

October 2016
Volume XIX
No. 3



News from the Coastal North Carolina National Wildlife Refuges Complex

Alligator River, Pea Island, Pocosin Lakes,
Roanoke River, Mackay Island, and Currituck

Wings Over Water is Right Around the Corner

It's not too late to be a part of the 2016, 20th anniversary Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival.

Go online to www.wingsoverwater.org and register today. There are still lots of openings for great trips! Sometimes trips that require extra travel and time don't fill up. Here are a few wonderful programs that still have openings.

Portsmouth Island Village History Tour

October 22, 8 am - 1 pm. Explore the amazingly historic Portsmouth Island Village, led by one of the most knowledgeable Portsmouth Island historians, National Park Service caretaker, David Frum. From whaling and fishing, to World War II and a thriving community, this abandoned village has a rich history. Register and take a once-in-a-lifetime trip out to this village 'treasure of the Outer Banks'.

Ocracoke Island Birding

October 21, 8 am - 2 pm, join Peter Vankevich, an Ocracoke Island birding expert, as he takes you where the birds are! Ocracoke is a remote island worth a visit whether you're birding or not.

Special Wings Over Water Edition

**WINGS
OVER
WATER**

Wildlife Festival
October 18-23, 2016
Outer Banks, NC

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Art • Birding • Natural History • Paddling • Photography

To register, visit wingsoverwater.org or call 252-216-9464

Plus don't miss WOW Encore: A Winter Weekend Dec 9-11

Photo courtesy of Eve Turek



Participants birding in Ocracoke, credit: J. Pippin



eBird Workshop

October 20, 8 am – 3 pm. If you're an avid birder or a novice, you've probably heard of eBird, the world's largest on-line birding database. Trip leader, Nate Swick is an eBird expert and regional reporting specialist. You'll begin the day birding, gathering a list of birds seen and their locations.

The second half of the day will be in the classroom learning how eBird works and how to enter your birding information. Or, if you've used eBird, Nate can help you improve your eBirding skills. You don't have to be a tech wiz to use this program. Whether you plan on entering your birding data or just use eBird as a powerful reference tool, it's a way to expand your birding possibilities, to increase your birding knowledge and to improve your birding opportunities.

Oregon Inlet Dredge Spoil Island Adventure-Birding, History and More

October 21 and October 22, 9 am - noon, join on us on a tour along man-made dredge spoil islands. Captain Stuart Wescott, 9th generation Outer Banker, will share local history as you motor through Oregon Inlet and Pamlico Sound waters on his 53-foot pontoon boat. Capt. Stuart is full of stories and local lore. We will disembark on a former pelican rookery. We'll explore island dunes, watch birds, and on the Friday trip only we will try and tag some Monarch butterflies as they stop along their migration route to Mexico.

On the Oregon Inlet dredge spoil islands, each year brings new discoveries and colonizing animals that swim, float or fly over from the mainland. Several of these islands are closed during the nesting season, so take advantage of this unique opportunity. Beachcombing is allowed. This trip was formerly called Pelican Island Safari.



Participants enjoy a tram tour at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, credit USFWS/Glennon



Paddling at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge is a favorite during Wings Over Water, credit: USFWS/Rock.

Wings Over Water Paddling Trips

Wings Over Water offers over nine different kayak and canoeing trips. Here's your opportunity to see the Outer Banks from a different perspective - in the water. Some programs are held in the early evening to allow you to enjoy the sunset and low-light experience.

October 18, 6 – 8 pm, Roanoke Island Night Kayak Paddle

October 19, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Maritime Forest Sunset Kayak Tour

October 21, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Kitty Hawk Bay Sunset Kayak Tour

Other programs are held in the morning.

October 18, 8 – 9:30 am, Maritime Forest Stand-up Paddleboard Eco-Tour

October 18, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Maritime Forest Morning Kayak Tour

October 19, 6 – 8 am, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Sunrise Kayak Tour



Waterfowl are a treat to see during the Festival in October and December, credit: USFWS/Ramos.

Wings Over Water Art Classes

For the first time, we're offering four different nature art learning experiences with four different artists.

October 18, 9 am – noon

Join Fay Davis Edwards, an amazing artist and staff member of Dare County Arts Council for her nature art class, **Painting Marshlands with Fay Davis Edwards.**

October 19, 2 – 3:30 pm

Join Susan Van Gieson who has taught art for over twenty years and is a member of KDH Co-op, a gathering of local and regional fine artists. Her class is **Painting Watercolor Wetlands with Susan Van Gieson.**

October 20, 10 am – noon

Join James Melvin who has painted across America, the Caribbean Islands and Africa for his class **Wading Birds in Pastel with James Melvin.**

October 21 and October 22, 2 – 4 pm

Join John Sill, a national award-winning nature artist and illustrator for his class **Bird Drawing with John Sill.**

If you have any interest in learning to paint or draw, don't miss out on these great nature art classes. All required art supplies are provided as part of your class registration fee.

Wings Over Water-Encore

Wings Over Water Encore is especially for birders. For the second year, Wings Over Water offers a December weekend of birding trips. Dates are December 9 -11. There are 13 programs on five national wildlife refuges.

On Saturday, December 10, from 6 - 8 pm we'll host the first Wings Over Water Encore Birder's Social. Drinks and heavy snacks will be offered. This is a great time to socialize with fellow birders. This two-hour social will be casual and fun. The Social will be held at National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center, Roanoke Island. Register for Birder's Social or any of the 12 other WOW Encore programs on-line now.

www.wingsoverwater.org



Kenn Kaufman's wonderful artwork is used on a variety of Festival merchandise

Wings

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Follow us on Facebook:
Friends of Alligator River and
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges
and USFWS North Carolina



Support Your National Wildlife Refuges

Coastal Wildlife Refuges Society exists to support the interpretive, educational and volunteer programs of several national wildlife refuges, with a focus on Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges. Your contributions to the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society help make it possible to provide that assistance.

The Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society provides specific support for local K-12 schools by providing educational programs as well as transportation grants for students and teachers to visit the refuges and National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center.

Donations and fees also help maintain refuge ground and water trails, pay for refuge visitor services staff, assist with the annual Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival, and support dozens of other refuge programs and projects.

Please support your national wildlife refuges by donating \$10, \$50, \$100 or more. You may send check or money order to:

Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society
P.O. Box 1808
Manteo, NC 27954

Or, to use your credit card you may call or go online: 252/473 9464, <http://www.coastalwildliferefuge.com/>

Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #56-1649348. Your contribution may be deductible as a charitable contribution on your federal taxes. We will send you a receipt for each contribution, as well as a Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society membership card to print and cut out to use for savings in our refuge gift shops.