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Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
October - November 2017

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The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

Sound Stories

October - November 2017



October and November have been exciting months for APNEP. On November 14th, we celebrated APNEP's 30th birthday - thirty years of collaborating to protect the natural resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Between hosting our [2017 Albemarle-Pamlico](#)

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[Understanding](#) between North Carolina and Virginia state agencies that will increase interstate collaboration on environmental issues our region, and our [updated Executive Order](#) from Governor Cooper's office, we've received a lot of meaningful guidance on our mission and approach. We plan to utilize this feedback into the new year and beyond.

We'd like to thank all our partners who presented, exhibited, volunteered for, or moderated our symposium - the event wouldn't have been possible without you! We hope that all attendees found the symposium to be an informative look into some of the important work being done to identify, protect, and restore the Albemarle-Pamlico region's natural resources.

Read on to find out more about the Symposium, APNEP and partner projects, [current grant opportunities](#), and more!

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

Announcements



Summer 2018 Internship Opportunity at APNEP!

Attention undergraduate and graduate students - we are now accepting applications for a Summer 2018 **Communications & GIS Intern** through the State of North Carolina Internship Program!

This paid summer internship is located in Raleigh and will involve creating and updating online communications tools to help us better communicate our organization's work to a

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graphic design, video production, and utilizing Adobe Creative Cloud. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2018.

Internship Details



NC-VA Memorandum of Understanding Signed at 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium

On November 1st, NC Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Michael S. Regan, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susi H. Hamilton, and the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly J. Ward finalized a Memorandum of Understanding that will foster interstate collaboration within the Albemarle-Pamlico region to manage for healthy ecosystems and communities.

North Carolina DEQ Secretary Michael Regan provided the final signature for the MOU during APNEP's 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium. He was joined by NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Chief Deputy Secretary D. Reid Wilson and VA Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for the Chesapeake Bay Russell Baxter in speaking about the importance of working together to improve the water quality and ecological health of the states' shared river basins flowing into Albemarle Sound.

The MOU will assist NCDEQ, NCDNCR, and VADNR in coordinating with APNEP to tackle regional issues such as nonpoint source pollution, restoring fish passage and spawning habitat, and controlling invasive species. Agencies will also explore opportunities to assist state, regional, and local governments in incorporating climate change and sea level rise considerations into their planning processes.

[Read the Memorandum of Understanding](#)

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On November 9th, NC Governor Roy Cooper signed an Executive Order for APNEP, updating APNEP's position within its host organization, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, as well as making changes to APNEP's Management Conference structure. Stay tuned as we implement these changes over the upcoming months!

[Read the Executive Order](#)



NC Source Water Collaborative Seeking Nominations for 2018 Source Water Protection Awards

[The N.C. Source Water Collaborative](#) is a statewide partnership that works to develop and support strategies to preserve the lakes, streams, rivers and aquifers used for drinking water and the land that protects and recharges these sources of water. In support of this mission, **the N.C. Source Water Collaborative is seeking nominations by December 15th for the 2018 Source Water Protection Awards.**

Nominations are being sought for candidates that demonstrate innovative and collaborative solutions to protect North Carolina's drinking water and the watersheds that support it. Any individual, group, organization, or agency who engages in coordinated activities to protect drinking water at its source may be eligible for an award. Applications and additional information, including award criteria, are available on the [NC Source Water Collaborative website](#) or by contacting Rebecca Sadosky at 919-707-9096 / Rebecca.Sadosky@ncdenr.gov.



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APNEP News



Recap from the 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium: Eyes on the Horizon

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Symposium a success. The 2017 Symposium was both a commemoration of decades of hard work by our numerous partners as well as a look forward to the emerging issues affecting human communities, natural systems, and water resources within the region's estuaries and watersheds. Fifty speakers and approximately 200 attendees came together to discuss the issues facing the Albemarle-Pamlico region, from its upstream rivers to barrier islands where the sounds meet the sea.

Looking forward, APNEP seeks to connect with new and old partners as the challenges faced by the region, such as sea level rise and population growth, grow in scale and complexity. The ideas generated during the 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium will help inform the focus of APNEP's future work and provide new directions for its partnerships. We hope you will join us in keeping our "Eyes on the Horizon" as we continue to work together to implement actions in the APNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to protect and restore our region!

The Symposium Proceedings are now online - presentation abstracts and slides can be found [on our website](#).

Read more about the Symposium



Happy 30th Birthday APNEP!

Current staff want to wish APNEP a happy 30th birthday! Thirty years ago on November 14th, APNEP's predecessor program, the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, was designated by Congress as one of the first [National Estuary Programs](#).

[Reflection series.](#)

APNEP Project Spotlight: CHPP Implementation Plan Approval

We're excited to announce that, after hard work by APNEP Coastal Habitats Coordinator Jimmy Johnson, the 2018-2020 [Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#) (CHPP) Implementation Plan has been approved by all three of the commissions responsible for its implementation - the Environmental Management Commission, Coastal Resources Commission, and Marine Fisheries Commission. Since its adoption in 2004, the goal of the CHPP has been “the long term enhancement of coastal fisheries associated with coastal habitats” – a.k.a, protecting coastal habitats to protect North Carolina’s commercial and recreational fisheries, [estimated to be valued in the billions of dollars.](#)

[Read more about the CHPP](#)

APNEP Meeting Updates

- **NEP/EPA Fall Meeting (11/2-11/4)** - APNEP staff attended the fall National Estuary Program/EPA meeting to learn from the challenges and successes of other NEPs. We were also able to meet the new EPA Region III liaison to APNEP, Megan Mackey, and look forward to working with her to continue implementing our CCMP.
- [APNEP Aquatic Fauna Monitoring & Assessment Team \(MAT\) Meeting \(10/5\)](#): This MAT reconvened in October, kicking off a new phase of ecological indicator

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and marine waters of the Albemarle-Pamlico ecosystem. Scientists and managers from North Carolina and Virginia met to review and refine a comprehensive list of ecological indicators that was previously compiled during the 2008 and 2010 phases for this team. A focus for this MAT going forward is to develop a strategy for acquiring the long-term data needed to monitor and assess a core set of aquatic fauna indicators and associated metrics.



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!](#)



Sound Reflections with Kay Winn

November 7th, 2017 - "There's an old agricultural advertisement that says, "I'm not an environmental activist, I'm an active environmentalist" and that's the position that I've always taken with the APNEP. I believe that the people who own the land and are responsible for making decisions on the land, those people need to have a voice."

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- Deadline December 1st, 2017 - [Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership \(SARP\) FY2018 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program RFP](#)
- Deadline December 17th, 2017 - [North Carolina Aquarium Scholars Program Teacher Mini-Grants](#)
- Deadline December 31st, 2017 - [Water Resources Development Grant Program](#)
- Deadline January 26th, 2018 - [2018 REPI Challenge Pre-Proposals Due](#)
- Deadline January 31st 2018 - [Five Star and Urban Water Restoration Grant Program 2018 RFP](#)
- Deadline February 1, 2018 - [2018 Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program RFP](#)
- Deadline February 16, 2018 - [EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program 2018 RFP](#)

Grant Details

Soundings Blog

A fresh take on the region's salty affairs

From Dust to Soil Conservation

October 16th, 2017 - Michelle Lovejoy of the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation tells the story of how the Dust Bowl of the 1930's is linked to North

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Conservation Stories

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The 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium: Eyes on the Horizon

November 15th, 2017 - Interdisciplinary work, collaborations, and increasing resilience were among the hot topics at our Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium - If you didn't get the chance to attend (or if you feel like you might need to refresh your memory) check out this blog post for a symposium recap!

[Read more](#)

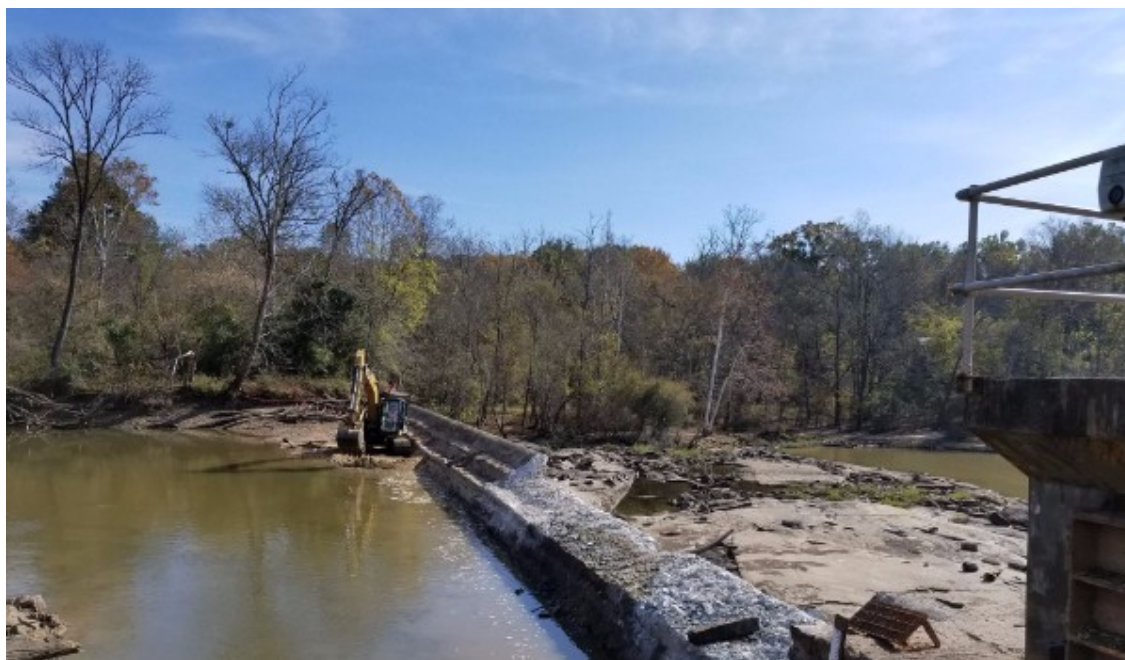


Upcoming Events & Meetings

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- December 7th - UNC Environmental Finance Center "[Setting the Right Rates for Your System](#)" Workshop, Wilmington NC
- December 11th - [APNEP Engagement & Stewardship Action Team Meeting](#), NC Museum of Natural Sciences Nature Research Center, Raleigh, NC

Partner Spotlight



Shad in the Classroom Students Learn During Milburnie Dam Removal

APNEP staff joined fish passage partners for the first day of demolition of Raleigh's Milburnie Dam on the Neuse River on November 15. Students from Exploris Middle school heard from [Shad in the Classroom](#) partners about the significance of returning the river to its natural state for the first time in several hundred years, which will allow anadromous fish including American Shad and striped bass to return to their historic spawning grounds.

APNEP looks forward to continuing work with our [Freshwater Habitat and Fish Passage Action Team](#) to identify opportunities for restoration projects in other parts of the region.

Learn more and follow live progress here: milburniedam.com



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