



North Carolina Coastal Federation

Working Together for a Healthy Coast

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Educator, Fisheries Expert and Dedicated Volunteers Honored with North Carolina Coastal Federation Pelican Awards

MANTEO - Four northeast N.C. coast residents will be recognized at Friday evening's Pelican Awards celebration in New Bern. The Pelican 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.

This year's honorees from the northeast are:

- A commercial fisherman who has taught hundreds of students about the industry and its reliance on clean water and a healthy coast.
- A marine patrol captain who has gone above and beyond to ensure the success of the federation's crab pot cleanup project.
- A fisheries expert who showed unwavering support of federation programs and dedication to the coast.
- A longtime federation volunteer with a true appreciation for the coast and willingness to help out in anyway possible.

Dewey Hemilright of Kitty Hawk is being honored for his contributions to the federation's education and outreach programs. Sharing his knowledge of the commercial fishing industry and its reliance on a clean, healthy coast during

numerous classroom and field lessons, Dewey has worked with hundreds of local students delivering this important message. He is an avid federation and community outreach volunteer and a popular presenter at the regional Wine & Dine events, always leaving audiences with a better understanding of the challenges and rewards of the commercial fishing industry.


Don Twyne of Manteo is captain of North Carolina Marine Patrol's District One, patrolling all the sounds and rivers from Ocracoke to the Virginia line. Since 2013, Don has served as a pioneer and leader of the federation's crab pot cleanup project. He has contributed countless hours of his expertise and advice to making this project and partnership successful. Don is being honored for his networking, leadership and dedication to this project.

Sara Mirabilio of Kill Devil Hills is a fisheries specialist with North Carolina Sea Grant being honored for her devotion to the coast and enthusiastic and inspired leadership with coastal restoration initiatives. Over the past two years, she has gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist the federation in successfully coordinating the regional crab pot cleanup effort, oyster workshops and summits. Sara's unwavering support and willingness to work long hours and evenings to ensure these programs and projects are successful, is a testament to her strong work ethic and dedication to the coast of North Carolina

John Thomas of Grandy received his Pelican Award for his committed and tireless volunteer contributions to the federation. John's love of the outdoors and kayaking give him a true appreciation for a healthy coast and the mission of the federation. He is an asset to all the federation's northeast programs, helping with everything from repairing doors to bagging oyster shells and leading kayak trips.

"It never ceases to amaze me-the great impact one individual can have on our work," said executive director, Todd Miller. "The commitment and actions of these recipients have truly made the northeast N.C. coast a better place to live, work, and play."

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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