

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
November-December 2020

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Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership



Sound Stories

November-December 2020



2020 may not be over quite yet, but the staff at APNEP are already looking forward to some exciting opportunities in early 2021. We will be continuing to focus on water quality and coastal habitats issues under the direction of our Leadership Council next year. Additionally, we are participating once more in the [State of North Carolina's internship program](#) and will welcome a [Science Communication and Outreach Intern](#) to the APNEP team for the summer. Please pass along the [internship announcement](#) to any undergraduate or graduate students who are interested in science communication or outreach - the application deadline is fast approaching on January 4th!

I also want to highlight the [DEQ NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program](#) as an opportunity for local governments in North Carolina's coastal counties to receive technical and financial assistance in order to advance their coastal resilience efforts. Applications for this program are due on January 15th. We at APNEP wish all of you a happy holiday season and look forward to many future opportunities to work together in

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



Applications Open for 2021 APNEP Science Communication and Outreach Internship!

We're excited to announce that we're looking for a Science Communication and Outreach Intern to join us for summer 2020! The intern will create content and assist with communications activities that contribute to our mission of protecting and restoring the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Undergraduate and graduate students attending a North Carolina-based university are eligible to apply. **Applications are due by January 4th** and details are available [on our website](#).

[Learn more about the Internship](#)



Partnerships Strengthen Tribal Coastal Resilience

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APNEP's partnership with the [NC Commission of Indian Affairs](#), NC State University professor [Dr. Ryan Emanuel](#), and the [Virginia Coastal Policy Center](#) to support Tribal communities in the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed with incorporating climate resilience into community planning is well underway. NC State University PhD student Jocelyn Painter, whose research with Dr. Emanuel is a critical component of the project, [was recently interviewed by the university](#) about the project. "There could be unique concerns that tribal communities have when it comes to climate change and how it might affect them," Painter explains in the article. "This is a very good opportunity to give those tribes a voice or seat at the table with water governance."

Follow #WaterStory and the [Tribal Coastal Resilience Connections Facebook page](#) to hear more about this project as it continues! This page is meant as a forum for Tribal community partners to share their present-day and ancestral connections to Albemarle-Pamlico watershed and coastal plain of Virginia and North Carolina.

[Read the article](#)

2020 APNEP Teacher Institute Goes Virtual



Although this year's APNEP-funded and UNC Institute for the Environment-led [Teacher Institute](#) couldn't be held as planned due to COVID-19, the Institute's facilitators adapted by holding a series of monthly virtual sessions with participating teachers throughout the fall. The topics of these sessions included using digital instructional tools, developing videos for virtual field trips, and networking sessions focused on sharing resources. Going forward, UNC-IE hopes to plan an outdoor, socially-distanced event for Teacher Institute participants in the spring that will continue to build on the resources already shared.

[Learn more about the Teacher Institute](#)



APNEP Director Featured in Podcast Series

APNEP Director Dr. Bill Crowell was recently featured in the [Community Rising podcast series](#) developed by the [Shoresides](#) nonprofit civic journalism lab. The podcast series explores environmental news in the coastal Carolina region, and Dr. Crowell's [interview](#) discusses the threat climate change poses to the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Meeting Summaries

- **APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Executive Board (December 1st)** - The [STAC](#) members received an update on the development of APNEP's SAV monitoring plan and were presented preliminary findings from an APNEP-supported study by UNC-IMS's Dr. Nathan Hall on chlorophyll-a standards for SAV protection in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system. STAC member Dr. Hans Paerl gave a presentation on nutrient-bloom dynamics in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound over the past 40 years, and Forest Shepherd of NCDEQ presented on the 2021 Chowan River Basin Plan.
- **Coastal Resilience Community of Practice Meeting (December 7th)** - The meeting participants heard an update from Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences staff about their ongoing [Natural and Nature-Based Features initiative](#), which APNEP is partnering to evaluate the feasibility of implementing in North Carolina. Participants also discussed the upcoming [NC Resilient Communities program](#), and shared updates of resilience initiatives happening with local governments, non-profit organizations, and agency partners during a round robin with group members.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact apnep@ncdenr.gov.

Due to COVID-19, many of APNEP's scheduled meetings have been rescheduled or moved online. [Visit our website](#) for up-to-date information.

Current Grant Opportunities



- February 4th: [Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund 2021 RFP](#)
- January 15th: [NC Resilient Communities Program](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Grant details

Partner Spotlight

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Pew Environment Highlights NC's Vital Coastal Habitats

Pew Environment's recent [interview](#) with APNEP partner and NC Division of Marine Fisheries supervisor Anne Deaton highlighted the [Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#), which is [implemented jointly by DMF and APNEP](#). In the interview, Deaton explains how different protection and restoration efforts to improve habitat, water quality, fisheries, and coastal resiliency can build on one another, including efforts to protect submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

[Read the article](#)

What We're Reading

- [Crabitat: Juvenile Blue Crab Habitats in Pamlico Sound](#) (NC Sea Grant)
- [Birding, Kayaking, and Fishing at Wildlife Refuges](#) (Visit NC)
- [Black in Marine Science Week](#) (website)



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