

Federal Government Shutdown October 2013



The government shutdown (16 days in October) caused many impacts to the local community, visitors to the Outer Banks, and the refuges and friends group. All refuges were closed. All programs and activities that were scheduled to be conducted by refuge staff, whether on- or off-refuges, were canceled. When Congress finally came to an agreement, staff and volunteers were ready and extremely excited to return to work. On this page you will find some of the words sent out by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Region 4 FWS Director Cindy Dohner. We share them with you, because although they are directed toward the employees of the refuges, they speak to the many volunteers and supporters of the refuges, as well.



IN WASHINGTON D.C., SECRETARY SALLY JEWELL GREETED RETURNING EMPLOYEES AT INTERIOR'S FRONT DOOR... You know, if there's one silver lining in this shutdown, it is that the value that you bring to this country and to the American people is far more evident now than it

was before the shutdown. So I hope that when you come back, you come back with pride, you come back with enthusiasm...I appreciate that the uncertainty was very hard on you and very hard on your families. And I am just so happy that we are all back at work.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR CINDY DOHNER.... I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your strength and courage during a truly difficult time. I also want to thank everyone who was required to work during this nearly three-week period.

Here's a bigger truth I know about U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service people: You can't shut down our passion for the fish and wildlife resources of this nation. What defines us is our extraordinary mission – our shared drive to conserve America's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for generations to come—for our children and the generations that will follow. We've done it through huge hurricanes, massive wildfires, and the largest oil spill in our nation's history. If those events can't extinguish our commitment to accomplishing the work we love, neither can a shutdown....We will prevail in that task. ...We are a Service family, and I have seen that spirit again and again when things were tough, but we always see each other through tough times.

Inside this issue:

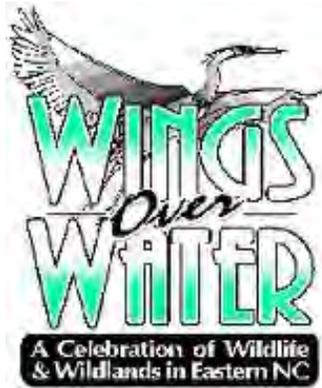
Wings Over Water	2-3
Volunteer News	4-8
Wild Things Bookstore	9
Program Updates	10
Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society News	11
Red Wolf Recovery Program	12-13
Refuge Staff News	14
Looking Ahead	15

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 email to cindy_heffley@fws.gov.

Wings Over Water Update

Wings Over Water 2013-The Year of the Federal Shutdown



The federal shutdown occurred just 22 days before the 2013 Wings Over Water Wildlife (WOW) Festival was to begin.

This wasn't the first time the WOW Festival had faced a large challenge. In August of 2011, Hurricane Irene devastated the Outer Banks and created major travel and location issues for many of the coastal trips scheduled for that year's Festival. But the Festival was held that year and was a success.

Last year, only one week before the 2012 Festival was to begin, Hurricane Sandy hit the Outer Banks. Once again WOW faced major challenges with travel and trip restrictions along the coastal portion of the Festival. Again, in spite of a major natural disaster, WOW staff and leaders rose to the occasion and participants came and enjoyed another successful wildlife event.

This year, instead of a major natural disaster, there was a major human-caused impact. This threatened to severely alter the 2013 WOW Festival since many of the trips were scheduled to occur on federal lands and some were to be conducted by federal employees. If it's not one thing, it's another! During the shutdown, non-federal partners of the festival joined forces and determined to move ahead with Wings Over Water 2013—with or without the federal government! These partners worked to come up with locations and leaders for trips that would be similar to the ones advertised for the 2013 Festival. These new locations would all have to be off federal lands and would be held without federal staff, federal vehicles and federal equipment. By Wednesday October 16th, a list of non-federal government locations and trip options was nearly ready. All that remained was contacting trip leaders to confirm the alternative locations and then contacting hundreds of participants to prepare them for location and trip changes. Just as Wings Over Water leaders and participants have done year after year, I am sure they would have all risen to the occasion for what would have been a uniquely different wildlife festival. While Congress may have shut down the government, we all knew that Congress didn't shut down the birds, bears and other wildlife on the Outer Banks.



At nearly midnight October 16, Congress voted to start the government back up. The 2013 Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival was back on track to with all of the original scheduled trips and locations!

If you hadn't already heard, October 22nd came and the 2013 Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival began as scheduled. Hundreds of participants arrived. Trip leaders were on the Outer Banks and other locations ready to begin their programs. Birds and wildlife were seen on Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Pettigrew State Park, Portsmouth Island, Ocracoke Island, Hatteras

Island, Bodie Island and Pea Island and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuges, just to name a few locations. Over 200 species of birds, dozens of reptiles, mammals, amphibians and even butterflies were also part of the Festival! Once again in spite of one kind of disaster or another, Wings Over Water was a big success! (Contributed by Steve Brumfield)

DATES SET FOR WOW 2014

Mark your 2014 calendars for Tuesday October 21st through Sunday the 26th for the 18th annual Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival.

On-line registration for the 2014 WOW will open in mid-April.

Wings Over Water Update

It Takes a Village to Put on WOW – A Volunteer's Perspective – Bob Glennon



I've been helping with the Wings over Water (WOW) Festival for 14 years and have always been amazed that so many trip leaders come forth to help out. As I've gotten more involved with the 'back story,' I'm even more impressed with the amount of work that goes on before the Festival, the efforts behind the scenes, the coordination, and then the adaptive management as things go wrong during the 100 events.

This year was especially challenging. The Fish and Wildlife Service staff was prohibited from coming to work or even working from home on their own computers or cell phones for the 16 days of the Federal government shutdown before WOW until the Thursday before the Festival. The visitor centers were closed, so the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society staff couldn't work in the buildings. Those staff members, Susie Kowlok, Tracey Rock, and Steve Brumfield, were permitted to work from homes as long as they did not work

on refuge activities or projects. A part of Steve's job is to handle registration and coordination for Wings Over Water. Susie and Tracey provide logistical support for the event. So, Steve was the person handling reservations and answering emails and phone calls from anxious registrants.

Overall, there was much behind-the-scenes work. I was involved with a small cadre of individuals including Visitor Services Specialist Cindy Heffley, interns Kate Hankins, Sarah Giles, and Kathryn Wesson, and resident volunteers George and Lauren Radecky in conducting 17 programs over 6 days. George and Lauren, local volunteers, and the interns also staffed the hospitality table at the Pea Island Visitor Center whenever they were not scheduled for other duties.

On the Monday before the Festival, we moved all of the vehicles involved in the event from the refuges to the Gateway Visitor Center in Manteo. Two of the vehicles on which we were depending would not start, and we had to scramble to find replacements. That pursuit took George and me to the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge to get its van. The interns mowed the grass at Pea Island that had not been mowed for three weeks and helped to clean the Pea Island Visitor Center. I cleared the trail at the Gateway Visitor Center that was littered with fallen branches after the 16-day shutdown.

On Tuesday, we re-arranged the Gateway Visitor Center classroom from a preschool program setup to a layout for the Festival's art and photography classes. George and Lauren staffed the hospitality table at Pea Island. Cindy and I prepared the Alligator River canoe trail for the Night Tours by hanging glow sticks and battery-powered lanterns along the route. Cindy led the Night Canoe Tour with intern Kate, and I led the Refuge at Night program with intern Sarah.

On Wednesday, Cindy and I led a Plant Hike at Pea Island in the morning and the Lost Colony Astronomy program at night. Interns Kate and Kathryn conducted the Red Wolf Howling and intern Sarah assisted with the Owl Prowl at night. On Thursday, Cindy and I conducted the Alligator River Tram Tour in the morning, I led the Refuge at Night program with intern Kate, and Cindy led the Lost Colony Astronomy program with intern Kathryn.

On Friday morning, we returned the Gateway classroom to the preschool program setup, Cindy led the preschool program, and we re-arranged the room for art and photography classes. Cindy and I led a Pea Island Van Tour in the afternoon and a Sunset and Stargazing Canoe Tour at night. Interns Kate and Sarah conducted another Red Wolf Howling and intern Kathryn assisted with another Owl Prowl at night.

A few of the programs that we had planned for did not have any registrants, and we had opportunities to stage vehicles for other tours and catch up on maintenance items such as replacing fuses in the vehicles that had been blown by running spotlights for night tours. There were even more players with important roles in this small sample of events, such as the maintenance staff that was repairing vehicles and the fire crew members who pulled a van out of the sand at Pea Island.

Volunteer Notes



Visitor Center and Education

by Volunteer Jackie Orsulak

"After frequently visiting the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge for 5 years I realized it was time to give back for all of the enjoyment I have garnered from my visits. It truly is my most favorite place to visit in the world. There are so many wonderful things to see and experience. The top of the list is black bears. Nowhere in the world can one see as many black bears, up close in the wild. The playful otters, wily alligators, myriad of beautiful birds and illusive bobcats are there to enthrall you. I have seen and enjoyed them all but still seek the endangered red wolf as he climbs back from the brink of extinction.

It is payback time for all of this wonderful entertainment. I now volunteer at the Gateway Visitor Center one morning a week to tell all of the visitors what this magical refuge has in store for them. It is a delight to see their eyes light up as they visit all of our enchanting exhibits and come to realize the magic that is here for them to experience for free at their leisure. The delight of the visitors is more pay than a volunteer could ever ask for."

Editor side note: Jackie's photography is being featured this quarter during the Photography Expo at the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center!

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Tracey Rock today (tracey_rock@fws.gov) to offer your services as a Refuge volunteer!



Visitor Center and Education

by Volunteer Ann Groves

"I work in the Gateway Visitors Center in Manteo, and the highlights are always interacting with the Visitors.. Folks from all over the world have visited the Center and they share their delight in the entire area of the Outer Banks. They can't say enough about the detail and beauty of the Visitor Center.

On a lighter note, if there's a goof to be done, I have done it! My latest escapade was locking myself out of the Center while unlocking the front doors and was rescued by Volunteer Beryl who came from her home to let me back in! My most infamous goof was New Year's Day of 2013 where I just "assumed" we were closed since it is a holiday and didn't go to the Center that day. I realized later that we don't close on New Year's Day. I probably will never live that down. I also had the privilege of doing some Turtle Watch shifts this year and hope to continue in the future. The biggest gift is mine to be able to have these experiences at this time of my life....Thanks."



Volunteer Photos



Turtle Volunteer Christine Pruitt shared these photos with us and commented:

There is a feeling of peace and tranquility there early in the morning and in the evening that makes you feel like nature has invited only you into its home for a visit.....only a visit. Then there is the excitement of a hatch!

You can really get a feel for the activity in the night sky...full moon, Venus, Saturn too last year, shooting stars, satellites. Then there is the activity on the ground with the dancing ghost crabs, "night owl" birds, and of course turtles."



Volunteer Shout-out!



Above and Beyond

As I mentioned during the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, we have so many enthusiastic volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty. For instance, many sign up to work in the Visitor Center and before they know it, they're walking down Main Street in an alligator costume! Hopefully, there's a parade going on. All kidding aside, you know who you are, and we want everyone else to know as well, so... we would like to do a feature article on a different volunteer in each issue of our newsletter.

Focus this issue is on Mr. Neal Moore

Neal has been a long-time volunteer at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. For Neal, it all began around 1995, when he, accompanied by his beautiful bride Pat, lead bird walks on Pea Island, rising early in the morning to meet the eager birders and bird enthusiasts at the Pea Island Visitor Center. Many days they had to brave the elements and biting insects to lead their eager followers around the North Pond trail to spot and identify as many birds as possible. They also led special bird walks for college groups and helped with International Migratory Bird Day. These bird walks continue today. Neal received the *Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2004. He and Pat received the *Take Pride in America* award in 2006.

In 2006 Neal was given special mention in a local newspaper article for his efforts in obtaining a Zeiss 85 FL Diascope w/zoom telescope, a donation for use on the refuge. He continues to collaborate with Zeiss to maintain this and other scopes that are in use daily at the Pea Island Visitor Center's bay window overlooking North pond. He and Pat can be found there most Fridays after their scheduled bird walk ready to assist folks in the use of the scopes and to identify what they see. According to Neal, "My greatest pleasure comes from sharing the refuge with the many visitors who come from all over the world."

Neal enjoys hanging out at the Pea Island Visitor Center and is constantly finding ways to make it better for all who work and visit there. His practical suggestions during the construction of the bay window addition resulted in a simple, but unplanned, narrow catwalk outside so that the window could be easily cleaned. He widened the bay window sills to accommodate their use for holding bird books, binoculars and checklists. For his fellow volunteers, he donated a larger microwave to be used in the gift shop break area. He installed a thermometer that displays the temperature indoors and out. Neal donated many other items such as a squeegee for washing the many windows at the visitor center, an extension hook for retrieving windswept items from the pond, and two rolling arm chairs for volunteer and visitor use. He has recently built a shelf to hold the collection of bird books used by all at the Pea Island Visitor Center. He is currently in the process of building Martin houses for the refuge as well. When will he ever stop!

Neal exemplifies the talented multifaceted volunteers who staff the Visitor Center at Pea Island. He may not realize how much he is appreciated by those who work with him so tell him the next time you see him. We look forward to having Neal around for as long as he is willing and able. Pea Island would not be as special a place without him.



Notes from Former Interns

Many interns have passed through the “doors” of the refuges over the past 20 or so years. Have you ever wondered what they are doing now or what their internship meant to them? Here are some of the thoughts we received recently. A private group page has been created on Facebook for former refuge interns. If you are a former refuge intern and would like to be included, please contact Cindy Heffley.



My name is Bryant Culbreth and I was an intern at Alligator River & Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges from May 2010 to November 2010. I enjoyed every minute of it, from living in a cabin at Buffalo City to being trapped on Pea Island during storms. This internship allowed me the opportunity to learn about various types of work in the wildlife/recreation field. Also, I got to work with people from all over

the United States, as well as locals. I fondly remember canoeing with alligators, trapping bears, sweeping the maintenance shop and teaching kids at local schools. My internship was required for graduation from UNC-Wilmington and it was a great stepping stone. Because of this experience, I was able to work at many other cool refuges and parks including: Mattamuskeet & Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuges, Yellowstone NP, Pettigrew State Park and Lyndon B. Johnson NHP. However, I have switched careers and now work at Domtar Pulp Mill in my hometown of Plymouth, NC. I no longer work at the beach, but visit often to fish from the piers.



My Pea Island/Alligator NWR internship with the USFWS in 2008 was by far the best! My time there has helped me become the woman I am today. The setting and people couldn't of been any better. My supervisor and fellow interns were amazing and the best of friends. I was always doing something new and exciting. On my first night I was able to help guide 80 newly hatched Green Sea Turtles to the water. I helped the biologist with sea turtle nest excavations and beach samples. I was interning just in time for Wildfest, Big Sit and Wings Over Water, that I was a part of and able to help organize. I learned amazing people and public speaking skills that have helped me in my current career. I'm a wife and a mother now and have been working at the Neuseway Nature Park in Kinston, NC for 3 years now as the Assistant Planetarium Director doing what I love. I teach science and environmental classes, give star shows and do nature tours for the young and old. I also started a bird club at the park called the Neuseway Bird Club. I am very thankful for my time spent interning on the beach!

Hollie Warren Hardison



I was an intern during the fall through winter of 2010-2011 and thoroughly enjoyed it. I assisted with outreach and educational programs, sea turtle nest and hatchling watch, waterfowl banding, bird counts, habitat assessments and monitoring, mortality surveys, and radio

telemetry. All of my experiences with the USFWS have solidified my interest in becoming a wildlife biologist. I am currently a wildlife biologist for a local consulting firm in Norfolk, VA where my expertise is in wetlands, migratory bird surveys, habitat assessments, marine species monitoring, NEPA, and wildlife monitoring as a whole.

Dana Spontak



More Notes from Former Interns



"I found this internship to be one of the most enriching jobs I've ever held. As a senior in college who is close to graduation, my goal was to learn more about wildlife in order to assess whether this was a type of job I would enjoy having in the future. I ended up learning more than I expected, and also gained a much greater appreciation for wildlife while having the

experience of a lifetime. Pea Island and Alligator River are both beautiful and unique refuges with a lot to offer, and I am so thankful that I had the chance to meet all of the wonderful staff and volunteers. Thank you for such an amazing opportunity!" Kathryn Wesson



My wildlife monitoring internship at Alligator River was extremely rewarding, and allowed me to be competitive as I work towards becoming a wildlife biologist. As an intern, I received tons of practical

experience with radio-tracking bears and red wolves, which allowed me to land a job as a technician radio-tracking endangered rattlesnakes! That job then made me qualified for a master's position studying eastern hognose snakes, and that is what I'm still doing today. As I finish up my MS, I'm now looking for PhD positions. Interning at the refuge was an important step that gave me the skills to be competitive in this increasingly tight job market. My experiences at the refuge, the friends I made, and the skills I learned have made me a better person and better biologist.

John Vanek



My internship at Pea Island is an experience that I will never forget. The internship helped me make a final decision on my career path while giving me a chance to explore and fall in love with the OBX. I initially signed up for the General Refuge Internship because I was interested in the biological portion of the internship. Banding sea birds, conducting bird surveys, and patrolling for turtle nests were all experiences that I enjoyed and will always remember. However, I was surprised to find that I enjoyed the interpretive part of the internship even more because I got to share my knowledge and passion to learn about biology. I just loved doing the canoe tours and sound side adventures when all of the wildlife decided to show up, because it gave me a chance to share all of my wildlife knowledge with the refuge visitors. From that point on I decided that I should be a biology teacher. Right now, I am a tutor for a college preparatory program called AVID. I am also working towards my Masters in Secondary Education. So far, I have had a chance to teach my own biology lab, work with students, talk to parents, and coach a softball team. And, I love every minute of it.

-Ashley Smith





The quarterly Art Expo began Friday December 13 at the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center on Roanoke Island. The Expo includes work from Robin York, Doug Pratt, Mary Ann Remer, Gordon Lewis, and Jackie Orsulak.



Doug Pratt



Ann Remer



Jackie Orsulak



Robin York

Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals. ...Dave Gynn, Coleman Professional Services, Ohio, USA



Gordon Lewis

Environmental Education and Outreach Programs Update

Visitor Services Specialist Cindy Heffley has been busy with the Preschool Young Naturalist Program each Friday morning. The children are going through the alphabet and learning about wildlife and nature. Some of the topics have included habitats, juniper, and nocturnal animals. They even had a chance to make walking sticks! No matter what the topic, the children always enjoy their brief time indoors followed by a hike on the trail. All are invited to join us for the program. If you don't have a preschool child in your life, you're welcome to come and help out. You'll be amazed at how much these knee-high naturalists find on the trail as they slowly walk with their magnifying lenses in hand. You're sure to have your curiosity piqued when they help you discover things you didn't realize were there!



What is the value of environmental education? The North American Association for Environmental Educators (NAAEE) recently posted a short video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFYDITr3Lws&feature=youtu.be>

When asked, "Why Do You Care?" students said:

"In the classroom you just sit at your desk learning about it...out here you actually get to go out and DO it!"

"I just love learning how everything is interconnected and how things just rely on one another. People rely on nature more than you think."

Environmental Education connects people and nature.

"I suddenly found myself being concerned about environmental things. I wasn't concerned about them until I came outside and participated."

Environmental education helps prepare students for the future. It gives them hands-on experiences which help them to understand the natural world. It empowers environmental stewards of all ages. It builds community as each student realizes that if they work together, they can accomplish much more than acting alone. They also become stronger when they realize that they are able to do more than they thought they could.

As the end of the video mentions: Environmental Education OPENS EYES, OPENS HEARTS, and OPENS DOORS!

Organizations interested in a guest speaker and 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. We have a wide range of topics available. Most programs include hands-on activities and many fun props to keep your group engaged.



Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society News

Help Support Your National Wildlife Refuges

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 refuge programs and activities, assist in the recruitment of refuge volunteers, and provide a voice for the members of the Society at a local, state, and national level.

The Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society exists to support the interpretive, educational, and volunteer programs of 11 National Wildlife Refuges. Your contribution makes it possible for us to provide this assistance. Thousands of potential refuge support dollars from gift shop sales, donations from visitors, and registration for the Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival were lost this past fall when the government shutdown for over 2 weeks.

The CWRS offers specific support for local K-12 schools by sending volunteers and staff to make educational presentations. We also provide transportation grants for students and teachers to visit the refuges. Membership fees and donations 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.

As a donor, you will receive a link to Wings, our quarterly digital newsletter. Wings, will keep you informed of our current programs, wildlife information, and volunteer opportunities

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. Your donation is tax deductible.

Follow 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, you may call us with your credit card information at 252-216-9464

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

Red Wolf Recovery Program Review

It's breeding season for the red wolves! Across the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan facilities, new pairs are being introduced and established. We're hoping for successful pairings and pups in the spring. Stay tuned!



Red Wolf Annual Health Exams at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Contributed by Dr. Becky Bartel, Assistant Coordinator Red Wolf Recovery Program

It's that time of year within the Red Wolf Recovery Program (RWRP) that the red wolves are examined during their annual health checks and given vaccinations at the various Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (RWSSP) facilities. Last month, I joined a group at the first (and largest) RWSSP site, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA) in Tacoma, Washington, to help with veterinary exams of the captive red wolves.

Together with veterinary staff from PDZA including Will Waddell (the RWSSP Coordinator), Dr. Karen Wolf (the RWSSP Veterinary Advisor), Dr. Katie Seeley, veterinarian intern, Mary, and staff from nearby RWSSP site Wolf Haven International (Tenino, WA), we headed out to Northwest Trek to meet longtime red wolf caretaker, Sue. Cool (and mostly dry) weather helped facilitate catching up animals within the pens, examining wolves, collecting blood samples, and administering vaccines. We were able to process around 30 animals over two days!

I also had the opportunity to explore PDZA itself and see the wonderfully expanded Red Wolf Woods and exhibit viewing area. I was really impressed by the Boeing Company Red Wolf Conservation Center, which included a recovery timeline featuring photos of many of the RWRP field staff. The exhibit is a great model of how we can continue to educate people about red wolf conservation, while giving folks an up-close view of a red wolf pack. For my first visit to PDZA, I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful experience.

Road to Recovery feature in the Red Wolf Conservation Center at PDZA.

If you look closely, you can see Biologist Michael Morse's image captured in the exhibit! He has been with the program since its inception!



Red Wolf Recovery Program Seeks Your Help

From a news release dated November 20, 2013

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting assistance with an investigation involving the suspected illegal take of a fifth red wolf in the last month. In the latest death, the federally protected wolf's body was recovered from private property north of the town of Creswell, in Washington County, North Carolina, on Monday, November 18, 2013. The red wolf's body had an apparent gunshot wound.

Anyone with information that directly leads to an arrest, a criminal conviction, a civil penalty assessment, or forfeiture of property on the subject or subjects responsible for the suspected unlawful take of a red wolf may be eligible for a reward.

Pledged contributions from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Red Wolf Coalition, Humane Society of the United States, and the Center for Biological Diversity have increased the reward amount for information on the suspected illegal take of the five radio-collared red wolves that were found dead in the last month in Washington and Tyrrell counties, North Carolina. A person providing essential information that directly leads to an arrest, a criminal conviction, on the subject or subjects responsible for the suspected unlawful take of one of these red wolves may be eligible for a combined reward of up to \$26,000. Individual organizations pledging contributions will determine eligibility for payment of any reward.

A total of 13 red wolves have died since January 1, 2013. Of those 13, three were struck and killed by vehicles, one died as a result of non-management related actions, one was undetermined but appears to be the result of suspected illegal take, and eight were confirmed or suspected gunshot deaths.

The red wolf is protected under The Endangered Species Act. The maximum criminal penalties for the unlawful taking of a red wolf are one year imprisonment and \$100,000 fine per individual. Anyone with information on the death of this red wolf or any others, past or future, is urged to contact Resident Agent in Charge John Elofson at (404) 763-7959, Refuge Officer Frank Simms at (252) 216-7504, or North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Officer Robert Wayne at (252) 216-8225.

Red Wolf:



Coyote:



This photo shows the similarities between the Red Wolf and Coyote. Many people confuse the two species which creates a deadly problem for the Red Wolf due to North Carolina's rule which allows taking (killing) of coyotes.

In December, Dr. David Rabon, coordinator of the Red Wolf Recovery Program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was interviewed by WFAE, an NPR station in Charlotte. The interview can be accessed at this website:

<http://wfae.org/post/nc-red-wolves-face-survival-threats#.UqduFT8S4mM.facebook>

Refuge Staff News

Refuge Staff Transition:

On July 28, Kelley Van Druten was laterally reassigned at Alligator River NWR from the District Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Specialist to the new position of Wildlife Refuge Specialist in the manager series. Kelley has been with the Fire Program since December 2001 when she moved here from Texas. She will gradually be transitioning from her fire duties over the next year to whatever Managers Scott and Mike assign. Kelley said, "I'm excited to move into a new area of the Fish & Wildlife Service while still being able to remain here at Alligator River."

Bert Plante, the District Prescribed Fire Specialist, was officially hired as the new District Fire Management Officer (DFMO) in late September. This position has been vacant since Tom Crews retired in December 2012, so the refuge is happy to have a competent employee in this position. Bert retired from the New Jersey Forest Service and moved to the refuge in November 2011. He has been Acting in the DFMO position since early this summer.

The refuge will not be able to fill behind the WUI Specialist or Prescribed Fire Specialist positions, but it is happy to have these two employees staying on in their new roles.



What is a Natural Resource Planner?

I work with staff on National Wildlife Refuges in Area III of Region IV to figure out what they want and need to accomplish for the trust resources on their Refuges and then take that information and make it into a plan of action. It may be to expand their boundaries, which would be a land protection plan, or how they want to manage their refuges, which would be a comprehensive conservation plan, or how they will manage the habitats on the refuges, which would be a habitat management plan. Each type of plan has certain information that has to be included and certain requirements and laws that have to be adhered to. I act as a facilitator, guide, writer, editor, advisor - whatever sites need to help them articulate their vision and develop a plan to reach that vision.

In today's National Wildlife Refuge System, refuges are required to have a plan for every program area. It can be a tedious task, but it does help to be deliberate about what realistically needs to get done and how it can be done. Also, with tight budgets and streamlined personnel, it helps to establish priorities and to be able to communicate those to refuge system leaders and our friends and partners.

I really like my job because I get to see what goes on in each program and try to assist the truly dedicated employees of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Pam Wingrove



Bruce Creef Retires!!

After over 42 years of government service (4 years with US Coast Guard and 38+ with USFWS), Bruce's last day was January 3, 2014. Needless to say, Bruce will be missed on these refuges. But, the good news is that he's not going anywhere! Bruce has already signed up as a Refuge Volunteer and plans to continue doing the "parts of his job that he LOVES..." which we assume will be most of it, with the exception of the paperwork! In addition to his refuge volunteer work, he will continue his "granddaddy" role (pictured with two of his granddaughters above), his hunting activities, and hanging with his awesome family - most of whom are nearby.

Bruce- We're happy you kept the same phone number! :-)

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
www.fws.gov/alligatorriver

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

USFWS North Carolina




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 (January-March 2014)

[Pea Island Refuge Programs](#)

Free Programs-No reservations required:

Guided bird walks Fridays from January through April 8 AM (Meet at the Visitor Center.)

[Alligator River Refuge Programs](#)

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

Alligator River Refuge Tram Tours January 11, February 8, and March 8

9:00 AM—Noon; \$7 per person/12 and under Free (Meet at the Creef Cut Trail Parking Lot.)

[National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center Preschool Junior Naturalist Program \(FREE\)](#)

Fridays Year-round 10-11 AM Contact Cindy at 252-475-4180 for more information

2014 is the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge! We will celebrate the anniversary during our March Tram Tour. Check our website and the Friends of Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges Facebook page for upcoming activities to be listed soon.

There will be new programs available in the summer of 2014. Stay tuned for more information!