

CITIZENS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY COAST

Coastal Review

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IT'S (NATIVE) PLANTING TIME!

NCCF GOES TO WASHINGTON

JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT JONES ISLAND EDUCATION CENTER

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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COVER PHOTO: People of all ages enjoy NCCF's Native Plant Festival.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

A Sad Time for Democracy in North Carolina

It's an inconvenient truth that politicians need lots of money to get elected, and that too many big donors provide candidates with piles of money because they want a payback after Election Day.

We've all grown so used to the abuses caused by too much money in politics that it is hard to feel shocked by it anymore.

At least not until this year as we've learned the dirty details about alleged misdeeds perpetrated by former Gov. Mike Easley and his administration. It's increasingly evident that these shenanigans weren't simply a case of business as usual in state government.

Or perhaps it was business as usual simply taken to the next level of arrogance and corruption.

My initial reaction to the Easley scandals was surprise that anyone would be shocked by such insider dealings and influence. People with money and political connections have held great sway over environmental management decisions in both Democrat and Republican administrations and legislatures for as long as I can remember.

Much of what we do at the federation aims at counteracting such insider influence. We get more people involved in government decision-making, and this holds politicians and government officials more accountable for their decisions. Such accountability is an effective vaccine against the sickening influences of too much money in politics.

Unfortunately, it's impossible to engage the public in all the significant environmental decisions that get made on a daily basis. This means that most of the time we must rely on government to make decisions that serve the public interest.

The revelations of the past year make it increasingly difficult to have such faith in government.

It's naive not to expect the regulated community to work hard to sway regulators. They give money to politicians, then lobby them around the clock, get their friends appointed to regulatory commissions and constantly pressure agency staff to issue permits. Years ago, the pollution lobby orchestrated changes in a state law called the Administrative Procedures Act. These changes make it almost impossible to change agency rules to address emerging environmental problems in a timely fashion.

It's bad enough that vested economic interests have such easy access to steer environmental laws and policy. Such lobbying, if conducted according to the rules, may be legal, but it has severely eroded public confidence in government.

What's totally unacceptable is for large donors to directly profit financially by using their political influence to push regulatory agencies around while they are making policy and decisions. Caught up in the collapsing real estate market, it seems that these influence peddlers were frantic to speed permit decisions so they could entice less sophisticated speculators to take over their risky ventures before the bubble burst.

It now appears likely that some former officials will be found guilty of unethically using their public service to advance their private business dealings. If convicted, they are responsible for the worst democracy that money can buy. They have made us all more cynical about government, and should serve time in jail alongside other criminals who endanger our public health and welfare.

Todd Miller

Planned Gifts for our Coast

Including the N.C. Coastal Federation in one's will is an easy and important way to continue a love of the coast and an appreciation for the federation's work. To date, 21 members have notified the federation that they have made such arrangements. Here's one couple's story.

While their early histories took different paths, Penelope and Joseph Kilpatrick now share

a tradition of service and giving, and a love of the coast. This philosophy and their affection for coastal North Carolina inspired the Winston-Salem couple to include the N.C. Coastal Federation in their will.

Penelope was born in New England and as a small child was amazed at the abundance of starfish that could be found along the Maine coast.

"As I got older the starfish diminished and the tidal pools looked different," she recounted. "Even as a small child, these things registered."

Her family later moved to North Carolina and took vacations on our coast. Penelope later lived in Pamlico County for a number of years and was on the staff that opened the new state aquarium at Fort Fisher near Wilmington.

"While I lived on the sound," Penelope said, "I learned to value the marsh and the life that begins and ends there. I love all the land and we must be good stewards of the land. I think the Coastal Federation attempts to do that."

As a child, Joseph frequented the New Jersey shore in the 1950s and '60s, which even then was crowded and over-developed. "My dad was an avid sailor and our family vacations involved renting sailboats," he explained. "Those adventures began a life-long appreciation for the cycle of life along the coast, the extraordinary resources



of the coast and an understanding of the need to protect them."

After attending Davidson College in 1970, serving in the army and completing law school at the University of North Carolina, Joseph landed a job at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. "Early on the foundation

developed a focus on conservation and the environment," said Joseph. "I recall meeting Todd (Miller, the federation's founder and executive director) when he sought a grant during the first year of the Coastal Federation. It was the beginning of a very fruitful relationship. Because of my professional

responsibilities, I had an intimate view of the federation's work that caused me to appreciate it as something quite special."

When he retired from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation at the end of 2000, Joseph continued his friendship with Todd and the federation. He accepted our invitation in 2006 to help with the federation's \$3 million campaign, and he helped the federation to surpass its goal.

About four years ago, in their late 50s, retired from full-time work, Penelope and Joseph took a closer look at their estate planning.

Joseph explained: "We had had the same will for about 30 years. Then we bumped up against 60 and we had a new perspective – things had changed. Children were grown. Grandchildren were entering the picture. We took a fresh look and gave it a lot of thought. We knew we wanted to share our modest estate with our children, as well as the Center for Purposeful Living, an all-volunteer residential and service community, which is central to our lives now. We also wanted to support the Coastal Federation. We admire the overall excellence and multi-dimensional conservation approach taken by the federation and we want it to continue beyond our lifetime."

When asked what Joseph finds most appealing about North Carolina's coast he

responded: "I find the satellite view of the coast to be profoundly beautiful. You can't find that kind of coastline anywhere else in the world. The North Carolina coast is one of those priceless treasures we want our grandchildren to experience and appreciate before we die."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PERPETUATE YOUR CARING FOR THE COAST THROUGH YOUR WILL, PLEASE CONTACT SALLY STEELE, THE COASTAL FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, AT SALLYS@NCCOAST.ORG OR 252-393-8185.



New Business Friend – Coastal Provisions Market

Scott Foster, owner of Coastal Provisions Market in Southern Shores, is shown with federation board member Ginger Webster during a social that Ginger hosted for new federation members at her home in Kitty Hawk in January. The federation is pleased to welcome Coastal Provisions Market to its growing list of Business Friends. The store is offering members a 15 percent storewide discount (excluding alcohol) on their specialty groceries including fresh seafood, seasonal produce and chef-prepared foods. Three restaurants offer up fare from deli to gourmet with dine in or take out. They have three locations, two in Southern Shores and one in Duck. Visit them soon and enjoy a special members' discount. Web: www.coastalprovisionsmarket.com.

Study on Groins Does Little to Settle Debate

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission spent \$300,000 on a flawed draft report that does little to settle the debate over using small jetties to control beach erosion. Though there are few definitive conclusions in the report, it's clear from its findings that using what proponents have come to call "terminal groins" won't greatly lessen the need for expensive beach re-nourishment, as they had hoped, and would likely increase the cost of projects to combat beach erosion.

Hard structures like groins, jetties and seawalls aren't usually allowed on the state's beaches because their environmental effects can't be predicted with any accuracy, and there is ample evidence that they can destroy beaches by increasing erosion farther down the beach. The prohibition has been one of the bedrock principles of our laws on beach development, but the N.C. General Assembly, under intense lobbying pressure from some beach towns and homeowners associations, last year ordered the commission to undertake the study and offer recommendations by April 1.

Proponents had hoped that the study would show that these small jetties are commonly used to control erosion and haven't destroyed the beach in the process. Here's one of the draft report's conclusions: "Under particular conditions, it may be possible to limit adverse effects with terminal structures without detrimental effects to the adjacent shorelines."

Not exactly a ringing endorsement.

The commission had hoped to study at least eight terminal groins at inlets along the East and Gulf coasts. Its consultant could find just five — and two of those are in the Gulf of Mexico, a calm lake compared to our Atlantic shoreline. Two of the study sites are in North Carolina, at Oregon and Beaufort inlets. About all the consultants who prepared the report could say about them with any certainty is that they were moderately successful in holding one end of the inlets in place. They were less certain about the other effects. Predicting what these structures might do to the beach is virtually impossible because of sea level rise, storms, and other human influences on inlets, such as dredging and beach re-nourishment.

"The take-home message is that we just

spent \$300,000 to study just five structures in places that are nothing like where we want to build them here," said Dr. Andy Coburn, associate director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University. "There aren't dozens of these things out there. Even at the limited sites included in the study the conclusions are equivocal. We are no closer to an answer than when we started."

Maybe most disconcerting for proponents are the numbers hidden among all the charts and graphs in this bloated 471-page report. Numbers like these, for instance: It's going to cost \$10 million to build a terminal groin at Figure 8 Island and at least another million dollars each year to maintain it. Maintenance costs could increase another \$1.5 million yearly if sea level rises as scientists forecast because of global warming.

Many landowners on the privately owned island near Wilmington have been the strongest and most vocal proponents of terminal groins. They currently spend almost \$900,000 a year to pump sand on portions of the island's beaches, according to the report. That's not likely to change dramatically since the report notes that beach re-nourishment has to continue even with a groin. So landowners on Figure 8 may find that their yearly costs to hold back the ocean will be double what they are now, even after shelling out \$10 million for the groin.

Such forecasts seem to undercut one of the primary reasons for risking the integrity of our beaches by allowing these structures: To save money on beach-erosion projects.

And those are current costs. No telling what they'll be a decade from now when the first permits for groins might finally make through state and federal review and an almost certain legal challenge.

The draft report was, at press time, still

being reviewed by the commission's panel of scientific and engineering experts and the commission's subcommittee comprised of its members and advisors.

Federation Asks to Defend Landfill Lawsuit

The federation wants to join the state in defending the constitutionality of a landmark state law that is the most important overhaul of solid-waste regulations in more than 20 years and provides needed environmental safeguards from massive landfills.

We, along with the N.C. Sierra Club, have asked Wake County Superior Court that we be added as a defendant in the lawsuit that Waste Industries USA Inc. and one of its subsidiaries brought against the state. The court hasn't yet set a date to hear the motion. The Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill is handling the case for the two groups.

"This law enables North Carolina to effectively protect the environment when it sites new landfills," said Todd Miller, executive director of the federation. "If the companies' lawsuit is successful, we would be back in the dark ages in solid waste management."

The federation was among the coalition of environmental organizations and grassroots groups that actively lobbied in 2007 for the Solid Waste Management Act to curb the unbridled development of mega-landfills in North Carolina. Black Bear Disposal LLC, a subsidiary of Waste Industries, was among the companies that were planning three massive landfills in sensitive coastal areas in Camden, Hyde and Columbus counties.

Passed that summer by the N.C. General Assembly, the law contains numerous provisions to protect the state's natural resources, including buffers between landfills and perennial streams and wetlands, a

prohibition against building landfills in the 100-year floodplain and environmental review for proposed public and private landfills. The bill also requires that landfills be built at least five miles from national wildlife refuges, two miles from state parks and one mile from state game lands.

Those provisions in the bill, which applied retroactively to pending applications, effectively killed the three proposed landfills, including a 490-acre dump that Black Bear Disposal had applied to build near the Dismal Swamp State Park and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Camden County.

Black Bear and its parent company sued the state in Wake Superior Court in November 2007. They claim in the complaint that the five-mile restriction is arbitrary and capricious, that it unfairly targeted the companies' proposed landfill and deprived them of property without due process or just compensation. They want the court to declare the bill unconstitutional.

Oyster Project Featured on Capitol Hill

The federation's Recovery Act project that is building 49 acres of oyster reefs in Pamlico Sound and up and down the coast while providing more than 140 jobs was featured in a March briefing for congressmen on Capitol Hill. The briefing was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which gave the federation and its partners \$5 million for the project, and Restore America's Estuaries, a national coalition of conservation groups that includes the federation. Its purpose was to demonstrate to congressmen that the Recovery Act grants have been successful in protecting habitat and providing needed jobs. The briefing had more than 50 people in attendance.

Christine Miller, the federation's assistant director who worked with Todd to put the

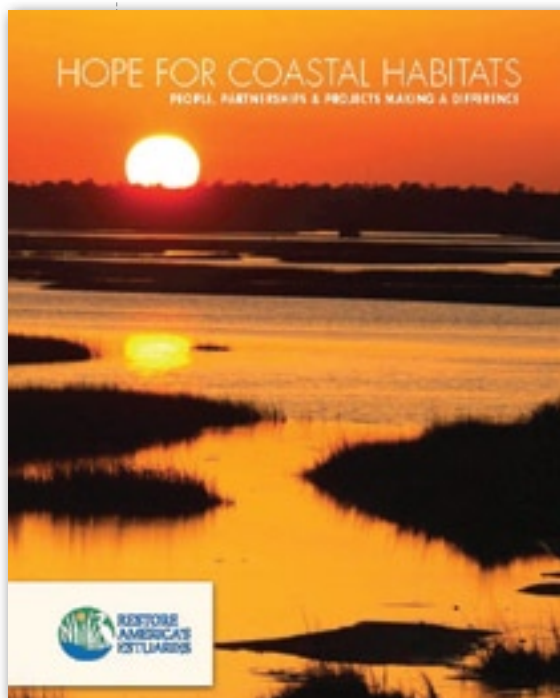
project together for us, appeared on a panel with representatives of two other stimulus projects in California and Maine. She and contractor Simon Rich described the federation's project and its success in creating valuable oyster sanctuaries and jobs for truckers, welders, crane operators, dredge captains and crew and others.

For more information on the project, see our Web site, www.nccoast.org.

North River Featured in National Publication

Our ongoing wetlands restoration project at North River Farms in Carteret County is featured in a national publication about successful projects to restore America's coastal habitats. *Restore America's Estuaries* published the report to highlight the work that ordinary people and groups are doing all over the country to reclaim some of the country's coastal habitat. Frank Tursi, our Cape Lookout Coastkeeper, was the report's primary author, and Christine edited the publication, oversaw its design and printing and wrote some of the stories. Cheryl Burke provided the amazing cover photo, which features our very own Bogue Sound.

You can download a copy from our Web site, www.nccoast.org.



SHORT SESSION LEGISLATIVE GOALS

The federation will be closely following the debate in the N.C. General Assembly this year concerning allowing small jetties on our beaches and will support state agency requests for money to build oyster reefs and to install green techniques to control stormwater pollution.

Our main goal in this short session, which convenes May 12, will be to ensure that the legislature doesn't weaken the state's ban on groins, jetties, seawalls and other types of hard structures on our beaches. The legislature, bowing to intense lobbying pressures from some beach communities and homeowners associations, last year passed a bill that required the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission to study whether small jetties, called terminal groins, can be safely used to combat erosion without harmful environmental effects. See page 4 for details.

The commission has finished a draft of the report, which falls far short of answering the question. The final report is to be delivered to the legislature April 1. We expect that the legislature will consider bills to permit these small groins, no matter how equivocal the final study may be. The federation will continue to oppose any bill that weakens the ban.

We will be supporting a request from the N.C. Division of Soil and Water for \$3.4 million to continue its Community Conservation Assistance Program. The program provides residents, businesses, towns and counties with up to 75 percent of the cost of installing low-impact development techniques to control stormwater from existing development. We'll also support the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' request for money to continue its work to rebuild the state's oyster reefs.



OYSTER PROJECT STARTS WORK ON CLAM SHOAL IN PAMLICO SOUND

Restoration & Education

Hatteras Island residents in December began seeing barges dump chunks of limestone into Pamlico Sound just off the reef known as Clam Shoal. Word quickly got around: The \$5 million oyster stimulus project had come to town.

The project, funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, entails building two large oyster sanctuaries, using pieces of limestone marl on which juvenile oysters can take hold and grow. The marl is carefully placed in mounds that, as oysters accumulate, will be fused together to form a reef.

The barges moved to the Hatteras area after building a 22-acre oyster reef in Crab Hole, off Stumpy Point. At the project's end the Clam Shoal reef will cover 25 acres. The work is being completed by Cape Dredging, a Hatteras-based company, and Stevens

Towing of Edenton and Charleston.

Although construction was scheduled to continue through December, it's now expected to be completed six months early.

"The rate of progress has been amazing," says Erin Fleckenstein, the Northeast Region's coastal scientist, "We were hoping the work might get finished a little early, but things have moved along incredibly fast."

The federation received the grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Recovery Act allotment. The money pays specifically for work that restores coastal habitats while protecting and creating jobs. In all, 140 jobs will be created or retained, including barge operators, truck drivers and biologists and technicians with state Division of Marine Fisheries.

Partners on the project include the division, N.C. State University, North Carolina Sea Grant, the University of North

Carolina-Wilmington and boating, trucking and quarrying companies.

Oysters are prodigious filter feeders; an adult can clean pollution from up to 50 gallons of water a day. The creation of the new reefs will help cleanse Pamlico Sound, along with providing habitat for oysters and other estuarine species.

The grant will also pay for commercial fishermen to spread 10,000 bushels of recycled oyster shell in Ocracoke and Swan Quarter Bay, creating additional habitat. That work will begin in the late April or early May.

Coastkeeper

SPREADING THE WORD ON LID

It's a tall order: Show residents and officials in a small town that low-impact development, or LID, can help reduce flooding, protect coastal waters and beautify the community — without costing an arm and

An oyster sanctuary begins to take shape as a barge dumps marl into Pamlico Sound.

a leg. But it's the next step in spreading the gospel of keeping stormwater on site.

This spring the Northeast Region staff is carrying the banner to Columbia on the shores of the Scuppernong River. Cape Hatteras Coastkeeper Jan DeBlieu gave a presentation on LID in February to the Columbia Board of Aldermen. She told them that the federation wants to work with the town to promote LID and possibly develop a manual for using LID techniques in the region.

But while residents would be glad to get rid of stormwater, Mayor Michael Griffin warned that most of them will not be willing to pay for it.

Columbia is known for valuing its natural resources; its Chamber of Commerce motto is, "People and nature working in harmony." But correcting stormwater problems is difficult in a town that has low elevation and is surrounded by bottomland forest. The challenge has been heightened by the economic downturn.

Before the meeting, DeBlieu toured the town with Midge Ogletree, a Columbia alderwoman and a federation board member. The two found numerous sites where rain gardens or other LID techniques could be installed.

But who would foot the bill? DeBlieu told the board that money is available through the state's Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). Residents, businesses, towns and counties can be reimbursed up to 75% of the cost of installing LID techniques



to existing development.

Tyrrell County is not currently enrolled in the CCAP program. Since staff with the county Soil and Water Conservation District is stretched thin, DeBlieu said the federation would be glad to find out what it would take for Columbia to join the program and, if needed, help staff prepare a strategic plan.

Even so, Griffin said, many residents would be hard-pressed to come up with 25 percent of the cost. "I don't think we'll have any problem working with you on installing LID in new development," he said. But solving existing problems will take more work.

In 2007 and 2008 the federation put together a team of builders, conservationists, and local officials in the Wilmington area that developed voluntary LID guidelines and

The federation has offered to help Columbia install low-impact development projects in the little town.

wrote a manual for local BMPs.

Incorporating LID into new subdivisions can often save developers money. As a result, members of the local Homebuilders Associations were enthusiastic partners in the process. The Northeast staff hopes to develop a similar process for Columbia and Tyrrell County.

Installing BMPs in the Columbia area will be a little more complicated, DeBlieu said, because the region is dotted with clay soils that don't drain as well as the sandy soils of the southeast coast. "But there are still ways to successfully use LID," she said. "It's just a matter of getting the word out and showing people what can be done."

Federation to Offer Environmental Course in Currituck

The third offering of the federation's effort to educate local elected officials about coastal water quality will be May 6 at the Currituck County Cooperative Extension Service office in Barco.

Recognizing the need to assist communities in their efforts to address coastal water quality, the federation started the program in 2008 as a collaborative effort to provide an environmentally-

focused educational opportunity for local elected officials. The course is designed to help local governments develop sound strategies for future growth and redevelopment. Although there are many federal and state regulations that govern natural resources, precisely where and how a community develops largely comes from local decisions.

These decisions affect all aspects of a coastal community. Local governments have many options for promoting land uses and providing public services in ways that will minimize environmental damage and maximize economic benefits.

This year's course, titled "Local Leadership Training – Growth and Sustainability Strategies," will feature North Carolina communities that have incorporated protecting natural resources into their growth and redevelopment strategies offering a peer-to-peer educational opportunity.

The federation is working with North Carolina Sea Grant, the UNC Coastal Studies Institute, the Currituck County's Manager's Office and the Cooperative Extension.

Spring and Summer Offer a Variety of Activities



Restoration & Education

Spring and summer are the busiest times at the N.C. Coastal Federation – there are grasses to be planted, oyster shells to be deployed and kids to get outside.

With 16 partner schools in five coastal counties, Central Region restoration and education staff begin planning spring and summer restoration events at the start of each new year. This year proves no different – students are readying themselves to help federation staff plant thousands of salt marsh grasses along the shorelines at Jones Island in the White Oak River and at Carteret County Community College in Morehead City. They'll also lay hundreds of bags of oyster shells in the White Oak and put native plants into their schoolyard rain gardens.

The Wetland Nursery Program, the Oyster Education Program and the Schoolyard Rain Garden Program integrate classroom lessons with outdoor activities focusing on

Volunteers form a line to build an oyster reef off Jones Island.

stewardship and the importance of the coastal environment. Teachers are one of the most important pieces of these partnership puzzles. Without excited and interested teachers, most of the students wouldn't be interested in the subject matter, much less be allowed to attend field days. So, a special thanks to all of our partner schools and teachers for helping to restore dozens of acres of wetlands and oyster reefs each year.

VOLUNTEERS WORK ON JONES ISLAND PROJECTS

Fifteen volunteers converged on Jones Island on Jan. 28 with hedge trimmers, clippers and boundless energy. Joe Ramus, the secretary of the federation's Board of Directors, led the group in clearing brush and removing dead trees to create open space for activities on the island this spring and summer.

Then on Feb. 12, a number of volunteers,

education staff and volunteers to develop exciting programs for students and the public on the island. He also will serve as our liaison with Hammocks Beach State Park where Sam worked for much of his career and oversee island maintenance and classroom renovations.

Born in Morehead City as the youngest of six children, Sam learned about coastal stewardship at an early age. He spent most of his childhood in and around Aurora, went to East Carolina University and currently lives in Emerald Isle. He has always been interested in preserving natural resources and the environment, whether through teaching others or completing hands-on conservation projects.

including federation Board Members Donna Snead and Gerry Barrett, braved the cold temperatures alongside students from Croatian High School to bag oyster shells. The shell bags will be used to continue the construction of oyster reefs at Jones Island. Volunteer workdays are scheduled throughout the year and are posted on the federation Web site.

Coastkeeper®

FEDERATION HELPING TOWN TO CONTROL RUNOFF

Frank Tursi, our Cape Lookout Coastkeeper, is leading the team of federation employees that will help Cedar Point, a small town in western Carteret County, stem the flow of polluted runoff into the White Oak River.

The town received a two-year federal grant to pay for several stormwater reduction measures. The grant is intended to pay for recommendations made in a study funded by EPA that analyzed stormwater pollution in portions of the lower White Oak. Completed this year, the study found very high bacteria levels throughout the lower river and identified polluted stormwater as the primary culprit. The federation and the town were partners in that project as well.

Todd Miller, the federation's executive director; Lauren Kolodij, our deputy director; and Lexia Weaver, the group's regional coastal scientist are also on the team. They will act essentially as the town's staff for the project and will work with its manager, Chris Seaberg, to meet the grant's goals.

The federation staffers have already met several times with Chris. The first task is to form a committee of local people who will advise Cedar Point and Cape Carteret on devising ordinances that would allow developers to choose low-impact development (LID) and other "green" techniques to meet state stormwater rules. The committee has started meeting to discuss the ordinance.

Later work this summer and fall will include installing LID techniques at people's homes and businesses to demonstrate the low cost and effectiveness of these methods to control stormwater runoff.

SAM BLAND TO MANAGE JONES ISLAND CENTER

When he retired after 30 years with the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, Sam Bland vowed to spend more time with the federation. For several months following his retirement in 2009, Sam devoted countless hours volunteering his time with us.

Now we are lucky to have Sam as a permanent part-time staffer in our central office in Ocean. Sam has joined the team as the manager of the Jones Island Environmental Education and Restoration Center. Sam will work with our restoration and

JONES ISLAND EDUCATION CENTER TO OPEN THIS SPRING

Jones Island, in the middle of the White Oak River and one of three islands in Hammocks Beach State Park, has begun a new life as an the Environmental Education and Restoration Center.

The N.C. Coastal Federation has partnered with the park to establish and operate the center to promote coastal stewardship by teaching people about restoring coastal habitat and protecting water quality. Throughout the spring and summer, visitors to the island will help plant grasses to create marshes and build small offshore reefs. The projects will stabilize eroding shorelines, improve water quality and create marine habitat.

While working on the projects, visitors will learn about the ecosystems and environment of the White Oak River and how they can protect these vital coastal habitats.

Restoration Projects

The federation bought much of Jones Island in 2005 and donated it to Hammocks Beach. It began restoring oyster and marsh habitat on the island two years later to protect and stabilize an eroding shoreline and to create additional marshes and oyster reefs. More than 800 volunteers have logged more than 5,400 hours helping with shoreline plantings, bagging recycled oyster shells and marl and then moving and placing these bags in the water to create oyster reefs. Restoration activities so far include:

- Planting over 20,000 marsh plants.
- Creating 400 feet of sills, or small walls, using over 6,400 bags of recycled shells

and marl.

- Deploying of 9,000 bushels of oyster shells to create 1.7 acres of new oyster habitat.

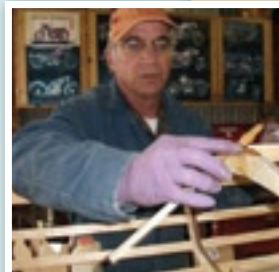
This year, we'll plant 20,000 more marsh plants and create 300 additional feet of sill along the shoreline of the island. Numerous partners have helped pay for the work: the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation's Community Conservation Assistance Program, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Community-Based Restoration Program and Restore America's Estuaries, a coalition of 11 conservation organizations that includes the federation.

Educational Projects

During 2009, the federation led educational programs for school groups and the public on habitat restoration, water quality, oyster reef habitat and estuaries. The programs usually included a hands-on component that allowed students to pull a seine net through marsh waters to discover the diversity of its inhabitants. Thirty three programs were presented to a total of 740 students and adults.

For the third year, education programs and restoration activities will continue at Jones Island. This summer, the federation hopes to partner with summer camps to reach hundreds more students.

sprucing up an old pavilion on the island that will be a classroom and meeting room. Battling mosquitoes and scorching heat, Bob contributed over 21 days last summer working on the island. He has also participated in a Jones Island clean up and has even been a chef, steaming up a bunch of oysters for a federation board of directors meeting. Bob is already looking forward to new volunteer challenges on Jones Island this year.



Bob Hixon also builds wooden kayaks.

Jones Island Schedule of Activities

A lot will be going on Jones and nearby Bear islands this spring and summer. Drop by to help build an oyster reef, create a marsh and learn about the beauty of the White Oak River.

BUILDING OYSTER REEFS

Tuesdays from June 8 to Aug. 10

While getting dirty and dripping sweat, participants will learn about living shorelines and the importance of the oyster reefs as marine habitats. Volunteers will help move bags of recycled oyster shells from nearby Hammocks Beach State Park to the island. The bags will then be placed in the tidal waters around the island to create oyster reefs.

BARRIER ISLAND ECOLOGY

Wednesdays and Thursdays from June 16 to Aug. 12

Visitors to Bear Island, the main island in the park, can learn about the natural wonders of one of the few remaining wild barrier islands on the N.C. coast at a program that the federation will lead on the island starting at noon. Participants who plan to take the park ferry to Bear Island are reminded that they will need to get a ferry ticket at the park visitor center to arrive on the island before noon. At other times during the day, the federation will have a touch table at the Bear Island pavilion and visitor center. We'll also give presentations on the ferry ride to the island.

MARSH CRUISES

June 18, July 16, and Aug. 13

The cruises on a park boat will explore the estuary surrounding Bear, Huggins and Jones islands. Participants will learn about the natural and cultural history of these beautiful places. The cruise will start at 11 a.m. and depart from the park visitor center near Swansboro. The boat can hold only 11 people, so registration is required through the park office at 910-326-4881.

For more information, contact Sam Bland at 252-393-8185 or email him at samb@nccoast.org. Also, if you, your group or company would like to have a retreat on Jones Island, give Sam a call.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Bob Hixon, Hubert

Bob Hixon likes to play on the water. So he works for us as a volunteer.

Making sure that our coastal waters remain clean is important to Bob because he likes to kayak behind Bear Island at Hammocks Beach State Park and hike to the beach to body surf in the waves.

We believe in clean water, too, so it wasn't too hard to get Bob to volunteer over on Jones Island in the White Oak River where, in partnership with the park, we're building an environmental education center. The federation bought much of the island in 2005 and donated it to the park.

A skilled carpenter, Bob has worked on

TITAN OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO GROW

Coastkeeper®

Opposition to Titan Cement continues to grow amid the scandals swirling around the administration of former Gov. Mike Easley involving the alleged improper influence by lobbyists working to secure permits for the proposed Titan cement plant.

The company wants to build a cement kiln and mine for limestone on the Northeast Cape Fear River north of Wilmington. State officials have waived a requirement of state law that the project undergo a thorough environmental review, and they and Titan officials have denied any effort that they tried to avoid the review. But documents acquired by the federation include e-mail communications between state officials and Titan officials and lobbyists discussing efforts to avoid the review. In response, Gov. Beverly Perdue has directed the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to look into possible irregularities in the permitting process, including the waiver. The federation and other groups opposing Titan have filed a lawsuit in Wake County Superior Court for a judicial review of the state's decision to waive the review. The Southern Environmental Law Center and the Duke University law clinic are representing us.

Within the ranks of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources, the director of the state Division of Water Quality sent a memo to her counterpart in the N.C. Division of Air Quality voicing concerns about any possible increase of mercury discharges from the proposed cement kiln. They could, the memo noted, further pollute the river with mercury, which would violate the federal Clean Water Act.

As with every successful campaign to defeat heavy polluters that threaten the environment, people's effort and pressure will be the keys to ensuring that the Titan project is evaluated in a comprehensive and transparent manner. As but one example, over 300 citizens held a rally in downtown Wilmington, presenting over 6,000 signatures in opposition to Titan, and urging the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners and Perdue to freeze all

permitting until the court case is resolved and the SBI investigation is completed.

Low-Impact Development

IMPROVEMENTS AT EAGLE POINT WILL HELP CREEK

Like many coastal golf courses, Eagle Point Golf Course in Wilmington has the potential to function as a buffer between intense urban development and a fragile and valuable estuary.

To ensure that the property remains predominantly natural and scenic, the members and owners of the golf course in 2003 preserved 218 of the 231-acre course under a conservation easement agreement with the federation. Since then, Eagle Point has increased its commitment to protect the adjacent shellfish waters. It has replaced large areas of managed turf with low-maintenance native grasses and refined a connected, closed-loop stormwater pond system to contain and infiltrate much of the stormwater runoff on the property.

Eagle Point also partnered with the federation, New Hanover County, N.C. State University and University of North Carolina-Wilmington to complete the first year of a project designed to protect the sensitive waters of Little Creek. The golf course developed a comprehensive water-quality management plan and built a

stormwater wetland and two other areas to retain runoff. Polluted stormwater entering the golf course will be held and infiltrated into the ground, rather than flow directly into the adjacent creek.

Continued improvements to golf course management strategies, construction of strategic stormwater reduction measures and development of a plan to address off-site sources of polluted stormwater runoff will allow the Eagle Point project to benefit estuarine water quality.

PROJECTS AIMS TO IMPROVE WILMINGTON CREEKS

The federation has begun working with the city of Wilmington to develop watershed restoration plans for Hewletts and Bradley creeks. The plans will be designed to reduce the flow of stormwater, which is contributing to water quality degradation of the creeks. A federal grant from EPA is paying for the project.

If approved by the state, the plans will provide the foundation for broader citywide efforts to protect and restore water quality.

Along with the restoration plans, the engineering firm Withers & Ravenel, the city and the federation will also develop a set of design standards for "greening" the city's street projects and design several small-scale stormwater retrofit sites within the watersheds.

More than 300 people protested the proposed Titan Cement plant in Wilmington.



Federation Continues Its Commitment to Stump Sound

The N.C. Coastal Federation this year will continue work that started more 20 years ago to protect and restore the oyster-rich waters of Stump Sound in Onslow and Pender counties.



We'll be restoring shorelines at our Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Onslow County and on Permuda Island in the middle of the sound and working to conserve land with willing landowners and municipalities to promote low-impact development techniques.

This work continues a commitment to Stump Sound that started in the late 1980s. Lena Ritter and Bill and Bernice Rice and other oyster growers and harvesters began working with the federation then to stop the development of Permuda in order to protect the sound and its shellfish leases. Through their efforts, Permuda was preserved and eventually became part of the N.C. Coastal Reserve.

Bordered by Topsail Island and the mainland of Onslow and Pender counties, Stump Sound is a shallow bay fed by numerous creeks. Two inlets – New River and Topsail – provide salty ocean water to the rich mix of nutrients that help make the sound home to what may be some of the best oysters in the United States. Shrimp, crabs and numerous fish species also thrive here.

The sun rises over the sound; An aerial view of Morris Landing and Stump Sound. Courtesy of Joe Brandt.

The sound is classified by the state as Outstanding Resource Waters, which makes it among the cleanest water bodies in the state and gives it the highest level of protection under N.C. law. In recent years, however, stormwater runoff from increased development on mainland and barrier islands has led to more shellfish harvest closures.

In response, the federation in the late 1990s joined the N.C. Shellfish Growers Association to halt the illegal destruction of wetlands draining to the sound. We also were awarded a grant from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund to buy 52 acres at Morris Landing in Holly Ridge.

The federation and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries partnered in 2008-09 to develop a place at the landing to stockpile oyster shells and to build a pier there for barges. That allowed both groups to significantly increase their programs to restore oyster reefs in the sound.

We've now built or restored 13 acres of oyster reefs in the sound and built almost 800 feet of "living shoreline" projects with saltmarsh and oyster habitat. State and federal grants paid for the work.

Regional Volunteers Do It All

Staffing education displays at festivals, planting stormwater wetlands and shorelines, trips to Raleigh, and restoration project monitoring were among the many activities that dedicated volunteers participated in 2009. Almost 300 volunteers provided over 1,200 hours of their energy, dedication and hard work to enable the federation to have an incredibly productive year.

Volunteers attended outreach trainings and staffed the federation's education display at five festivals throughout the region reaching an estimated 3,000 people. Engaging festival goers with descriptions and activities highlighting the federation's initiatives helped to recruit some of the 50 new volunteers and 170 new members from the region. They will expand and enhance the region's growing base of volunteers and members that provide vital support for ongoing and planned initiatives.

Our volunteers endure. They don chest waders in waist-deep water and battle wind and rain to measure oysters; they get covered in mud and perspire profusely to plant new stormwater wetlands or a marsh shoreline. But they do all that and more with a great sense of humor and enthusiasm.

Handing out flyers, getting people to sign petitions and traveling up to Raleigh to the legislature exhibited the strong dedication and determination of volunteers to fight for clean air and water in the struggle against the proposed Titan cement plant. Even in the face of high-priced lobbyists and strong-arm tactics by the opposition, the federation's volunteers stood fast in their call for a healthy community and coast.

SOME VOLUNTEER EVENTS FOR 2010

The federation's Southeast Region needs many volunteers this year to help on projects that restore and protect our coast. A few are listed below, but please visit our SE regional page at www.nccoast.org for a complete listing and updates on events.

- Planting rain gardens in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
- Filling bags with oyster shells for an oyster reef restoration project at Morris Landing in Holly Ridge
- Staffing the federation's educational display at the Coastal Cohorts Concert in June and at various festivals
- Researching coastal environmental issues and helping with efforts in the campaign against Titan Cement

REGIONAL OFFICE HAS MOVED

The federation's Southeast Regional office has moved to Wrightsville Beach. You can now find us at The Landing, 530 Causeway Dr., Suite F1, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480. Phone: (910) 509-2838 • Fax: (910) 509-2840 • Our email addresses remain unchanged.

Please stop by and visit us at our new offices.

Rebuilding Marshes May Help Rebuild Our Climate

Our restoration and education folks always need volunteers to help plant grasses to create or restore a salt marsh. Maybe you've helped on one or several of these projects or maybe you're thinking about it – you'll find plenty of pleas for volunteers in this newsletter and on our Web site. These projects offer opportunities to be outside, getting your feet wet and your hands dirty helping a local creek, river or sound. They're also, it now appears, wonderful ways to help the global environment.

Those salt marshes you're creating will not only provide vital habitat to numerous marine creatures and be pretty to look at, but they'll also help combat global warming. A little-known report by three United Nations' agencies and leading scientists estimates that salt marshes, seagrasses, mangroves and other types of marine ecosystems capture and store carbon emissions equal to about half of the carbon dioxide emitted each year by global transportation sources.

Carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels is the primary gas responsible for a warming planet. Reducing such emissions and keeping them from reaching the upper atmosphere are central to any strategy for minimizing the effects of climate change. Combined with planting trees, restoring the coverage and health of salt marshes and other types of marine ecosystems could deliver up to 25 percent of the emissions reductions needed to avoid "dangerous" climate change, the report notes.

Losing Natural Sinks

But it warns that far from maintaining and enhancing these natural carbon sinks, we're damaging and degrading them at an accelerating rate. The report estimates that up to seven percent of these "blue carbon sinks" are being lost annually, seven times the rate of loss of 50 years ago.

"If more action is not taken to sustain these vital ecosystems, most may be lost within two decades," says the report *Blue Carbon: the Role of Healthy Oceans in Binding Carbon* by the UN Environment Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

Achim Steiner, UN undersecretary general and UNEP executive director, said in a press release: "We already know that marine ecosystems are multi-trillion dollar assets

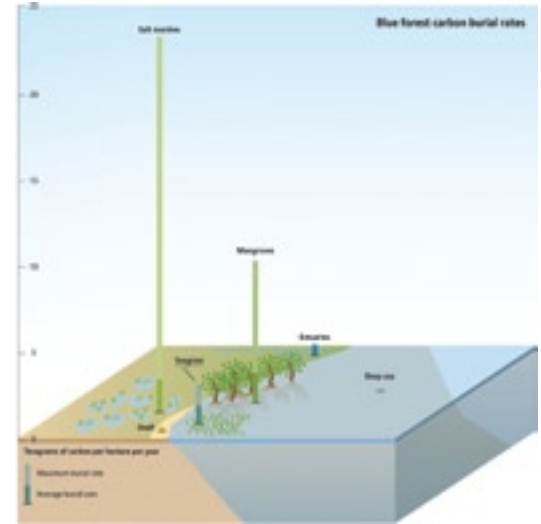
linked to sectors such as tourism, coastal defense, fisheries and water purification services—now it is emerging that they are natural allies against climate change."

They've been treated more like enemies, said Christian Nellemann, the report's editor. Since the 1940s, more than 30 percent of mangroves and seagrass meadows and close to a quarter of salt marshes have been lost worldwide, he said. "There is an urgency to act now to maintain and enhance these carbon sinks," Nellemann said in the release. "We are losing these crucial ecosystems much faster than rainforests and at the very time we need them. On current trends they may be all largely lost within a couple of decades."

Key Findings

The report also found that:

- Of all the biological carbon, or green carbon, captured in the world over half (55%) is captured by marine-living organisms – not on land – hence the new term *blue carbon*.
- The ocean's vegetative habitats, in particular, mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses cover less than 1 percent of the sea bed.
- These form the planet's blue carbon sinks and account for more than half of all carbon storage in ocean sediment and perhaps as much as over 70 percent.
- They comprise only 0.05 percent of the plant biomass on land, but store a comparable amount of carbon a year, and thus rank among the most intense carbon sinks on the planet.
- Blue carbon sinks and estuaries capture and store between 870 and 1,650 million tons of carbon dioxide every year – or the equivalent of up to nearly half of the



Blue Carbon Sink Burial Rates. The capacity of ocean's blue carbon sinks (tons of carbon per hectare per year). SOURCE: *Blue Carbon: The Role of Healthy Oceans in Binding Carbon*, maps.grida.no/go/graphic/blue-carbon-sink-burial-rates

emissions from the entire global transportation sector.

- Combined with halting deforestation, restoring lost marine ecosystems might deliver up to 25 percent of the emission reductions needed to keep global temperatures from rising more than four degrees.
- Unlike carbon capture and storage on land, where the carbon may be locked away for decades or centuries, carbon stored in the oceans remains for millennia.

The report recommends that countries with extensive, shallow coastal areas, including the southeastern U.S., consider enhancing marine carbon sinks.

So check out our calendar on Page 15 and make plans to get out there and plant some marsh grass. Our future may depend on it.

You can read the full report at <http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/blue-carbon/>

NEW MEMBERS JOIN FEDERATION BOARD

The N.C. Coastal Federation welcomes two new people to its Board of Directors: Allie Sheffield of Surf City and Rich Peruggi of Bolivia.

Allie, a native North Carolinian, grew up in Warsaw and spent as much time as possible at family houses on the Black River, the Northeast Cape Fear River and Topsail Island. She claims that both sides of her family go back so far in southeastern North Carolina that she has certifiable "coastal N.C. DNA." Allie's parents built one of the first cottages on Topsail Island after World War II.

Allie practiced law in Washington for many years before moving back to Surf City where she became active in Pender County issues. Allie also serves on a committee in Pender that advises county staff and consultants on a new unified development ordinance. She is vice president of PenderWatch & Conservancy and is dedicated to preserving the N.C. coast.

Rich, a retired engineer, moved to Brunswick County with his wife, Claudia, in 2005. Rich was first introduced to the federation when he attended the Lockwood Folly Watershed Roundtable meetings in

2006. He served on a technical advisory committee for the Brunswick County low-impact development manual that was adopted by the county as a method to control stormwater from development.

When the federation started a water quality study of the Lockwood Folly Watershed, Rich volunteered with the "Lockwood Army" to take water samples and perform flow monitoring.

He is also active on committees within his community, serves as the chairman of the Environmental Issues Committee for the Alliance of Brunswick County Property Owners Associations and leads the Scientific and Environmental Academy (SEA and Coffee) society for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Rich received a Pelican Award from the federation in 2008 and shared a 2009 Pelican award with the Lockwood Army.

He and his wife have two sons, one in Raleigh and one in Providence, R.I. He enjoys relaxing at the beach, boating in North Carolina's coastal waters and living the laid-back "coasting" lifestyle. It was his love of the coast that got him involved with the federation.

Thomas Marshall Robinson, Jr. 1951-2010

We note with sadness the death of friend and federation member Thomas Marshall Robinson, Jr. who died on Friday, February 19, 2010 at UNC Hospital following a brief illness. We'll miss him. Tom was born in New Hanover County in 1951. Tom earned a BS in Biological Sciences at UNC Chapel Hill as well as studying Marine Biology in Norway at the University of Oslo. He pursued post-graduate studies also in Biological Sciences at UNC. Tom combined his academic specialization and knowledge of the seafood industry and the North Carolina coastal region to start his own wholesale and retail business in Carrboro at Tom Robinson's Seafood. His many customers and friends came to count on Tom for providing not only the freshest catch available but also enlightening educational chats in the process.

Tom was a long-time environmentalist and he cherished his time applying his biological knowledge to the cultivation of various fruits and vegetables at his farm. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to North Carolina Coastal Federation.

FEARLESS FEDERATION WOMEN SAVE EDUCATION BUILDING

Our staff members at the Headquarters office in Ocean were alarmed when they glanced out the window in early January to discover a rather large brush fire within ten feet of the federation's Shorekeeper Learning Center. Quick to respond, seven federation staff (all women) quickly formed a small army to combat the fire. They called the local fire department but feared the fire threatened the building. They grabbed hoses, trash cans, buckets and pots to drench the flames. They extinguished the fire before any damage was done and even before the local volunteer fire department arrived. Once on site, the Bogue Volunteer Fire Department commended the ladies for a job well done. The fearless firefighters are: (kneeling from left) Lauren Kolodij and Sara Phillips; (standing from left) Jo Ann Marsh, Sally Steele, Rachael Carlyle, Emily Farmer and Lexia Weaver.



2009 VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

They restored salt marshes, built oyster reefs, planted trees and built rain gardens. In all, nearly 6,000 people volunteered more than 20,000 hours last year to the N.C. Coastal Federation.

Volunteers planted 3,500 beach grasses to restore 425 feet of shoreline at Jockey's Ridge State Park. They filled over 15,000 bags with oyster shells or marl to build an oyster reef at Jones Island in the White Oak River. The island is part of Hammocks Beach State Park. Volunteers planted more than 10,500 marsh plants to protect 450 feet of shoreline on the island. They also planted 3,800 trees at North River Farms, our wetlands restoration project in eastern Carteret County.

Volunteers built four rain gardens and two wetland restoration projects at six sites along the southeast and northeast coasts. They also planted 2,500 marsh plants at three sites and monitored eight oyster reefs in the southeast. Volunteers also assisted staff with a multitude of other projects, including the clean-up of Jones Island, Hoop Pole Creek and Morris Landing and with mailings, newsletter deliveries and numerous outreach events.

While we value the work of everyone who helps us, we want to recognize the extraordinary work of these people and groups (*federation board members in italics*):

- **OVER 250 HOURS:** *Sam Bland* (Central Region) and *Randy Mason* (central).
- **OVER 150 HOURS:** Beth Moulton (central) and *John Runkle* (Triangle).
- **OVER 100 HOURS:** *Gerry Barrett* (central), Bob Hixson (central), Donna Snead (central) and *Ginger Webster* (Northeast Region).
- **OVER 50 HOURS:** *Liz Brinker* (northeast), Jack Cleaves (central), Matt Fleckenstein (northeast), *James Barrie Gaskill* (northeast), *Olivia Holding* (Triangle), *Jackie Mardan* (Southeast Region), *Midge Ogletree* (northeast), *David Paynter* (southeast), *Lewis Pinter* (Triangle), *Joseph Ramus* (central), Karen Rooney (central), Dot Reist (central) and Ann White (central).

More than 600 volunteers from 52 groups and organizations also helped us last year.

The North Carolina Coastal Federation Presents *The Annual Native Plant Festival*

SATURDAY, APRIL 24
8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

MEMBERS PREVIEW SALE

Friday, April 23, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Federation membership card is required for entry to the preview sale. Guests and visitors may join on site that day.

More than 2,000 native plants for sale – Planting demonstrations – Rain garden instruction - Rain barrels for sale – Local artists and craftsmen – Entertainment – Refreshments

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

North Carolina Coastal Federation – 3609

N.C. 24 in Ocean

(Located about halfway between Morehead City and Swansboro)

Saturday Entertainment Provided By

Frank Gaines 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Brass Consortium 11 a.m. – noon

Solar Winds 12 - 1 p.m.

Beaufort Chantey Men 1 - 1:30 p.m.

Ever wonder what to do with all that water sitting in your yard after a hard rain? One of the features of this year's festival will be presentations by federation experts on "How

to Build a Rain Garden." Rain gardens are simple and effective methods for reducing stormwater and coastal flooding. They are small depressions planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers that collect, store and infiltrate stormwater. Most plants available at the festival are suitable for rain gardens, so festival-goers can learn how to create a rain garden and buy the plants all in the same day.

Visit www.nccoast.org for more information



Potters, craftsmen and artists will be displaying and selling their work; Festival-goers can learn how to build a rain garden; A variety of musical entertainment will take the festival stage on Saturday.



The Plants Are the Stars

The main attraction of the Native Plant Festival is the more than 2,000 plants, shrubs and trees offered for sale. Plants are subject to availability. Please call ahead to confirm a special plant and visit our Web site at www.nccoast.org for plant inventory updates.



NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION **CALENDAR**

Planning a visit to the coast? Why not join the federation staff for a shoreline planting, oyster bagging or special event. Our calendar is full of opportunities to learn, have fun and help the coast.



APRIL 17

Lower Cape Fear Earth Day Celebration
Wilmington

APRIL 22

Shoreline Planting at Jones Island*
Swansboro

APRIL 23

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Members Preview Native Plant Festival
Ocean

APRIL 24

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Native Plant Festival
Ocean

APRIL 27, 28

Student Shoreline Plantings at Jones Island*
Swansboro

APRIL 30

SE Randolph Middle School field trip,
Hoop Pole Creek*
Atlantic Beach

APRIL 29, 30

Shoreline planting*
Ocracoke

MAY 6, 7

Shoreline Plantings at Jones Island*
Swansboro



MAY 21

Rain garden planting*
Manteo

JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29

Jones Island Workdays*
Swansboro

JUNE 16, 17, 23, 24, 30

Barrier Island Ecology Program
Bear Island

JUNE 11

Jockey's Ridge Workday*
Nags Head

JUNE 15

Coastal Cohorts Concert
Wilmington

JUNE 18

Marsh Cruise Program
Bear, Huggins and Jones islands
Swansboro

JULY 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Barrier Island Ecology Program
Bear Island

JULY 6, 13, 20, 27

Jones Island Workdays*
Swansboro

AUG. 3, 10

Jones Island Workdays*
Swansboro

AUG. 4, 5, 11, 12

Barrier Island Ecology Program
Bear Island

AUG. 13

Marsh Cruise Program
Bear, Huggins and Jones islands
Swansboro

SEPT. 18

Day at the Docks Festival
Hatteras

SEPT. 25

National Estuaries Day
Ocean and Wilmington

OCT. 16, 17

N.C. Oyster Festival
Ocean Isle

NOV. 13

Volunteer Appreciation
Wilmington

DEC. 3

Volunteer Appreciation
Manteo

DECEMBER 3

Volunteer Appreciation
Ocean

*Indicates volunteers are needed. Email us for details at nccf@nccoast.org.

Please check the federation's Web site for updates. Field dates are subject to weather and tide conditions.

JULY 16

Marsh Cruise Program
Bear, Huggins and Jones islands
Swansboro





North Carolina Coastal Federation

3609 Highway 24 (Ocean)

Newport, North Carolina 28570

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Check out our secure online donation forms at WWW.NCCOAST.ORG. Please help us save trees and other resources by donating online. Thank you!

Call for E-mail Address

Members have a new benefit - **Coastal Happenings**.

This monthly electronic update is designed to give you a quick look at current issues, projects, special events, volunteer workdays and other great opportunities to learn about and help the coast. Please be sure we have your e-mail address so we can send you this update. Simply email us at nccf@nccoast.org and write "**sign me up**" in the subject line.

North Carolina Coastal Federation SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE

More than 6,000 N.C. Coastal Federation plates are on the road today. If you'd like to order our popular plate, please complete an online DMV application at www.ncdot.org/dmv or visit your local license bureau.



Commonly Asked Questions

CAN YOU PUT THE FEDERATION PLATE ON ALL VEHICLES? Specialized plates may be purchased for automobiles, trailers and trucks with weight up to 26,000 pounds. Unfortunately, because of plate size, they cannot be purchased for motorcycles.

CAN I PERSONALIZE MY PLATE? Yes you can, but it is not required. There will be four spaces available for personalization. There is an additional \$30 charge for personalization. You may request your personalized plate at any time.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST EACH YEAR?

- \$30 for the special N.C. Coastal Federation plate (\$20 goes to the federation and \$10 to state projects, including highway beautification, travel and tourism promotion and support of visitors centers.)
- \$28 to \$33 annual license fee (price varies from county to county)
- \$30 for personalization (optional)

HOW DOES PURCHASING A PLATE HELP THE COASTAL FEDERATION? The federation will receive \$20 per plate as a contribution, which will be used to support restoration, protection and education projects.