



*The Friends of the Reserve (FOR) supports the work of the N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve. The friends group is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the Reserve's education, research and stewardship programs through fundraising, advocacy, and public outreach. FOR accepts tax deductible donations that support its and the Reserve's mission.*

## **Fundraising increases awareness and supports Reserve programming**

FOR continues to raise funds through a variety of activities including nature tours and events.

Board member JoAnne Powell planned the celebration of FOR's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and National Estuaries Day in 2018; the event was postponed until December 15 due to the impacts of Hurricane Florence. With a stormy weather forecast, the N.C. Maritime Museum in downtown Beaufort made its auditorium available for the event. Attendees enjoyed shrimp and clam chowder prepared by Board member David Hughes and delicious homemade cupcakes. Thanks to the local businesses and community members who supported the fundraiser through sponsorships and donations of food, beverages, and money. Sponsors included Food Lion, Tyron Distributing, Waterman's Brewing Company, Laurie Raines, Cakes & Cupcakes, Fishtowne Brewery, Sandi Malone, Pam Holiday, Pricey Harrison, JoAnne Powell, Eddie Myers, Beaufort Inlet Watersports, Dick Bierly, Richard Olsen, Catherine Elkins, Sunny Newton, and Waterbug Tours.

FOR Board members and Reserve staff participated in the January 2019 meeting of the Carolina Birding Club in Kitty Hawk. Board members raised awareness of FOR by connecting with Club members and hosting a display table, while Reserve staff shared information about Reserve sites in the area and opportunities for birding. Board member Virginia Holman initiated this partnership and FOR raised funds through the sale of donated items.

Funds raised by FOR go to support Reserve activities – this year, FOR is providing support for Reserve volunteers through t-shirts to provide recognition while on the Reserve sites, food during training activities, and snacks for marine debris and Hurricane Florence-related clean-ups.



*From the left to right: Karen Smith Linehan, Susan Suggs, Sam Burdick, Katie Hovermale, David Hughes, JoAnne Powell*

## **FOR Board Members**

Sam Burdick	David Hughes
Bo Dame	Tyler Lockamy
Bill Ducker	Kathy Mitchell
Lindsay Dubbs	JoAnne Powell
Rebecca Ellin	Karen Smith Linehan
Virginia Holman	Susan Suggs
Katie Hovermale	

## February Board Meeting

At the Board's February meeting, members discussed hosting family friendly events, providing support for volunteers, and new ways to communicate their work with the public. Check out [FOR's Facebook page](#) to learn about upcoming events throughout coastal North Carolina.

## FOR Strategic Plan

FOR finalized its [strategic plan](#) in 2018. The plan will help will guide the activities of FOR to better support the mission of the Reserve.

## FOR Welcomes New Board Members

Growing up in Duck on the Outer Banks, **Sam Burdick** has always been inspired by the beauty of our coast. Sam started her journey with the Reserve as an intern during her undergraduate studies in ecology at Mars Hill University, where she helped manage the Currituck Banks, Kitty Hawk Woods, and Buxton Woods Reserves. She later interned at the Rachel Carson Reserve while studying coastal environmental management at the Duke Marine Lab to investigate the role of bulkheads on salt marsh loss.



Sam is now a Community Planner for Eastern Carolina Council (ECC), where she applies her academic and professional background in coastal science, policy, management, and outreach to aid communities throughout Eastern N.C. with disaster recovery, hazard mitigation planning, stormwater management, land use planning, GIS analysis/mapping, grant administration, and education.

In addition to her role at ECC, Sam promotes public awareness and single-use plastic reduction as the Crystal Coast and Outer Banks Global Ambassador for Plastic Ocean Project; volunteers for the North Carolina Coastal Federation with cleanups and wetland restoration; and sits on the Town of Beaufort Stormwater Advisory Committee and the N.C. American Planning Association Chapter's Resiliency Committee.



**David Hughes** grew up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC and studied fisheries biology at the College of William and Mary and the University of Maryland, graduating in 1972. He worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for ten years before relocating to Beaufort with his wife Louise and daughter Kate. During his time with MDNR David worked on projects examining anadromous fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay, fish mortality incidents, and a led a federally funded statewide stream survey to document trout populations in central and western Maryland.

After moving to North Carolina David took a job at MCAS Cherry Point doing water quality chemistry for water and wastewater treatment plants that led to a 25-year career as an IT professional at Cherry Point.

David retired in 2011 as Director of Computer Operations. David stays busy boating, fishing, kayaking, playing golf and traveling with his wife Louise. He has also been an active volunteer with the North Carolina Coastal Federation, N.C. Seafood Festival, Lions Club, Beach Sweeps and church.



**Karen Smith Linehan** is a lifelong naturalist with an enduring love for the flora and fauna of North Carolina. She shares her passion for nature with her students at Friends School of Wilmington where she has taught second grade and coordinated wildlife habitat projects for the past 16 years. Prior to becoming a classroom teacher, Karen worked as a natural science educator for the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and facilitated summer coastal ecology workshops for teachers in Ocracoke. She has a degree in zoology from UNC-Chapel Hill, an MFA in creative writing from Chatham University, and is a N.C. Certified Environmental Educator.

A native of Raleigh, Karen has lived in the Wilmington area for 30 years with her husband Terry, a filmmaker and Senior Lecturer at UNC Wilmington. She and Terry enjoy kayaking, sailing, mountain biking, and singing/playing traditional music with Karen's father in the Americana band, Bloomsbury.