

Destination Stewardship Peer Group

A Destination Stewardship Peer Group has been created to share best practices and ideas with industry peers across several destinations including Aspen, CO; Durham, NC; Jackson Hole, WY; Lake Tahoe, CA/NV; Outer Banks, NC; and San Luis Obispo, CA. Despite our geographic differences, we all face so many similar opportunities and challenges related to the implementation of our destination plans. The meetings are designed to be an informative and productive outlet to learn from one another as we move forward. The first meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, May 21.

Donna Creef Named Chair of Dare County Housing Task Force

Congratulations to Donna Creef, Government Affairs Director at the Outer Banks Association of Realtors and a member of our DCTB Special Committee, who has been selected as Chair of the [Dare County Housing Task Force](#). In addition to Donna, the Dare County Tourism Board (Tess Judge, Mike Siers, Monica Thibodeau), Outer Banks Visitors Bureau (Jeff Schwartzberg) and DCTB Special Committee (Elizabeth Morey, Bobby Outten, Ronnie Sloan) comprise eight (8) of the 26 Task Force members.

2nd Annual Non-Profit Mission Mixer

Thank you to everyone for your support in making the [2nd Annual Non-Profit Mission Mixer](#) a success, especially committee members Chris Sawin, Jessica Barnes and Lee Nettles. The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, along with the Outer Banks Community Foundation and Outer Banks Forever, hosted the event on Thursday, April 11 at the Outer Banks Brewing Station. Mark Ballog, owner of Lucky 12 Tavern and a member of the Dare County Tourism Board, was the featured speaker and discussed the importance of cause marketing and community collaboration. Ballog spotlighted the 12 Bars of Christmas event that helped raise \$28,000 for local non-profit organizations in December 2023 and shared a few ideas on how they plan to expand the footprint of the event in 2024.

Our State Voluntourism Event at Elizabethan Gardens – May 18 (10am)

Our State has partnered with the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau and Elizabethan Gardens to celebrate its upcoming special issue, North Carolina Outdoors, with a [Voluntourism event](#) on Saturday, May 18 at 10:00am in Manteo. Spend time outside and volunteer at beautiful Elizabethan Gardens while helping tend its grounds and supporting its educational programs. Volunteers of any age, ability, and interest are welcome. Volunteer opportunities include working in the plant nursery, helping others learn about gardening and helping with administrative tasks for educational programs.

Meetings & Events

- 5/14/24 – Dare County Housing Task Force Meeting
- 5/14/24 – College of the Albemarle Data Showcase & Strategic Input Session
- 5/18/24 – *Our State* Outer Banks Voluntourism Event (The Elizabethan Gardens)
- 5/21/24 – Destination Stewardship Peer Group Virtual Meeting
(Aspen, Durham, Jackson Hole, Lake Tahoe, Outer Banks, San Luis Obispo)
- 5/22/24 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network (CEEN) Meeting
- 5/28/24 – Dare County Housing Task Force Meeting
- 6/1/24 – National Trails Day / Dare County Trails Committee Event (Manteo)
- 6/6/24 – V.i.b.e. @ 5 – Outer Banks Chamber Event (Jolly Roger Restaurant, KDH)
- 6/7/24 – OBX Community Services Collaborative (NPO) Meeting