

N.C. Coastal Reserve &
National Estuarine Research Reserve

Tidal Flat

Summer 2014



The Reserve has begun a busy summer season of public field trips, summer camps, and outreach programs designed to share the beauty and biology of estuaries with coastal residents and visitors of all ages! We hope you take advantage of the sunny days and summer holidays to explore North Carolina's estuaries and coasts, while keeping in mind the simple ways that you can have a positive impact on the wildlife and habitats of the Reserves by visiting in [a responsible manner](#). Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the Reserve sites!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Ellin
Reserve Program Manager

Volunteers Plant *Spartina* to Enhance Living Shoreline



A group of enthusiastic volunteers helped prove the phrase "many hands make light work" during a June 12 workday to plant *Spartina alterniflora*, or salt marsh cordgrass, at the east end of the Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort. The planting event was part of a living shoreline demonstration project, led by researchers

from the Reserve and the NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR). The project aims to showcase effective natural methods for stabilizing an estuarine shoreline, and supplements oyster clutch reefs constructed in 2012. Planted behind the oyster reef, the *Spartina* grass will help prevent erosion, diffuse wave energy during storms, and provide habitat for native marsh species.

[Read more...](#)

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Upcoming Outreach Events

Explore the Reserve this summer with these FREE programs and discover what makes estuaries so special!

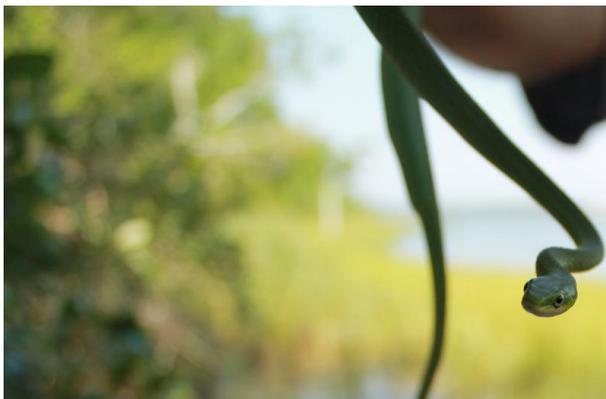
[Educational programs](#) at Masonboro Island Reserve and Wrightsville Beach

[Public field trips](#) to the Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort

August 2, 2014: Look for Reserve staff at the [Olde Beaufort Farmers' Market](#)



Facebook Favorite: A rough green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*) hides itself among the trees at the Permuda Island Reserve.



Terrapin Tally: A Successful First Step for Turtles and Volunteers



Have you ever wanted to participate in the scientific data collection that provides information about plants and animals living in North Carolina's estuaries? Volunteers with the North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve got to do just that in May 2014 through a new citizen science pilot project

conducted at the Masonboro Island Reserve called Terrapin Tally. The project is a partnership between the Reserve and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to estimate the population of diamondback terrapins within and around Masonboro Island, and involved citizen science participants paddling pre-determined routes on kayaks and recording terrapin sightings and temperature data on their smartphones along the way. The data collected by the citizen scientist volunteers will help managers better understand the population dynamics of a vulnerable species, and test data collection methods to determine if future tally efforts can be used on a broader scale to understand the species throughout the state.

[Read more...](#)

Coastal Training Program's New Website Design Brings Consistency, Efficiency



The North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve's Coastal Training Program has a new website design at www.nccoastaltraining.net. The Coastal Training Program's site follows the Reserve's transition to the N.C.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) hosting platform, and features a design and layout that is consistent with both the Reserve and other DENR agencies. New registration functions will also improve participants' ability to sign up

Summer 2014 Interns



Chelsea Adams (Sea Turtle Monitoring Assistant) is from Hoffman, North Carolina and is a recent graduate from UNC Wilmington with a B.S. in marine biology. She plans to attend graduate school in 2015 to pursue a career in estuarine ecology. When she is not sea turtle monitoring, she enjoys kayaking in the marsh and fishing.



Taylor Kiker (Stewardship Intern) is interning at the Rachel Carson Reserve this summer. She attends North Carolina State University, where she is a senior studying Environmental Technology & Management and Environmental Toxicology. In her down time she enjoys hiking, running/exercising, painting/art, hanging out with friends and family, and finding any new adventures and exploring opportunities.

for workshops and seminars from the site.

The Coastal Training Program provides coastal leaders and professionals with science-based training opportunities to promote informed decisions regarding North Carolina's coastal resources. Realtors, coastal managers, land-use planners, elected officials, educators, and consultants all benefit from training opportunities focusing on key coastal management issues presented by the Coastal Training Program and its partners. Program Coordinator Whitney Jenkins is excited for workshop participants to utilize the new website to register for training opportunities and explore options for future learning. "I think this will be a great resource for professionals looking for training on a variety of important coastal topics."

For additional information on the N.C. Coastal Training Program and upcoming workshops, please visit www.nccoastaltraining.net or email whitney.jenkins@ncdenr.gov.

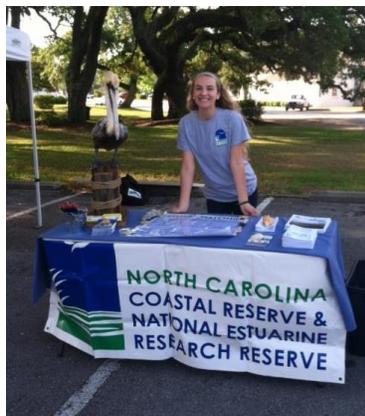
Facebook Favorite: A large snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) at the Buxton Woods Reserve, covered in duckweed.



Coastal Learning is Fun at the Beaufort Farmers' Market

When you stop by the North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve's booth at the Olde Beaufort Farmers' Market, you never know what you might learn. You could touch feathers from a pelican and discover some of the many ways they are well-adapted to life on the coast. Reserve staff could engage you in an "Estuary Matching Game," where you can test your knowledge of local species by matching examples of whelks, clams, and urchins with their appropriate names. You might even learn about upcoming education programs and volunteer opportunities at the Rachel Carson Reserve and decide to participate in a future event.

[Read more...](#)



Averi Ritchie (Stewardship Intern) is from Taylorsville, NC and recently graduated from Appalachian State University with a double major in Geography and City Planning. She is most interested in human geography and environmental planning, and plans to continue her education with more of an environmental conservation focus. Averi enjoys anything outdoors and has really enjoyed this internship so far!



Lauren Huffstetler (Education Intern) is from Gastonia, NC. She is a student at North Carolina State University studying Environmental Science with a minor in Biology and Applied Ecology. In her free time, Lauren loves to do anything outdoors such as hiking, kayaking, or fishing. She also really enjoys taking nature photography for her photo blog. She is excited to experience the Carolina coast!

Facebook Favorite: Coastal Training Program Coordinator Whitney Jenkins participates in a Graphic Facilitation Workshop led by instructors from NOAA's Coastal Services Center.



New Parking Lot at Currituck Banks Reserve



The Currituck Banks Reserve recently installed a new parking lot at the site of its boardwalk and walking trail in Corolla. The parking lot is used extensively by visitors who enjoy the interpretive boardwalk trail, hike the 1.5 mile primitive

walking trail, and use the Reserve for hunting and fishing.

In order to make the new parking lot as environmentally friendly as possible this summer, coconut fiber mats were installed at the edges of the lot to stabilize loose soil until native plants can colonize the area. The next step to improve stormwater runoff retention is to plant a rain garden with native plants, a volunteer stewardship event that Northern Sites Manager Scott Crocker is coordinating for the fall, with help from plant specialists at the N.C. Aquarium at Roanoke Island. Gardeners and volunteers, we will need your help, so stay tuned for announcements about the rain garden planting event!



New Boat for the Rachel Carson Reserve



The Rachel Carson Reserve welcomes a new vessel, *Edge of the Sea*, to Beaufort for use in educational programming and stewardship initiatives. Here, Maggie Davis, daughter of Education Coordinator Lori Davis, explains how she came up with the boat's creative new name.

Tell us who you are, where you go to school, and what you like to do for fun!

I am Maggie Davis and I am 9 years old. I go to Newport Elementary and am in the 3rd grade. For fun I like to dance, draw, and make loom bracelets.

How did you come up with the idea for naming the Reserve's new boat the "Edge of the Sea"? How does this vessel name relate to the Reserve's name honoring the scientist Rachel Carson?

I came up with the new name by being inspired by one of Rachel Carson's books, [The Edge of the Sea](#). The estuary is the edge of the sea and that's where the boat takes you.

What kinds of creatures live at the edge of the sea at the Rachel Carson Reserve?

Creatures that live there are hermit crabs, fiddler crabs, ghost crabs, periwinkle snails, mud snails, flounder and black skimmers.

Why is it important to protect the plants and animals that live in estuaries and coastal environments?

It is important to help them because this could be the only place they are spotted around the world.

Facebook Favorite: American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) chick at the Masonboro Island Reserve.



Campers Share Favorite Memories

The Seashore Life II campers spent June 24-26 exploring the habitats of the Rachel Carson Reserve, conducting scientific experiments to measure temperature and water quality, and dissecting squid at the N.C. Coastal Reserve classroom in Beaufort. The camp, hosted in partnership with the N.C. Maritime Museum, is part of the Summer Science School series, and provides opportunities for students in grades 1-10 to learn about the natural and maritime history of North Carolina through creative, hands-on experiences.



Communications Specialist Kate Brogan spoke with some of the campers about their favorite experiences during the week. Here's what they had to say:

What's cool about estuaries?

Sam and Jack: "Estuaries have shallow water, so it stays warm and lots of underwater plants can grow there because sunlight can reach them."

Chase: "Baby animals are safe in estuaries."

Daniel: "Estuaries have brackish water, a mix of fresh and salt water."

Dee: "At the Rachel Carson Reserve estuary, horses dig for fresh water, because it sits on top of salt water, which is heavier."

[Read more...](#)

You have been to the Rachel Carson Reserve many times. What are the coolest things to see and do there?

The coolest things to see and do there are to hunt for the mud snails, eat pickleweed, find shells, and play in the water.

More Information

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[Rachel Carson Reserve](#)



[Masonboro Island Reserve](#)