

## Habitat Geocache Program Unveiled!

Geocaching is a high-tech scavenger hunt that is now being modified for refuges. Traditional geocaching consists of hiding and seeking a physical cache: coins, logbook and more. Burying, placing or removing a physical cache by the public is prohibited on refuges because sensitive natural or cultural resources could be damaged. So, we're offering a Refuge-sponsored geocaching experience!

This alternative geocache program will allow anyone to navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates in open areas of Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge and then attempt to find the geocache posts at that location. Using a clue sheet available online or at the Visitor Center, trekkers will head out on the refuge in search of metal placards attached to posts. By answering questions on the clue sheet, visitors will learn about the various habitats on the refuge.

Once the answers are recorded, the lid of the post may be opened exposing the attached embosser inside. This is used to "collect" an embossed image of the habitat type in the corresponding box on the report sheet. If for some reason the embosser isn't working or is missing, a code may be found on the front panel and used instead. Once at least 10 of the stations have been recorded, trekkers may stop by the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center on Roanoke Island to receive a refuge pin.



### IMPORTANT additional information:

The refuge is open during daylight hours only. All refuge regulations remain in effect while you are on refuge land. Please take a refuge leaflet with you so you are aware of open and closed areas.

As a safety precaution, always tell someone where you are going prior to heading out on your trek. Depending on the time of the year, you may encounter knee-to-waist-deep muck, poisonous snakes, thick vegetation, or other natural challenges.

Please contact Cindy Heffley at 252-473-4180 or [cindy\\_heffley@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_heffley@fws.gov) with any questions or suggestions. If you find that any of the sites have been damaged or vandalized, please contact Cindy so we can correct the problem.

## Contribute to this Newsletter!

If you have a refuge experience you'd like to share, consider contributing an article to one of our quarterly newsletters! Send via email to [cindy\\_heffley@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_heffley@fws.gov).

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## Wings Over Water Update



Early registration for the 2013 Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival has been going well. This year, for the first time, we offer on-line registration. We have a great selection of programs this year, and we're excited to share these opportunities with you.

The most popular programs so far are Big Day Birding (which booked up in a week), South Pond Birding, Alligator River Sunset & Stargazing Canoe Tour, Cape Hatteras Birding, Exploring Pine Audubon Sanctuary, Mackay Island Refuge Birding and the Owl Prowl trips. Please visit the Wings Over Water registration site to look over and sign up for trips

<https://2013wowfest.theregistrationsystem.com/en/1611>

## Refuge Employee and Friend Adam Fauth Heads West

Many of you have probably spoken with Adam Fauth while making a reservation for a Wings Over Water or Refuge program or know him personally. Adam has been working for the refuge since August 2002. His early days were spent in a volunteer capacity. His role grew, and his help through all these years has been indispensable. While we are thrilled for his new opportunities, we will definitely miss him as he relocates to Washington state!

According to Adam, he, Catie, and their three children have been given the opportunity to move to a farm, "with horses, cows, goats, turkeys, chickens and 20 acres of woods with a fishing creek. Career-wise, I have no idea what I will be doing in Washington. This whole adventure is a leap of faith. We are moving so that our kids can have the benefits of growing up on a farm with animals and with easy access to nature. I have three children, the oldest of which will be starting school next year."

"Washington has a state-sponsored homeschool program that lets kids participate in individual classes and extra-curricular activities while staying at home for everything else. Both my wife and I were raised outdoors, and we want the same for our kids."



Catie and Adam Fauth with Oliver, Daniel, and Abbey.

For those of us left behind, Adam and his family will be missed. As Deputy Refuge Manager Scott Lanier recently said, "Adam is one of the most efficient, competent employees that I have known. There was never an assignment he didn't accomplish quickly and professionally.... And, often the tasks weren't even his job. He was an absolute pleasure to work with and could handle any task assigned to him."

I asked Adam if there were anything he'd like to say to all of those whose lives he has touched here on the refuge. Without hesitation, he told me, "I will really miss

all my US Fish & Wildlife Service and Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society friends! That's the hardest part to leave... It's been fun working with such a unique group of individuals, and it will be hard to find another work family as pleasant or as dedicated."

I for one would add that his statements also reflect how I and many others feel about him. We will miss Adam both professionally and personally! We all wish you the best, Adam and Catie.

(Contributed by Cindy Heffley)

## Intern Update

### Meet Sarah Giles



I am an intern at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. I am from Raleigh, NC and just graduated in May with a degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My interests include wetland ecology and restoration as well as coastal and marine sciences.

In my free time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, kayaking, and running. I am not sure what my ideal career would be yet, but

something in the outdoors would be great. I am looking forward to learning more about the environment and ecology of Pea Island and teaching visitors about the refuge and the valuable wildlife and habitat it supports.

### Meet Alina Herron



I'm from Greenville, South Carolina. In May 2012, I graduated from Randolph College with degrees in Biology and English. Right now I am pursuing jobs and internships that will help me decide what I'd like to study in grad school.

## Volunteer Opportunities this Summer: Work and Play!



Volunteering for Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges presents many opportunities for working with the public and enjoying the refuges.

Our volunteers and interns at the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center on Roanoke Island guide and encourage the public to enjoy the amazing displays and videos of the many refuges North Carolina has to offer and to visit the refuges themselves.

Many people, visitors and locals alike, don't realize they can see it all first hand. Visitors are encouraged to explore the wildlife drive and walk the woodland marsh trails of Alligator River, to go on a guided canoe tour or tram ride and see the bears and alligators in their natural habitats.

At Pea Island, visitors are encouraged to

walk the North Pond Wildlife Trail and observe a variety of shore birds and waterfowl, otters and turtles, go on a bird walk or canoe tour and rediscover the wonders of nature.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Tracey Rock today ([tracey\\_rock@fws.gov](mailto:tracey_rock@fws.gov)) to offer your services as a Refuge volunteer!





The heart of a volunteer  
is not measured in size,  
but by the depth of  
commitment to make a  
difference  
in the lives of others~

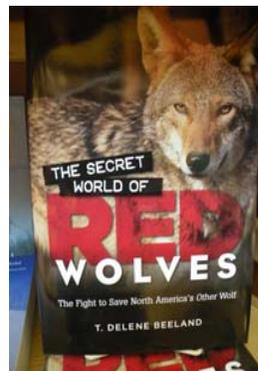
DeAnn Hollis

## Wildlife/Wildlands Art EXPO and Shopping

Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society and the Dare County Arts Council partnered with US Fish & Wildlife Service to open our doors to the new art gallery on May 10th! We feature local artists with wildlife/wildland-themed artwork. The May/June show featured 5 artists: Hubby Blivens, Susan Van Gieson and Jewellette Dillon had paintings displayed. Jeff Lewis and Michael Halmnski showed their photography.

Our July/August show features artists Stephanie Kiker, Nancy Zittrain, and Gwen Taylor and wildlife photographers Eve Turek and Ricky Davis. Stop by and enjoy the view. The artwork is spectacular! All artwork being shown is for sale.

If you know someone who is interested in showing in a future art expo, contact Susie\_kowlok@fws.gov or 473-1131 ext 228.



Check out our new items!!

## Environmental Education and Outreach Programs Update

According to Visitor Services Specialist Cindy Heffley, summer programs are in full swing and doing great. In addition to canoe tours at both refuges, refuge staff and interns offer bird walks, adventure and bear programs, turtle talks, tram tours, wolf howlings, and more.

The Preschool Young Naturalist Program has also had many children participating each week. Now that school is out, some school-age children are attending the program. Although it is geared toward preschoolers, all ages are welcome. A schedule of topics for the summer is available by contacting [cindy\\_heffley@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_heffley@fws.gov).

Red wolf caretaker Lizzy Baxter recently provided an interactive program for the cub scouts attending a day camp in Colington. The boys were very excited to learn about red wolves, and many were already quite knowledgeable.

Since a number of the scouts were hunters, they were well aware of the similarities between red wolves and coyotes. A highlight of the program was when two boys were selected to “wear” the coyote and red wolf pelts. With the pelts on their backs, the boys walked past the rest of the scouts so they could get a better view of the two critters.



During a recent preschool program, the children had one goal: to help wildlife. They saw all kinds of wild things – spiders, lady bugs, turkey vultures – and planted Trailing Wild Beans, locally known as dune peas. The seedlings were planted with hope that they’d provide plenty of food for the animals in the area after they produced seed. After



their pea plants were watered, the preschoolers also helped weed some of the flower beds. They were each given some seeds to take home for planting.

The children ended up helping wildlife sooner than expected! Over the weekend, something – most likely a deer or rabbit – ate almost all of the pea plants. When asked what was likely to have eaten the peas, one of the preschoolers suggested that it was a spider!

Volunteer Bob Glennon, who raised the initial pea plants, generously donated replacement plants will be planted and covered with a net



so the children will have plants to monitor after all!

Contributed by Alina Herron

Educators interested in planning a field trip to Pea Island or Alligator River Refuges, or the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center should contact Cindy Heffley at 252-475-4180 or [cindy\\_heffley@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_heffley@fws.gov).

## Local Partnership: Manteo High School Advanced Art Students



Manteo High School art students donated over 300 hours to create a wildlife/habitat mural for the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Wildlife Center on Roanoke Island. Students painted 6 distinct habitats, ranging from the beaches of Pea Island to the Cypress/Gum Swamps of Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge. Each of the 4' X 6' panels features a habitat and one or more iconic wildlife or plant species typical of that habitat type. The entire mural measures 6' X 24'.

Artists and habitats from left to right:

- Cypress-Gum Swamp/Wood Duck by Linsey Daniels, Elyssa Creef, Emili James
- Atlantic White Cedar Swamp/Warbler by Sara Gard, Cody Davis
- Pine Shrub Pocosin/Bear by Jharixa Reategui, Cody Davis, Breanne De Hoog
- Sounds & Brackish Marsh/Alligator by Jasmin Miller, Evan Tillet
- Brackish Marsh Sound/Egret by Hannah Barnes
- Ocean & Beach/Turtle by Anna Rea, Essie Somma

Supervised/Directed by Robin York and Alice Baldwin

## Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Guided Bird Walk Review

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge offers some of the finest birding opportunities anywhere in the country. We have some amazing birding trip volunteer leaders. Recently we went out on a Friday morning bird walk with Neal and Pat Moore, two volunteers who have been helping out the Refuge since about 1995. On this particular bird walk day, we had about a dozen birders from a surprisingly wide variety of locations. Out of the dozen birders present, there were people from Washington state, Montana, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado, Virginia and North Carolina! What an amazing collection of birders from across the country!

It turns out that nothing gets in the way of a birder when they're on the prowl. Neal and Pat have the wonderful ability to stop right in the middle of an orientation or informational lecture to identify a bird calling or singing. How could they concentrate on speaking to us while also having their ears open to birds? If you spend time with serious birders, you'll find this isn't unusual. We also watched the way the visiting birders interacted with each other and would stop in the middle of a conversation, often in the middle of a word, because a bird caught their eye on the wing or as it landed. The focus of birders on a birding trip is birds, and rightfully so. If you are a novice birder and ever decide to go out on any of our birding trips, be forewarned; as wonderful and social a group birders can be, don't get offended or surprised if they would much rather watch an Ibis or some variety of warbler as they would talk to you.

Here are just a few of the nearly 40 bird species we saw on our recent Pea Island bird walk:

Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Red-winged Blackbird, Canada Goose, Blue Grosbeak; Eastern Mockingbird, Herring Gull, Willet, Mourning Dove, Common Grackle, Carolina Wren, Forster's Tern, Least Tern, Royal Tern, Cedar Waxwing, Fish Crow, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Pelican, Seaside Sparrow, Catbird, Tricolored Heron, Great Egret, Semi-palmated Plover, Double-crested Cormorant.

Contributed by Steve Brumfield



## Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society News

The Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society is a non-profit organization established and incorporated in 1989 by a group of local citizens to provide support for Alligator River, Pea Island, and other national wildlife refuges in eastern North Carolina. The Society has three purposes: generate funds to support programs and activities, assist in the recruitment of volunteers, and provide a voice for the members of the Society at a local, state, and national level.

The Coastal Wildlife Refuges Society is always looking for those who want to help.

You may support the refuges by donating to the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society. Every contribution helps; it could be \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.000 or any amount.

Click on this web link to make your donation <https://www.outer-banks.com/coastalwildlife/form.cfm>

Or, you may mail a donation check to:

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

Or call us with your credit card information: 252-216-9464

More information about the Society is on its web site at: <http://www.coastalwildliferefuge.com/>

## Don't be Blue, But We're Not a Zoo!

You might be surprised at how often we are asked for the exact locations of a variety of birds and animals in the wild. "Where can we see a red wolf?" Or, "are there always bears next to the road?" While it's true that we often know where an alligator might frequent, or what field might likely be a foraging location for black bears, or where great blue herons often hang out, there really is no way to guarantee that an animal in the wild will be at a particular location. Of course, when you think about it, that makes sense. Zoos have animals confined in restricted areas. Wild animals move around and sleep and eat wherever they find food sources and safety for survival. We live in a space and time where so much of what we see and do is pre-packaged and homogenized, that getting out into a more wild environment can be unusual if not a totally foreign experience. Computers provide millions of bits of information daily, but they are not helping us get outdoors to experience the world. So questions about wildlife locations are perfectly understandable.

On our canoe and tram trips, we have seen black bears, alligators, bald eagles, great blue herons, turtles, snakes and dozens of bird varieties. We've been on those same trips where other than birds, a lot of the bigger animals were not visible.

When you visit Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges, you never know what wildlife you may see, when you may see it, and where it may be. We're not a zoo, but there is the potential for you to see deer, fox, river otter, bear; red wolves, snakes, lizards, turtles and hundreds of bird species and much, much more.

Take time to walk the wildlife trails, but don't expect to see many critters on those trails. You may see wildlife signs, like hair, scat, or tracks. Follow the Wildlife Drive through Alligator River Refuge where you're more likely to see wildlife from your vehicle which acts as a blind.

Keep a sharp eye, wildlife is all around you!

Follow speeds limits!

Don't litter!

Contributed by Steve Brumfield

## Update on Monitoring Project on US 64

Anyone who has traveled US Highway 64 through Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge over the past few years has probably noticed the barbed wire attached to 12 miles of guardrail. In 2009, several agencies, including NC Wildlife Resource Commission, Virginia Tech, NC Department Of Transportation and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, initiated a project to monitor bears in relation to the widening of US Highway 64 in Dare and Tyrrell counties.

Final Results of research along 12 miles of US Highway 64

- Barbed wire bear hair samples collected: 851
- Bear road crossing events - from at least 54 individual bears: 537 (42M:12F)
- Black bears captured: 116 (87M:29F)
- GPS collared – Crossing the road an avg. of 2 times/100 days: 57 (30M:27F)
- 78% of collared females and 50% of collared males never crossed the roadway
- Recorded road kills: 15 bears, 8 white-tailed deer, 1 red wolf, 3 bobcats, 7 river otters, 124 mid-sized mammals, 82 small mammals, 1,153 birds, 75 bats, 4,014 reptiles, and 7,498 amphibians
- Photo-Captured wildlife crossings (at barbed wire breaks): 260 black bears, 177 red wolves, 120 wild canids, 170 white-tailed deer, 209 bobcats, and 208 raccoons
- Identified Important Crossing locations where wildlife underpasses would be most effective in conserving wildlife and protecting motorists: 6

According to Refuge Wildlife Biologist Dennis Stewart, the wildlife crossing locations selected are very well thought out. He is encouraged by the results and looks forward to the implementation of these crossings when the highway widening project is implemented.



## Turtle Program Gearing Up For the Summer Season

As of July 15, there were 21 sea turtle nests on Pea Island. Anyone interested in volunteering for turtle watch at least once a week is asked to contact Tracey Rock at [tracey\\_rock@fws.gov](mailto:tracey_rock@fws.gov). Turtle watch volunteers are scheduled to sit at a nest as hatching time approaches. The hours are 7PM to midnight. Turtle Watch volunteers work in teams. Training and orientation for new turtle watch volunteers will be scheduled soon, so please call Tracey if you'd like to be a part of protecting these endangered critters!



## Red Wolf Recovery Program Spring/Summer Review



### 2013 Pup Totals

Pup numbers are in for 2013. Thirty-four pups in seven litters were found in the wild red wolf population in northeastern North Carolina. Twenty-one pups in four litters were also born in three captive facilities participating in the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan: six at Jackson Zoo, five at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, and 11 at Northwest Trek (two litters). We did observe some pup mortality in the captive populations this year, with only one of five surviving at Alligator River and three surviving at Jackson Zoo. These losses were attributed to both viral and bacterial infections. The lone survivor from the Alligator River litter was fostered into a wild pack in May.

### 2013 Grant Awards from Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

The Red Wolf Recovery Program and partners from the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (RWSSP), Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (Tacoma, WA) and Lincoln Park Zoo (Chicago, IL) received three grants for projects that will further the conservation of the endangered red wolf.

The Conservation Committee from the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA) awarded grants, totaling more than \$16,000, for three different red wolf projects:

- 1) the study of inflammatory bowel disease in the red wolf
- 2) the initial development of a canid disease monitoring and prevention program
- 3) the development of a population viability analysis and preliminary demographic models of endangered red wolves

The Conservation Committee awards grants annually to a variety of conservation and research programs worldwide, and is supported by generous contributions from PDZA, Point Defiance Zoo Society, and the Point Defiance American Association of Zoo Keepers chapter.

These studies will provide valuable information that will contribute to the management and conservation of zoo-based and wild red wolf populations. These collaborations and partnerships are key to the success of this research. Stay tuned for progress reports!

More information about these projects can be found on our Blog at [trackthepack.blogspot.com](http://trackthepack.blogspot.com)

Red Wolf Howlings are every Wednesday from 7:30-9PM June through August. Reservations are not required, but there is a fee of \$7 for each person age 13 and over. Visit [www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/spec.html](http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/spec.html) for more information.

Our partner, the [Red Wolf Coalition](http://redwolves.com), will be hosting educational and recreational events at the facility in Columbia throughout the summer and fall. As red wolves are difficult to observe in the wild, this is a great opportunity to see wolves and hear more about their biology. The site is part of the nearby Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; you could also tour the refuge visitor center or visit different habitats on the refuge. If you're interested in attending a regularly schedule event or making an appointment for a group event, please visit the Red Wolf Coalition's calendar of events website: <http://redwolves.com/program/> for tour scheduling and information and to make an online reservation to attend events. Regularly scheduled programs typically occur on Saturdays throughout the summer and include Red Wolf 101, Red Wolf Kids, Talk Like a Wolf, and What's For Dinner? Please visit the calendar of events for scheduling and admissions information and event policies.

**Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges**  
**P O Box 1969 (mailing)**  
**100 Conservation Way (physical)**  
**Manteo, NC 27954**  
**252.473.1131**  
**Fax: 252.473.1668**  
**E-mail: [alligatorriver@fws.gov](mailto:alligatorriver@fws.gov)**  
**[www.fws.gov/alligatorriver](http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver)**

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**Friends of Alligator River and Pea Island**  
**National Wildlife Refuges**



**The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.**

## Looking Ahead (July—September 2013 )

### Pea Island Refuge Programs

#### **Free Programs-No reservations required:**

Guided bird walks Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from May-October 8AM (Meet at the Visitor Center.)  
 Guided beach walks Wednesdays from June-August 8AM (Meet at the parking lot south of the temporary bridge.)  
 Birds and their Adaptations Tuesdays from June-August 2:30PM (Meet at the Visitor Center.)  
 Turtle Talk Wednesdays from June-August 2:30PM (Meet at the Visitor Center.)  
 Soundside Adventure Thursdays from June-August 2:30PM (Meet at the New Inlet.)

#### **Programs requiring reservations (Call: 252-216-9464)**

Guided canoe tours:

Wednesdays and Fridays from June-August 10AM-Noon; \$25 per person/\$15 for children 12 and under  
 Thursdays from May-August 9AM-Noon; \$35 per person/\$20 for children 12 and under

### Alligator River Refuge Programs

#### **No reservations required:**

**Free** Bear Necessities Wednesdays from June-August 5-7PM (Meet at the Creef Cut Trail Parking Lot.)  
 Red Wolf Howling Wednesdays from June-August 7:30-9PM; \$7 per person/12 and under Free (Meet at the Creef Cut Trail Parking Lot.)

#### **Program requiring reservations/fee to guarantee a spot (Call: 252-216-9464)**

Tram Tours Tuesdays from June-August 8:30-11AM; \$7 per person/12 and under Free (Meet at the Creef Cut Trail Parking Lot.)

#### **Programs requiring reservations (Call: 252-216-9464)**

Guided canoe tours:

Wednesdays and Fridays from May-August 9AM-Noon; \$35 per person/\$20 for children 12 and under  
 Thursdays from June-August 10AM-Noon; \$25 per person/\$15 for children 12 and under

### National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center Preschool Junior Naturalist Program

Fridays Year-round 9:30-10:30AM and 1-2PM Contact Cindy at 252-475-4180 for more information.