



Safe Water

A Mom's Quest for Safe Fun On Our Waterways

By Heather Deck

I have always enjoyed swimming in lakes, rivers and streams and have done so since my youth during our annual family camping trips. Now, I love to see the joy on my children's faces as they do the same. As a mother, you want your children to be happy, experience new things, and enjoy the outdoors. If you're like me, you also worry about their safety and health - that's where the power of information can come in handy. As your Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper, every summer I am asked, "would you let your kids swim in the river today?" The answer can be yes and no, depending on a number of factors.

Thousands like me enjoy the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rivers in the same way each summer. Not a spring and summer weekend day goes by when we don't see hundreds out on the water tubing, skiing, swimming, sailing, paddling, and even diving. Water sports are just some of the many benefits a river provides. The river offers us a place for recreation, relaxation, and a way to cool down during our steamy North Carolina summers.

As a child, it never crossed my mind to be concerned about the quality of the water I was swimming in and whether or not it was safe to do so. As a mother and a Riverkeeper, that is something I am aware of and I look to certain resources and guidelines to make sure our family has a fun and safe day on the water.

Swimming in the Neuse and Tar-Pam, Is it Safe?

The information we have currently leads us to believe that it is safe to swim in the rivers the majority of the time. There are definitely instances, however, when one should not risk swimming in the river or its creeks,

including when swim advisories are issued for harmful algal blooms or bacteria.

The rivers continue to suffer from nutrient pollution that at times, especially during the summer months of June-September, lead to algal blooms and fish kills. During such events, it is strongly advised that contact with the water be avoided.

It is rare, but there are times in the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers when a harmful algal bloom (HAB) has been present. A HAB may release a toxin that could impair your health or that of your children or pets. Most algal blooms are not toxic, but since water testing is irregular, Sound Rivers and health professionals recommend that people avoid primary contact with waters where an algal bloom is present. Once a HAB is detected, a swim advisory may be issued by the state. However, conditions can change so rapidly on our coastal rivers (within 12 hours even) that it is important to avoid waters where you suspect an algal bloom may be occurring.

Continued on P. 2



Greetings from Leadership



New Beginnings

by Harrison Marks

Four years ago I was pleased to join Sound Rivers' predecessor organization, the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, following a long career in banking. My undergraduate focus was a cobbled together program resembling today's environmental science programs, and finding an opportunity to contribute business skills to protecting our natural resources was a real joy. It was a great example of finding a new beginning marked by joy and adventure.

A little over two years ago, the Neuse River and the Pamlico-Tar River Foundations created a new beginning by joining together to better address the challenges facing our rivers and the Pamlico Sound. Combining the two organizations into Sound Rivers has enabled us to respond as a team to cover acute, catastrophic issues like pollution caused from Hurricane Matthew flooding and to continue our pressure on concentrated animal feeding operations throughout the region. We share the expertise of individual Riverkeepers and other staff throughout the region.

Now we mark two new beginnings. Katy Langley will be joining Sound Rivers as the new Lower Neuse RIVERKEEPER®. We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Katy's passion for the environment and solid training join the organization in this critical role. Elsewhere in this issue of Currents you will find a short biographical sketch of her credentials as well as a wonderful farewell from Travis Graves, the former Lower Neuse Riverkeeper.

The other new beginning is marked by my impending retirement later this year. My wife, Suzie, and I are looking forward to a new adventure that will begin with a year on our boat, a lifelong dream of ours. The search for my replacement is well underway and I have no doubt the Sound Rivers' Board will select a new Executive Director who will take the organization to new heights and new beginnings.

My brief time at Sound Rivers has been richly rewarding because of you, the members, volunteers and donors who are committed to clean water and healthy ecosystems throughout the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico region. Thank you for the privilege of being here!

Safe Water

Continued from Page 1

The Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rivers host a wide array of different types of algae. During certain conditions (heat, nutrients and calm waters) algae will multiply (bloom) causing waters to be discolored and even at times green or blue (from the algae known as blue-greens.) The Chowan River is already exhibiting signs of algal blooms this year. We may expect to see similar blooms in the Pamlico and Neuse estuaries this summer.

In addition to algal blooms, bacterial contamination is another top concern regarding public health and safety while swimming or engaging in other recreation that leads to contact with the water. There are locations that are more likely to have bacterial contamination issues, especially during and after rainstorms. The most recent large storm event for our area, on April 26th, showed large increases in bacterial counts in sampled waters. Within one week, the bacteria numbers returned to safe levels. Urban areas have numerous pipes that drain the streets, parking lots, businesses, etc. In addition, urban areas house more pets that can also result in higher bacteria counts in stormwater runoff. Sewer spills are most likely to occur during heavy rains. If a sewer spill does occur, utility officials are required to notify the public within 48 hours.

Climate change is making heavy intense downpours, droughts and rising water temperatures more common. This can alter the quality of our recreational water. Bacteria and viruses thrive in these new conditions and when they come into contact with humans and pets, can cause numerous illnesses.

Monitored Waters

The Division of Environmental Health does routinely monitor swim beaches in the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers. The swim beach at Goose Creek State Park is one example. However, these waters are not sampled every day, but only once every two weeks. If bacteria levels are found to be high, then the state would issue a swim advisory. The waters upstream of Washington and New Bern are not regularly monitored for bacteria pollution. To find out if the state monitors your favorite swim beach, go to: www.theswimguide.org.

Continued on P. 4

Research Spotlight

The Invisible World of the Estuaries

By Deborah Lichti

I am an estuarine ecologist who studies the zooplankton and larval fish, and a PhD student at East Carolina University. I have been working for two years with Sound Rivers' wonderful staff collecting samples for my research. We received a grant in 2015 from the NC Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses program to study the microscopic world, invisible to the naked eye, that is the foundation of healthy fisheries in the Tar-Pamlico and Chowan Rivers. Specifically, we study how the environment influences the food sources of larval (baby) fish, especially Eastern North Carolina's treasured river herring (Blueback herring and Alewife). Our goal is to determine if the larval fish are receiving a well-balanced and healthy diet rather than an unbalanced diet. Larval fish are just like us, meaning they need a well-balanced diet to grow into healthy adults.

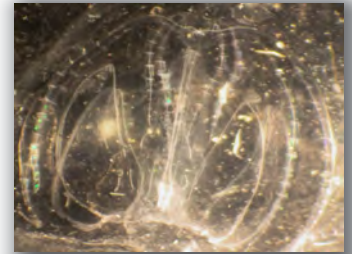
During spawning season (March-May), we spent a day on both rivers each week, enjoying the beautiful landscape and observing the diverse wildlife including bald eagles, osprey, turtles, water snakes, and a river otter. As we brought in the larval fish net, we were excited to see what we found. We caught larval river herring at all of the sites on Chowan River and the beloved Blounts and Tranters Creeks in 2016, and again in Tranters Creek this year. We also collected larval fish on Blounts Creek, but identifying the larval fish species is tricky without further investigation under the microscope. We found that the easiest larval fish to identify were gar.



Author and researcher, Deborah Lichti, setting a push net to collect larval fish

While the fish are the charismatic players in the system, the zooplankton are an essential food source for the larval fish. At the same time we collected larval fish, we also collected zooplankton. It is an exciting investigation each time because I cannot tell who is there without a microscope. Copepods and cladoceran were the main zooplankton groups in our samples.

Despite their microscopic size, cladoceran come in different shapes and sizes. The most interesting are the *Holopedium* and *Leptodora*. *Holopedium* lives in a gelatinous bubble to protect itself from predators. *Leptodora* is a predatory zooplankton that consumes



Ctenophores under the microscope

smaller zooplankton, and even has been seen to consume smaller sized larval fish. We also collected comb jellies (ctenophores) at our site on the Pantego River near Belhaven. During 2016, we saw them only on the last couple of trips, but this year, the jellies were present in large quantities each time we collected larval fish and zooplankton. The comb jelly cilia, which are small hairs used for swimming, resides in the comb structure and produces a rainbow effect when light is shown on it at different angles. Our rivers are teeming with life that we can see, but there is so much more to discover when you look into a microscope.

Upcoming Events

Visit soundrivers.org for more info

Sunday, July 2, 2017 - Independence Day Block Party
Raleigh, NC

Sunday, August 6, 2017 - Loose on the Neuse
Anderson Pt Park, Raleigh, NC

Saturday, October 14, 2017 - Kids Riverfest
10am - 2pm - River Park North, Greenville, NC

Saturday, November 11, 2017 - 32nd Annual Oyster Roast
6pm - Washington, NC

Advocacy Updates

Proposed Industrial Discharge to Upper Tar River

It's been a year since your Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper announced that Novozymes North America, an industrial corporation located in Franklin County, had applied for permits for a new wastewater discharge to the Tar River at Louisburg. The proposed discharge pipe is located within ¼ mile of the Town of Louisburg's existing municipal wastewater discharge.

As noted on their website, "Novozymes produces a wide range of industrial enzymes and microorganisms," for uses in food production, including agricultural production. Recently, Novozymes created an alliance with Monsanto (BioAg alliance) for the production of microbial based products to boost crop production.

Currently, Novozymes sends 500,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater to the Franklin County municipal wastewater plant for final treatment before being discharged to Cedar Creek. In the past, Novozymes also land-applied its wastewater in fields bordering their Franklinton facility. This land application has resulted in pollution of the area's groundwater, including several adjacent property owner wells (the company then paid for an alternative water supply). Novozymes has been required by the State of NC to develop a corrective action plan to clean up the contaminated groundwater.

The wastewater from Novozymes is high in nitrogen and also salts (sodium and potassium). Nitrogen is a priority pollutant of concern for the Tar River. Even after two decades of management efforts, excessive nitrogen pollution degrades the quality of the river and its estuary. Salts have an impact on freshwater mussels and levels in Novozymes wastewater could be toxic to them. The Tar River downstream of the proposed discharge is home to numerous endangered and threatened aquatic species, including the yellow lance mussel which the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recently proposed to be listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Sound Rivers supports the FWS on the proposed listing of this endangered mussel.

Novozymes is seeking the permit in order to expand current plant production to 2 million gallons per day of wastewater discharge. Sound Rivers staff have closely monitored Novozymes permitting process, conducted file reviews, researched the company's compliance track record, connected with aquatic species experts and submitted public comments to federal

funding agencies and state permit agencies. Recently, Sound Rivers and the Southern Environmental Law Center submitted a letter to Novozymes, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Town of Louisburg urging them to seek a regional solution that does not include new wastewater discharge to a sensitive area of the Tar River.

If you live or recreate on the Tar River in Franklin County, our Riverkeeper wants to hear from you! Please email pamtarrk@soundrivers.org.

Safe Water

Continued from P. 2

Enjoy the Water

Generally speaking, the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rivers and their tributaries are safe for recreational use. However, there are times that avoiding the water is warranted, when the risk of exposure to bacteria and other pollution greatly increases.

Sound Rivers will continue working with numerous state and federal partners to address this region's needs for improved monitoring, awareness, and coordination necessary to maintain swimmable waters. As your Riverkeeper, but also as a mom, I will monitor the water before I jump in. But you better believe my children and I will be jumping in on a 100-degree day! Having a refuge from the summer's heat is a right all citizens should be able to enjoy.

Safe Swimming Guidelines: When to skip the Water and Wait for a Better Day

- You notice an active fish kill, or remnants of fish kill;
- An Algal bloom that is visible (water looks green);
- Swimming advisories are issued by the state or local government;
- You have an open wound. Best to wait until it heals;
- A significant (½ inch or more) rainstorm after periods of dry weather, for first 2-3 days;
- Flooding or high water. Heavy rains and flooding can typically lead to sewer overflows and urban areas are especially susceptible to this. (Not to mention high flows are really dangerous!)
- If you come into contact with an algal bloom, wash thoroughly. Do the same for your pets with clean water. (It's always a good idea to rinse off with clean water after coming out of the river.)
- If your child or family member appears ill after being in waters with an algal bloom, seek medical care immediately. (Remember, this is a very rare occurrence)
- If your pet appears to stumble, stagger or collapse after being in natural waterbodies, seek veterinary care immediately.

Advocacy Updates

Legislative Update

The NC Legislature is currently undergoing budget negotiations. Most notably, the Senate budget proposed very large program and personnel cuts to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), adding up to a 10% reduction in the Department's overall budget (a \$7 million cut). Thankfully, the House budget provides some relief to DEQ and does not include most of the Senate's massive cuts. As of publication time, the two chambers were working to reconcile the two different budget packages. It is likely some of the bad provisions from the Senate will remain in the final budget package.

Garbage Juice?!

Imagine blowing the liquid contents of a landfill through a snow blower. According to Rep. Jimmy Dixon (NC House District 4), doing just that will remove all of the pollution from the "landfill juice." House Bill H576 would allow the spraying of landfill wastewater and fluids into the air without a permit. This process is NOT supported by any science and appears to be a handout to the person who developed this technology. As noted in our May 11th Fishing for Facts blog post, toxicologist experts weighed in on H576 and noted "I wouldn't want to be anywhere near a leachate aeration basin. The downwind emissions would very likely contain a very wide range of toxic materials". This bill passed the House in early June, then it moved to the Senate for consideration.

Crime waves along rivers, lakes and streams?

And for that scratch your head moment of the month, House Bill 56 contains a provision that will allow for the cutting of riparian trees and vegetation along rivers, lakes and streams in publicly owned spaces when, "the head of the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over that area determines that the buffers pose a risk to public safety." When asked in committee whether or not there is actually a crime wave happening amongst the trees, Senator Andy Wells (R-Catawba County) said he hadn't seen any data on this.

Harmful legislation passed by NC Legislature recently includes H467, limiting the damages which can be recovered in a civil lawsuit brought by those who live near industrial agricultural facilities. H467 was vetoed by Governor Cooper, however the House voted to override the veto. Senate Bill 131 was signed by Governor Cooper in May; section 3.13 of this bill will allow 300 feet of any stream and river to

CURRENTS SUMMER 2017

be damaged without consequence (an increase from current law). This bill will lead to increased downstream flooding for communities that have already been really hard hit over the past six months.

For more, follow our Fishing for Facts blog, a bi-weekly roundup of current attacks on America's and North Carolina's clean water protections, at soundrivers.org/fishingforfacts. Remember, if you talk to your NC Legislator or Member of Congress about clean water, we want to hear about it! Send us an email at info@soundrivers.org and let us know!

Blounts Creek and the Waiting Game

Sound Rivers and partners began the challenge of a wastewater discharge permit to Martin Marietta Materials in 2013. In order to develop a 649-acre open pit limestone mine outside of Vanceboro, Beaufort County, N.C., Martin Marietta plans to pump up to 12 million gallons per day of ground and mining wastewater into Blounts Creek headwaters, a popular fishing destination and tributary to the Pamlico River. The discharge will transform the swampy, high quality headwater habitat into a stream unlike anything found in coastal North Carolina, consisting primarily of the mine discharge water, permanently altering the creek's diversity of life and abundance of high quality habitat for fish.

As was noted in our Spring newsletter, Sound Rivers was waiting to hear which Carteret County Superior Court judge would be assigned to hear this case after Judge Douglas Parsons recused himself. The new judge is Josh Willey, of New Bern. Due to the judge change, the hearing date has been pushed back to the week of October 12th.



Boat on Blounts Creek at Sunset.
Photo by Bob Daw

We are now closing in on four years on this legal journey to protect Blounts Creek. Thank you to all our members and supporters for staying strong and maintaining your commitment to "Save Blounts Creek"!

Check for updates on the fight to Save Blounts Creek at soundrivers.org or [facebook.com/soundriversnc](https://www.facebook.com/soundriversnc).

Member Minute

Why I Give, with Karen Polk

By Corinne Everett Belch



Karen Polk has been a sustaining supporter of Sound Rivers for years. She first became aware of our mission when her son Sam learned about the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation in his studies at Exploris Middle School. At the time, Karen was going through the process to become a Certified

Environmental Educator (she is now an outreach educator for the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh) and was beginning to deepen her interest in water issues and clean water.

Karen had been thinking about the importance of clean water for a while, though – as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo in the 1980s, she got her water from a town tap a 5-10 minute walk from the house she was staying in. She says of that time, “Two girls from the family I lodged with were responsible for bringing water each day to fill up the barrel in the compound. I still had to boil and filter the water before drinking or cooking with it. Watching those girls carry water every day, trying to carry it myself (they were stronger than I was), it just made me think about water differently.” Karen came to North Carolina in 1993 by way of California, and has memories of the persistent droughts and daily water conservation efforts like flushing toilets with used shower water.

When I asked Karen about her first gift to Sound Rivers, Karen replied, “I was motivated to give because I think most people just aren't aware of the many challenges to keeping our water healthy now and for future generations. Most people have no clue where their water comes from or where it goes once it goes down the drain. If I can help Sound Rivers to educate people and to speak up on behalf of all these people who should care, and would care if only they knew more about the issues, then it's money well spent. I also love that Sound Rivers works with kids to both educate them about water issues and to get them on the water so that they can grow to love the rivers and the life they sustain.”

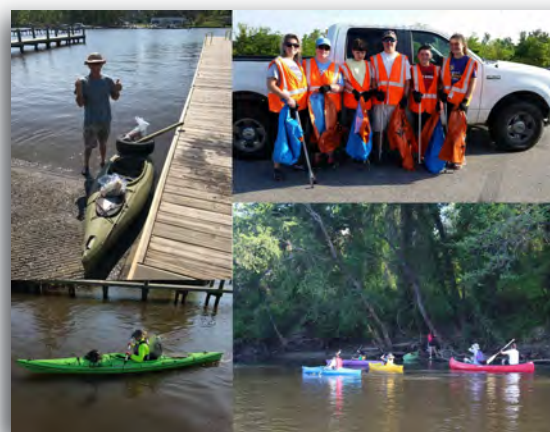
Earth Day River Cleanups A Success!



Earth Day River Cleanups in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds on April 22nd were a success! On the Tar-Pamlico there were 150 total volunteers in 4 communities and an estimate of over 3,000

pounds of trash removed from the rivers, creeks and their banks. In Washington, Arts on the Pamlico assisted with cleanups and artists will be using the trash, turning river trash into works of art.

In New Bern and Pollocksville approximately 40 volunteers enjoyed the beautiful weather while removing trash on and around the Neuse and Trent Rivers. Thank you to everyone who came out for Earth Day Cleanups!



Why I Give

Continued from above

Karen continued, “By giving to Sound Rivers I am supporting a cause that I believe is going to be the most important factor for species survival: access to clean water and preservation of the rivers, sounds, and estuarine ecosystems, our natural and underappreciated water filtration and recycling systems.”

Thank you, Karen, for your monthly support – and thanks to everyone who gives to support our mission!

Riffles & Runs

Volunteer Spotlight: Cornelia McGee-Anthony

Cornelia McGee-Anthony has been a dedicated volunteer for Sound Rivers in Nash and Edgecombe Counties for 7 years, connecting Keep America Beautiful volunteers with cleanup opportunities through Sound Rivers. She has a longstanding personal commitment to public service and support of



education that has led her to dedicate her time to many worthy organizations, including, but not limited to, the City of Rocky Mount Tree Power Advisory Board, the Tarboro in Bloom Committee, Communities in Schools and the Rocky Mount Salvation Army Red Kettle Program, in addition to her work with Keep America Beautiful/Sound Rivers.

Eastern North Carolina's Waterways are incredibly important to Cornelia, a native of North Carolina who hails originally from Roanoke Rapids and graduated from UNC Chapel Hill and ECU. Cornelia said that volunteering with Keep America Beautiful and Sound Rivers has provided an opportunity for her to contribute to the Twin Counties (Nash County and Edgecombe County), ensuring her community is a better place to live, conduct business, and raise a family. Cornelia explained that relaxing and enjoying the region's clean and beautiful natural waterways is an important aspect of the community's livability. Area rivers and streams offer us recreational and educational opportunities, not to mention drinking water. It is important we care for them, for current and future generations.

Cornelia has one son, Jaden Anthony, who is a rising 9th grader at Nash-Rocky Mount Early College High School. They reside in Rocky Mount, NC. Thank you, Cornelia, for your dedication to clean water in North Carolina, and for all you do for your community!

Celebrating Dedicated Volunteers



Andy Anderson Receives A Volunteer of the Year Award from Matt Butler and Heather Deck

Sound Rivers presented nine awards at our Annual Meeting on April 19th. Three long-time volunteers were recognized as Volunteers of the Year for 2016: Andy Anderson (Pamlico-Tar), Paul Michell (Upper Neuse) and Bill Hines (Lower Neuse.) Two local businesses, Neuse River Brewing Company (Raleigh) and Knee Deep Adventures (Greenville), were awarded the River Friendly Business Award for 2016. We also awarded two Public Official Conservation Awards for 2016, to Beaufort County Commissioner Ron Buzzeo and North Carolina Senator Angela Bryant. The Blue Heron Awards, recognizing longtime dedication to Sound Rivers, went to Jim and Sherrie Starr and Leslie Kellenberger.

Sound Rivers could not protect the Neuse and Pamlico watersheds without the support of volunteers, businesses and public officials. Everything you do makes our work possible, so thank you - not only to our award recipients, but to everyone who contributes to preserving the beauty of our rivers!

Interested in volunteering?

We need Water Trail Stewards, Oyster Roast Committee Members, Kids River Fest Volunteers, Oyster Roast Volunteers, Envelope-stuffing volunteers and more! Find out more - email volunteer@soundrivers.org!

Riffles & Runs

Welcome New Lower Neuse Riverkeeper!



Katy Langley has recently accepted the position of Lower Neuse Riverkeeper with Sound Rivers. She will be based in our New Bern office and will begin work on June 26th!

Katy earned her B.S. in Earth and Environmental Science from the University of New Orleans in 2013. She did undergraduate

research on Lake Pontchartrain, working closely with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, an advocacy organization for the Lake. She was a National Resource Management Intern at the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve where she received federal certification as a motor boat operator and helped National Geographic lead its citizen science event.

While working for Kleinschmidt Associates as an Environmental Science Technician in Columbia, SC, Katy volunteered with the Congaree Riverkeeper, and was highly regarded for her volunteer work there. Katy moved to New Bern in August 2016 and lives just two blocks from the Neuse River in the historic Riverside district. She is an avid paddler and loves hiking and camping with her dog.

You can get in touch with Katy via email at lowerneuserk@soundrivers.org or by phone at 252-637-7972 after she starts on June 26th. Welcome Katy!

**Sound Rivers would like to thank the
Z.Smith Reynolds Foundation and the
Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family
Foundation for their continued support of
Sound Rivers and our mission to protect
the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rivers**

A Lower Neuse Riverkeeper Says Goodbye



In May we said goodbye to our Lower Neuse Riverkeeper, Travis Graves. We will truly miss working with Travis, and he has left some big shoes to fill! Travis said this in a blog post about his departure:

"After long debate, and with no small amount of heartache, my family and I have decided to embark on the next chapter of this adventure that is our lives. I began working with this organization in March of 2014, focused primarily on swine CAFOs as an unpaid intern, and I really had no expectations other than the opportunity to get my hands dirty and, if I was lucky and I worked hard, find gainful employment. Little did I know, I had stumbled into one of the most important opportunities of my life. On June 16, 2014, I was hired as your Riverkeeper, and it changed my life forever.

I will always reflect on my years as your Lower Neuse Riverkeeper with reverence and pride, but also with a bit of regret – regret that there is, and seemingly will always be, more work to do in defense of clean water. It has been my privilege to serve the communities of the Lower Neuse basin and to be a voice for our river as we have stood up against polluters with sound science and the idea that swimmable, fishable, drinkable water is a human right, and that right supersedes any profit motive. Because, without our most precious resource, everything else is irrelevant.

Although my time here is ending, I have the utmost confidence that Sound Rivers will continue to build on the more than 30 year tradition of science-based advocacy that has grown to become the voice for nearly a quarter of our state, and that the Riverkeeper chosen to take my place will carry that longstanding tradition on for many years to come. There isn't enough space or time to thank everyone that deserves thanking, so let me put it this way; If you are reading this, then you already have some connection to our water, and that connection is what I am truly thankful for.

Keep up the good fight, and thank you for supporting Sound Rivers!" ~ Travis Graves

On The Water

Water Trail Platforms Open for Summer!



The Tar-Pamlico Water Trail has riverside camping platforms available for reservation this summer! The platforms were unavailable for several months while dedicated volunteers helped us get them back into shape after historic storms and flooding in 2016. Now, most are open and ready for you to enjoy! For more information or to book your stay, visit tarpamlicowatertrail.org!

Sound Rivers to Begin New Grant Project

Earlier this year, Sound Rivers partnered with several organizations on an application for North Carolina 205(j) Water Quality Management Planning Grants. We worked with the Mideast Commission Council of Governments, NC State University, Pitt Community College, Beaufort Community College, and Beaufort County Schools to plan for stormwater management.

Sound Rivers and project partners will complete stormwater assessments on the campuses of Pitt and Beaufort Community Colleges and on two public school campuses in Beaufort County. The project will identify areas that can benefit from stormwater runoff treatment before entering our waterways. We are extremely excited to continue this important stormwater work with existing and new partners. Work will begin this summer and be completed by the end of the year.

The 205(j) Grant is funded through the Clean Water Act and administered by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources.

In The Community

Field Day with Wellcome Middle School

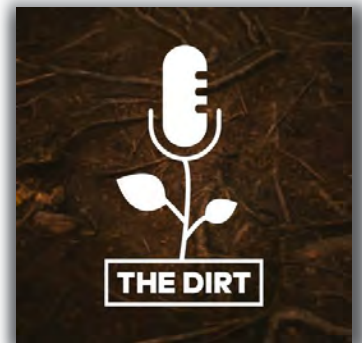
In May, Heather Deck, Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper and Travis Graves, former Lower Neuse Riverkeeper, spent an amazing day hosting a field trip for 7th graders from Wellcome Middle school in Pitt County. Staff and volunteers from Sound Rivers, A Time for Science, Knee Deep Adventures and River Park North all pitched in to help get more than 100 kids out on the water (many for the first time), fishing and exploring nature. What a fun time!



Sound Rivers Featured on "The Dirt"

Sound Rivers is featured on a new podcast! Episode 1 of The Dirt features Pastor Sylvester Williams and Chandra Taylor of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) relaying the story of the East End community in Durham, North Carolina. A neighborhood comprised mostly of elderly people of

color is seeking justice as construction of a new highway tears up the community and threatens longtime residents with displacement and pollution. Host Brian Powell also speaks with the NC Environmental Justice Network's Elsie Herring and Waterkeeper Alliance's Will Hendrick about the impact industrial hog operations have on communities in eastern NC. This episode also features a panel of policy experts from NC Sierra Club, SELC, and Sound Rivers discussing the latest environmental news out of the NC state legislature.



Get the link to the podcast at soundrivers.org/thedirt

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2017 Enforcement Report (January-May)

- 15 Pollution Investigations
- 8 Enforcement referrals
- 153 Water Samples
- 21 Educational and outreach presentations
- 34 Advocacy Meetings
- 42 Print and TV media stories



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