



SER Mid-Atlantic Chapter Conference 2016 Presents:

A DAY AT THE BEACH!

A day-long trip to four restoration sites along the NJ Coast

Tuesday March 15, 2016

7:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Buses depart from and return to the 2016 annual conference center at Stockton Seaview Inn – Galloway, NJ

401 S New York Rd, Galloway, NJ 08205

Lunch is provided at Deauville Inn

This field trip is designed to generate some lively discussion about the state of our coastline, the art and science of ecological restoration, and what we still need to learn as we try to restore resiliency to our coasts.

Register for the field trip when you register for the conference at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/society-for-ecological-restoration-mid-atlantic-chapters-11th-annual-conference-highlands-to-high-tickets-20539912431>.

The field trip requires some walking on hilly or uneven terrain, unpaved surfaces and possibly wet ground. Sturdy, water-resistant shoes and weather-appropriate apparel are recommended. Participants may want to bring binoculars, cameras, and gear for all types of weather.

Sign up early – the field trip is limited to 50 attendees.

Our first stop will be along the Delaware Bay at **REEDS BEACH** (8:15 am – 9:00 am)

HABITAT RESTORATION AND OYSTER REEF WAVE ATTENUATOR

Hurricane Sandy caused the loss of nearly 70% of horseshoe crab habitat on the New Jersey side of Delaware Bay. In 2013, a team led by the American Littoral Society and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey restored just over a mile of damaged horseshoe crab habitat successfully, thus avoiding a natural catastrophe for northbound migrant shorebirds (Red Knots, federally listed Threatened) that depend on building weight from horseshoe crab eggs.



Work included rubble and debris removal and the addition of new sand graded to an appropriate profile. The team also experimented with using intertidal oyster reefs to test whether or not the technique could serve to attenuate wave action on the beach.

Al Modjeski, Habitat Restoration Program Director with the American Littoral Society, will take us on a tour of the restored shoreline at low tide, to tell us about the lessons already learned as well as the future actions scheduled to take place.



Joining Al will be **Dr. Larry Niles from Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ** and ornithologist **Dr. Joe Smith** from Cape May.

Our second stop will be just north of Reed's Beach at **MATT'S LANDING** (9:30 am – 10:15 am)
LIVING SHORELINE RESTORATION

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, along with its partner Rutgers University, started the Delaware Estuary Living Shoreline Initiative (DELSI) in 2008 to address the increased loss of tidal salt marshes in the Delaware Estuary. The DELSI Tactic uses a combination of native wetland plants, natural structures, and intertidal shellfish to trap sediment and absorb waves to help stabilize eroding shorelines.



As part of their DELSI efforts, PDE and Rutgers pioneered a living shoreline tactic tailored for salt marsh edge habitats which relies on the mutualistic relationship between ribbed mussels and smooth cordgrass. The natural soft-armoring technique, which builds on the mussels and plants binding tightly together to facilitate natural levee-building along marsh edges, was successfully used at Matts Landing in the Heislerville Fish and Wildlife Management Area to transform a rip-rap shoreline to a stabilized marsh.

Josh Moody, PDE's Restoration Coordinator,
trip.



will lead us on this portion of our

From there, we will head over to the Atlantic coastal beaches of **AVALON** (11:00 am – 12:00 pm)
to observe an **HISTORIC DUNE RESTORATION**

After the beaches of Avalon were battered by the Ash Wednesday storm of 1962, the Town undertook an aggressive program to rebuild the natural dunes by using sand fences and vegetation plantings, raising funds to purchase undeveloped shorefront lots, and codifying regulations to protect the dunes. The dune restoration, coupled with post-storm accretion, resulted in a diverse dune topography and the purchased lots provided area for natural landforms to evolve over time.



The dune building program was initially resisted by land owners because of the costs, loss of views, and beach access restrictions, but over time the value of the dunes has increased exponentially. Insurance premiums are now based on degree of risk, and a municipal effort to reduce vulnerability through the use of the dunes has decreased premiums by 10 percent.

Join us as we meet with **Avalon's Mayor, Marty Pagliughi**, who will lead us on a tour of the restored, historic dunes.



Lunch will be provided at the **DEAUVILLE INN** in Strathmere (12:30 pm – 2:00 pm)
Vegetarian options are available – please let us know.



The Deauville Inn has been serving up food and drinks with breathtaking views of the bay for over 120 years. Located at the foot of Corson's Inlet Bridge between Ocean City and Sea Isle City, it will provide the perfect backdrop for our continued discussions about coastal restoration over lunch.

A short lecture and guided discussion will be provided by **Carl Alderson, NOAA's Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Marine Resources Specialist and Licensed Landscape Architect**, during lunch for some additional food for thought.

Our last stop of the day will be the **EDWIN B FORSYTHE WILDLIFE REFUGE** (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm) **COASTAL MARSH AND FRESHWATER IMPOUNDMENT RESTORATION**

Hurricane Sandy left many of New Jersey's coastal marshes starved of crucial sediment. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is working to restore the marshes by depositing new, beneficial sediment dredged from nearby channels. In addition, the USFWS is restoring a 1.3-mile dike to protect freshwater impoundments and transform it into a living shoreline, providing food resources and roost sites for thousands of waterbirds.



The marsh restoration/enhancement will increase its protective value to coastal communities in future storms and improve water quality. As a working model, the project will inform integrated waterbird management and monitoring and strategic habitat conservation, and will offer multiple opportunities to students and veterans to engage in monitoring activities and planting of the marsh.

Paul M. Castelli, a Wildlife Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will lead us at the site.

Return to **STOCKTON SEAVIEW INN** (4:30 pm)