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News from the Coastal North Carolina National Wildlife Refuges Complex

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

Welcome Summer Interns

Alligator River
Danielle Canning



Dani attends West Virginia University. She is pursuing a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources and a minor in Conservation Ecology. Dani enjoys being in the outdoors camping, birding, fishing, herping, and hiking. She also enjoys participating in activities such as yoga, painting, and ceramics. Dani is from Lincoln Park, New Jersey.



Madison Long
Madi attends the University of Vermont in Burlington. She is pursuing a degree in Animal Sciences and a minor in Wildlife Biology. When Madi is not in the icy wonderland of Vermont, she heads back to her home state of Maryland to relax with her dogs and family.

Red Wolf Caretaker
Caroline Honan



Caroline attends Unity College in Unity, Maine. She is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology. In her free time, Caroline enjoys hiking, doing yoga, or just hanging out with her dog. She is from Chesapeake, Virginia.

Pea Island
Lyn Brown



Lyn is completing a Master's in Sustainability at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. She received her first exposure to fieldwork as a biological intern at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia. Lyn enjoys spending time at the beach, swimming, walking, reading, and kite flying. Back home in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, she loves hanging out with her dogs and going hiking.

Sara O'Hop

Sara attends Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. She is pursuing a degree in Environmental Geoscience. Sara enjoys spending time with her family and dog, Aldo, during her time off. She is from Pennsylvania.

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Welcome Summer Interns (continued)



Sara O'Hop

Mara Cobb



Mara attends the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. She is pursuing a degree Marine Biology with a Conservation concentration and a minor in Sustainability. Mara enjoys reading, hiking, and playing with her dog, Cinnamon Cobb! She is from Rockingham, North Carolina.

Pocosin Lakes

Trevor Voisin

Trevor attends the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He is pursuing a degree in Environmental, Soil, and Water Science. Trevor enjoys being outdoors and working out at the gym. He is from Mena, Arkansas.



Trevor Voisin

Ben Jakobowski



Ben attends Montreat College in Montreat, North Carolina. He is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science. Ben enjoys hiking, backpacking, playing games, fishing, mountain biking, and socializing. He is from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Mattamuskeet

Noah Malandra

Noah graduated from University of California-Davis last spring. His degree is in Wildlife Conservation. Noah loves music, traveling, and spending time outdoors. He is from Southern California.



Noah Malandra

Connor Nicholson



Connor attends East Carolina University. He is pursuing a degree in Environmental Geography with a minor in Coastal and Marine studies and a GIS certificate. Connor enjoys hunting, fishing, playing hockey, and just being on the water with family and friends. He is from Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Remembering Robert R. Rose

Sometimes, especially when budgets are tight, staff are small, and we fall into the trap of wondering if we're really making a difference, we happen onto a story or meet a person who seems to have been sent to us at just the right time.... just when we needed it the most. Such was our situation some months ago when we were contacted by Mrs. Ann Rose. Her husband, Bob Rose, had passed away recently. She contacted us to ask if we could possibly use donations in memory of her husband to meet a need on the refuge- because it was a special place to him.



As far as we know, none of us actually had met Mr. Rose. Hearing this story makes us happy he existed and sad that we didn't have the pleasure of getting to know him. And, it encourages us to believe that there are lots more folks out there who love and appreciate the refuges we serve.

Bob's friends donated over \$2,000 to the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society in his memory - an impressive amount of money. But, the really impressive part is the story behind his love for Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.

Mrs. Rose described the experience: "Regarding his love of the refuges, especially Alligator River: We took our daughter to a children's program at Pea Island in 1984 on our first week-long visit to the Outer Banks. Bob was so amazed at the birds that he bought a field guide and binoculars, which resulted in many adventures on the refuges and to him becoming an accomplished birder. We bought our house in Pirate's Cove in 1989 and discovered Alligator River. He was captivated by the isolation, the quiet, the astonishing variety of birds, animals, plants and trees (and bugs!). We would pack a lunch to eat in the car and spend hours roaming around Alligator River in any season. It was never a disappointment - he added many life birds to his list there, but riding slowly through the refuge's back roads looking around gave him just as much pleasure."

To realize that this special family had a lifelong connection to this special place as a result of bringing their daughter to one program is a story in itself. Thank you to the friends and family of Bob Rose for your generous donations to the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society. And thank you to Mrs. Ann Rose for sharing this sweet story and for reminding us we do make a difference! We are honored to be a part of remembering Bob Rose.

Remembering Neal Moore

On March 16, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge lost an incredibly dedicated volunteer and strong advocate, and our staff lost a friendly and consistent face, as well as a dear friend. Neal was 91. Until recently, he had spent Fridays for decades on his favorite refuge in his favorite spot, doing his favorite thing. First, it was leading bird walks, then observing birds from the Visitor Center's bay window (which resulted in large part from his persistent requests), and finally working on one of many puzzles in the gift shop, all the while sharing with visitors his deep love for this special place. Neal touched so many aspects of this refuge; he even built osprey platforms and martin houses!

Neal and Pat, his faithful wife of 68 years, loved this refuge. Between them, they have logged over 10,000 hours of volunteer service, including planning and guiding for Wings Over Water; leading bird walks, training and mentoring other volunteers, and, yes, even sharing with Pea Island visitors while putting together wildlife puzzles! Neal will be missed, but not forgotten. We look forward to having Pat for many more years!



Support Your National Wildlife Refuges - Donate to Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society

Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society exists to support interpretive, educational, and volunteer programs of eastern North Carolina national wildlife refuges with a focus on Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges and the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center on Roanoke Island. Your contributions to the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society help make it possible to provide this support.

Your donation helps support local K-12 schools by assisting with educational programs and funding transportation grants for students and teachers to visit the refuges and the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center. It also helps to maintain refuge land and water trails, provide refuge visitor services staff, assist with the annual Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival, and support dozens of refuge projects and programs.

Please support your national wildlife refuges by donating \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more. Send check or money order to, Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society, P.O. Box 1808, Manteo, NC 27954. You can also use a credit card by calling 252/216 9464 or visiting <http://www.coastalwildliferefuge.com/donate.html>.

Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society (CWRS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution may be tax deductible as a charitable contribution. You will receive a receipt for each contribution and an annual CWRS membership card to use for savings in CWRS gift shops.

Biological Update

Submitted by Becky Harrison,
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist

Spring and summer - the busy waterbird seasons - are right around the corner at Pea Island! Refuge staff are beginning to look for different species of breeding shorebirds including piping plovers, American oystercatchers, least terns, and black skimmers.



Wilson's plover, credit: Audubon North Carolina

Beginning each spring, as nesting pairs begin using the variety of habitats at Pea Island, staff and volunteers temporarily close off different sections of the refuge to reduce disturbance and to protect nesting birds. We adaptively manage these areas to respond to different nesting activities, so these areas may change regularly. Once nesting activities are observed, we determine what area is needed based on the species and number of waterbirds present. Closed areas are not a specific size or shape. If birds move and leave a particular closure, we try to re-open the area as soon as possible. Closures are not set for specific dates either but are in response to when birds arrive and begin showing signs of breeding and nesting.

On average, we construct most of our waterbird closures in April and May and often adjust them as needed when more activities occur. Please make sure to minimize any disturbances and follow all Refuge rules and regulations. We



Banded piping plover (green flag 6U9), credit: USFWS/Brian Van Druen

appreciate your help in sharing the shore with the wildlife!

You can also help this monitoring season by reporting sightings of any American oystercatchers, piping plovers, or Wilson's plovers. We are helping partners at the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission with their statewide census of American oystercatcher and Wilson's plover.



Banded American oystercatcher (green CAE), credit: USFWS/Becky Harrison

If you see these state species of concern or the threatened piping plover, please let us know! Please record the location, date, number of each species, and any other information you think would be helpful in locating the bird(s). If you're not sure on the identification, try to get a photo if

possible. Some birds may have colored bands with alphanumeric codes. If you can report the color or code of the bands, that information is very useful in helping us track the birds.

Sighting information and photos can be emailed or texted to Refuge Biologist, Becky Harrison at rebecca_harrison@fws.gov or 252/423 1839.

We will begin to see chicks with breeding pairs starting in late May. Chicks are very vulnerable to many predators including dogs, gulls, coyotes, raccoons, and cats. Please keep your distance and try not to disturb or distract the parents from tending to them. Thank you for being our eyes and ears on the refuge!

Upcoming Guided Interpretive Programs

For more information, check out our program schedule at <https://www.fws.gov/ncgatewayvc/images/interp-schedule.pdf>.

Wings

Alligator River & Pea Island
National Wildlife Refuges
PO Box 1969 (mailing)
100 Conservation Way (physical)
Manteo, NC 27954

Phone: 252/473 1131

Fax: 252/473 1668

E-mail: alligatorriver@fws.gov

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/alligator_river/



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National Wildlife Refuges and USFWS
North Carolina