

Tuesday May 21 Cape Fear Arch Meeting



Location St. James Club, Members Club

9:30—10:30 Introductions and updates

Participants: Dick Lefebvre (St James); Taylor Ryan (St James); Kasey Cook (NCWRC); Steve Gregos (St James/Planning Board/Brunswick Economic Council); Chris Endo (Middle Sound/ Sierra Club); Wendy Schneider (Oak Island); Tony Doster (RMS); Jessica Blake (NCCLT); Angie Carl (TNC); NCCLT Duke Intern (name?); Linda Dixon (BSL/Garden Club); Rick Peruggi (Winding River/Coastal Fed); Phyllis Evans (Rivers End/Coastal Fed); Kevin Evans (Rivers End); Woody Wilson (Southport/NoPort Southport); Rhodes Messick Southport/NoPort Southport); Ellen Messick (Southport/NoPort Southport); Carolyn Pryor (Indigo Plantation/ Coastal River Watch); Bob Schwartz (St James); Bill Pickens (NCFS); Scott Pohlman (NCDENR); John Ann Shearer (USFWS); Phil Prete (City of Wilmington); Dan Ryan (TNC); Sara Babin (TNC); Lisa Hartrick (NCFS); Jim Luegan (Coastal Carolina College); Charlie Wintergon (Wilmington/Audubon); Karen Crichton (NHC); Jacob Vares (Cape Fear COG); Cary Moffit (Bald Head Property Owners); John Carpenter (NCWRC); Tom Atwater; Ted Wilgis (NCCF); Chip Collier: NCDMF; Maia Dery (Guilford College); Genevieve Joseph (TNC); Janet Kerrs (St James/Sea Biscuit); Margie Foot (St James/Audubon); Mary Lynn Eisler (St James); Sabrina Wiltern (NC Extension in Brunswick); Neil Brooks (Town of Leland/Eagles Island Coalition); Brian Shar (Winding River); Tom Charles (ACOE); Stan Harts (UNCW); Rebecca Hendry (UNCW); Bonnie Rena (Magnolia Green) Melissa Juhan (Magnolia Green); Scott Ogden (CFED); Laura Berkeley (Native Plant Society); Roger Shew: (UNCW/River Watch/Arch); Kay Lynn Plummer-Hernandez (River Watch); Peter Braun (St James); Sloan Goines (NCFS); Bill Walker (NCFS); Maggie Pike (Shallotte River landowner); Mercy McGurty; James Sutton (NPS); Andy Wood (Coastal Plain Conservation Group); Sandy Wood; Melanie Doyle (Ft Fisher Aquarium); Suzanne Dorsey (Bald Head Island Conservancy/Arch)

10:30—11:00 Panel Discussion: What services are Arch Communities looking for from Partner organizations?

- 1) Alternatives to annual bush-hogging understory in maritime forests?
 - a. NCFS is willing to help where they can; need to determine the intent of the clearing. For real estate? For wildlife?
 - b. Diversity of available habitat provides diversity of species
 - c. Example of Pinehurst addressing this concern: voluntary tree ordinance & xeric landscaping (water conservation)
 - d. Never underestimate that developments want to look “pretty”
 - e. It’s not all or nothing; developers want to present view shed, but there are alternatives to that
 - f. TOOLS:
 - i. NC Forest Service will provide alternatives
 - ii. NC Native Plant Society, SE Coast Chapter
 - iii. NC Agricultural Extension Service
- 2) Limit clearing of trees, pond margins;

- a. Need to reduce storm water runoff at its source (rain barrels)
 - b. NC Extension provides education to landscapers; send them their way
 - c. Have to make the case that environmentally conscious golf course maintenance saves money
 - d. TOOLS:
 - i. "Golf in the environment"-Best Management Practices available online
 - ii. NC Extension provides education to landscapers; send them their way
 - iii. Audubon Certification for golf courses
- 3) Habitat loss: replacement of habitat with nonnative plants; loss of bird species
- a. TOOLS:
 - i. Cape Fear Arch Conservation Plan looks towards full suite of species; connectivity
 - ii. Green Growth Toolbox: protection & management
 - iii. NC Agricultural Extension Service will review landscaping plans
- 4) We are at the end of the Cape Fear River; what can we do as individuals?
- a. Brown water in our river and beaches is natural for this area and does not indicate pollution.
 - b. Example of retrofitting septic tank to water cistern
 - c. Distance to trash receptacle is vital per a Disney study
 - d. There are many case studies of communities playing a role in cleaning up. A must to measure results that can show effectiveness.
 - e. Tools:
 - i. Oak Island local TV to learn about converting septic to cistern
 - ii. Each county has Soil & Water District that has cost-share programs that can help individual landowners
 - iii. Green Growth Toolbox provides case studies to help educate the public.
 - f. Watershed restoration ongoing with the City of Wilmington: nonpoint pollution from fecal coliform in runoff
 - g. Don't buy balloons or rely on plastic grocery bags
- 5) Availability of Mature Plants for Residential Viewing. Where can you find them?
- a. Smaller local growers need your support
 - b. Consumers need to express demand as plant cultivation is a consumer driven economy;
 - c. Google NC native plant nurseries;
 - d. Melanie Doyle has received funding for a labeling effort for native plants at nurseries;
 - e. NC Forest Service has a Goldsboro nursery that sells native plants (primarily trees); availability is very cyclical;
 - f. Carolyn Pryor is developing a Southport native demonstration area;
 - g. Invasive Exotic Plants of NC at ncdot.gov is a great resource for POA landscaping guidelines.
- 6) Terminal Groins/Hardened Shorelines
- a. Resilient shorelines; need a strong economy with intact natural resources;
 - b. Terminal groins and hardened structures work very well until they fail and failure leads to catastrophic loss of structures
 - c. There can be unintended consequences for these structures
 - d. Communities that explore these options need to be well informed about how they will function and how long they will function
 - e. We need statewide pre-crisis planning to answer questions about shoreline restructuring, retreat, and inlet management.
 - f. Tools:

- i. Coastal Fed -- <http://www.nccoast.org>
- ii. Division of Coastal Management -- <http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us>
- iii. Bald Head Island Conservancy -- <http://www.bhic.org>

11:00—12:30 What are the Conservation Priorities for the Cape Fear Arch Partners and how can communities support them?

1. Natural history/ Natural area of Southeastern North Carolina – Roger Shew; UNCW, Dept. of Geography and Geology
2. Backyard habitats – Melanie Doyle; Conservation horticulturist, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher
3. Why is fire important in our environment? – Angie Carl; Fire Specialist and Land Steward, The Nature Conservancy
4. Green Growth Toolbox: incorporating wildlife habitat conservation in land use planning – Kacy Cook; Land Conservation Biologist, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
5. Working Lands – Tony Doster: Manager, North Carolina Region, Resource Management Services

12:30 to 2:30 LUNCH and individual networking

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Community Members
Comments & Concerns

- Indiscriminate killing of fish/mammals
- Beach erosion and renourishment
- Fresh water supply
- Balance between maintaining property values and preservation/conservation of natural environments
- Storm water management
- “Half of Boiling Spring Lakes is owned by the Nature Conservancy. Would love to see some of that as a nature park. With new roads and sewers going in, would like to assure that future development in Boiling Spring Lakes is environmentally friendly.”
- Preservation of natural habitat
 - Limit clear cutting
 - Limit weed wacking down to pond surface
 - Avoid chemical runoff into ponds
 - Save/protect carnivorous plants
- Preservation of bird habitat & venus flytraps & pitcher plants & sundews in St. James & Brunswick County
- Alternatives to annual bushhogging (clearing entire understory) of lots in maritime forest

- Chemicals flowing into lakes and streams due to poor water retention practices by property owners bordering lakes and streams
- Availability of native plants for the consumer
- Energy
- Development of Castle Hayne Aquifer
- Contamination of well water
- Any plans for the land where the new deepwater port was to be located
- Health of our fisheries – Sport, US, Commercial
- Storm water runoff
- Pesticides/fertilizers
- Soil
- Plastics/debris
- Water quality → streams, ocean (Particularly Lockwoods Folly)
- Air pollution
- Native plants & trees; habitat preservation
- Invasive buildings
 - Piers in saltmarsh
 - Clear cut before building
 - Dune destruction
- Managing growth (Brunswick County)
- Low impact development – getting homeowners/builders/developers on board
- Raleigh – Funding and Environmental funding cutbacks

From Cape Fear Audubon – habitat loss → “we are losing 1%/year of our migratory birds” and the replacement of habitat with non-native plants

- “What is your position on Senator Bill Rabon’s proposed “Coastal Policy Reform Act of 2013” which would allow unlimited terminal groins along the coast and destroy a 2011 law?”