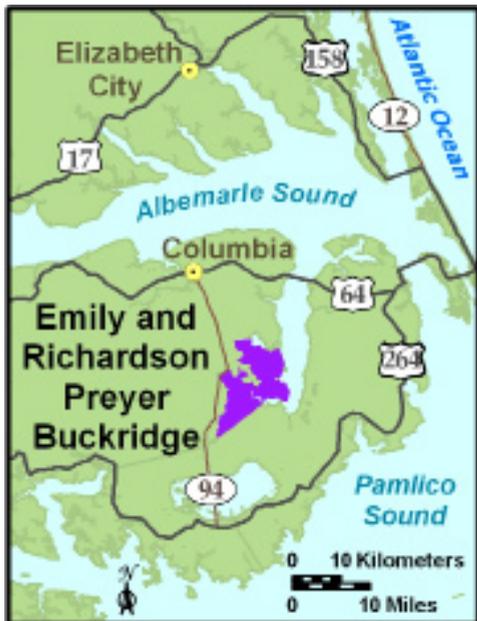


HUNTING INFORMATION

How To Find Us

Buckridge is located along the southwestern shores of the Alligator River, abutting the community of Gum Neck. To access the site take NC 94 south from Columbia, turn east on North Gum Neck Rd. to Grapevine Landing Rd., which bisects the main portion of the Reserve. The Reserve can also be accessed by boat from nearby Wildlife Resources Commission boat ramps.



North Carolina Coastal Reserve

Columbia Field Office
1107 Highway 64 East
Columbia, NC 27925
(252) 796-3709

www.nccoastalreserve.net

Buckridge Coastal Reserve is managed by the Division of Coastal Management to protect under-represented coastal habitats for research, education, and compatible traditional uses. Support and assistance of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission for road maintenance and wildlife management is gratefully acknowledged. This site is a three-day per week game land and a dedicated State Nature Preserve.

The North Carolina Coastal Reserve is a part of the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, a division of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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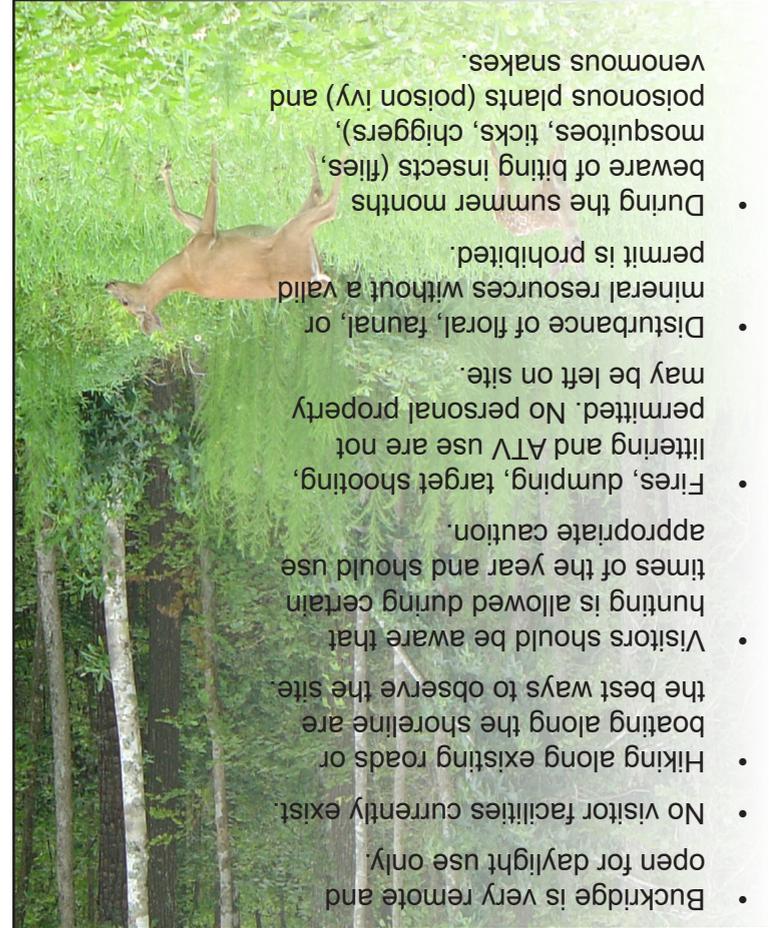
In 1994 the Coastal Futures Committee identified certain types of coastal habitats that were under-represented among preservation interests. In 1997, the Buckridge tract was offered for sale which was ideal in that it contained several under-represented coastal habitats in an inland setting. Its acquisition would further protect the outstanding resource waters of the Alligator River, and would help connect the Alligator River and Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuges. The Nature Conservancy, N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund, N.C. Natural Heritage Trust Fund, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all provided funding or assistance toward the creation of this coastal reserve.

Purpose of the Reserve

This natural area is one of ten sites that make up the North Carolina Coastal Reserve. Preservation of the Buckridge Coastal Reserve allows this representative coastal ecosystem to be available in perpetuity as a natural outdoor laboratory where scientists, students and the general public can learn about coastal processes, functions and influences which shape and sustain the coastal area. The Coastal Reserve accommodates traditional recreational activities or as long as they do not disturb the environment or research and educational activities.

RULES & TIPS FOR VISITORS

- Buckridge is very remote and open for daylight use only.
- No visitor facilities currently exist.
- Hiking along existing roads or boating along the shoreline are the best ways to observe the site.
- Visitors should be aware that hunting is allowed during certain times of the year and should use appropriate caution.
- Fires, dumping, target shooting, littering and ATV use are not permitted. No personal property may be left on site.
- Disturbance of floral, faunal, or mineral resources without a valid permit is prohibited.
- During the summer months beware of biting insects (flies, mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers), poisonous plants (poison ivy) and venomous snakes.



The Buckridge Coastal Reserve is named in honor of the late Emily and Richardson Preyer for their commitment to public service, the environment, education and the arts.

- Hunting in the Tyrrell County portion of Buckridge is allowed according to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission regulations for 3-day game lands.
- Certain roads are opened to traffic during the hunting season for ease of access. Roads may be closed at times during the season to protect the resource.
- Driving on gated roads is at your own risk.
- Blocking roads, gates or otherwise preventing traffic flow is prohibited.
- Hunting is allowed only in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.
- Primary game sought includes white-tailed deer, black bear, turkey, raccoon, and squirrel.

BUCKRIDGE COASTAL RESERVE

Nonriverine Swamp Forest

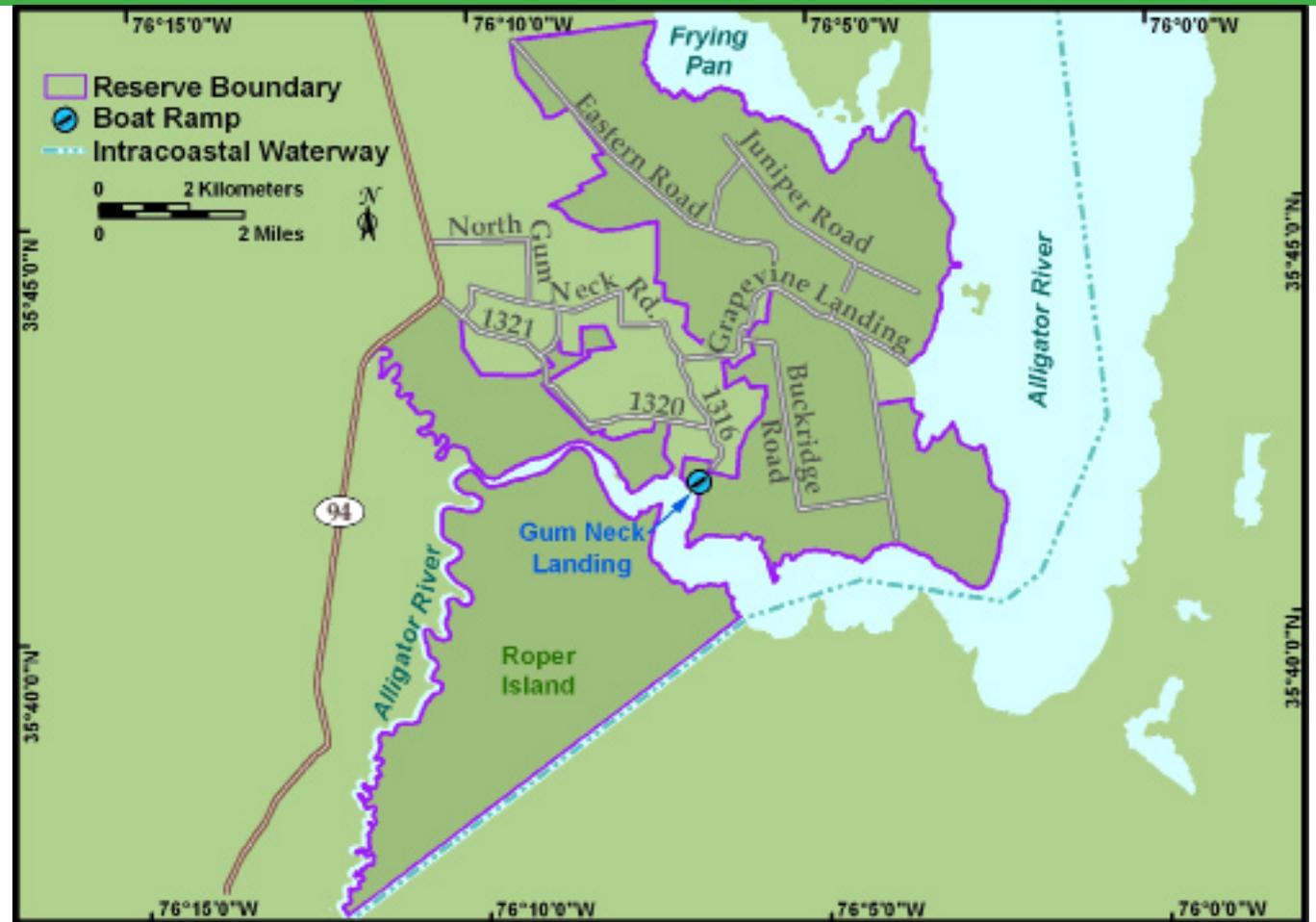
- This wet, poorly drained community is well represented at Buckridge and can be distinguished from other peatland communities by the dominance of swamp trees, such as tupelo and bald cypress, though disturbed examples may have red maple and sweet gum as dominant species. These swamps are wet due to high groundwater rather than flowing or flooded water.
- Canopy trees of this community may also include loblolly pine, pond pine, tulip poplar and Atlantic white cedar. The understory ranges from open to dense, with sweetbay magnolia, swamp red bay, swamp titi, fetterbush, and sweet pepperbush commonly found. The plants of this community are adapted for wet or flooded conditions during different parts of the year.

Peatland Atlantic White Cedar Forest

- While Atlantic white cedar are necessarily dominant for this community type, a small number of pond pine, loblolly pine, red maple, and tupelo are occasionally found in the canopy. Understory species may include sweetbay magnolia, loblolly bay, swamp red bay, fetterbush, swamp titi, inkberry, maleberry, blue huckleberry, and gallberry.
- This globally rare community occurs due to a very particular fire regime. Old stands are cleared by a catastrophic fire disturbance allowing the seedbed preserved in the wet peat soils underneath to germinate. Atlantic white cedar stands are usually even-aged and very dense. A young 4,000 acre stand at Buckridge is believed to be the largest contiguous example of this community in the state.

Tidal Cypress-Gum Swamp

- Cypress-Gum swamps occur along the margin of the freshwater side of estuaries. At Buckridge these areas may be flooded regularly or irregularly by the wind-driven tides. The canopy is dominated by bald cypress, tupelo, and sometimes by loblolly pine and red maple. Understory species include swamp red bay, sweetbay magnolia, red cedar, and Carolina ash. A well-developed shrub layer includes wax myrtle, swamp titi, highbush blueberry, swamp rose, and giant cane.
- This community abuts the tidal freshwater marsh or open water as you approach the river. Saltwater intrusion from major storms can cause many of this community's trees to die, leaving standing dead timber along the shores of Buckridge.



Pond Pine Woodland

- This community is dominated by pond pine but sometimes has loblolly bay as a codominant species. Occasionally the canopy will also contain sweetbay magnolia, red maple, swamp red bay, and Atlantic white cedar. Pond pine woodlands typically possess a tall, dense shrub layer, often greater than 15 feet high. Species of the shrub layer include swamp titi, inkberry, fetterbush, maleberry, large gallberry, blue huckleberry, and sweet pepperbush.
- This community is typically not as wet as others at Buckridge, and as such it is more susceptible to fire. It is believed that vast canebrake savannas may have existed in areas where this community had frequent fires during pre-colonization times.

Mammals

- Larger mammal species found on the site include bobcat, bear, beaver, river otter, white-tailed deer, raccoon, Virginia opossum, and gray fox.
- Red wolves also occur in and around the Reserve, but these endangered predators are secretive animals that are rarely seen.

Reptiles and Amphibians

- A wide variety of reptiles and amphibians occur on site including dozens of species of turtles, lizards, snakes, and frogs.
- American alligators can also be found at Buckridge but they are typically cryptic and difficult to observe.
- Venomous species confirmed to occur at Buckridge include: canebrake rattlesnakes, copperheads, water moccasins, and pigmy rattlesnakes. The pigmy rattlesnake is at the northern limit of its range and in this area it has an unusual pinkish to red coloration.

Birds

- Bird species composition in the forest is seasonal.
- A few notable species include the red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, wood duck, prothonotary warbler, barred owl, and wild turkey.
- Standing dead timber in parts of Buckridge provide abundant natural nest sites for cavity nesters. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is an unusual cavity nester in that it only nests in living trees.