

NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL RESERVE AND NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE



... Protecting over 41,000 acres of coastal habitat for research, education, and stewardship

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Measured water quality and weather at the Masonboro and Zeke's Islands components for the fourteenth year as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve's System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP).
- ❖ Published *A Comprehensive Site Profile for the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve*, a 167-page document highlighting component research, management issues, and research needs.
- ❖ Led 432 students on school-sponsored field trips at the Rachel Carson component. Taught 81 teachers from across the State in teacher professional development training about coastal processes, estuarine habitats, and the educational resources available to support classroom-based estuarine education.
- ❖ Reached 982 individuals from a variety of organizations through the community outreach program, including 184 members of the general public who participated in volunteer-led summer public field trips at the Rachel Carson component.
- ❖ Hosted three new summer camps: *Preschool Storytime and Arts & Crafts*, *Adventures in the Estuary* for students in grades 1-3; and an 8-week *Junior Naturalist* program for students in grades 4-8. Students learned about different estuarine organisms and habitats through a variety of field investigations including marsh seining and water quality sampling.
- ❖ Trained 270 coastal decision-makers through Coastal Training Program workshops on topics as diverse as North Carolina's coastal development rules, on-site wastewater treatment and disposal, coastal inundation mapping, and grant writing.
- ❖ Acquired 23.3 privately-held acres of ocean beach, dune, and supratidal shrub thicket within the Masonboro Island component, advancing a high priority acquisition goal.
- ❖ Updated the logo and redesigned the website to increase visibility and customer service.
- ❖ Secured external funding for the following projects and will begin work in 2009:
 - Buckridge Coastal Reserve hydrological restoration: \$303,000 from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund;
 - Ecosystem impacts of estuarine shoreline stabilization methods: \$563,478 from NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology. This is a collaborative project with NOAA-NOS, UNC-IMS, and UNCW; and
 - Permuda Island Coastal Reserve causeway restoration: \$89,904 from N.C. Division of Water Resources for this collaborative project with the N.C. Coastal Federation.

Currituck Banks, Kitty Hawk Woods, Buxton Woods, Buckridge, Rachel Carson, Permuda Island, Masonboro Island, Zeke's Island, Bald Head Woods, Bird Island