



OBVB Seeks Input from Local Nonprofits to Bolster Voluntourism Program

As we look to grow and evolve our voluntourism efforts to connect visitors with the incredible work that Outer Banks local nonprofits do *in and for* the community, we are seeking vital feedback from local nonprofit organizations on how we can better support these groups. (Photo: A recent group of Alternative Spring Break students from the University of Vermont volunteering.)



3rd Annual Nonprofit Mission Mixer Inspires Storytelling Through Podcasts

More than 75 local nonprofit professionals, board members and volunteers attended the 3rd Annual Nonprofit Mission Mixer on April 3 at the Outer Banks Brewing Station, co-hosted by The Outer Banks Community Foundation and the Visitors Bureau. The event featured remarks from Shea LaFontaine (*History Fix*), Rev. Dr. Michelle Lewis (*Finding Hope in the Climate Crisis*) and Chef Wes Stepp (*Outer Banks Raw*), who shared their journeys into podcasting and how they're creating meaningful impact.



CSI and OBVB to Collaborate on 'Science on the Sound' Events, Including Award-Winning Documentary Film Screening

The Visitors Bureau is excited to collaborate with the Coastal Studies Institute on two upcoming programs, including a film screening of [The Cigarette Surfboard](#) on April 17 at The Pioneer Theater in Manteo (**SOLD OUT!**), as well as their monthly [Science on the Sound](#) Lecture Series on June 19 at the ECU Outer Banks

Campus. *The Cigarette Surfboard* is an environmental documentary that explores the creation of a functional surfboard made from cigarette butts collected from California beaches and shares a message of stewardship and beach/ocean protection. The *Science on the Sound* event on June 19 will feature an update from the Bureau on the LRTMP, as well as a Q&A session with attendees.



OBVB Welcomes Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail at Annual Gathering

The Visitors Bureau was a proud sponsor of the [Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail annual Gathering of Friends](#) event from March 21-23. More than 200 people attended the multi-day event, which featured guided hikes and tours, a

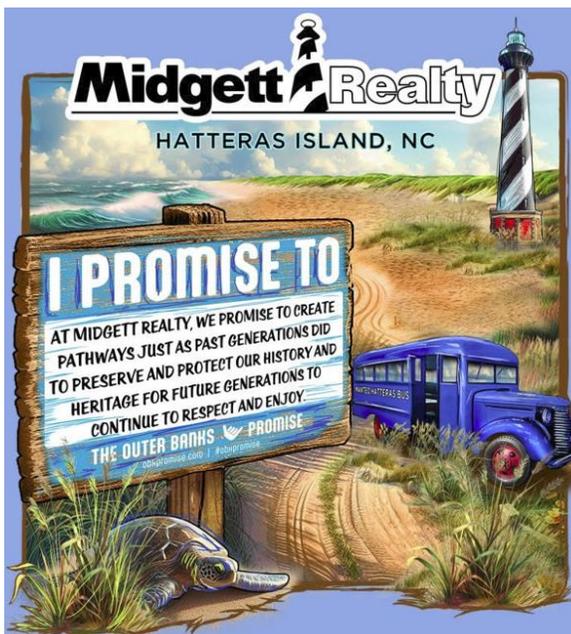
welcome reception at Jennette’s Pier, an annual meeting at Roanoke Island Festival Park and a group hike to the MST terminus marker at Jockey’s Ridge State Park. The Bureau had an opportunity to welcome the group, share an episode of *The Outer Edge* and introduce them to The Outer Banks Promise.



OBVB Participates in 8th Annual ECU Purple & Gold Bus Tour for Faculty

The Visitors Bureau recently participated in the 8th Annual [East Carolina University Purple and Gold Bus Tour](#) at the Coastal Studies Institute campus. Over 40 ECU faculty members made the trip to Dare County on March 10, where they learned more about the area. The Bureau shared tourism updates, discussed the Outer Banks Long-Range Tourism Management Plan,

introduced The Outer Banks Promise and *The Outer Edge* Video series and more. The Purple and Gold Bus Tour, led by the ECU Office of Research, Economic Development and Engagement, is designed to introduce faculty members with identified research plans to the culture, geography, heritage, economy and assets of the eastern North Carolina region. The program encourages partnerships and research that may have long-term benefits for the people and communities of eastern North Carolina.



Local and Regional Businesses and Organizations to Make The Outer Banks Promise:

- Black Pelican
- Carolina Designs Realty
- Coastal Studies Institute
- Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail
- Midgett Realty
- Outer Banks Community Foundation
- Outer Banks Yoga
- Univ. of Vermont – Alternative Spring Break

Upcoming Commitments:

- First Flight Rotary Club
- NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island
- Secotan Alliance
- Ramada Plaza Oceanfront

Q1/Q2 2025 Community, Stakeholder, Partner / Outreach & Engagement

February 11 – Bridge USA J1 Summer Work Travel Community Meeting (Attendee)
February 18-20 – Partnership and Community Engagement Forum – Cincinnati, OH (Attendee)
February 25 – Outdoor NC Meeting // Year 2 – Trail Town Stewardship Program (Attendee)
February 26 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network Meeting (Host)
February 27 – Destination Stewardship Bi-Monthly Meeting (Attendee)
February 28 – Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Regional Economic Summit (Sponsor/Attendee)

March 10 – ECU Purple & Gold Bus Tour – Coastal Studies Institute (Presenter)
March 14 – Dare County America250 Committee Meeting (Attendee)
March 18 – Dare Community Housing Task Force Meeting (Attendee)
March 19 – 2025 State of the County Event (Attendee)
March 19 – Leadership OBX ‘Tourism Day’ (Presenter)
March 21-22 – Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Annual Meeting (Sponsor/Presenter)
March 25 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network Meeting (Attendee)

April 2 – Manteo High School Carer Fair (Participating Partner)
April 3 – 3rd Annual Outer Banks Non-Profit Mission Mixer (Co-Host)
April 4 – Outer Banks Relief Foundation 20th Anniversary Event (Attendee)
April 6-8 – Visit NC Tourism Conference – Hickory, NC (Attendee)
April 10 – George Washington University Focus Group: Destination Stewardship & Mgmt (Participant)
April 11 – Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean Meeting (Attendee)
April 11 – Dare County America 250 Committee Meeting (Attendee)
April 17 – Science on the Sound – The Cigarette Surfboard Film Screening (Co-Host)
April 24 – Destination Stewardship Bi-Monthly Meeting (Attendee)
April 29 – Outer Banks Workforce Network Meeting – Housing (Attendee)

May 1 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network Meeting (Attendee)
May 1 – Community Care Clinic 20th Anniversary Open House (Attendee)
May 9 – CYP KidsFest (Participating Partner)
May 13 – Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Vibe @5 Mixer (Attendee)
May 30 – Secotan Alliance – In the Spirit of Wingina 2 Event (Attendee)

June 17 – Dare Community Housing Task Force Meeting (Attendee)
June 19 – CSI Science on the Sound Lecture Series: Outer Banks LRTMP (Presenter)