

NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION

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Summer 2005

COASTAL REVIEW

"Citizens Working Together for A Healthy Coast"

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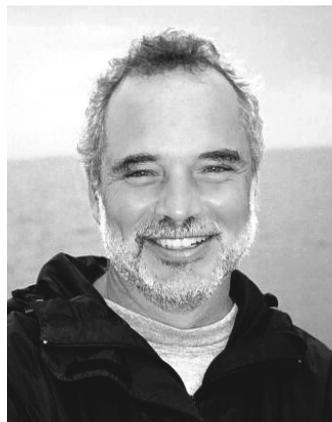
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Coastal Memories

Summer Interns

Coastal Land Preservation

Cover photo by
ART NEWTON (1956)



Perpetuate Coastal Memories By Saving Land

Dear Friend of the Coast,

Several people asked me recently if I know of any waterfront property with a small cottage that they could buy to laze away their weekends and retirement. Such daydreams of a simple and unhurried coastal life are shared by millions of people. But in ever greater numbers we're all crowding into a finite amount of coastal real estate. The results are soaring real estate prices. Even those able to pay astronomical land prices have to get extremely lucky to find a quiet and peaceful waterside retreat these days.

The songs, jokes, and stories of the Carolina coast captured by the hit musical *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running* strike a special cord with those of us who cherish traditional coastal ways. Again this summer, the show was a sellout in Morehead City.

This is the show's 20th anniversary. I've seen it many times, but this year I felt a twinge of sadness even as I laughed my way through the evening. I couldn't help thinking that instead of celebrating coastal life, what I was watching was a tribute to what was *once* so good and wonderful about our coast – the freedom to swim in unspoiled water, catch uncontaminated fish, eat raw clams and oysters, and have fun without being overly policed or stuck in traffic.

Indeed, a lot has changed in the past 20 years. Once sleepy backwater coastal communities are now ground zero in the real estate boom fueled by explosive population growth.

Much of the coast we love already looks strikingly similar to Myrtle Beach or the New Jersey shore – and along with these changes come many of the same big city issues and problems other densely populated coastal areas encounter – traffic, pollution, crime and constantly higher taxes to try to catch up with all the expanding community service needs.

To remain relevant in this changed world, the Coastal Federation continues to evolve our programs to reflect new challenges and demands. We now focus part of our work on protecting areas of our coast that are still relatively undeveloped and pristine. These are some of the best and most healthy places that are left.

In these areas we work to preserve or restore coastal habitats. In places like North River Farms in eastern Carteret County, thousands of acres of drained wetlands in the headwaters of this productive estuary are being restored and pollution problems fixed by restoring the natural landscape. Or along the upper reaches of the beautiful White Oak River, pristine wetlands are being permanently preserved and maintained for public use.

Since we first started buying land in 1997 with the help of the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Federation has protected some of the most spectacular places left on our coast. We've bought almost 8,500 acres by ourselves or with partners. We're a non-traditional land trust in many respects. Our approach has been to go after properties from the perspective of what's best for

the surrounding coastal rivers and sounds, and the oysters, clams and fish that live there. Check out what we've been able to accomplish on pages 6-7.

While our real estate purchases are significant, we're painfully aware that there will never be enough money to buy and conserve everything that needs to be protected or restored. That's why our advocacy and education work are crucial as well.

As you'll read throughout this newsletter, we assist coastal residents and visitors to more effectively advocate for stronger environmental laws, meaningful land use and watershed plans, effective stormwater rules, and improved enforcement of existing laws and rules.

Through our programming, we also recognize that we need to work with developers and landowners to help them use the land so that future coastal residents better co-exist with the natural environment. Our emphasis here is on preventing problems by promoting more compatible land use patterns and practices.

The bottom line is that there are no simple solutions or quick and permanent fixes in our work. To remain effective requires constant persistence and vigilance to make and retain environmental progress. Environmental stewardship has to be part of everyday life, not an issue or cause that's here one day and forgotten tomorrow.

We owe a debt of gratitude to generations who proceeded us. They created two spectacular national seashores, wonderful coastal state parks, thousands of acres of state gamelands and huge national wildlife refuges. We also have federal and state coastal reserves and thousands of additional acres of property that is now preserved by non-profit groups. Taken all together, these protected areas mean that North Carolina will always distinguish itself as having one of the most beautiful and productive coastlines in the United States.

Call us greedy, but here at the Federation we are still striving to keep much of the rest of our coast in good shape so that we can really be the natural envy of our nation. Our simple goal is to help perpetuate a healthy coastal ecosystem so that it provides a solid foundation for a vibrant cultural heritage for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Todd Miller
Executive Director



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, NC, between Swansboro and Morehead City. Our offices, nature library and shop are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm.

MEMBER
Earth Share
OF NORTH CAROLINA



ABOUT THE COVER:

This issue's cover photo was taken by Art Newton in August 1956, in Southport, NC. The photo is entitled, "Martyn St. David with Trout" (Martha Mallison).

LAYOUT/DESIGN: Anita Lancaster, Jacksonville, NC



Meet Our Summer Interns

KATE GEHRET

Age 25, Chicago, IL
Law student, Duke University

- **Undergraduate degree:** BA, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Princeton University
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Jones Island grant application, analysis of proposed legislation to create a Beach and Waterway Advisory Council, and legal research on the Clean Water Act and corresponding NC stormwater rules.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** I've really enjoyed the combination of field work and research. I get the chance to read all about something and then actually see it in action. All the interns are given great access to meetings and conferences, and we have had so many opportunities to meet interesting and influential people in North Carolina's environmental community.

SCOTT GEIS

Age 28, Delmar, NY
Master's candidate, Coastal Environmental Management for Marine Protected Areas, Duke University

- **Undergraduate degree:** BA, Environmental Studies, Siena College
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Collecting GPS readings for residential developments, drainage ditches and stormwater outfalls along the White Oak River and helping determine if marinas have pump-out stations as required by their state permits.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** This internship gives me a chance to examine another level of what goes into making environmental policy and regulations work. Understanding my role here and the role of the NC Coastal Federation will provide me with skills necessary to advance my career and make a substantial difference in the future.

ERICA HELLEN

Age 19, Tulsa, OK
Sophomore, Warren Wilson College

- **Field of study:** Environmental Education/Sustainable Agriculture
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Co-lead the Barrier Island Ecology tours at Cape Lookout National Seashore and work on various restoration projects.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** I knew nothing about this area and have acquired a pretty extensive knowledge of the vegetation and adaptations of barrier island plants and animals. I've also established a relationship with this region and a passion for maintaining its natural attributes.

AMY LYNCH

Age 23, Raleigh, NC
Master's candidate, Environmental Management In Conservation Science and Policy, Duke University

- **Undergraduate degree:** BS, Environmental Technology, NC State University
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Logistical support, land-suitability analysis and land-acquisition strategy for the Lockwood Folly project; and helping develop a stewardship plan for NCCF's Quaternary Tract.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** I have had the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities. So far this summer I have gone from planting Spartina in knee deep water to researching GIS methodologies, from slinging bags of oyster shells to attending a Coastal Resources Commission meeting, and from dragging trash bags and being attacked by flies to organizing a local stakeholder group.

GWEN MCLAUGHLIN

Age 22, Middletown, NY
Master's candidate, Coastal Environmental Management, Duke University

- **Undergraduate degree:** BA, English, Environmental Science and Policy, and Studio Art, Fairfield University
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Co-lead Barrier Island Ecology Tours at Cape Lookout National Seashore and develop a curriculum for future education interns to use. Also help with restoration projects.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** Gives me an opportunity not only to share what I know about barrier island ecology, but also to talk with local residents and summer visitors who have a great deal to teach me about the importance of preserving our coast.

BEN OVERTON

Age 22, Kinston, NC
Senior, UNC-Wilmington

- **Field of study:** Environmental Science
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Oyster-shell recycling, oyster reef planting, marsh restoration at Morris Landing.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** This has been an excellent learning experience. I liked working with all of the NCCF full time staff. They have all been extremely helpful in allowing me to work in field and get the valuable experience needed to make it in the real world.

KELLY PRICE

Age 23, Pennsauken, NJ
Master's candidate, Coastal Environmental Management, Duke University

- **Undergraduate degree:** BS, Behavioral Neuroscience, Environmental Science, Lehigh University.
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Developed a quality assurance plan for an EPA project that will begin on the White Oak River in Carteret County later this year; and researched stormwater prevention strategies for a series of fact sheets for another EPA project, this one on the Lockwood Folly

River in Brunswick County.

- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** NCCF offers interns a plethora of opportunities to be at the forefront of coastal policy and planning, restoration activities, and research. For this reason, working for a non-profit has turned out to be a much more rewarding experience than working for a more restrictive regulatory agency. The breadth of knowledge, effectiveness, and closeness of the staff, and the strong relationships developed with other environmental professionals also make this experience a rewarding one. It has proven to be a perfect match for me.

SARAH SMEILUS

Age 24, Bolton, MA
MS, Marine Biology and Environmental Studies, UNC-Wilmington

- **Undergraduate degree:** BS, Marine Biology, UNC-W
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Oyster-shell recycling program and Oyster Protection and Restoration Plan.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** As expected, the people were great. I really like what the organization does, and made some really good contacts. Overall, a wonderful experience.

MELANIE WEMPLE

Age 22, Edenton, NC
Senior, UNC-Wilmington

- **Field of study:** Geography and environmental studies
- **Brief description of NCCF projects:** Oyster-shell recycling program, Living Shorelines.
- **The most rewarding thing you've done here:** This is one of the most fulfilling jobs I've undertaken because the improvements that I helped create will be evident for a very long time and I am happy I could help implement change.



State Issues Moratorium on Federal Coastal Stormwater Permits

BY JIM STEPHENSON, Program Analyst

RESPONDING TO PEOPLE'S

concerns, the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) refused to issue an overly permissive general stormwater permit for the 20 coastal counties under the second phase of a federal program meant to control stormwater pollution.

"Based on a significant number of comments we received during the public process and our own concerns, we have decided not to include the Phase II coastal communities under the general permit," said Alan Klimek, DWQ's director.

The NC Coastal Federation rallied coastal organizations and residents to protest the general permit and several individual permits because they would not protect shellfish waters. Fifty-seven people attended a public hearing in Wilmington on Dec. 14, and 23 people spoke. All of the speakers called on the state to axe the general permit for coastal areas and instead issue individual permits. DWQ also heard from six people at three public hearings in other parts of the state, and received almost 700 written comments.

Don Ellson, president of PenderWatch and Conservancy, asked DWQ at the hearing in Wilmington "to either abandon the general permit in favor of more effective individual permits or find a way to produce a general permit that would meet Clean Water Act standards."

Dr. Michael Mallin, a research professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's Center for Marine Science, said that the general permit would "authorize and legalize excessive stormwater discharges that cause and contribute to violations of water quality standards."

To save regulators time and applicants money, state agencies issue general permits for similar types of activities regardless of the location as long as certain conditions are met. Such permits are usually issued quickly and receive little scrutiny. Individual permits, on the other hand, are



Illustration courtesy of Chad Crowe. This illustration marked the cover of "The Independent Weekly" in Raleigh, which did a series of stories on the state's Rules Review Commission. NCCF's Todd Miller and Frank Tursi were included in the stories.

specific to the location, are reviewed by the agency and are supposed to be more protective of the environment.

Klimek took the additional steps of withholding approval on seven individual Phase II stormwater permits in the coastal area and ordering a review of the state's coastal stormwater program. Permits affected by the moratorium are Wilmington, Jacksonville, Wrightsville Beach, Kure Beach, Carolina Beach, Brunswick County and New Hanover County.

Many of the public comments, Klimek noted in a May memo, expressed concerns about a provision in the state

program that allows developers to pave over and otherwise harden as much as 24 percent of a project's area without taking steps to control erosion. Research done by Mallin in New Hanover County and by other scientists in the Southeast show fairly conclusively that stormwater runoff starts to pollute shellfish waters if so-called impervious surface exceeds 12 percent.

"I am directing staff to withhold the issuance of the individual Phase II permits for those communities within the coastal counties until such time that a review of the effectiveness of the proposed post-construction stormwater control measures in the draft Phase 2 permits and the existing State Coastal Stormwater Program can be completed," Klimek noted in the memo.

He directed his staff to present its initial findings to the Environmental Management Commission's Water Quality Committee at its October meeting.

EMC Wins Contentious Stormwater Lawsuit

In a bizarre turn of events, the state sued the state and the public won.

Judge Donald W. Stephens of State Superior Court ruled that one state panel, the Rules Review Commission (RRC), "erred, acted arbitrarily and exceeded its statutory authority" by striking down stormwater rules approved by another state panel, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC).

The EMC is the state's main environmental rule-making commission. The RRC, an obscure panel created by the legislature, has the last word on new regulations. A recent investigation by the *Independent Weekly* newspaper in Raleigh found that the RRC is dominated by business lawyers and lobbyists and former business executives. Todd Miller, NCCF's executive director, and Frank Tursi, our Cape Lookout **COASTKEEPER**®, appear in the article, which can be read at <http://indyweek.com/durham/2005-07-06/index.html>.



The new stormwater rules were approved by the EMC in July 2003, revised in December 2003 in response to RRC objections, and then summarily rejected by the RRC a month later. The EMC sued in March, contending that the RRC had violated the NC Administrative Procedures Act.

Stephens agreed, noting that the RRC failed to even give "any meaningful reasons" why it objected to the EMC's revised rules. He also determined that the EMC had statutory authority to issue stormwater rules, which were not ambiguous. The RRC made both claims when summarily rejecting the rules.

After the RRC rejected the rules the NC General Assembly passed weaker versions.

The RRC has decided not to appeal Stephens' ruling and plans to revisit the stormwater rules in August under strict guidelines laid out by the court.

The Southern Environmental Law Center filed a similar lawsuit against the RRC on behalf of the NCCF and several other groups in March 2004. The lawsuit was set aside by the court pending the outcome of the EMC case. NCCF and the other groups contend that the RRC violates the state constitution's separation of powers doctrine because its members are appointed by the legislature with power to overrule actions made of state, which are part of the executive branch of government.

General Assembly Approves Global Warming Bill

The NC Senate and House have given thumbs up to a bill that would create a commission to study global warming and climate change in North Carolina. Senate Bill 1134, sponsored by Sen. Charlie Albertson (D-Sampson), creates a 32-member commission to review the potential impacts and the financial opportunities presented by climate change. The NC Coastal Federation would have a seat on the commission.

The legislation was approved by a substantial bipartisan majority in both the Senate (44-6) and the House (78-29). Once a House/Senate conference committee works out minor differences in the bill, it will be sent to Gov. Mike Easley. Once signed into law, North Carolina will become the first southeastern state to take a leadership role on global warming.

NCCF joined forces with NC Environmental Defense and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to conduct a two-year public information campaign that led to the passage of the bill. In the fall of 2004, NCCF published its annual *State of the Coast Report* on "Global Warming: The Impending Storm" and held its annual meeting on global warming. The report is available on our website at <http://www.nccoast.org/SOC2004/soc04.htm>.

Oysters Thrive in Raleigh

Gov. Mike Easley got the ball rolling by including \$690,341 for the Division of Marine Fisheries Oyster Restoration Program in his budget for 2005-06 and \$842,121 in 2006-07.

Next, it is up to the NC General Assembly to develop the two-year budget. The NC Coastal Federation enlisted the support of Marc Basnight (D-Dare), senate president pro tempore, and several key senators and representatives to introduce a series of bills to implement the key elements of our Oyster Restoration and Protection Plan for North Carolina.

Sens. Julia Boseman (D-New Hanover) and Scott Thomas (D-Craven) introduced a bill to create oyster hatcheries at the NC Aquariums in Manteo, Pine Knoll

Shores and Fort Fisher. Sen. Dan Clodfelter (D-Mecklenburg) sponsored the Oyster Restoration and Protection Act. Sen. Charlie Albertson (D-Sampson) introduced a bill to prohibit the dumping of oyster shells in landfills, which was later amended with the contents of Rep. Marian McLawhorn's (D-Pitt) bill to provide a tax credit to individuals who recycle oyster shells.

Reps. Bill Culpepper (D-Chowan), Carolyn Justice (R-Pender) and Pricey Harrison (D-Guilford) cosponsored the House version of the Oyster Restoration and Protection Act. Rep. McLawhorn introduced legislation to provide tax credits for recycling oyster shells. Rep. Danny McComas (R-New Hanover) introduced the House version of a bill to ban oyster shells from landfills, which was also amended with the contents of McLawhorn's bill. Reps. Jean Preston (R-Carteret) and Justice cosponsored legislation to create a \$500,000 Oyster Research Program within the NC Sea Grant.

When the dust settled from the flurry of bill introductions, the Senate budget included \$600,000 for oyster hatcheries at the three aquariums. The House budget closely followed Easley's budget but provides a lesser amount of \$575,000 for oyster restorations, sanctuaries and shell recycling. The House and Senate will work out the differences between their respective budgets in conference committee.

Lockwood Folly Watershed Roundtable Meets

The Lockwood Folly River Watershed Roundtable met June 1 to review the water quality status and trends and the effectiveness of current management measures to protect the river.

The roundtable heard presentations from the NC Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section, NC Division of Marine Fisheries, NC Division of Coastal Management, NC Division of Water Quality and the Brunswick County Planning Department.

All of the presenters stressed that the river is in serious trouble, that current state and federal programs wouldn't stop or reverse these negative trends, and that more effective land use planning and management at the county level was essential to achieve the goal of protecting water quality.

Rob Moul, President of Land Management Group, also briefed the group. Moul told the roundtable that more effective planning based upon the capacity of land to handle stormwater was necessary to protect water quality in the river. The roundtable has scheduled a field trip to see problems affecting the watershed on August 3.

Brunswick County Commissioners appointed Len Steiner, Alan Lewis, Judy Galloway, Steve Mercer, Doug Smith, Buddy Milliken, Becky King and Larry Lockwood to serve on the roundtable. The project is funded through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The NC Coastal Federation is assisting with the project under a contract with Brunswick County.

STAFF NOTES



We Welcome Our Youngest Member

Carson Kolodij Jones, the son of our Lauren and her husband Ron Jones, was born June 14. He was a keeper, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19 inches.

Old English for "Son of the Marsh Dwellers," Carson is doing well, as is mom. Lauren intends to return to work in September.

Jim Recovering at Home

Jim Stephenson, our lobbyist and staff analyst, broke his back in an auto accident in Morehead City on June 1 and underwent successful surgery in Greenville to repair a serious fracture to one of his vertebrae.

Thankfully, he's recovering well at home and is able to walk but can't sit down for long periods. But even a busted back can't keep our boy down for long. Jim has already returned to work part-time following up by telephone and email on his lobbying work and other duties. He should be back in the office in a month or so.



Jan Publishes Another Book

Jan DeBlieu, NCCF's Cape Fear COASTKEEPER®, recently published *Year of the Comets*, which details that Jan's family suffered through a crisis and Jan stayed sane by looking at the stars. The book was published in May by Shoemaker and Hoard. This is Jan's fourth book.

COASTKEEPERS® Attend Conference

All three of our COASTKEEPERS®, Frank, Jan and Ted, attended the annual WATERKEEPERS® Alliance conference in Stroudsburg, PA, in June.



Preserving Coastal Land

DURING THE MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF OUR EXISTENCE, the NC Coastal Federation has acquired a reputation as an aggressive defender of coastal water quality. We challenge permits and expose persistent polluters. We lobby legislators and educate youngsters.

You've certainly read about all that in the newspapers or saw us on TV.

We've also pursued another strategy, one that doesn't land us very often on your front page or on the nightly news. In the last eight years or so, we've quietly become one of the most effective regional land trusts in North Carolina.

Frank Tursi, our Cape Lookout **COASTKEEPER**®, may have summed it up best at a recent meeting of the **WATERKEEPER**® ALLIANCE, the national group that

represents riverkeepers, coastkeepers and such. In trying to describe NCCF's accomplishments to that litigious bunch, Frank said: "We don't often sue people. We try to buy their land instead."

Buying sensitive coastal land is the only way to truly preserve it, and the Federation has gotten adept at identifying threatened parcels, forming alliances with sometimes disparate groups and writing compelling proposals to attract the needed money. Since 1997, we by ourselves or with our partners have received \$18.6 million from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) to preserve 8,492 acres. That's an area almost twice the size of Morehead City or Kill Devil Hills.

We're restoring farmland to its original wetlands in the largest such project of its kind in North Carolina. We've helped buy islands that were turned into parks and are creating a clean-water preserve along one of the coast's

imperiled rivers.

We're proud to think that if not for us and our partners and the good people at the Clean Water Management Trust Fund a medium town's worth of subdivisions and condos, big-box stores and strip malls would mar our coastal landscape and pollute our waters.

What follows are brief descriptions of our projects funded by the CWMTF.

Bear in mind that the trust fund gets three times as many proposals as it has money for. There will never be enough money to go around. That's why we encourage people to donate land when the donation is compatible with our mission. These donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please contact Todd Miller, NCCF's executive director, at 252-393-8185 or toddm@nccoast.org if you are interested in discussing a possible land donation.



Hoop Pole Creek Nature Trail



Bird Island



Quaternary Tract

HOOP POLE CREEK, 1997

Location: Carteret County

Grant Amount: \$2.5 million

Acreage: 31

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Protect shellfish waters from urban development

Partner: NC Coastal Land Trust

Note: NCCF was the first organization to buy land with a grant from the new NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The purchase created 31 acres of buffers at Hoop Pole Creek in Atlantic Beach and preserved and restored 250 acres of marsh, tidal creeks and shallow water habitats. Owned by NCCF, the land is open to the public as a nature trail and preserve.



Open Grounds Farm

OPEN GROUNDS FARM, 1997

Location: Carteret County

Grant Amount: \$1 million

Purpose: Restore wetlands to treat runoff from 2,000 acres of farmland

Partners: UNC Institute of Marine Sciences, Duke University Marine Lab, Open Grounds Farm

Note: The universities received the grant money, and NCCF conducted public outreach for the project in 1999 and 2000.

HUGGINS ISLAND, 1998

Location: Onslow County

Grant Amount: \$1.4 million

Acreage: 386

Transaction Type: Land purchase and conservation easements

Purpose: Protect shellfish waters from urban development

Partners: NC Division of Parks and Recreation, NC Coastal Land Trust

Note: NCCF bought a conservation easement for \$732,000 on 276 acres in Onslow County to protect a mile of shoreline on Queens Creek and to preserve 48 acres of primary nursery habitat. With the Federation's help to secure the funding, NC Division of State Parks also bought the 110-acre Huggins Island in the mouth of the White Oak River. That purchase protected nearly 2.5 miles of shoreline and preserved 321 acres of salt marsh and shellfish habitat. Under heavy pressure to be developed, Huggins is now part of Hammocks Beach State Park. The purchases marked the first of several acquisitions to create the White Oak River Clean Water Preserve.

NORTH RIVER FARMS, 1999 & 2001

Location: Carteret County

Grant Amount: \$4.3 million

Acreage: 4,159

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Remove one source of stormwater pollution, North River Farms, and reduce pollution from another, Open Grounds Farm.

Partners: 1804 Partnership, Restoration Systems, Inc.

Note: NCCF bought major portions of North River Farms in two parts – 1,991 acres in for \$1.2 million and 2,168 later for \$3.1 million. The Federation also negotiated with three private



North River Farms

conservation buyers to buy the remainder of the farm, 1,435 acres. The almost 6,000 acres will be restored to wetlands, the largest such project in state history. Since the land was acquired, numerous state and federal agencies have contributed an additional \$3 million to restore wetlands on the property.

WHITE OAK RIVER, 2000

Location: Onslow County

Grant Amount: \$2.1 million

Acreage: 776

Transaction type: Land purchase

Purpose: Preserve water quality

Note: The next piece of the White Oak Clean Water Preserve.

Options are being explored for the best protection of the relatively pristine river between Swansboro and Stella, while offering opportunities to leverage additional funding.

GUM THICKET, 2000

Location: Pamlico County

Grant Amount: \$1.25 million

Acreage: 301

Transaction Type: Conservation easement

Purpose: Preserve water quality

Partner: Neuse River Foundation

Note: The easement protects primary nursery areas along a new subdivision near Oriental. NCCF later worked with the developer to help design an environmentally friendly subdivision along Gum Thicket. The development now under construction includes strict buffer requirements for limits on impervious surfaces.

EMERALD ISLE STORMWATER, 2000

Location: Carteret County

Grant Amount: \$2.4 million

Acreage: 40

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Use wetlands to treat stormwater to protect shellfish waters of Bogue Sound.

Partner: Emerald Isle

Note: NCCF helped the town buy the undeveloped sound-side land to develop a park where natural wetlands are used to cleanse stormwater and to protect maritime forest.

BIRD ISLAND, 2001

Location: Brunswick County

Grant Amount: \$1.25 million

Acreage: 1,200

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Protect water quality from urban development

Partners: Bird Island Preservation Society, NC Coastal Land Trust, NC Division of Coastal Management, NC Department of Transportation

Note: This was the culmination of a 10-year battle against developers and bridge builders to save one of North Carolina's last pristine barrier islands. Half the island was finally bought with money from CWMTF and the NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund, and the remaining funds were contributed by NC Department of Transportation. The island is now part of the state's Coastal Reserve system.

SUGARLOAF ISLAND, 2001

Location: Carteret County

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Acreage: 47

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Protect water quality from urban development

Partner: Morehead City

Note: The town pledged \$125,000 in taxpayers' money to match the grant. The 47-acre island, just across from downtown Morehead City, will be kept in its natural state. Developers had been eyeing the island as a site for condominiums. The island is now used as a low-impact park.



Morris Landing

MORRIS LANDING, 2002

Location: Onslow County

Grant Amount: \$972,000

Acreage: 52

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Restore and preserve the vegetated riparian buffer along 3,300 feet of shoreline to protect water quality.

Partner: NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Note: The waterfront landing, near Holly Ridge, will be protected and restored using one of NCCF's Living Shoreline rock sills and marsh plantings. The site will be used for education and public access and by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries to recycle, stockpile and load oyster shells onto its barges to restore oyster reefs in nearby waters.

THOMPSON TRACT, 2003

Location: Onslow County

Grant Amount: \$38,700

Acreage: 57

Transaction Type: Conservation easement

Purpose: Preserve waterfront property along the White Oak River in its natural condition to prevent shoreline development and protect water quality.

Note: This tract, near Stella, added another critical piece to the White Oak Clean Water Preserve.

QUATERNARY TRACT, 2004

Location: Onslow County

Grant Amount: \$1 million

Acreage: 1,443

Transaction Type: Land purchase

Purpose: Preserve water quality and restore native habitat

Partner: NC Coastal Land Trust

Note: This riverfront land north of Stella was the key piece in the White Oak Clean Water Preserve. The US Fish & Wildlife Service gave the Federation and its partner, the NC Coastal Land Trust, almost \$482,000 to complete the purchase of the tract. The native longleaf pine forest will be restored and the land turned over to the state as public gamelands.



North River Restoration Takes New Turn

BY TRACY SKRABAL, Senior Scientist

EDMUND RUFFIN WOULD BE BEFUDDLED by our attempts to turn productive farmland along the North River in eastern Carteret County back into a “quaking bog.” He’d probably chalk it up as yet another sign of a world gone terribly bad after his beloved South ended up on the wrong side of the war.

Before becoming the leading proponent of Southern states rights who was awarded the ceremonial honor of firing the first cannon shot on Fort Sumter to open the Civil War, Ruffin was one of the South’s leading agricultural writers and farm consultants. He came to eastern North Carolina in 1856 to report on the region’s farming potential to the state’s geologist. The land northeast of North River was, Ruffin wrote, “... generally saturated with water, and in wet seasons, mostly so covered, that in walking on any part, every step on the spongy surface would sink deep and every foot print would be immediately filled with water ... the whole of the savannah was a miry and quaking bog.”

North Carolina, like most states, did a lot to remedy that during the next 100 or so years. Thousands of acres of coastal wetlands were drained, ditched and turned to cropland.

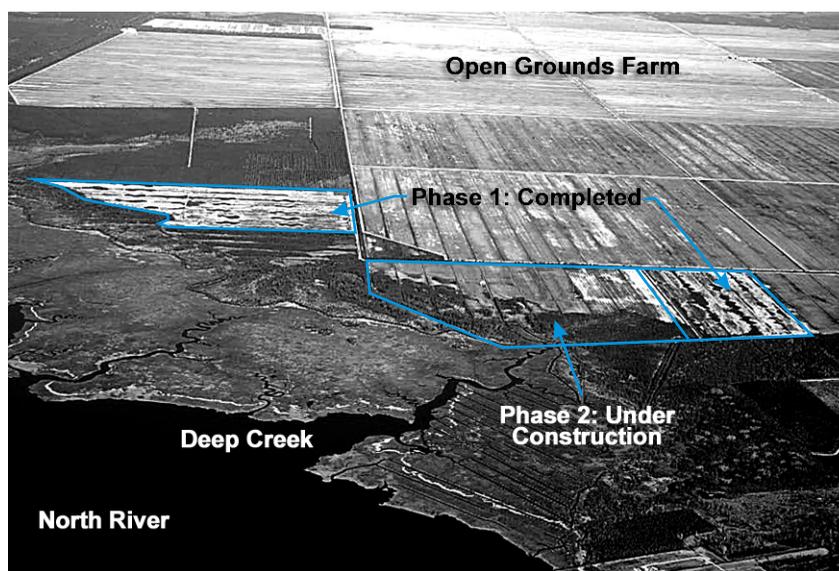
Why, Mr. Ruffin might ask, would anyone want to reverse the trend? Why would NCCF work for years, and spend millions of dollars to convert good farmland at North River Farms into a stinking swamp?

A Vision of Clean Water

Oysters and water, we’d tell the old Fire Eater.

North River and adjacent creeks are considered some of the best waters in the state. Core Sound and Jarrett Bay, for instance, are Outstanding Resource Waters, the highest classification in the state hierarchy. They are also prime fish and shellfish nurseries and have traditionally been very productive fishing grounds, producing more than 10 million pounds of fish and shellfish each year worth more than \$7.7 million. No other area in the White Oak River basin is more productive.

Converting wetlands to farms, though, altered drainage patterns, and these sensitive waters suffered. Stormwater, once absorbed



The Phase II restoration will create a stream draining into Deep Creek with a brackish branch from the northwest and a freshwater branch from the northeast. This figure shows the planting plan for Phase II.

by the extensive wetlands around North River Farm, now flows unrestricted through large drainage ditches and canals and into North River and associated creeks. Agricultural runoff has polluted many of the creeks over the years, reducing salinity and overloading the waters with sediment, nutrients and bacteria.

Excessive erosion from the land can muddy the water, clog fish gills and smother important underwater plants and fish spawning and rearing bottoms. Sediment can also carry fertilizers and pesticides into the water. The excess phosphorus can trigger harmful algal blooms and lead to fish kills.

Bacteria from animal droppings or failing septic tanks are carried in the runoff and at high levels can create a health risk for those who eat shellfish. Much of North River and Williston, Wade, Middens and Ward creeks, which begin on the farm property, are closed to shellfish harvesting because of high bacteria in runoff from the drained land. Hardly an isolated event, polluted runoff is responsible for closing thousands of acres of once productive shellfishing grounds all along the NC Coast and has contributed to the decline in the state’s commercial oyster harvest, which has plummeted by more than 90 percent in the last 100 years.

Starting the Healing

It took years to destroy all those wetlands, and it will take years to restore them. To start the process, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund gave NCCF money to buy more than 4,200 acres of North River Farms. Private investors bought an additional 1,800 acres for restoration. The land will be removed from agricultural production during the next ten years and returned to its historic wet condition. We hope that removing the lands from production in this strategic location in the watershed will improve the water quality of the waters surrounding the farm.

The restoration so far – about 600 acres – has centered on reducing runoff from North River Farms. Next, we will try to tackle stormwater that runs through our property from neighboring Open Grounds Farm. Drainage from the 44,000-acre farm runs in canals across North River Farm and into Deep Creek. Treating that runoff before it enters the water is a critical component in the goal to

restore sensitive nursery and shellfish waters.

Designed by researchers from NC State University in cooperation with Open Ground, this second phase of the restoration plan involves creating two creeks. One, a 3300-foot-long freshwater stream called Evan’s Creek, will connect to the east-west drainage canal on Open Grounds Farm. The other, a 3600-foot-long tidal creek named Broome’s Branch, will connect to the main north-south drainage canal.

About 111 acres of farmland will be restored to wetlands, including bottomland hardwood forest, brackish tidal marsh and freshwater wetlands. Diverting a portion of the runoff across the restored stream and wetland system can better treat runoff and seepage as it moves across the land. The restored creek and wetlands will store drainage water and release it more slowly, increasing the opportunities for removing sediments, nutrients, chemicals and harmful bacteria from the runoff.

This phase of the restoration will remove a pollution source from North River, increase the buffer between adjacent farmlands and sensitive waters, and restore stream and wetlands habitats.

Mr. Ruffin may not understand it, but we think those who value clean water and tasty oysters will.



Oyster Restoration Begins at Stump Sound

BY SARAH KING, Restoration Coordinator
and SARAH PHILLIPS, Education Coordinator

NCCF'S OYSTER RESTORATION IS WELL UNDERWAY

Volunteers made nearly 1,000 oyster bags this spring, many of which will be "set" with oyster larvae in tanks at an aquaculture facility near Holly Ridge in Onslow County, and then transferred to the newly formed oyster reefs.

The NC Division of Marine Fisheries in July began spreading shell at the restoration site in Alligator Bay in Stump Sound. When completed, about 11,000 bushels of shell will be used to create nearly four acres of habitat. Once the larvae arrive the reef will be seeded with about 300 set shell bags. NCCF is working with Skip Kemp of Carteret Community College's aquaculture facility to set additional oyster larvae.



Students monitor the recently planted shoreline at Morris Landing in Onslow County.

Living Shorelines Projects Sprouting

The 500-foot-long living shoreline at Morris Landing in Onslow County was completed and planted in May with the help of 16 volunteers, and the restoration team has conducted one post-planting monitoring. More than 100 oyster bags were installed on the sill to facilitate oyster growth. Construction of the public walkway and pier at Morris Landing is underway and should be completed by late July. The NC Division of Marine Fisheries will add an oyster shell stockpile area and pier to the site, which will be

used for reef restoration projects.

The restoration project at Carteret Community College in Morehead City is on schedule for this fall. Plans include shoreline restoration, using bagged oysters and artificial reef balls for erosion control and habitat enhancement, as well as the construction of a wetland to treat stormwater headed for Bogue Sound. Pre-monitoring of the site was completed in April with the help of community college students.

Students from Carteret County's year-round school group, NCCF volunteers, and NCCF staff planted 5,000 wetland plants at a new living shoreline project on Harkers Island as part of the Member's Day events. These volunteers chose to work with the restoration team instead of some of the more leisurely activities on Member's Day.

North River Restoration Tops 500 Acres

This summer has seen great progress on the North River Farms restoration effort. Nearly 550 acres have been restored at the farm to date, with 230 acres "on deck" in two different areas. Phase II, which is covered in more detail on the preceding page, will restore 111 acres draining into Deep Creek. That part of the project will begin this fall. Plans for the restoration of 119 acres north of Ward Creek to forested wetland with a wetland floodplain along the creek are underway.

Kids Do Their Part

Students involved in the Wetland Nursery Program planted more than 14,000 *Spartina alterniflora* plants (or salt marsh cordgrass) in June, restoring about 1.3 acres of wetland. We're gearing up for the 2005-2006 school year, and plan to include two new schools in the program.

Students are involved with restoration projects even when they're out of the classroom. Student volunteers have helped to monitor living shoreline sites and have helped with a number of plantings throughout the summer. Once school starts again this fall, there will be many opportunities for students to be involved in oyster reef monitoring, living shoreline monitoring, and outdoor plantings.

If you are a teacher or student interested in being a part of the ongoing monitoring program, please contact sarahp@nccoast.org.



The crew of the state barge, the Stone Bay, spread oyster shell at the Alligator Bay restoration site.

Summer Program at Cape Lookout

The new "Barrier Island Ecology" hikes at Cape Lookout National Seashore have proven to be popular this summer. The National Seashore, NCCF, and Carteret County Parks and Recreation have partnered to provide the educational program for visitors to the park. Just halfway through the summer, more than 200 people have participated in the hikes that take participants from the sound to the ocean to learn about the unique ecology of a barrier island.



Coastal Federation interns lead barrier island ecology tours at Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Restoration Volunteers Always Needed

Helping with habitat restoration is a great way to get involved, and we have jobs for all ability levels. Interested volunteers should call Rachael Carlyle at 252-393-8185 or email her at rachaalc@nccoast.org.



NCCF Hopes to Save Jones Island

BY FRANK TURSI
Cape Lookout COASTKEEPER®

NCCF HOPES TO BUY AN ISLAND in the mouth of the White Oak River in Onslow County to prevent it from being developed and becoming a source of stormwater pollution in an already imperiled river. The island would instead become part of a state park

Frank Tursi, the Federation's Cape Lookout COASTKEEPER®, has written a proposal to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund to preserve most of Jones Island. The money would be used to buy 6.5 acres on the north end of the undeveloped island. The NC Audubon Society would then donate an adjoining 10.2-acre tract. Both would be given to the NC Division of Parks and Recreation to be included in Hammocks Beach State Park.

The remaining land – 7.2 acres on the island's south end – sold early this year and was rezoned for residential development. The owners intend to build one house for personal use and have expressed an interest in preserving the rest of the property. If NCCF is successful with the grant proposal, Frank intends to apply for another grant next year to complete the preservation of the island.

Preventing development of the island would remove it as a potential source of stormwater pollution. The island, a mile of Swansboro, is surrounded by shellfish waters that are closed after a heavy rain by bacteria contamination.

SOUTHERN COAST

Another Spill in Wilmington

Ted Wilgis, the Cape Fear COASTKEEPER®, and Tracy Skrabal, the Federation's senior scientist, are following up with state regulators to try and prevent the repeat of another sewer spill in Wilmington.

City officials estimate that three million gallons of raw sewage was dumped



into Hewlett's Creek July 1 after a pipe coupling broke. The spill was the largest of the 500 spills that the city or New Hanover County reported to state officials, including 100,000 gallons into Hewlett's Creek in 2004.

With Ted away on vacation when the latest spill occurred, Tracy worked diligently as the fill-in COASTKEEPER®, speaking with state officials, utility staff from Wilmington, and TV and newspaper journalists.

The NC Division of Water Quality intends to cite the city for violating its permit.

CENTRAL COAST

Atlantic Beach Cut Through Dune

Thanks to watchful residents of Atlantic Beach and Frank Tursi's quick action, the NC Division of Coastal Management (DCM) issued a notice of violation to Atlantic Beach in June for willfully ignoring state rules by cutting a channel through a sand dune to drain polluted stormwater onto the beach.

The town started pumping stormwater to the dunes at the end of Wilson Avenue after six inches of rain fell in two days in June. State officials originally thought that the force of the stormwater had blown a hole in the dune. A town resident, though, called Frank, our Cape Lookout COASTKEEPER®, to report that he and two neighbors watched town workers cut a trench through the dunes, first with shovels, then with a backhoe. Frank took pictures of tire tracks leading up the dunes and churned up sand atop the dunes and sent them to DCM and the NC Division of Water Quality.

DCM eventually determined that the town had intentionally violated CAMA rules by not first getting a permit to cut the trench. They ordered the town to fill the trench, and officials with the town and the state agencies



Atlantic Beach officials cut a trench through a sand dune to allow polluted stormwater to drain onto the beach.

were scheduled to meet to discuss protocols for pumping stormwater to the beach. Frank urged state officials to force the town to find an alternate way to dispose of stormwater.

NORTHERN COAST

Hold Rose Acre Farms to Its Promise

Jan DeBlieu, the Cape Hatteras COASTKEEPER®, has been urging state water-quality officials to hold Rose Acre Farms to its promise that it would reduce ammonia emissions from its huge egg-laying factory that the company is building in Hyde County.

When they granted Rose Acre Farms a permit for the 4-million-bird factory, officials with state NC Division of Water Quality included a provision requiring the company to use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control ammonia emissions. Limiting the release of air-borne ammonia is vital, because nitrates from the gas fall out of the atmosphere and can cause widespread water pollution.

With the egg plant now under construction, Rose Acre has yet to come up with BMPs that meet the letter of the law. Before the permit was issued, company officials promised to be industry leaders in limiting its ammonia discharges. They told Hyde County residents that they had a new feed additive that could improve the health of the birds, as well as greatly reducing ammonia. But the five "BMPs" the company submitted to the state included such simplistic practices as planting trees around the facility and keeping its doors closed as much as possible.

State water quality officials have told Rose Acre that its purported BMPs are not acceptable and have asked them for something more substantive. "With all the promises that were flying around last year," Jan says, "there had better be some significant steps taken to reduce the emissions from that plant. It's not fair for that natural system to have to absorb nearly five million pounds of ammonia every year."

Volunteers Donate 1000 Hours Over the Summer

BY RACHAEL CARLYLE, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Accomplishments

Volunteers planted a “living shoreline” at Morris Landing in Onslow County – just one of the many tasks handled by NCCF’s volunteer corps. This spring and summer more than 100 volunteers manned the NCCF booth at four festivals, planted and monitored two living shorelines, helped with the *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running* show and Members Day, participated in two clean-up events, helped with the Native Plant Sale, delivered newsletters, processed large mailings, attended a lobby day, assisted at the reception desk and worked in the Daland Library.

Members Day

More than 50 members enjoyed a “Day at the Coast” in June to celebrate the natural beauty of the coast and its resources. Participants birded, kayaked, canoed, enjoyed leisure hikes, learned about barrier island ecology, surf-fished, planted a Living Shoreline, toured the University of North Carolina’s Institute of Marine Science and learned about shellfish aquaculture along the Carolina coast. The “Day at the Coast” ended with a wonderful dinner of local seafood and other homemade dishes and desserts. Members’ night at the *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running* show was a grand finale to the day.

Volunteer Opportunities

While summer is almost behind us, NCCF is looking ahead to a busy fall season. We invite our members to

volunteer and enjoy learning about the coast, meet new friends and help to protect and restore our coast.

- **Festival Staffing:** Help staff the NCCF booth at the Day at the Docks Festival in Hatteras, the Seafood Festival in Morehead City, State Fair in Raleigh and the Core Sound Waterfowl Weekend in Harkers Island. Volunteers will work with staff to educate visitors about NCCF, recruit new members and sell merchandise.
- **Landscaping:** NCCF is in the process of landscaping the headquarters property with a variety of native plants, shrubs and trees. When the project is completed, volunteers will be asked to help maintain the landscaped areas on a monthly basis.
- **Trail Monitoring:** Help monitor the Hoop Pole Nature Trail in Atlantic Beach or the Patsy Pond Nature Trail in Newport. These nature trails are open to the public year round and need to be monitored continuously for maintenance issues that may arise. Volunteers are asked to walk the short trails once a month and report any findings to the Coastal Federation.
- **Property Stewards:** Help monitor the Morris Landing Property in Holly Ridge in Onslow County. This property is open to public recreation and is the site of a recent Living Shoreline restoration. Because of heavy public use, volunteers are asked to help NCCF staff monitor the property twice a year to document any man-made disturbances or natural alterations.
- **Big Sweep Clean-Up:** Volunteers will help clean up the coast during the annual North Carolina Big Sweep clean-up event.



Members pile into a truck for a fishing excursion at Cape Lookout National Seashore. Photo courtesy of Collett Dilworth.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Judi Tyminski



Judi Tyminski, second from left, and husband Ken, third from left, help bag oysters as part of the Stump Sound oyster restoration project.

Judi Tyminski, a new volunteer with the Coastal Federation, is also new to coastal North Carolina. After more than 28 years as a special education teacher in New Jersey, Judi retired and moved to Havelock in November. She began volunteering with the Federation after attending the volunteer workshop in February and has since dedicated 35 hours to help with oyster bagging, the native plant sale, the Huggins Island clean-up and the *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running* show. Judi also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and Fort Macon State Park as a tour guide.

In her spare time, if she can find any, she enjoys gardening and being out on the water. She also loves to travel and has been to the South Pacific, Europe, the Caribbean, Fiji, the Kingdom of Tonga, and all over the United States.

A native of Bloomfield, NJ, Judi began volunteering in the early 1980’s, patterning for severely handicapped kids (reconditioning their motor skills). She has also worked with youth groups in her community and she and husband Ken have hosted exchange students from Norway, France and South America.

To Judi, volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved in her community and to meet new people. She has already made a huge difference in this coastal North Carolina community and we greatly appreciate her hard work, support and enthusiasm.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for the following projects. Please contact Rachael Carlyle at 252-393-8185 or email her at rachaelc@nccoast.org if you are interested in helping out.

Sep 15: Day at the Docks (Hatteras)

Oct 1: Big Sweep (Holly Ridge)

Oct 1-2: Seafood Festival (Morehead City)

Oct 14-23: State Fair (Raleigh)

Dec 3-4: Waterfowl Weekend (Harkers Island)



NCCF 2005 Calendar of Events

**September 3 & 23
October 7 & 28**

Fishing with Frank
Cape Lookout Coastkeeper
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Call to register 252-728-2250

September 15-16
**Coastal Resources Commission
Meeting**

Kill Devil Hills, NC
Call to learn more 888-472-6278

October 1
Big Sweep, Morris Landing
Call to Volunteer 252-393-8185

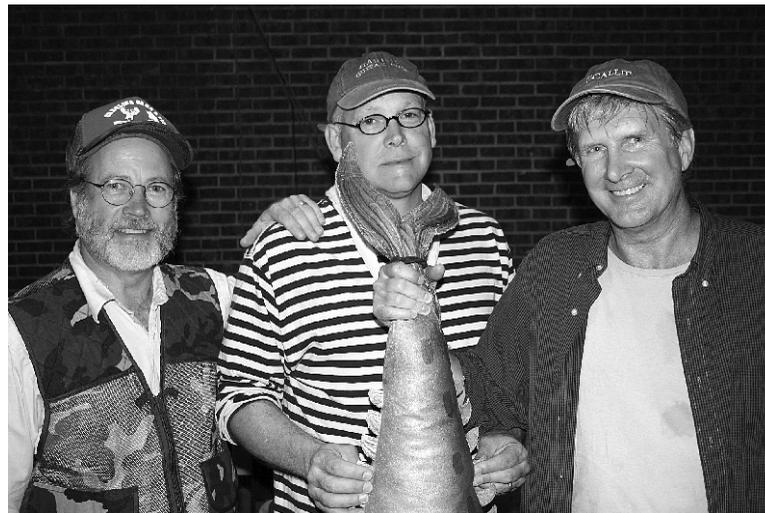
Sept 30 - Oct 2
Seafood Festival, Morehead City
Call to Volunteer 252-393-8185

October 14-23
State Fair, Raleigh
Call to Volunteer 252-393-8185

November 17-18
**Coastal Resources Commission
Meeting**
Southern Location
Call to learn more 888-472-6278

December 2-4
Core Sound Waterfowl Weekend
Harkers Island
Call to Volunteer 252-393-8185

December 9
Volunteer Holiday Party,
NCCF Headquarters
Call to learn more 252-393-8185



Reviewers heralded the show as "stunning," "soul stirring," "priceless," and "just plain fun." Coastal Cohorts, (from left) Bland Simpson, Don Dixon and Jim Wann entertained more than 2,000 guests during the three-week run of "King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running." The North Carolina Coastal Federation and the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center will benefit almost \$30,000 from the show's proceeds. Photo by TIDELAND NEWS.

HELP PROTECT AND RESTORE OUR COAST!

Join NCCF TODAY!

- While your membership donation is at work, you'll appreciate the following list of member privileges: Quarterly newsletters; discounts on workshops, events and education programs; invitations to NCCF's annual Coastal Celebration and other great events; members' decal; use of the NCCF Nature Library; Action Alerts letting you know about critical coastal issues and meetings; and a copy of the annual **State of the Coast Report**.
- **Tax information:** Membership fees minus the value of benefits received are tax-deductible. Check here if you wish to waive benefits and receive the maximum tax deduction.
- **Matching Gifts:** Many companies offer a matching gift program to their employees to encourage support of organizations like NCCF. Double your dollars to the coast by including your matching gift form.

Individual or Family:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000

Business, Group or Organization:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Please make check payable to NCCF and mail with this form to: 3609 Highway 24 (Ocean) Newport, NC 28570 • You can charge your membership by calling toll-free at 800-232-6210 or visit our web site at www.nccoast.org.

Thank You!

The generous support of many individuals, groups, businesses and foundations allows the Coastal Federation to conduct its important work up and down the North Carolina coast. The Federation appreciates the support of all its members and the following are recognized as making donations at recognition levels since the last newsletter.

Individuals

Jeff and Roz Abrams, Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Bardill, Richard Bierly, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Blanchard, Bethany E. Chaney, Elisabeth and Vance Creech. Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. French, James Barrie, Ellen and Morty Gaskill, Dr. and Mrs. Lanneau D. Lide, Jr., Lana M. Mansfield, Jacqueline L. Mardan and Omar Mardan, Perry A. and Elisabeth T. Mathis, Grace Nordhoff and Jonathan Beard, Bill and Dot Reist, William M. Rohe, Richard Scully and Lee Kimball, Marc Shown, Craig and Cathy Steffee, Scott and Deanelle Super, Dean Weber, Franklin and Carolyn West, and Polk Williams.

Businesses and Groups

CoFish International, Cooperative Bank, Emerald Isle Realty, New River Nets, Restoration Systems, Restore America's Estuaries Sound Bank, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

Foundations

The Abrams Charitable Trust, Environmental Education Fund, FishAmerica Foundation, Moore Charitable Foundation, NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, NOAA Community Restoration Program, The Prentice Foundation, Inc., and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Honorariums

Daryl F. Walker in honor of Sam Bland and Jesse Bright Walker • Arthur and Andrea Hoss and Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Hosseinian in honor of Zach Hoss – Happy Birthday • John R. Spruill and PenderWatch in honor of Carson Kolodij Jones – Congratulations Lauren!

