



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

In this E-Update issue, and continuing in next month's edition, we will focus on APNEP schoolyard, and other, demonstration projects. We're very proud of these projects because of the environmental impact they have on stormwater abatement, the educational and aesthetic contribution they make to their communities, and the partnerships forged through their accomplishment.

Pactolus Elementary School, Pitt County: This project, completed in fall 2006, created a stormwater wetland on a parcel of land adjacent to Pactolus Elementary School in Pactolus, NC. The wetland captures runoff from the school's parking lot and roof drains, which previously emptied into Grindle Creek as untreated stormwater. The created wetland also serves to educate the community on the impacts of stormwater runoff, informs local students about the Tar-Pamlico River Stormwater rule, acts as a retrofit site under the Tar-Pamlico Stormwater rule, and aids in improving water quality in the Tar-Pamlico basin, one of the five major river basins in the APNEP region. **Partners** in the project: Pitt County Planning Department, NC State University Cooperative Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Manteo Middle School, Dare County: Untreated stormwater runoff is the leading source of water pollution in NC and is considered a major cause of water pollution nationwide. The goal of this project, to create two attractive stormwater gardens (with signage) in a highly visible schoolyard site to collect stormwater from the school's parking lots and roof, also included arrangement for teachers (6th, 7th and 8th grades) to incorporate information on stormwater pollution and control into their curriculum. Students, as well as community volunteers engaged in the actual planting, and 300-375 students were touched by the experience. The project was completed in late fall 2006. **Partners** in the project: Dare County Schools, NC Coastal Federation and The NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island.



Gatesville High School, Gates County: This project is a collaborative venture led by Gates County Public Schools to plan and construct a boardwalk, bridge and observation platform which enhances science teaching and learning for 640 high school students and their teachers. The project also increases environmental awareness among the general public of Gatesville and Gates County. Completed in late fall 2006, the project employed significant student labor in its construction. **Partners** in the project: Gates County, Gates County Schools.



Bunn High School, in Franklin County: This project included the design and construction of a bio-retention area on the campus of Bunn High School. Intended to impound storm and surface waters while undergoing filtration, the project employed a great deal of student labor in its construction. **Partners** in the project: Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, Franklin County,



Citizens' Oyster Gardening Program for North Carolina:

This project demonstrates a way citizens can assist in restoring native oyster numbers and their ecological functions to the estuaries. A truly collaborative effort, **partners** include Carteret Community College, NC Division of Marine Fisheries, NC National Estuarine Research Reserve, the NC Division of Coastal Management, and the NC Shellfish Growers Association. Completed in 2006, the project resulted in educational workshops, distribution of oyster-raising materials and a website. In addition to those participating in actual oyster gardening activities, a broader audience was made aware of the benefits of oyster propagation.

Restoring North Carolina's Coast



Encore for Oysters: Bringing Back A Natural Resource

REGIONAL PUBLIC FORUMS

Saturday, March 25, 2006 • 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Kure Beach: NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher
Beaufort: Duke University Marine Lab
Manteo: NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island

How are we restoring oysters in North Carolina?
 What's being done to protect the quality of shellfish waters?
 How can you get involved in restoring oysters and protecting water quality?

ATTEND A MARCH 25TH REGIONAL OYSTER FORUM NEAR YOU TO FIND OUT!

THE PUBLIC FORUM WILL FEATURE:
 Educational poster displays & exhibits
 Energizing field trips
 Informative presentations from regional oyster experts


 ■ Space is limited and pre-registration is required.
 ■ For a detailed agenda, field trip descriptions, and registration information contact the North Carolina Coastal Federation at 252-380-8160 or visit www.nccoast.org.



Carteret Community College, (Morehead City) Carteret

County: The Carteret Community College Shoreline Restoration Project goal was to engage at-risk youth through hands-on learning and community mentoring partnerships allowing them to understand the value of wetlands, clean estuaries, and environmental stewardship, resulting in the direct restoration of a shoreline fronting Bogue Sound at Carteret Community College. By

developing working relationships, each participant developed a deeper understanding of the area's natural resources, the importance of environmental stewardship, mentoring, and the strength of community partnerships.

Partners in the project: NC Coastal Federation, Carteret Community College, Boys & Girls Club of America.



Perquimans County High School Constructed Wetland and Environmental Education Project: This project is a collaborative venture led by the Perquimans County Public Schools to re-shape and restore a natural wetlands located on the grounds of Perquimans High School, to construct an access boardwalk, bridges and observation deck, and to use the restored accessible wetland as the basis for an outdoor education program for 570 high school science students and their teachers. This phase of the project builds on the successful first stage of the Jennie's Gut Constructed Wetlands Project, funded in part with a 2005 grant from APNEP. The project improves outdoor teaching and learning opportunities by constructing a pedestrian bridge, and restores the last small section of Jennie's Gut wetland on school property. **Partners** in the project: Perquimans County Schools and the Perquimans Soil and Water Conservation District.



Until next time...

Joan Giordano
APNEP Outreach Coordinator

January 2007

NOTE: The next APNEP combined committee meeting will be at EPA's RTP location on 11/20/07. More to follow as the time draws closer. Please mark you calendars!