

CITIZENS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY COAST

# Coastal Review

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**SUCCESS: NEW STORMWATER RULES, NO JETTIES**

**NCCF ANNUAL REPORT**

**NE OFFICE OPEN FOR BUSINESS**





# Coastal Review

*Coastal Review* is the quarterly newsletter of the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF). NCCF is a non-profit tax-exempt organization dedicated to involving citizens in decisions about managing coastal resources. Its aim is to share technical information and resources to better represent current and long-term economic, social and environmental interests of the North Carolina Coast.

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The North Carolina Coastal Federation is located on Highway 24 in Ocean, N.C., between Swansboro and Morehead City. Our offices, nature library and shop are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm. NCCF also has field offices in Manteo and Wilmington.

member: **Earth Share**  
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COVER PHOTOS: Citizens returning from the Rally in Raleigh; Manteo coastal grasses by Bill Birkemeier; inthelens.com

# Federation Better Poised to Meet New Challenges

What's the best way to celebrate 25 years of work?

Turn to Page 6, and you'll see our Annual Report for 2007 that summarizes what we did at the N.C. Coastal Federation to celebrate our "silver" anniversary. During the year we had some fun, shared some memories with and about old friends and took pride in what we've accomplished.

Then we took a long, hard look at challenges we'll face in the next 25 years, and we decided to reinvent ourselves. This was necessary to stay ahead of issues and to remain effective at protecting and restoring our coast.

The last 25 years passed very quickly. It seems like only yesterday when some of the first meetings of the federation were held in 1982. That means that 2032 will be here before we know it, and if we want to stay effective as an organization we have to adapt to changing times.

That's why in 2007 the federation began increasing our investment in regional offices in Manteo, Ocean and Wilmington. Each office now includes staff experts in Coastkeeping, habitat protection and restoration, and education and community outreach.

As of February, these three-person regional "teams" are now in place. They are supported by our headquarters staff in Ocean. The staff in the central office gives us the ability to lobby, promote sensible development policies, recruit new members and raise money on a statewide and national basis.

Our regional staff is expected to keep their ears close to the ground and devise work plans that reflect the environmental concerns and priorities of the communities in which they live and work. To assist our staff in doing this, we have organized advisory committees for each regional office comprised of board members and volunteers to help prioritize our work.

In 2007 we expanded our efforts to get out ahead of environmental issues facing our coast. Those proactive accomplishments are summarized throughout this report, including land acquisitions, habitat restoration, new stormwater rules, working

waterfronts, global climate change, rain garden programs at schools and landfill laws. We formed new partnerships in carrying out these programs that allow us to reach deeper into the social fabric of the communities in which we are working.

And while we were still forced at times to react to issues to remain responsive to coastal concerns, we realized that working to minimize polarization of stakeholders on various coastal issues is essential for the long-term protection for our coast.

Our promotion of low-impact development practices has received diverse backing from government, developers, homebuilders, homeowners and environmentalists. Pushing

low-impact development during a severe economic decline in the coastal housing market stimulated interest among real estate agents, developers, homebuilders and local governments. Many of these people are savvy enough to recognize that environmental protection gives their projects and communities an

edge in what's now a highly competitive market environment.

There is no doubt that change along our coast will continue at a pace equal to or greater than what we've experienced over the previous 25 years. And while the federation will continue to evolve our work to remain effective, there remains one aspect of our work that will never change. Our programs will always rely on the good will and energy of people like you who care about our coast, and who we can help to engage in decision-making so that we all share responsibility for maintaining and restoring the health of our coastal environment.

And after you finishing looking over our annual report for 2007, read the rest of the newsletter to catch up on what we've already accomplished in 2008. You'll see that our re-invention is working very effectively.

Todd Miller, Executive Director



# EMC Rescinds Wind Over Waves Stormwater Permit

## COASTKEEPER

The N.C. Environmental Management Commission (EMC) in May upheld the N.C. Coastal Federation's challenge to the state stormwater permit for third phase of the Wind Over Waves development in Salvo. EMC members overturned a finding by an administrative hearings officer that the 50-acre development would not harm water quality in Pamlico Sound and an adjacent tidal creek.

The EMC's ruling confirmed what other state officials and many coastal residents have known for years: North Carolina's stormwater control program isn't working. When open land is replaced with low-density or suburban development, the adjacent creeks and sounds become polluted with gasoline, oil, lawn chemicals, sediment and bacteria. All are carried into the waters by runoff.

Administrative Hearings Officer Melissa Lassiter last summer dismissed NCCF's concerns about the stormwater permit, saying the N.C. Division of Water Quality had done an acceptable job of ensuring that the open shellfish waters of Britt Creek and Pamlico Sound would not be harmed by the development. NCCF staff worried that the runoff from new roofs, driveways and streets would carry enough bacteria into the shellfish beds to close them to harvest.

A majority of EMC members disagreed with Lassiter. In particular, they noted that the state had not adequately considered the cumulative effects on local waters of the development's three phases.

What happens now? The developers must obtain a new permit that will go further toward keeping stormwater on site. Once they obtain the permit, Wind Over Waves Phase III can be built.

## RESTORATION AND EDUCATION

From the programs and projects now underway in the Northeast region, it's difficult to believe that Coastal Scientist Erin Fleckenstein and Coastal Outreach Specialist Sara Hallas only joined the federation in February. Together,

NCCF's two newest staff members have begun building a network of rain gardens in the region and organized programs on topics as varied as sea level rise and low-impact development (LID).

The federation's goal is to build a thriving environmental education program for adults in the region and work with students in schools. In addition to planning lessons for middle- and high-school students on stormwater and the importance of wetlands, in March Hallas helped put together a workshop in Currituck County on Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques. It attracted 80 planners, engineers, builders and



*Federation staffers SARA HALLAS, left, and ERIN FLECKENSTEIN build a rain garden at the federation's new office in Manteo.*

Realtors from across the region. Hosted by the Bank of Currituck and the stormwater control company Filterra, the session featured a presentation by nationally known LID expert Larry Coffman. LID controls stormwater on-site through features like rain gardens, pervious paving and cisterns.

Workshop participants were so enthusiastic that we hope to host a second session this fall, where an LID development will be designed for a piece of undeveloped land in Currituck.

In April the geologist Dr. Stanley Riggs, who has spent decades studying the changeable underpinnings of the coast, gave a presentation

on sea-level rise at First Flight High School in Kill Devil Hills. Drawing from his research, Riggs predicts that vast areas of the Outer Banks will be inundated in the next 50 to 100 years, depending on storm activity. More than 100 people attended the presentation.

The federation and Manteo will host a training session in August for engineers, planners and interested community members on the use of a new spreadsheet model that can help them easily incorporate LID features into building projects—whether new construction or home remodeling. Developed by the engineering firm Withers &

Ravenel, the spreadsheet enables users to calculate how much stormwater can be controlled by using different LID features on specific sites. It also contains information about permitting regulations and about how much stormwater must be controlled according to regulations in different communities. "It's designed to help engineers incorporate more LID features into their projects and also to give planners a tool to make their site plan review process more efficient," Fleckenstein says.

Fleckenstein has also been working with the town of Manteo to develop an atlas of sites where stormwater best management practices can be installed to lessen the amount of runoff that courses into Shallowbag Bay. To date, she and town staff members have identified more than 50 sites. Development of the atlas is funded by a grant from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

One site is just upstream from the new NCCF office. Filterra is donating a stormwater-control unit—a planting box containing soil and filtering material that fits into a stormwater drain. The box will be installed just across Highway 64 from the new office. A shrub will be planted in it to help absorb runoff, to enhance its appearance. "We'll be helping to monitor the unit to make sure it removes bacteria from runoff," Fleckenstein says.



## MEET THE VOLUNTEERS

### Meg Rawls

The question is not what Meg Rawls has done as a N.C. Coastal Federation volunteer, but what hasn't she done in her 12 years as a volunteer and federation board member.

Much of Meg's support for the federation has been behind the scenes, as the secretary for the board of directors, chairwoman of the Central Board Committee and as a volunteer for other program and policy initiatives. She has dedicated time to restoration projects at North River Farms, clean-up events at Hoop Pole Creek and has helped at the Native Plant Sale, King Mackerel and the Blues Are Running concerts, local festivals and other events.

As a biology instructor at Carteret Community College, Meg has involved her students with many of these same projects and has worked with them to create and maintain the ShoreKeeper garden at the federation headquarters. Most recently, Meg served as project director for a project at the community college that has restored 1,000 feet of eroding shoreline and involved more than 1,000 people who volunteered more than 4,000 hours of work.

"This living shoreline met the need to help prevent erosion along a portion of our campus, while also providing some bonuses that are not seen with traditional bulkheads: stormwater pre-treatment, habitat enhancement, oyster reef construction and educational opportunities," Meg said.

The shoreline restoration project has been four years in the making and serves as a great example of community-driven restoration to protect water quality and coastal resources.

Meg is savvy about the policy and science that support the many federation restoration projects. She's motivated to protect the environment and passionate to educate and involve the community. The federation is honored to call Meg Rawls a member, volunteer and friend and we look forward to many more great years together.

# Rain Gardens are Elementary at Cape Lookout Visitor Center

## RESTORATION

In May, Harkers Island Elementary School students planted and mulched a 1,800-square-foot rain garden at the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center on Harkers Island.

The 22 students and their teacher, John Waszak, braved 30 mph winds and worked for four hours to complete the project. Before the planting, the students learned about rain gardens, native plants and ways to reduce stormwater runoff. The rain garden was designed by engineers from N.C. State University's Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and dug by park staff.

This rain garden is the third low-impact development (LID) technique that was installed as part of the federation's LID pilot study to reduce bacteria concentrations entering the shellfish waters of Core Sound. The LID treatments installed at the visitor center and at the adjacent Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center will help to capture, absorb and filter polluted stormwater runoff at the two sites and reduce stormwater flow into the sound.

The LID study is supported by a North Carolina Sea Grant Fisheries Resource Grant and by the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

## EDUCATION

Do you have a rain garden? If not, you probably could. Basically, a rain garden is a depression planted with native vegetation that helps to absorb stormwater runoff. Rain gardens are often planted near driveways, rain gutters or compacted lawn areas and, as the water flows into the soil, the plants grow and pollutants from stormwater are filtered. Many schools, homes, and public buildings have areas on their landscaped properties that could benefit from a rain garden.

Chocowinity Middle School, in Beaufort County, realized that they had just such an area. The federation, N.C. State University and Wal-Mart worked together with the school on the

rain garden. Twenty-five seventh graders were involved in the project throughout the school year and planted their rain garden on May 8. Also attending the planting were volunteers from Wal-Mart, which funded the project, and staff from N.C. State University and the federation. While the students are on summer vacation, the rain garden is still working to help capture, absorb and filter stormwater runoff.

## COASTKEEPER

About a dozen residents of eastern Carteret County told state regulators at a public hearing that they opposed a sewer permit that the state was considering for Marina Village at Snug Harbor, a 72-lot subdivision and marina near Stacy in eastern Carteret County. Many of those who spoke

at the hearing said they feared the effects of increased stormwater to adjacent waters.

The Snug Harbor subdivision sparked a grassroots movement two years ago for better development rules Down East. The Coastal Federation and Down East Tomorrow, a local citizens group,



**JASON WRIGHT, AN ENGINEER AT N.C. STATE UNIVERSITY, INSTRUCTS STUDENTS OF CHOCOWINITY MIDDLE SCHOOL on building a rain garden.**

asked the N.C. Division of Water Quality (DWQ) to hold the public hearing before deciding on issuing a permit for the sewer plant. About 30 people attended the hearing at East Carteret High School.

Developers of the project in December applied for a state permit to build a private sewer plant to treat 100,000 gallons of sewage a day. The applicants intend to apply the treated sewage on land they own across U.S. 70 from the proposed subdivision.

"A plant that size could service several hundred houses," Frank Tursi, the Cape Lookout Coastkeeper, explained to DWQ hearing officers, "and the applicant owns several thousand acres in the area. The cumulative environmental effects of any future development that the sewer plant may spawn need to be considered before the permit is approved."

DWQ officials said they would reach a decision on the permit sometime this summer.



# PROJECT ON NE CAPE FEAR RIVER 'CEMENTS' PUBLIC OPPOSITION

## COASTKEEPER

After three years of quiet negotiations, New Hanover County residents were given three days' notice to comment on a proposal by the New Hanover County Commissioners to "invite" Titan America to mine and make cement on more than 1,800 acres on the banks of the Northeast Cape Fear River.

Despite public concerns and no request for an evaluation of potential adverse environmental or health affects, New Hanover's commissioners offered \$4.2 million dollars in tax incentives for Titan America to build and operate what would be the fourth-largest cement plant in the United States. Cement plants are known to be among the largest industrial polluters to air, surface water and groundwater. Although many details of the project are not yet available, the project could destroy 600 acres of coastal wetlands, bottomland hardwood swamps and terrestrial wildlife habitat and has the potential for significant pollution of our air, the river and groundwater resources.

In response, citizen activists have organized a non-profit corporation to oppose this plant. The N.C. Coastal Federation, Cape Fear River Watch and other advocacy groups are working with the citizens involved in this grassroots movement.

Because of the public outcry, the county commissioners set aside only 15 minutes at one meeting to allow people to voice their concerns. More than 400 people overflowed the commission chambers in a strong show of opposition. A public forum scheduled by the Wilmington Star-News on Monday, June 30, was suddenly canceled when Titan officials pulled out, citing security concerns. The Star-News called the action 'rotten salesmanship'.

The process to devise the required Environmental Impact Statement began on July 1 with the "scoping" meeting required by the Army Corps of Engineers whenever wetlands are proposed to be destroyed or affected by a project. This process gave 350 people a chance to again voice their concerns over the environmental and



*More than 600 acres of irreplaceable wetlands and wildlife with more than seven miles of shoreline along the Northeast Cape Fear River would be destroyed by the proposed Titan mine and cement plant. If built, it would be the fourth-largest cement plant facility in the U.S.*

human health impacts. The N.C. Division of Air Quality, which is responsible for the required air quality permit, also plans to hold a public hearing on the Titan project.

If you want more information or to get involved, call our Cape Fear Coastkeeper at 910-790-3275 or go to the website [www.Stoptitan.org](http://www.Stoptitan.org).

## EDUCATION

### Community Creek Meetings a Huge Success

As efforts to improve North Carolina's stormwater runoff rules were in full swing in April, over 200 people demonstrated their concern for the water quality in their backyard by attending community meetings in New Hanover County. Residents from the watersheds of Futch, Howe, Pages, Bradley, Hewlett's and Whiskey creeks learned about the health of their creeks and how they can get engaged to protect and restore them. Thanks to a diverse group of expert speakers, citizens learned about a host of resources and practices available to them to help protect their local creek. The federation's Community Creek Meetings will be replicated throughout the region, so keep an eye on our website ([www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)) for a community creek meeting in your watershed.

## Southeast Region Volunteer Celebration

This year, volunteers have helped to fill more than 2,000 shell bags, recycle 3,000 bushels of oyster shell and reach more than 8,000 people through participation at fairs and festivals. Without volunteer help, most of this could not be done. The federation plans to show our appreciation and invite our regional volunteers to a celebration at Halyburton Park in New Hanover County on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 1-3 p.m. Volunteers will receive an invitation in the fall, but please save the date.

## RESTORATION

### Morris Landing Living Shoreline Project

The federation's shoreline restoration project at Morris Landing is underway, and includes building an oyster bag sill, laying down loose oyster shells and planting a salt marsh. The demonstration project will provide protection for the existing and restored marsh fringe, and the federation will monitor the effectiveness of these "softer" approaches to protect properties from erosion.

This restoration project is made possible by funding from the N.C. Community Conservation Assistance Program, the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program and the many volunteers who spent hours filling and hauling oyster shell bags, planting marsh grasses and monitoring the project. There are plenty of other opportunities to help with this living shoreline. If you would like to get involved, e-mail Ted Wilgis ([tedw@nccoast.org](mailto:tedw@nccoast.org)) or call our Wilmington office at 910-790-3275.

## REGIONAL WISH LIST

The N.C. Coastal Federation is currently looking for a donation of a sturdy work skiff for our oyster reef restoration program. If you would like to donate a shallow-draft boat in working order to work on oyster reefs, please call our Wilmington office at 910-790-3275.

We would also like to replace some aging trucks

and cars that our staff uses to do field work and travel to meetings. We are interested in accepting the donation of a reliable and moderate-mileage truck or SUV to be used for restoring habitat or carrying a full complement of people to work on our projects.

We also need volunteers for oyster shell recycling in the Carolina Beach area, newsletter distribution in Pender and Onslow counties, for clipping and sending us NCCF

articles from newspapers that circulate in the Brunswick, Pender, New Hanover and Onslow Counties. If you take a paper in one of these areas, this is a great way to stay in touch with our work and help us from the comfort of your home. The mailing address at our SE regional office is 131 Racine Dr., Ste. 101, Wilmington, NC 28403. For these and other volunteer opportunities please contact Ted Wilgis at 910-790-3275 or [tedw@nccoast.org](mailto:tedw@nccoast.org).

# N.C. Coastal Federation: 2007 Annual Report

*In 2007 we paused briefly to celebrate 25 years of work and then rolled up our sleeves to tackle the pressing problems along our coast. Our public campaign to strengthen and expand the N.C. Coastal Federation was launched. We hired new staff, educated and engaged thousands of students and adults, expanded conservation holdings, monitored coastal waters up and down the coast, conducted on-the-ground shoreline and oyster habitat restoration and promoted better land-use practices and low-impact development methods. And then we made plans to do much, much more in 2008. Here's a sampling of what we accomplished last year with members' help.*

## Coastwide

- ❑ Began a five-year expansion plan by starting the public phase of our \$3 million Capital Campaign, adding three new full-time positions and developing plans to offer Coastkeeper, Restoration and Education/Outreach programs in NCCF's three regional offices in Manteo, Ocean and Wilmington.
- ❑ Engaged 1,405 volunteers in activities, including shoreline plantings, oyster habitat creation, and water quality monitoring. These volunteers donated a total of 12,060 hours.
- ❑ Provided education to 17,114 students through field trips, restoration activities, classroom experiences and other education events, and reached an additional 700,000 people with program and issue information.
- ❑ Promoted low-impact development (LID) through education. NCCF helped organize a national LID conference in March. The event held in Wilmington, NC was "sold out" with over 500 attendees. We also organized two regional LID workshops, one in Carteret County in April and another in New Hanover County in June. The events featured the federation's work on model ordinances along the southeast coast and key LID retrofit projects along the central coast.
- ❑ Led a campaign that resulted in the passage of the Solid Waste Management Act of 2007. The bill nixed several mega-landfills planned for the coast in low-income and minority rural communities and established new environmental protections to protect surface waters and wetlands.

## Northeast Region

- ❑ Brokered a partnership with local farmers in the northeast region to plan the restoration of natural hydrology while enhancing agricultural lands and preparing to adapt to sea-level rise. The partnership now includes state and federal agencies.
- ❑ Worked with the Northern Oyster Work Group to complete a comprehensive long-term plan for restoring oysters to the waters of Pamlico Sound and its tributaries.



*Volunteers measure the growth of oyster reefs in Dicks Bay in Onslow County.*

- ❑ Acquired a second conservation easement for the conservation corridor we're developing along the Scuppernong River. The Robinson family donated an easement on 87 acres along the river.
- ❑ Led an effort by local residents and state and local governments to protect and restore Durants

Point, which protects Hatteras Harbor in Dare County. One parcel is being transferred to the state Division of Marine Fisheries to be managed as park space by the county, and another property will be placed under a conservation easement to be held by the county.

- ❑ Worked with stakeholders group and the N.C. Coastal Land Trust to complete a planning project that identifies lands in Currituck County that should be put in conservation to protect water quality.

- ❑ Bought property from Manteo to serve as Northeast Regional Office and began renovations on the house.

- ❑ Hired staff for two new positions, the coastal habitat scientist and coastal outreach specialist.

- ❑ Worked with Manteo to design a stormwater retrofit demonstration park adjacent to the federation's office, and began creating a comprehensive atlas of stormwater retrofit sites.

## Central Region

- ❑ Restored 176 acres of wetlands through five projects: North River Farms – Ward Creek Phase I; North River Farms – Phase II; plantings at Carteret Community College; and the Jones Island shoreline restoration.

- ❑ Initiated retrofits of stormwater outfalls at the federation's Hoop Pole Creek Clean Water Preserve and Hammocks Beach State Park. The projects rerouted stormwater from direct outfalls into shellfish waters into bioretention and infiltration areas.





*Swansboro High School students are all smiles after helping restore shoreline on Jones Island in the White Oak River.*

- Partnered with Cape Lookout National Seashore and the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center to develop a stormwater master plan for the two sites and install a series of LID stormwater techniques. The project is funded by North Carolina Sea Grant and the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

- Secured agreements to transfer ownership of most of Jones Island, a 24-acre uninhabited island in the middle of the White Oak River, to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. NCCF and Audubon of North Carolina donated acreage so that 70 percent of the island will be permanently protected with financial support from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

- Worked with the Town of Cedar Point in Carteret County and the N.C. Department of Transportation on an EPA-funded project to determine the causes of bacterial pollution that closed shellfish waters in four watersheds in the lower White Oak River. Trained citizen volunteers have taken almost 200 water samples to test for bacteria in the largest sampling project ever done in the river. The goals of the project are to find the sources of the contamination and devise watershed plans that will offer ways to reduce the bacterial pollution. The

project will be completed later this year.

### Southern Region

- Completed projects to restore eight acres of oyster habitat in the New River and Myrtle Grove Sound.

- Obtained funding to build a barge-loading pier at Morris Landing that will support large-scale projects to create and restore oyster habitat. The project was begun and construction is scheduled for completion in July 2008.

- Created a model Phase II stormwater permit for Brunswick County, one of the fastest-growing counties in the state. The federation worked with the N.C. Division of Water Quality to ensure the model permit met all state requirements.

- Led an effort that resulted in the EPA and the state entering into an agreement with New Hanover County, requiring a moratorium on new development and deadlines for fixing its ailing sewer system. Our Cape Fear Coastkeeper led the charge by drawing media attention to the issue, meeting with state and local officials and rallying local support and momentum for change.

- Hired a full-time coastal outreach specialist to initiate an environmental education program in the region.

- Secured funding through the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant program to work with Brunswick County to create and incorporate LID stormwater practices into the redesign of its government center.

- Removed 300 feet of an earthen causeway and restored saltmarsh habitat to increase flushing, improve water quality, and restore productive shellfish habitat in the Outstanding Resource Waters of Stump Sound.

- Secured state and federal funding to begin working on development of a plan to control bacteria in the Lockwood Folly River. The federation led the volunteer field training and sampling effort that will result in the collection of one year of water quality data. Data collection will be completed in this year and will provide critical information for the development of a water-quality protection and restoration plan for the Lockwood Folly watershed.

## GIVING TO THE COAST

Our **FRIENDS OF THE COAST** donated at record levels in 2007. We appreciate the many individuals, businesses, groups and foundations who donated, enabling the federation's work to expand. The following friends gave at recognition levels:

Jeff & Roz Abrams; Joel & Marla Adams; Additions Plus; Mr. Ogden O. Allsbrook Jr.; Claude Camp Arnold; Diann M. Barbacci; Dick Bierly; Charles F. Blanchard; Sam Bland; Blumenthal Foundation; Boeckman Family Foundation; Scott Bradley; Clem & Marjorie Bribitzer; Dr. & Mrs. Ray Burby; Victoria Byers; Captain Planet Foundation; Carlson Family Foundation; City of Chesapeake; CJB Foundation; CoFish International; Cooperative Bank; Burton Craige; Susan & Robert Crenshaw; Adam Wayne Dillon; Lee H. Dunn; Laura Edwards; Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Kyle Elliott; Emerald Isle Realty; Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Program; First Citizens Bank; FishAmerica Foundation; Fizz Fund of Triangle Community Foundation; Ernie & Lynne Foster; Peter Fulton; James Barrie, Ellen & Morty Gaskill; Dr. & Mrs. Charlie Godwin; Mr. & Mrs. George Goolsby, Jr.; Grace Jones Richardson Trust; Great Outdoor Provision Company; William C. Hall; James G. Hanes; Pricey Harrison; Olivia Britton Holding; Ella Ann L & Frank B. Holding Foundation; Robert P. Holding Foundation, Inc.; Mr. & Mrs. Irv Hooper; Kathryn B. Howd; Frances Ingliis; InSight Fund of Triangle Community Foundation; Johnson Brothers Carolina Distributors; James E. Johnson; Danny & Sophie Jordan; Julian Price Family Foundation; Dr. & Mrs. William Kelly; Joseph & Penelope Kilpatrick; Art Klose & Mary Katherine Lawrence; Stephen & Nancy Knight; Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Lea, Jr.; Dr. & Mrs. Lanneau D. Lide, Jr.; Jackie & Omar Mardan; Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust; Perry A. & Elisabeth T. Mathis; Ron & Diane McCord; Dot & Larry McGee; John & Karen Middleton; Deede Miller & Michael Murdoch; Glen Y. Miller; Todd Miller & Julie Shambaugh; Matthew Pearson; Native Roots Nursery; NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund; NC Community Conservation Assistance Program; NC DENR; NC Sea Grant; NC State University; New River Nets; North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation; NOAA Community Restoration Program; Mr. & Mrs. Billy Olive; John Parker & Easter Maynard; Adele F. Paynter; David & Cary Paynter; Willy, Feather & Jake Phillips; Lewis & Theresa Piner; Fred Eshelman; Jane Preyer; Mary Dudley P. Price; Joseph Ramus; Bill & Meg Rawls; John



Coastkeeper Mike Giles samples water in the Lockwood Folly River in Brunswick County.

Preyer; Restoration Systems, LLC; Restore America's Estuaries; Jim & Chris Rice; Ann Page Richardson; Ken & Pat Rittenmeyer; Neil & Madeleine Robinson; John Runkle & Nancy Dole; Scarborough-Hart Fund of Triangle Community Foundation; Michael J. Schott; Richard Scully & Lee Kimball; SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund; Melvin & Tillie Shepard; Ann & Bland Simpson; Lisa Jones & Keith Smith; Donna E. Snead; Southern Alliance for Clean Energy; Fred & Alice Stanback, Jr.; Mr. T. M. Stanback, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. William C. Stanback; Sally Steele & Lee Taylor; Craig & Cathy Steffee; Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association; Mark A. Tamn; Melanie Taylor; Bradley & Suzanne Tesh; The Community Foundation of Western NC, Inc.; The Conservation Fund; The Creekmore Foundation; Mason & Jill Venable; Doug Wakeman; Wal-Mart; Jim & Patricia Miller Wann; Nick Weaver; Ralph & Ginger Webster; and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

## North Carolina Coastal Federation 2007 Annual Report

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES for THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007.

#### Grants and Revenues

Membership	\$ 146,730
Donations	\$1,094,992*
Campaign donations/cash	\$ 466,274
Grants	\$ 353,000
Special projects	\$1,402,433
Investment income	\$ 78,907
Misc.	\$ 4,426
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$3,546,762</b>

#### Expenses

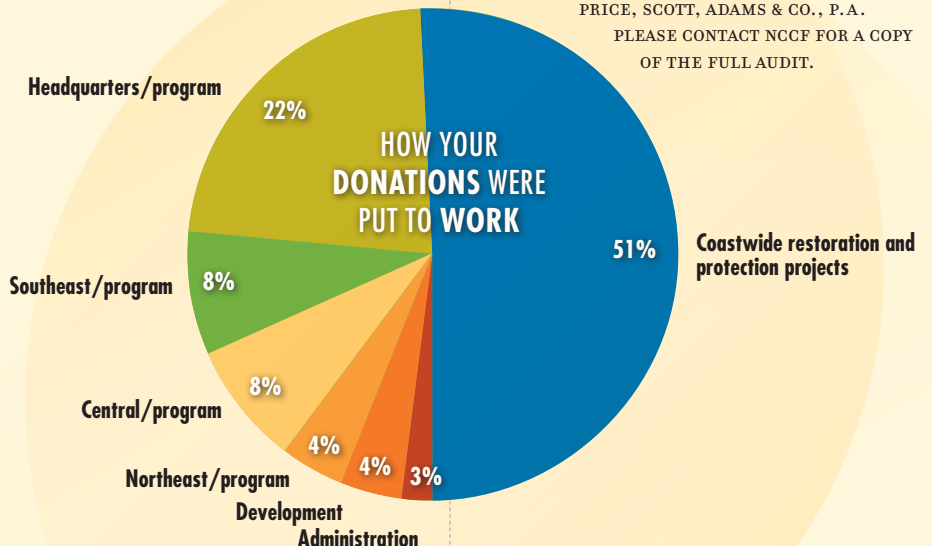
Administration	\$ 81,541
Development	\$ 89,390
Headquarters/program	\$ 559,480
Northeast/program	\$ 87,992
Central/program	\$ 203,681
Southeast/program	\$ 210,102
Coastwide restoration & protection projects	\$ 1,257,508
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,489,694</b>

#### Net assets

Beginning	\$ 32,467,831
Ending	\$ 33,524,899
<b>Change</b>	<b>\$ 1,057,068</b>

\*Includes \$621,000 for conservation easement donation

NCCF'S AUDIT IS CONDUCTED BY THOMPSON,  
PRICE, SCOTT, ADAMS & CO., P.A.  
PLEASE CONTACT NCCF FOR A COPY  
OF THE FULL AUDIT.





## Meet Our Interns

Each summer, the N.C. Coastal Federation is lucky to attract capable interns who do everything around here from tidying up the yard to researching weighty scientific topics. Meet the latest bunch, who will be working this summer at our headquarters in Ocean.

### JACQUELINE HEFFERNAN

**HOMETOWN:** Park Ridge, Ill.

**UNIVERSITY:** Duke University

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I chose an internship with NCCF because of a class I took the previous semester at school. It brought to my attention the serious need for environmental activism in our world.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** I am working at NCCF as an education intern. In this capacity, I and my fellow intern conduct tours out at Cape Lookout on barrier island ecology and tidal flats exploration. Though technically I am educating others, it has been a great new learning experience for me personally as well.

### ANNE MANESS

**HOMETOWN:** Chapel Hill

**UNIVERSITY:** Duke University

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I had heard from a couple of friends that the federation was a great place to quickly gain experience in policy issues as well as a welcoming, positive work environment.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** Progress of stormwater management rules and the campaign finance relating to Figure 8 Island landowners.

### MARTINA McPHERSON

**HOMETOWN:** Boston, Mass.

**UNIVERSITY:** Wesleyan University (undergraduate), Duke University

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I wanted to gain a better understanding of coastal development issues and coastal policy in North Carolina.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** I've developed several inlet fact sheets to support NCCF's fight against Senate Bill 599.

### KELLY O. PUGH

**HOMETOWN:** St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

**UNIVERSITY:** Duke University

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I chose a NCCF internship because I am interested in environmental protection. It is also a good opportunity to network and learn about the inner workings of non-profit organizations.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** Hoop Pole Creek Nature Trail guide and a national strategy for beach preservation.

### ALEXA RAE REVORD

**HOMETOWN:** Tampa, Fla.

**UNIVERSITY:** Duke University.

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I chose to do the internship with NCCF because I researched some of the environmental issues they were working on and I was really inspired to help them reach their goals.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** As a legislative intern, I am working on environmental policy tracking in the (N.C.) Senate and in the House of Representatives.

### JENNIFER SOEHNGEN

**HOMETOWN:** Mechanicsville, Va.

**UNIVERSITY:** Duke University

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I'm an economics major, interested in environmental economics issues, and I wanted a chance to learn more about the environment and environmental activism and preservation.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** I'm creating a database of contacts for invitation to the living shoreline contractor training in the fall and I've also recently began developing a list of coastwide strategies that could be included as key policies in CAMA land-use plans.

### ADRIENNE TESTA

**HOMETOWN:** Warwick, N.Y.

**UNIVERSITY:** Warren Wilson College

**WHY I CHOSE AN NCCF INTERNSHIP:** I chose to work at NCCF because, as an education student at Warren Wilson, I've always been interested in educating the public about environmental issues. Also, getting to know coastal North Carolina was a big draw because this state has so much to offer.

**PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON:** I'm leading educational ecology tours at Cape Lookout this summer.

## New Office in Manteo Finally Complete

Volunteers have put in hundreds of hours of painting, planting and carpentry work to help complete our new Manteo office. Located at 128 Greenville St. (just across U.S. 64 from Food-A-Rama), the office is next to a half-acre site where the town plans to build a stormwater wetlands garden.

The 1,100-square-foot building contains three offices, a conference room and a reception area, along with a large storage area on the ground floor. The parking lot is paved with pervious surfaces and the backyard includes two large rain gardens. A cistern will be installed later this summer, thanks to a grant from the N.C. Community Conservation Assistance Program.

## Staff Changes

Rose Rundell and Emily Farmer will be splitting the duties of our office manager.

Rose joined the staff in 2003 as part-time office assistant and gift shop manager. She also buys the plants and composes fact sheets for the federation's annual Native Plant Sale. Originally from Ohio, she



ROSE RUNDPELL

moved to the area from Charleston, S.C. Environmental issues have always been one of her interests and are what brought her to the federation.

Emily, a long-time federation volunteer and former board member, joined the staff in May. She served two terms on the Emerald Isle Town Board of Commissioners where she spearheaded the creation of Emerald Isle Woods, the town's 40-acre park and stormwater project on Bogue Sound. Emily is also a pediatric nurse at Carteret General Hospital.



EMILY FARMER

## Coastkeeper on the Mend

Our Cape Fear Coastkeeper, Mike Giles, will be on medical leave July 15– Aug. 15 for major neck surgery. We wish him all the best and a speedy recovery. Tracy Skrabal and Ted Wilgis will be filling in for Mike in his absence.

## WILMINGTON INTERNS WILL BE BUSY

We also have three interns working in our southeast regional office in Wilmington. They are Jill Simmerman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Brian Pickett of UNC-Wilmington and Courtney Cameron, a 2008 graduate from UNC-Charlotte. They will have a busy summer working with the Wilmington staff. They will provide much-needed assistance with our restoration projects, help research the proposed Titan cement plant, conduct water-quality monitoring and assist with a myriad of administrative needs.

## HARDENED STRUCTURES BAN UNDER ATTACK

For decades, the state has prohibited hardened structures along our beaches and near inlets. Well-heeled lobbyists representing the Figure Eight Island Homeowners Association last year pushed a bill through the state Senate that would allow a small jetty known as a “terminal groin” to be built as a “pilot project” at an inlet. Senate Bill 599 stalled in the state House in 2007.

Terminal groins and jetties cause significant erosion on nearby beaches and property. More than 40 esteemed geologists stated in a letter that “A structure at the terminus of a barrier island, near an inlet, will interrupt the natural sand bypass system. . . and cause negative impacts to adjacent islands.”

Masonboro Island near Wilmington has experienced erosion rates of almost 26 feet a year due to the jetties built at Masonboro Inlet. Similarly, erosion rates at Assateague Island in Virginia increased from three feet a year to about 40 feet annually after jetties were built at Ocean City Inlet in Maryland. Proponents of SB 599 point to the jetties at Ocean City as a success story. Efforts to mitigate erosion caused by jetties on these islands through beach renourishment have been extremely expensive and ineffective.

The federation sent a letter to N.C. House members opposing SB 599. We were joined in the letter by the Southern Environmental Law Center, Audubon N.C., the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Conservation Council of N.C., the N.C. Conservation Network and the N.C. Wildlife Federation. Groins and jetties at inlets accelerate erosion on downdrift properties and destroy the public beach.

NCCF also organized a briefing for Figure Eight Island homeowners in June. Dr. Stan Riggs, a geologist on the faculty of East Carolina University, and federation Policy Director Jim Stephenson discussed the negative impacts of groins and jetties. They also presented an alternative that is under consideration to relocate the channel in Rich Inlet on the northern end of Figure Eight Island. The channel in Mason Inlet on the southern end of the island was successfully relocated in 2002 without the use of a permanent hardened structure.

The homeowners association has heavily lobbied

House members this year using its battery of influential property owners and campaign contributors. The N.C. General Assembly was still



**Ocean City Inlet in Maryland**

in session when the Coastal Review went to press so we don't know how successful the effort has been. Check our website, [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org), for updates.

### DOLE FLIP-FLOPS ON OIL DRILLING IN COASTAL WATERS

With the price of gas rising above \$4 a gallon, some state politicians are renewing calls for drilling along the East Coast. U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R-N.C.) endorsed a scheme to reward states for allowing drilling for oil and natural gas off their coastlines. Dole previously supported the federal moratorium on drilling that extends through 2012. She joins U.S. Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and U.S. Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) as supporters offshore drilling with state approval. Democratic U.S. Reps. Mike McIntyre, Brad Miller, David Price and Bob Etheridge oppose offshore drilling.

State Sen. Kay Hagan (D-Guilford) said, “Drilling off the coast of North Carolina would negatively impact the tourism industry, a \$16.5 billion boon to the state’s economy, and would

make North Carolina’s coast susceptible to harm if Virginia or South Carolina partake in offshore drilling.” Hagan is Dole’s Democratic opponent in the November election for the U.S. Senate.

Senate Bill 3202, co-sponsored by Burr and Dole, would give states 37.5 percent of the royalties from drilling that would occur 50 miles off their coasts. Since drilling would require state approval, the candidates for governor have weighed in on the issue. The Republican candidate for governor, Charlotte Mayor Pat

McCrorry, supports offshore drilling and proclaimed, “One of my first acts as governor will be to meet with the Coastal Resources Commission to change coastal energy policies and then issue an executive order providing for safe, technologically sound deep sea exploration and drilling.”

The Democratic candidate for governor, Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue of Craven County said, “North Carolina’s coast is in Hurricane Alley and has been called the Graveyard of the Atlantic for a reason. I haven’t seen anything that proves to me that drilling

there can be done safely or bring down oil prices.”

NCCF opposes offshore drilling because of the potential for oil spills and accidents and the physical alterations to the land from onshore industrial facilities that support oil drilling, storage and transportation.

### OYSTERS IN THE STATE BUDGET

The 2008-09 state budget added \$2 million for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries for oyster sanctuaries. The money will buy barges, hire six staff and pay for material to create more oyster sanctuaries in Pamlico Sound and elsewhere.

The budget also includes \$4.3 million in borrowing authority for the state to build an oyster hatchery. The construction of a hatchery will boost ongoing public and private efforts to restore oysters in state waters. The funds were added at the request of State Senate President Pro-Tempore Marc Basnight (D-Dare). Sen. Julia Boseman (D-New Hanover) and Sen. Jean Preston (R-Carteret) sponsored a bill to fund the oyster hatchery.





## Rally in Raleigh Pushes for Stronger Coastal Stormwater Rules

More than 300 people gathered June 4 outside the Legislative Building in Raleigh in an impressive show of support for more effective rules to control polluted runoff along the coast. They visited their legislators, shared lunch with them under tents and cheered the coastal stewards who were given this year's Pelican Awards.

"Our message was clear: if we do not balance growth with our environment we are destined to end up with waters that are too polluted to swim in, fish in and work upon," said Kelly Stryker of Wilmington. "That is what is at stake."

Kelly was among the 150 coastal residents who rode buses to the rally. The N.C. Coastal Federation chartered the buses, which left from Wilmington, Morehead City and Manteo. All were full.

They arrived in Raleigh to promote new state rules to control coastal runoff. The rules will replace a 20-year-old program that the state determined in 2005 had not protected water quality. Powerful special interests aided by some local governments had been lobbying their legislators to kill, delay or weaken the new rules. To ensure that legislators heard all sides of the debate, the federation arranged meetings to give people an

opportunity to argue for clean water.

If they couldn't meet their legislators in their offices, activists had another opportunity at lunch. The federation invited hundreds of people to gather under two giant white tents on the Halifax Mall for boiled N.C. shrimp, hush puppies and all the trimmings. Citizens, like Beth Souter of Belville, sat across from and their representatives, peeling shrimp and stressing the need for stronger stormwater rules.

"Because of the efforts of the N.C. Coastal Federation, regular citizens like me were provided extraordinary access I thought could only be gained through paid industry lobbyists' efforts," said Beth, who rode the bus from Wilmington. "Can the public make legislators hear our voice? Can we make a difference in how legislators think about issues? Yes."

*Rally: Legislators share lunch with their constituents at the federation's rally for clean water.*

During lunch, Todd Miller, the federation's executive director, and Frank Tursi, our Cape Lookout Coastkeeper, released our annual *State of the Coast Report*, which focuses on the effects of polluted runoff, the history of regulatory attempts to control it and the need an effective program. Dr. Charles "Pete" Peterson, vice-chair of the state Environmental Management Commission, gave the keynote address on the importance of the new rules.

Federation President Melvin Shepard and Vice-President Dick Bierly handed out the Pelican Awards, which the federation gives each year to people, groups and businesses that have exhibited exemplary stewardship of our coastal resources. Included in the 21 winners this year are Rep. Joe Hackney (D-Orange), speaker of the House, for Legislator of the Year, Peterson for State Government Official, and Dr. Orrin Pilkey of Duke University for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

All the award winners and the *State of the Coast Report* can be viewed on our website, [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).

# NCCF CALENDAR SUMMER 2008

call NCCF for more information:  
252.393.8185

## August

5, 7, 12, 14 – Barrier Island Ecology Program, Cape Lookout National Seashore, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

11 – Tidal Flats Exploration Program, Cape Lookout National Seashore, 9 a.m.

13 – Tidal Flats Exploration Program, Cape Lookout National Seashore, 11 a.m.

3 – Seining the Sound at Bodie Island, 2 p.m.

4 – Marsh Exploration at Festival Park, Manteo, 10 a.m.

## September

25-26 – Coastal Resources Commission, Sea Trail, Sunset Beach

## October

3-5 – Visit NCCF at the Seafood Festival, Morehead City

11-15 – Restore America's Estuaries National Conference, Providence, Rhode Island

# Join The North Carolina Coastal Federation

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to help protect and restore our coast. Please enter my membership in the North Carolina Coastal Federation today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals or Families:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000

Businesses, Groups & Organizations:

\$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000

Additional benefits: \$100 level – NCCF hat; \$250 level – NCCF shirt and hat; \$500 level - NCCF hat and shirt and listing in NCCF's Annual Report; \$1,000 level – NCCF hat and shirt, listing in Annual Report and invitation to a private NCCF event.

Please make your check payable to NCCF and mail with this form to 3609 Highway 24 (Ocean) Newport, NC 28570 or complete the credit card information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card:  Visa  MC  Am Exp.  Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees minus the value of benefits received are tax-deductible. Fair market value of benefits are: \$35-\$50 level: 0; \$100 level - \$10; \$250 level - \$20; \$500 level - \$25; \$1,000 level - \$50.

Check here if you wish to waive benefits and receive the maximum deduction.

## Help Keep North Carolina's Coast Healthy and Beautiful!

Apply for NCCF's specialty license plate TODAY! Proceeds will be put to work protecting and restoring coastal North Carolina.



TO ORDER: [www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv) or your local license renewal office.



**North Carolina Coastal Federation**

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