

Local Learning with Beaufort Elementary School



While some student groups travel for hours to participate in educational programs at the Rachel Carson component of the N.C. Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve, the trip to the Reserve was much shorter for students from Beaufort Elementary School. The school joined Education Coordinator Lori Davis for a field trip to the Rachel Carson Reserve last week, and discovered some of the coastal treasures found in their own backyard.

The fourth grade classes had the opportunity to touch live specimens such as snails and

mussels, and enjoyed tasting salty pickleweed plants. For some, the boat ride out to the Reserve was the first time students saw their charming hometown from the water. Many parents and children were able to explore the Reserve for the first time, learning about the important functions of estuarine ecosystems that make this area of North Carolina unique.

Teacher Frank Sherman liked that the field trips “made learning fun and enjoyable,” and will provide creative jumping off points for a variety of science and social studies lessons. Given the close proximity of the Rachel Carson Reserve and Beaufort Elementary School, lessons learned on this field trip will hopefully “excite the mind” of young students, and inspire them to take a closer look at the coastal creatures in their own backyard.

Read Beaufort Elementary School’s [“thank you”](#) note to Education Coordinator Lori Davis.