



North Carolina Coastal Federation

Working Together for a Healthy Coast

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2015 North Carolina Coastal Federation Awards Honor Area Individuals and Businesses

Wrightsville Beach-The Wilmington-area was well represented at the 2015 Pelican Awards handed out Friday evening in New Bern by the North Carolina Coastal Federation. The awards annually recognize people, organizations and groups who have demonstrated the exemplary commitment and meaningful actions to help the federation protect and enhance the N.C. coast.

"The Pelican Award winners from the Cape Fear region of our coast celebrate not only the accomplishments of these individuals and businesses, but the power of partnership," said Todd Miller, the federation's executive director. "They truly demonstrate that our success is dependent on the collaboration and support of individuals, businesses and other nonprofits."

This year's honorees from the region are:

State Representative Rick Catlin, Wilmington

As a certified engineer and geologist, serving his second term in the N. C. General Assembly, Rick Catlin has provided guidance and expertise related to water resources in the southeast, specifically focused on the protection of our critical groundwater supply and water use issues.

He recently introduced the Cape Fear Water Resources Availability Study Bill, involving a comprehensive study of the water supply and quality of the Cape Fear Region. He also worked tirelessly with the federation and other environmental groups on the coal ash bill to ensure that Duke Power was held accountable for the pollution problems at the Sutton Power Plant in Wilmington. As chair of the

House Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, he is a trusted ally in the federation's work to preserve our region's clean air and water.

Rick Shiver, Wilmington

Often when people retire, they slow down or take up more leisurely pursuits. That's not the case with Rick Shiver. Following his distinguished 30-year career as a regulator with the N.C. Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, Shiver decided to put his valuable expertise to work by volunteering for the federation. As a geologist, with expertise in groundwater management and state permitting, his knowledge is invaluable to the federation in efforts to stop Titan Cement from building a new industrial facility on the banks of the northeast Cape Fear River. Rick has spent countless hours researching geo-hydrology issues in New Hanover County, proving his dedication to this project and helping the federation to advocate for clean water and protection of the N.C. coast.

Konrady and Son Construction, LLC , Wrightsville Beach

When the federation decided to pick up and move a 1948 historic beach cottage from its foundation and transplant it to Wrightsville Beach to serve as our southeast region office and education center, it was clear that a special kind of contractor would be needed.

The passion, dedication, creativity and expertise that Konrady and Son brought to the project, far exceeded the federation's expectations. Ralph and Tanner Konrady and their crew overcame permit, logistical, time and budget challenges, and they did it with humor, patience and professionalism. Thanks to their efforts and dedication, the Fred and Alice Stanback Coastal Education Center is a vibrant hub of activity thriving in Wrightsville Beach.

Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity, Southport

When the federation approached Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity about the idea of installing environmentally friendly landscaping on new and existing Habitat homes, they welcomed the idea. The organization partnered with the federation, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension, Winding River Garden Club, Coastal Garden Club, UNC-Wilmington students and members of the U.S. Coast Guard to build and plant rain gardens and install rain barrels at several Brunswick County Habitat homes.

In addition to serving as a great example of low impact development, the Habitat for Humanity effort helped educate neighbors and the community by demonstrating how these simple solutions can make a big difference in improving the quality of the stormwater reaching public waterways. Through this partnership, they have demonstrated that a home is more than just a building; it is part of a larger community that must be sustained and cared for-inside and out.

The federation also honored **Jim and Bonnie Swartzenberg** of Jacksonville for their contributions to the organization. The couple was lauded for their tireless commitment to protecting and restoring coastal water quality and vital oyster


habitats of the coast. As previous owners of J & B Aquafood, the Swartzenbergs' livelihood depended on clean water and a healthy estuary. Together, they have been unwavering advocates for protecting water quality and restoring habitats along the coast for years.

The Swartzenbergs have fought for tougher stormwater regulations, gone to court to champion shellfish waters, served on numerous commissions and advisory committees, and helped usher in the birth of oyster aquaculture in North Carolina. Their deep connection to the coast, combined with good humor and a willingness to help facilitate change makes them valued members of the federation family.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation:

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. The federation's headquarters are at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates field offices in Wrightsville Beach and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at www.nccoast.org.

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