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP)**

held a combined meeting of its advisory committees on November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Exploris in Raleigh. It is the first time since the APNEP's organizational restructuring that the Policy Board (PB), Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), and the newly formed Management Advisory Committee (MAC) met together. Presentations on Green Infrastructure Planning, Landscape Change in the AP Region, Indicators of Estuarine Health, and a luncheon presentation given by EPA's Tim Jones pertaining to the EPA and the National Estuary Program, rounded out the daylong meeting. Following formal agenda items, APNEP committee members met separately to address respective committee business.

### **Comments Pertaining to the APNEP Environmental**

**Indicator** framework were sought through written solicitation by the Indicator Steering Committee (ISC) to the APNEP Policy Board (PB), Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), Management Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Science & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and liaison group, on November 15 and 16 following presentation of the material at an APNEP combined committee meeting held in Raleigh on November 8.

Comments were compiled by the APNEP Science Coordinator and directed to the ICS for deliberation. For a copy of the draft environmental indicator framework and comments received, contact Dean Carpenter at [dean.carpenter@ncmail.net](mailto:dean.carpenter@ncmail.net) or by phone at (919) 715-7735.

### **The APNEP Policy Board Welcomes New Policy Board**

**Members** – Jack Thigpen and Reid Wilson have recently agreed to serve on the APNEP Policy Board while Tom Stroud and Marjorie Rayburn have joined the PB as representatives of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC).

[Jack Thigpen](#), Extension Director for NC Sea Grant, succeeds the recently vacated seat held by Walter Clark. Thigpen's areas of expertise include coastal communities, coastal tourism, and ocean observing systems. He is also a member of the NC Sea Grant Management Team.

[Reid Wilson](#) is the Executive Director of the Conservation Trust of NC (CTNC), having accepted that position in March 2003. He is responsible for leading the organization and managing CTNC's operations, including land protection, land trust services, public relations, fundraising, government relations, finance, and administration. In 2001 and 2002, he was a public affairs consultant to environmental groups in Washington, DC and prior to that, served for nearly eight years at the U.S. EPA, including from 1998-2000 as the agency's Chief of Staff. He was national Political Director of the Sierra Club from 1989-1993. He has a B.A. in Political Science and Biology from Grinnell College in Iowa. Reid and his wife Karen Rindge live in Raleigh with their children Drew and Savannah. They enjoy hiking and playing soccer and basketball.

[Marjorie Rayburn](#) is an Extension Area Specialized Agent with the NC Cooperative Extension Service. Her areas of responsibility include water quality and commercial horticulture, for Gates, Chowan, and Perquimans Counties. She enjoys teaching children and non-farm audiences about agriculture and environmental stewardship, as she and her husband manage a small sheep operation on a family farm in Perquimans County, concentrating on sustainable production of fall-borne lambs.

Marjorie's interests include kayaking, canoeing, hiking, and gardening. She has recently constructed a backyard greenhouse and she believes strongly in preserving family farms and land in agriculture. She holds a BS in Biochemistry from Cornell University and a MS in Genetics from NCSU. The mother of four and grandmother of 3, Marjorie is a member of several organizations: NC Association of County Agricultural Agents; Coordinator of Summer Campground Ministry; Certified lay Speaker - United Methodist Church; Former elected member of the Perquimans Co. Board of Education and a former board member of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association.

[Tom Stroud](#) is Deputy Director (Programs) for the Partnership for the Sounds (PFS), a private non-profit organization that promotes environmental education and sustainable development in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. He has been with PFS since 1996. Prior to that, Tom served as a staff member on the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, and also worked with the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation. Tom lives in Washington, NC.

The following article is excerpted from the Outer Banks Sentinel: **New Fishing License Required New Year's Day** - North Carolina's coastal recreational fishing license won't go on sale until Jan. 1, 2007, the day the new license law takes effect.

Earlier this year, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) and the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) anticipated that the license would be available by Dec. 1, squelching a New Years Day rush in sales. However, Lisa Hocutt, customer services manager at WRC, said there are several technical reasons that prevent advance sales. "Both agencies decided against pre-sales in order to ensure there are no technical problems on January 1," Hocutt explained.

Hocutt said the license will be available at the WRC website -- <http://www.ncwildlife.org> -- starting at midnight on Jan. 1. On-line purchasers will be able to print out the license.

The coastal fishing license also will be available on Jan. 1 by calling WRC at 1-888-248-6834 or 919-707-0391 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Customers will receive a confirmation number, and the sale will be immediately entered into the license database used by marine patrol officers.

Anglers can also purchase a license through a WRC license agent. The WRC website currently lists six license agents in Dare County.

Starting Jan. 2, licenses will be available at the DMF office in Wanchese.

Most recreational fishermen on the Outer Banks will need the license to legally fish in coastal waters. According to the DMF website, anglers fishing in federal waters, three to 200 miles offshore, will need the license to legally land fish in state waters.

Short-term and long-term licenses will be available. A short-term license covers 10 consecutive days, and costs North Carolina residents \$5 and non-residents \$10. An annual license costs residents \$15 and non-residents \$30.

Fishermen under 16 years of age, subsistence fishermen with a waiver issued through a county department of social services, and persons who purchased certain lifetime WRC licenses before 2006, are not required to buy the new license.

The license is not required for the recreational harvest of shellfish.

Fishermen on charter-boats, headboats, and piers will not need an individual license if those businesses purchase a blanket license that covers all of their customers. Blanket licenses will be available at DMF offices or by mail starting Dec. 1.

The following article is excerpted from Elizabeth City's Daily Advance: **Student Leads Fight to Save Trees** - A sixth-grader at River Road Middle School is putting what she's learned about protecting the environment to practical use.

Catherine Kitchin, 11, is leading an effort to thwart Pasquotank County's plans to cut down several pecan trees in a field next to her school. The county wants to cut down the trees to make room for five new sports fields, but Kitchin and many of her classmates disagree with the plan.

"We just didn't want that to happen," Catherine said.

That's why a few weeks ago she started a petition drive to save the trees. So far, 50 River Road students and a few teachers have signed the petition.

"Everyone was real excited to sign it," Catherine said.

She delivered a copy of the petition to Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Superintendent Tony Stewart last week. Stewart reviewed the petition but notified

Catherine that she would need to direct her concerns to the county, which is applying for a grant to help pay for the new fields.

The county wants to build three new soccer fields and two multipurpose fields where the pecan trees are. The multipurpose fields would be big enough to host soccer and football games.

Pasquotank County Manager Randy Keaton said the county only plans to cut down the trees that are diseased or have died, not all of them.

"We're going to leave as many trees as possible," he said.

The county also wants to build new baseball and softball fields on a tract near Food Bank of the Albemarle. Keaton said the new fields would help alleviate a shortage of recreation sites in the county. Officials also hope to generate revenue for the county by hosting large-scale sports tournaments at the new fields.

Keaton said the county plans to apply for a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in January to pay for the parks. Officials have held two public meetings to discuss the park plans, but neither the school board nor the county commissioners have signed off on the proposal.

The Board of Commissioners did agree Monday night, however, to spend \$255,524 on lights and rest room and storage facilities for the River Road athletic fields. The city has agreed to install the lights, Keaton said.

Laura Sanders, Catherine's mother, said Keaton contacted her Monday and advised her of the county's plans to limit the number of trees that will be cut down. But Catherine said she's still concerned that all of the trees will be destroyed.

That would be a shame, she said, because many of the trees are more than 100 years old and represent what's left of a larger forest that has been depleted by continued development.

Catherine says she would like to see the pecan forest used as a park and an outdoor laboratory for students. Because the clump of trees is a short walk from the school, science teachers could take students there to do experiments, she said. People from nearby neighborhoods also could enjoy the park, she said.

"People still pick pecans out there," Catherine said.

Joining Catherine in her push to save the pecan trees are classmates Rena Stevenson, Ali Pfeiffer and Blair Griffith, each also 11 years old. The three friends agreed with Catherine's idea of using the pecan grove as a park and an outdoor laboratory.

"I think the trees should stand up," Ali said. "There's a lot of development going on down there and there's a lot of natural habitat around the school. I really like the park idea."

Catherine said she was inspired to defend the small grove of pecan trees after studying the Amazon Rainforest in South America in her social studies class. The sixth-grader said her teacher, Peri Pinto, talked about how quickly the rainforest was being depleted by encroaching developers. At the current rate of development, the rainforest could vanish in another 30 years, Catherine said.

The sixth-grader said she sees much the same thing happening near her school.

Much of the land around River Road Middle School is being developed, Catherine said. Soon, there may be no natural surroundings, like the pecan forests, she said.

That's why she believes it would be a tragedy if the county cut down the remaining trees.

"If they cut those down there won't be any left," Catherine said. "It will all be development."

The following article is excerpted from the Herald-Sun: **William Schlesinger, dean of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences**, has been named to head the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, an ecological research organization in Millbrook, N.Y.

The institute is one of the largest and most respected of its kind in the world, with expertise in aquatic science, forest ecology, urban ecology, air pollution, nutrient cycling and disease ecology.

Provost Peter Lange, Duke's top academic officer, praised Schlesinger, the James B. Duke Professor of Biogeochemistry, for having done an "excellent job" as dean, adding, "We will regret his departure."

"During his time as dean he has made a number of truly outstanding faculty hires, grown and improved the school's student population and brought a far higher degree of integration around a common vision to the school's units," Lange said. "He also made substantial progress on the budget challenges the school faced when he became dean and developed the vision for and established the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions to better project the findings and implications of environmental research done at Duke and elsewhere into the world of public and corporate policy making.

"These are most substantial accomplishments and Bill's leadership will be missed by faculty, students and administrators alike."

A strong advocate of translating scientific research for the public, Schlesinger took over leadership of the Nicholas School in 2001 and was appointed to his second five-year term in 2005. He will end his ties with Duke on June 1.

During his tenure, the Nicholas School saw a steady increase in enrollment in its

professional program, growing 66 percent from 71 to 118 in a class. Giving levels have soared, with the annual fund jumping from \$356,000 to \$836,000, and major gifts increasing from \$2 million to more than \$6 million.

With the signing of a \$70 million gift to the school from Pete and Ginny Nicholas of Boston in December 2003, Schlesinger began planning for a new building to bring the Durham units of the school together. He also oversaw the creation of the Nicholas Institute in 2005, which launched its Washington, D.C., office on Nov. 16.

Schlesinger served as president of the Ecological Society of America from 2003 to 2004. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2003.

"The decision to leave the Nicholas School and Duke University was a difficult one for me. It has been an honor for me to head this school and work with such dedicated faculty and staff members and students," Schlesinger said. "I will miss my friends and colleagues of more than 30 years, but I trust that the school and the institute have a positive momentum that will continue on.

"The institute offers me an opportunity to focus my work and research in a way that a dean cannot, and I look forward to the new challenge," he said.

Lange said a global search for a new dean will begin almost immediately.

### **Bill Holman, executive director of the Clean Water**

Management Trust Fund and former secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has been appointed a visiting scholar at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, effective Dec. 28, 2006.

As visiting scholar, Holman will work with the Institute staff to identify new avenues for applying the Institute's policy expertise, and the broad academic resources of the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University and other universities statewide, to North Carolina environmental issues.

One of Holman's initial priorities will be exploring opportunities for creating a new, self-supporting center to unite this multi-institutional expertise and make it readily available to decision makers statewide.

"Bill's unparalleled depth of expertise on North Carolina environmental policy ideally suits him to lead this initiative," said Tim Profeta, director of the Nicholas Institute.

"For more than 20 years, Bill has worked with legislators, journalists, advocacy organizations, scientists and landowners to develop and promote economically and environmentally sound solutions to the state's most pressing ecological challenges," Profeta said. "He is unquestionably one of the Southeast's most respected and effective environmental advocates."

The Nicholas Institute was established in 2005 to bridge the gap between academic research and active policymaking. The Institute's four areas of initial concentration are:

climate change and the economics of limiting carbon pollutions; oceans governance and coastal development; freshwater concerns; and emerging environmental markets.

Holman has been executive director of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund since 2001. He served as secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and assistant secretary for environmental protection from 1998 to 2000 under Governor James B. Hunt Jr., and was a lobbyist to the N.C. General Assembly for numerous environmental nonprofits and advocacy organizations for 18 years prior to that.

He is credited with helping to pass the Clean Water Responsibility Act of 1997, the Brownfields Cleanup Act of 1997, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Act of 1996, the Watershed Protection Act of 1989 and numerous other environmental bills.

Hunt awarded Holman one of the state's highest civilian honors, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, in 2000. In 1999, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation named him Conservationist of the Year.

"Throughout my career, I have had the fortune to collaborate with some of the state's most visionary leaders and boards, its brightest scientists and most committed conservationists," Holman said. "Through my work at the Nicholas Institute, I hope to continue and deepen these collaborations."

## **Southeast National Wildlife Refuge System Reorganizes - Personnel Reductions to Offset Rises in Operational Costs -**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is realigning its workforce to address declining budgets anticipated over the next three years. Nearly 90 positions in the Southeast Region -- about 10 percent of the refuge workforce -- will be eliminated.

In North Carolina, nine positions will be abolished on five national wildlife refuges over the next three years. That includes: one refuge manager and one maintenance position on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; one refuge manager on Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge; one refuge manager, one maintenance position, and one administrative position on Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge; one maintenance position on Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; and one refuge manager and one maintenance position on Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Of the nine losses for North Carolina, three positions are vacant at this time. In addition to these nine positions, ten positions have been eliminated already since the budget crisis became evident in 2004. Those positions include three at Alligator River, one at Cedar Island, one at Mackay Island, three at Mattamuskeet, and two at Pocosin Lakes.

Mike Bryant, Refuge Manager for Alligator River National Wildlife and Project Leader for the North Carolina Coastal Plain Refuge Complex explained the seriousness of the situation, "With the cost of living rising and our refuge budgets remaining level or declining, refuges across the country have been rapidly approaching a situation where it would take every dime we have just to pay salaries. That would leave no money at all to

manage these refuges for the wildlife that use them. While I understand the need to plan a way to survive this financial crisis, it hurts to see refuge positions targeted for abolishment. Our people are, and have always been, our most valuable asset. We've been doing more with less for a long time. I think we've reached a point where we have to accept that we now will do less with less."

Loss of these positions on North Carolina National Wildlife Refuges will result in less management capability for migratory birds and endangered and threatened species, which are refuge trust resources. There will be fewer services provided for the public, fewer wildlife surveys, and less time for maintenance on existing facilities, including buildings, roads, parking areas, trails, water control structures, bridges, dikes, levees, heavy equipment, and vehicles. Over time, it is likely public access will become more restricted due to the inability of refuge staff to maintain the refuge at a level which would allow for safe public use.

"We have to take a hard look at just exactly what our core priorities really are," said Sam Hamilton, Southeast Regional Director. "These are tough decisions necessary to help the Service secure its place as one of the country's premiere conservation stewards."

In recent years, operating budgets have been generally flat. Annual cost of living increases, rising energy and fuel bills, and other costs continue to increase each year. The challenge of continuing to operate in an austere budget environment is particularly pronounced here in the Southeast Region which employs more than 20 percent - 748 employees - of the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System staff. The Service manages 128 national wildlife refuges across the Southeast, more than any other region.

The effect of these cutbacks will be reduced capabilities spread out over a number of different areas which may include reduction in public access opportunities at some national wildlife refuges and scaling back education and outreach opportunities for educators, students, and instructors, and reductions in some biological monitoring and maintenance programs.

The Refuge System is focusing efforts on the highest priority, mission-critical actions and locations, and reducing personnel to address the declining budgets.

\* 87.5 positions throughout the Southeast national wildlife refuges will be phased out over a five-year period. 8.5 positions in the Regional Office and 79 at refuges in the field will be lost.

\* Reorganizing seven refuges into existing refuge complexes.

Many workers in the abolished positions will be eligible to retire or will voluntarily transfer. Also, if approved, buy-outs and early retirements through Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay may be available to offer eligible employees. Only after all of these options have been exhausted will directed reassignments be considered. There are no plans to request the authority for a



Reduction-in-Force (RIF) to reach our target. For more information, visit:  
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/workforce>

## **The next Environmental Education Community Outreach**

meeting will be held at the **Bass Lake Park and Retreat Center** on Tuesday, January 30, 2007.

Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. A networking lunch will begin at 12:00 at a cost of \$10.50 that will be collected at registration. **The caterer will accept cash only and the deadline for ordering is January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Lunch options include your choice of 3 **Savor Wrap Sandwiches**. The wraps are made on 13" herb flatbread. Each wrap is filled with chopped lettuce and diced tomatoes. Your choice of:

- Chicken Caesar Wrap with shredded Cheddar and Jack Cheeses
- California Turkey with Alfalfa Sprouts and Pesto Mayonnaise
- Roasted Vegetable Wrap with Ranch Dressing

**\*Note: If you register for lunch and are unable to attend, please call the office and cancel your lunch order. If you fail to cancel your order, you will be billed for the cost of lunch.**

**[Please register for this EECO Meeting using our online form.](#)**

A guided tour of the park will begin after lunch. The Park is located in the Neuse River Basin. Educational brochures for this basins will be available at the meeting and, as usual, attendees are also invited to bring brochures or other educational information to share with the group.

The EE Community Outreach meetings provide an open and informal opportunity to share information and ideas with others with an interest in quality environmental education. Meetings are held throughout the state. Anyone who would like to participate is always welcome. Additional information about the meetings, including information about past and upcoming meetings, can be found at <http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/newsandevents.htm> For Directions to the Park, go to: <http://www.hollyspringsnc.us/dept/park/blhome.htm>.

**Goose Creek State Park in Beaufort County** (just outside of Washington, NC) is offering the following events for the month of December:

**Astronomy in the Park** on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 pm until 7:45pm. NASA has announced that in 2008 Shuttle astronauts will make one final house call to the Hubble Space Telescope to extend and improve the observatory's capabilities through 2013. Join the Goose Creek staff for a look back at the astounding discoveries and magnificent views from our universe provided by Hubble over the last 15 years. Night-sky viewing, weather permitting.

**Coffee with the Birds** on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 11 am. Sip delicious gourmet coffee while watching birds at the feeders outside the Discovery Room windows at Goose Creek. Share in an informal discussion about basic bird identification, bird feeders, and bird-friendly yards. No registration is required. Meet in Goose Creek's Environmental Education and Visitor's Center.

**Holiday Open House** on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 2 pm. Come and enjoy making your own ornaments from natural materials and gifts tags from recycled paper. Come early for "coffee with the birds" and stay to decorate winter treats for our feathered friends. All activities will be held at Goose Creek's Environmental Education and Visitor's Center.

**Peck'n Out a Livin'** on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm until 3:30 pm. Many different woodpeckers make Goose Creek their home, so how do they peck out a livin' through the winter months? Come and find out how woodpeckers are adapted to perform their pecking duties and go for a hike to witness them at work. Meet at Goose Creek's Environmental Education and Visitor's Center.

**Tee Shirt Printing** on December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am until 11:30 am. Here's a great last minute gift idea! Create a colorful fish-print tee shirt. Bring a plain T-shirt in the correct size for the intended recipient, or you may want to craft one for yourself instead! Paint and instruction will be provided. This program is designed for ages 8 and up, and an adult must accompany children. Due to limited space you must call to pre-register at (252) 923-2191.



## **Season's Greetings to All!**

Joan Giordano, Outreach Coordinator, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program  
December 2006