



North Carolina  
Coastal Federation  
*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

SANDRA GROVER

*I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues.*

– Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

Perhaps you've seen the popular children's movie "The Lorax." It's about a young boy who lives in a town built of plastic, dominated by a greedy business man. Motivated by love, the boy sets out to find a real tree. After a daring hunt, he finds the very last tree seed and to the wonderment of the town, plants a spectacular forest.

In 2011, more than 3,000 volunteers of all ages "spoke for the trees," donating almost 18,000 hours to Coastal Federation projects up and down our coast. They planted shorelines and wetlands, created oyster habitat, cleaned up federation properties, worked with students to learn about coastal water quality and advocated for good environmental programs.

We are grateful for this record-setting level of participation. Because in the words of The Lorax, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

*Todd Miller*

Todd Miller, Executive Director



## 2011 NCCF BOARD

### NCCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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COASTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR	Ted Wilgis



**North Carolina  
Coastal Federation**  
*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

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 preservation and restoration.

N.C. Coastal Federation Headquarters & Central Regional Office  
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Southeastern Regional Office  
530 Causeway Drive • Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480



# 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*The working harbor in Hatteras Village Harbor is now better protected thanks to a rock sill and 8,000 marsh plants planted along 320 feet of shoreline at Durant's Point. Project partners included landowners, student and community volunteers and Dare County.*

## COASTWIDE

- Obtained widespread support at the national, state and local level for pioneering work to promote the use of low-impact development practices to protect and restore coastal water quality. This includes adoption of new programs by local governments, support by diverse stakeholders for promotional efforts and the provision of federal and state grants to allow for the expansion of these efforts.
- Limited damage caused by a new law that allows terminal groins at inlets by successfully obtaining a prohibition on state funding and restrictions on local funding without a popular vote, as well as requirements that groins must be insured to pay for both their potential removal and impact on surrounding property owners.
- Convinced lawmakers to restore partial funding to the oyster sanctuary program.
- Helped to reduce the number of provisions enacted by legislators that would have severely weakened the state's ability to protect its air and water quality.
- Redesigned website in preparation for the launch of Coastal Review Online in 2012 to compensate for the declining ability of the press to adequately cover coastal issues and decisions.
- Maintained national partnerships with Restore America's Estuaries and the Community Restoration Center within the U.S. Department of Commerce to help secure funds for fisheries habitat restoration.
- Expanded a formal partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist in restoring thousands of acres of wetlands within the state.
- Contributed policy leadership and scientific technical guidance to the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary Program as it revised and adopted its comprehensive management and restoration plan for Albemarle and Pamlico sounds.
- Served as a constant watchdog to hold public officials accountable for decisions about coastal protection and restoration.
- Our staff promoted low-impact development and installed many rain gardens, cisterns and wetlands. These techniques provide simple, cost-effective ways to reduce the amount of polluting stormwater to protect and restore coastal waters for swimming and fishing.
- Federation educators and scientists worked with 4,972 students during the year. Almost 2,000 of these students rolled up their sleeves and helped with federation restoration projects.
- More than 20,000 people learned about the coastal environment through federation workshops, festival displays, marsh cruises, field trips, presentations and other federation activities.



## NORTHEAST

- Partnered with Hyde County farmers and local governmental officials, resource agencies, university scientists and engineers to identify future wetlands restoration projects in the Mattamuskeet Drainage Association as part of a watershed restoration plan. The goal of the plan is to reduce discharge each year of billions of gallons of pumped agricultural runoff from the 42,500-acre drainage association so that closed shellfishing waters of the Pamlico Sound can be restored.
- Improved habitat and water quality along the Ocracoke shoreline by working with teachers and students to create new oyster habitat and planting a marsh near the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching on Ocracoke. The project was in conjunction with a week-long seminar for teachers conducted by federation staff.
- Coordinated the development of a stormwater reduction master plan for the First Flight elementary and middle schools in Kill Devil Hills working with the school system and the Coastal Studies Institute. Three rain gardens were built with the help of 300 students.
- Directed the planting, water management and maintenance of an innovative saltwater stormwater wetland designed by the federation that is adjacent to the federation's Manteo office. The wetland diverts runoff from a U.S. 64 drainage culvert into a 0.25-acre saltwater wetland.
- Engaged 220 students and 500 community volunteers in protecting and restoring salt marshes at Jockey's Ridge State Park through classroom lessons and work days in the field. More than 8,000 marsh grasses were planted along the shoreline

## CENTRAL

- Helped the Clean County Coalition in Carteret County to derail plans for a sulfur smelter at the state port in Morehead City.
- Engaged the UNC Institute for the Environment in an innovative planning effort with Cedar Point to devise stormwater retrofit strategies as part of a newly adopted Coastal Area Management Act land use plan.
- Planted marsh grasses with volunteers to restore 0.26 acres of Bogue Sound shoreline at the Carteret Community College and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.
- Assisted two private homeowners to install living shorelines along their Bogue Sound shorelines instead of building bulkheads.
- Worked with engineers and a team of development professionals to create low-impact development manuals that were

adopted by Cedar Point and Cape Carteret to offer people voluntary options for preventing and reducing the amount of stormwater runoff from new developments and existing land uses.

- Built and installed innovative techniques to control stormwater throughout the town of Cedar Point to reduce polluted runoff entering into the White Oak River. These measures included a stormwater wetland, a rain garden and three pet waste receptacles at Western Park, a large rain garden at the Cedar Point Town Hall and a bioretention area at the Croatan National Forest's Cedar Point Recreation Area. One-hundred-thirteen volunteers helped with these projects.
- Conducted wetland nursery, oyster, rain garden and other educational programs, educating 1,671 students and teachers in 19 schools in five central coastal counties.

## SOUTHEAST

- Reduced pollutants from stormwater runoff by creating and maintaining 11 stormwater reduction projects in New Hanover and Brunswick counties.
- Restored tidal circulation to shellfish waters in Stump Sound by removing part of the old causeway and bridge to Permuda Island and restoring salt marsh.
- Partnered with Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach and UNCW to complete a model watershed restoration plan for Bradley and Hewletts Creeks to reduce stormwater runoff so that polluted shellfish and swimming waters can be cleaned up.
- Organized people to successfully encourage the New Hanover County Commission to update local zoning requirements for heavy and light industries. It enacted a new requirement so that heavy industries such as Titan must apply for a special-use permit. This process creates the ability for the first time since 1969 for locally elected county officials to approve or disapprove proposals for heavy industrial facilities based upon their compatibility with local communities.
- Worked with the N.C. Department of Transportation and N.C. Division of Water Quality staffers to explore ways to incorporate low-impact development stormwater reduction measures into state highway projects including the installation of demonstration projects in Brunswick County.
- Engaged 772 students and 13 teachers in New Hanover and Onslow Counties in building and maintaining rain gardens at Bradley Creek Elementary School, and in restoring salt marsh habitat and creating oyster reefs at Morris Landing near Holly Ridge.



*Jones Island, a 20-acre island in the White Oak River, is a centerpiece for federation programs, combining advocacy, land conservation, restoration, education and recreation. We worked with Hammocks Beach State Park to expand oyster habitat, develop experimental designs for living shorelines, as well as to conduct tours, classes and summer camps.*



*Volunteers helped to enhance and restore salt marsh habitat and oyster reef habitat in Stump Sound at Morris Landing and Permuda Island in Onslow County.*



*Members kayaked with us on the White Oak River, rode in our first Cycling for the Coast event, stomped their feet to the Coastal Cohorts and bought flowers at the Native Plant Festival.*



*The federation led the growing opposition to the Titan America plant construction. Titan wants to build one of the nation's largest cement manufacturing and strip mining plants on the Northeast Cape Fear River. The plant poses significant public health risks, will destroy hundreds of acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat and negatively affect the regional economy.*





# North Carolina Coastal Federation

*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

3609 Highway 24 (Ocean) • Newport, NC 28570  
www.nccoast.org

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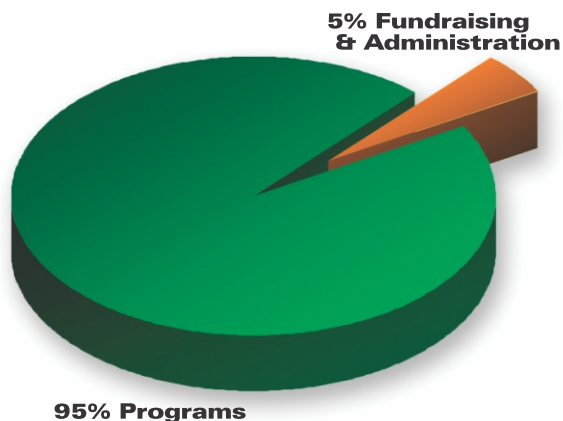
## REVENUE & EXPENSES

Revenue and Expenses for the year  
ending December 31, 2011

### PUBLIC SUPPORT

Memberships . . . . .	\$142,729
Donations . . . . .	900,052
Grants . . . . .	353,258
Special Projects . . . . .	1,592,992
Miscellaneous . . . . .	14,613
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b> . . . . .	<b>\$3,003,644*</b>
<b>and REVENUES</b>	

### HOW WE SPENT YOUR DONATIONS



Program . . . . .	\$2,484,397
Fundraising & Administration . . . . .	134,668
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2,619,065</b>

\* Reflects grant funds carried over to 2012 for projects and programs. A copy of the 2011 audit can be found at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) and is available on request.



## 2011 DONORS

*Memberships and donations support our day-to-day work and allows the federation to maintain and, at times, expand its staff and programs. Our thanks go out to each and every supporter of our coast. The following are donors who gave in 2011 at recognition levels.*

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