

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **June 29, 2011**
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Partnership offering new River Roaming tours to local winery

COLUMBIA – The Partnership for the Sounds will begin offering free River Roaming “Vineyard Voyages” to the Vineyards on the Scuppernong winery every Thursday at 11 a.m. beginning July 7.

Located along the shores of the Scuppernong River just outside Columbia, Vineyards on the Scuppernong produces a variety of red, white, and specialty wines from grapes grown on site. Several of their selections have won awards at major competitions.

“Vineyard Voyages” will depart from the Tyrrell County Visitor’s Center at 11 a.m. for the 10-minute boat trip to the winery. Vineyard owners Jack and Grace Bishop will greet passengers at their dock and lead a 45-minute tour through the grape fields and winery. The boat will then return to the Visitor’s Center, where passengers can opt to visit Vineyards on the Scuppernong’s Wine Shop across the street for tastings and purchases.

Vineyards on the Scuppernong makes wines from scuppernong grapes, one of several muscadine grapes native to the southeastern U.S. They have been used to for wine-making literally since English colonists first arrived here and found wild vines thriving in river lowlands. All muscadines are naturally rich in healthful chemicals like antioxidants.

Vineyard Voyages are offered free of charge, but reservations are required and seating on the boat is limited. Call 252-796-1000 for reservations or more information. Tours will be offered every Thursday through October.

The Partnership for the Sounds is a private non-profit organization promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship on the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula. Go to partnershipforthesounds.org for more information.