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## From the Director...

It hardly seems possible that summer 2004 is almost gone! Wasn't it just yesterday that we celebrated Memorial Day?

During the intervening weeks and months of late spring and early summer, APNEP has been undergoing programmatic change. Based on research, interviews, and public meetings conducted by NC State's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, recommendations for making APNEP more effective have been developed.

Better communication, developing a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) implementation tracking/evaluation tool, making becoming involved in the APNEP less restrictive, thereby improving public participation, and engaging the APNEP in a facilitation role, were all

among NC State's recommendations. As a result of this strategic assessment, the program has developed a draft organizational structure about which you'll hear more in the near future.

In a move aimed at beginning implementation of these program recommendations, we look forward to holding a day-long symposium scheduled for November 17th, in New Bern.

A NC/VA bi-state effort, the symposium is intended to update APNEP management conference members, interested parties, the general public, state and federal agency personnel, educators, and others, about partnership actions that lead to implementation of the CCMP, and to environmental quality in northeastern North Carolina.

Titled "*The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary*



*Program: The Power of Partnerships*", the symposium will follow four tracks that correspond to the CCMP, that is, water quality, habitats, fisheries and stewardship. Also, DENR's "One NC Naturally" initiative, whose goals and objectives so closely correspond to those of the CCMP will be showcased in several of the symposium sessions. Lunch will be provided, and a reception at the close of the day is also planned.

Please visit our website [www.APNEP.org](http://www.APNEP.org) frequently over the next few weeks to learn more about the symposium and how to register your attendance!

I look forward to seeing you in November and to reacquainting you with the APNEP!

**Bill**

remediation, and maintaining the database for practitioners.

The STAC will also assist in developing near and long-term plans, review draft documents and make recommendations to the APNEP Management Council

Dean Carpenter is the APNEP Science Coordinator. Contact him at (919) 715-7735.

## APNEP's New STAC

The APNEP Science & Technology Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting on July 28th.

Convened to play a pivotal role in providing the APNEP with scientific and technical support needed to develop research initiatives, and to review policy recommendations and implementation of the CCMP, the STAC has 36 members representing a

number of disciplines.

STAC activities include coordination of an Albemarle-Pamlico Ambient Monitoring Program (APSAMP) and other science; tracking key indicators of A/P Sounds health; develop a comprehensive A/P GIS database; and researching and collating best practices around key issues such as stormwater, and toxic

## DID YOU KNOW...

The snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) is found along much of the East Coast of the US and, years ago, snowy egret plumes were popular ornaments on women's hats? These birds were hunted until they were nearly extinct. Although their populations have rebounded, snowy egrets now face new challenges, including destruction of habitats and nesting sites in wetlands and along rivers.

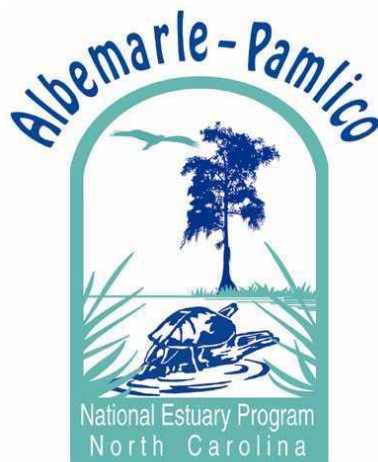


Photo by E. Thrall

The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program  
Presents

*The Power  
of  
Partnerships*  
2004 Symposium

November 17, 2004  
Convention Center  
New Bern, NC



[www.APNEP.org](http://www.APNEP.org)

## Currituck Sound Study

Approximately 3 years ago, the APNEP was instrumental in obtaining a \$100,000 grant from the federal government for the purpose of developing a feasibility study of the Currituck Sound.

Several partners are now involved in its development, most principally the Division of Water Resources and the US Army Corps of Engineers. On June 10th a meeting was held in Elizabeth City to begin in earnest the task of studying this beautiful water body.

The purpose of the Study, according to Lisa Hetherman (USACOE) "is to describe a Sound condition that will provide a healthy environment for the most living organisms - those of highest productivity."

To achieve that end, agreement on reducing salinity fluctuations in the Sound and to restoring submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) necessary to sustaining the life of most species, was seen as paramount. Environmental sustainability is the key.

Using accepted US Corps of Engineers Planning Processes to determine what is most appropriate for the Sound includes the use of models designed to maximize productivity. As with all models the outcome will depend on appropriate data input. Several data sets were mentioned as being available, including those from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in VA, the USACOE research lab in Duck, NC, and SAV mapping from Elizabeth City State University and NOAA.

It is also hoped that the ferry from Currituck to Knott's Island can be equipped to gather water quality data, much as is done on other ferry crossings along the NC coast, through UNC/Duke's FerryMon project.

For more information on the project contact Lisa Hetherman, USACOE, by phone at (910) 251-4831 or email [lisa.l.hetherman@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.l.hetherman@usace.army.mil)



## Oyster Gardening Project Follow-up

In the last issue of *The Beacon*, we reported on the Oyster Gardening workshops presented at several locations around the APNEP region by Dr. Skip Kemp of Carteret Community College.

In attendance at the workshop at Oriental was a young woman named Danielle Neeland who, along with her

whole family, traveled from their home in Harbinger to participate.

Danielle was so inspired by the information she received at the workshop and by Dr. Kemp's demonstration, that she was motivated to enter a 4-H Club competition, preparing a presentation on, yep, you

guessed it, oyster gardening.

We are very pleased to announce that 14 year-old Danielle won first place for her efforts in the fisheries and aquaculture category!

Congratulations to Danielle and to Dr. Kemp for jobs well-done.

For more information on oyster gardening, contact Dr. Kemp at the Aquaculture Technology Program at Carteret Community College in Morehead City. He can be reached by phone at (252) 222-6114 or via email at: [Kemps@carteret.edu](mailto:Kemps@carteret.edu)



## Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Project

An ongoing project undertaken by the APNEP a number of years ago, the **SAV Project**, as it has become known, is a collaborative effort between two states, federal and state agencies, numerous researchers and two universities.

Intended to maintain long-term monitoring of SAV in

coastal NC and VA, the project was developed because of the loss of SAV, an important habitat for migratory birds and many fish species, in those areas.

Large decreases in wintering waterfowl numbers and decreased fish abundance have been associated with SAV disappearance and, while

previous surveys of SAV have been done in NC, no comprehensive, consistent and regularly scheduled monitoring has taken place.

The project, with a focus on acquiring aerial photography needed to map SAV distribution, will increase our understanding of Federal Trust Resources, including

vulnerable migratory birds, interjurisdictional fish, and will improve efforts aimed at conservation of these species.

For more, contact Liz Noble, ECSU, at (252) 335-3595 or by email at: [ebnoble@mail.ecsu.edu](mailto:ebnoble@mail.ecsu.edu)

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Coming together is a beginning; keeping  
together is progress; working together is  
success



We're on the Web!  
[www.APNEP.org](http://www.APNEP.org)

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Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

## Things To Do Around the APNEP Area

With the "dog days" of summer waning, outdoor activities take on an even greater allure.

In the APNEP region we are very fortunate to have numerous rivers, state parks, camp grounds, and other natural areas to enjoy.

Listed below are a few activities which offer great opportunity to get outdoors for fun times!

At the NC Estuarium in Washington on the Pamlico River, pontoon boat, tour-guided "River Rovin" is offered each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday begin-

ning at 10:15am. There is no charge for this activity and children, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. The "rove" lasts about 1 hour and includes views of Pamlico River habitat, wildlife and aquatic wonders! Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the Estuarium at 252/948-0000

The 3rd annual "Roanoke-Cashie Paddle Days and Duck Walk" is occurring on October 2-3 on the Roanoke and Cashie Rivers as well as area creeks. These guided paddle trips sponsored by the Roanoke River Partners, Mid-East and Albemarle RC&D

Councils, the Washington & Martin County Tourism Councils, Bertie County and the Town of Scotland Neck, offer both morning and evening trips with camping opportunities available. Bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent one from nearby vendors. Cost per person for paddle trips varies from \$10-\$15 and participants should bring their own meals and beverages.

For more information, lodging or camping options, phone Roanoke River Partners at: 252/798-3920 or visit their website at: [www.roanokeriverpartners.org](http://www.roanokeriverpartners.org)



The Roanoke-Chowan Wildlife Club is holding their annual Hunting & Fishing Days celebration on Saturday, September 18th from 10-4pm. Black powder, archery and trap shooting; hunting and fishing gear; natural resource displays; crafts; refreshments; and door prizes are all available. Admission is free and children are especially welcome. The Club is located south of Winton, off River Road on Hare's Mill Road.