

CITIZENS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY COAST

# Coastal Review

Summer 2011 • A Publication of the North Carolina Coastal Federation • Vol. 29 No. 3

The background of the cover is a photograph of several trees in silhouette against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a dark purple at the top. The trees have gnarled, twisted trunks and dense foliage. The overall mood is serene and natural.

**LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP**

**PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS**

**NCCF PELICAN AWARDS**

# 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, N.C., between Swansboro and Morehead City. Our offices, nature library and shop are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



LAYOUT/DESIGN: 8 Dot Graphics

COVER PHOTO: NCCF 2011 Photo Contest 3rd place winner

Barbara Snyder's Fort Fisher Trees



Photo by Kyle Humphrey

## Let's Educate Our Politicians

Call me naïve, but there's reason for optimism even after the most brutal legislative session on environmental issues since the N.C. Coastal Federation formed in 1982.

That's because the N.C. General Assembly and the governor are a reflection of the people of North Carolina. We put lawmakers into office, and we can remove them as well. If elected officials get too out of touch with their constituents, they'll feel voters' wrath. That's exactly what happened last November when the legislature shifted so dramatically.

The people of North Carolina care about their environment, including the coast. Public opinion polls prove an overwhelming number of voters support existing environmental laws and rules, or feel that they are too weak. Check out our website ([www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)) to see the three recent polls we conducted. They show that people of all political stripes and geographic locations support environmental protection.

Huge progress has been made to protect and restore our environment. As a result, voters have come to expect such good governance. Citizens also expect quality education, responsive public services and a healthy economy—and they realize that all these expectations are related and go hand-in-hand.

When we fall short on those expectations, the proverbial political pendulum swings back to compensate. That's the nature of politics, and politicians who attempt to defy this perpetual force do so at their own peril.

That's not to say that we don't have to work hard to push the pendulum in the right direction. Our job at the federation is to make sure lawmakers fully understand the consequences of their actions, and that citizens are keenly aware of what their elected officials do.

Lawmakers are sincerely welcome to come spend the day with us at the coast. We want to get their feet wet, and to show off what many local communities and landowners do to protect and restore water quality and fisheries habitats and to promote clean development.

It's important that lawmakers see the ways that government agencies and non-profits work productively and efficiently together to help citizens become better stewards of our coast, and that they understand their challenges. The loud voices of people with an ax to grind need to be drowned out by those who want to work productively to protect our coast, and who need the support of our lawmakers to continue such endeavors.

And as we work to help lawmakers better understand the needs of our coast, we'll also be honest with them about things they do that don't live up to our expectations. Maintaining an honest dialogue is essential to building trust and cooperation.

As illustrated by our annual report inserted into this newsletter, there is a tidal wave of community support and involvement in work to help our coast. This is a human force that will ultimately win the day no matter who is in charge in Raleigh.

*Todd Miller*

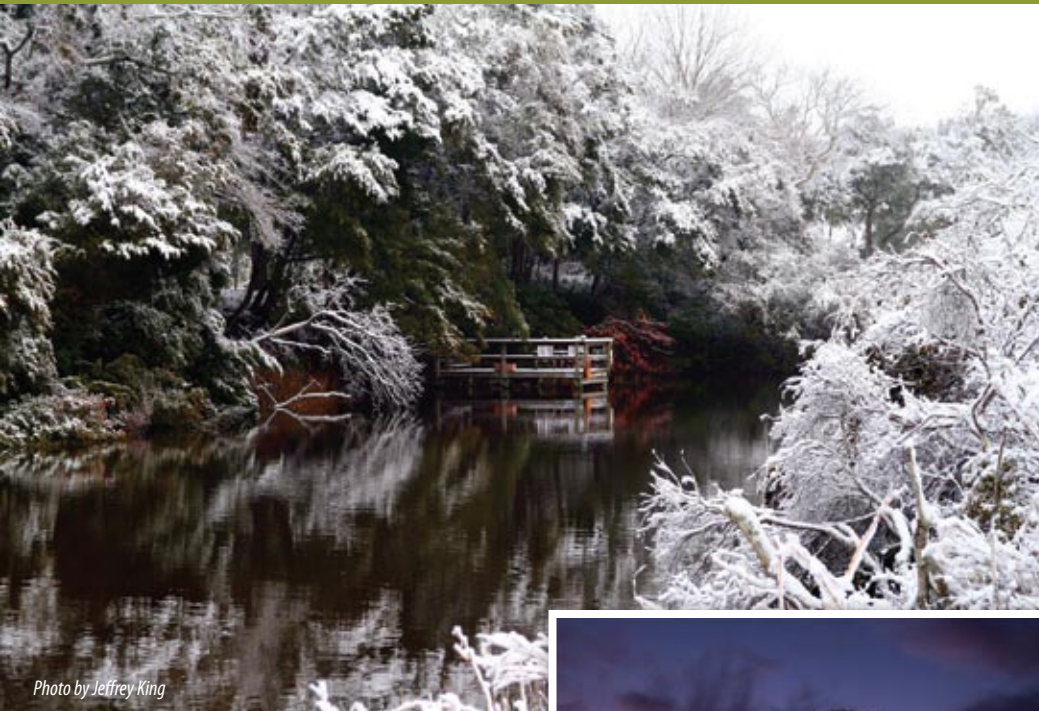


Photo by Jeffrey King

## OAK ISLAND SNOW PLACES FIRST IN PHOTO CONTEST

Jeffrey King's snowy photo taken on Oak Island won first place in our 2011 Photo Contest. The photo was selected from more than 120 photos and King of Oak Island was awarded the \$500 grand prize.

Fort Fisher State Park, near the Cape Fear River, provided a popular landscape for several prize winners. Second place was awarded to Kyle Humphrey of Kure Beach whose crisp photo captured a winter morning at Fort Fisher. Third place went to Barbara Snyder of Wilmington and her spectacular silhouette of trees at Fort Fisher. Honorable mentions went to Wayne Justice of Morehead City for his photo of cownose rays at Cape Lookout, Constance Knox of Wilmington for her photo of coquina rocks at Fort Fisher and Vic Olson of Jacksonville for his photo of the Bogue Inlet Pier on Emerald Isle.

Photographers were asked to submit photos of their favorite North Carolina coastal places. The contest ended on April 15 and was sponsored by Emerald Isle Realty.

The winners of the federation's photo contest can be viewed at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).



Photo by Barbara Snyder

## FEDERATION PARTNERS WITH GREAT OUTDOOR PROVISION COMPANY

Federation staff and volunteers will provide an "Evening with the Coast" for members and member prospects at the Great Outdoor Provision Co. in Cameron Village in Raleigh on Wednesday evening, Sept. 21. Members can drop by to learn about federation projects.

The evening kicks off a membership promotion with the company, which is giving a federation membership with each fishing kayak sold through the spring of 2012.

## JOIN/RENEW/DONATE

Help save trees, time and money by renewing, donating and joining the federation on-line. Our secure on-line donations program makes it fast and easy to give to the coast. Simply click on [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) and go to the "Join/Renew/Donate" tab.



## Members Reception

*You're Invited to a Reception, Book Signing*

Thursday, Oct. 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
William Mangum Fine Art Gallery  
2166 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27408  
RSVP by Oct. 20

N.C. Coastal Federation members will have the chance to meet N.C. artist William Mangum and view his work during an Oct. 27 reception at the William Mangum Fine Art Gallery in Greensboro.

Mangum is hosting a reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for federation members and those interested in learning more about our organization and its work. It's a great opportunity to introduce a friend to the federation, pick up a copy of Mangum's new book, *North Carolina Beautiful*, and have it signed by the artist.

Mangum released the book on June 23 at his gallery. The federation is one of six conservation and preservation groups in the state that are partnering with Mangum on the book. A portion of the sales from Mangum's book will be donated to the federation to support its conservation projects.

Please email us at [nccf@nccoast.org](mailto:nccf@nccoast.org) by Oct. 20 if you'd like to join us.

## FEDERATION LAUNCHES NEW RETAIL WEB SITE

We've just launched our new retail site. Check out our complete line of No Wetland, No Seafood T-shirts, federation logo apparel and totes, as well as items only available through the federation like our Habitat Heroes (the perfect gift for any occasion). Coastal Cohort fans can purchase the band's CDs and t-shirts. Our Book Nook features coastal and nature books from federation staff, board and members. Watch for our monthly autographed features.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Coastal Cohorts

ADVOCACY

John Hood, John Locke Foundation

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

N.C. Representative Carolyn Justice

PARTNER OF THE YEAR

NOAA Community Habitat Restoration Center

Northeast Coast

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE YEAR

The Town of Duck

EDUCATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR

N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Ocracoke Campus

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Tom and Lynn Thomason

Central Coast

EDUCATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Stan Cross, Warren Wilson College

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Dudley's Marina

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Emerald Isle Parrot Head Club

Southeast Coast

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc.

EDUCATION AND RESTORATION PARTNERS OF THE YEAR

Bradley Creek Elementary School and New Hanover County Schools

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Ian Oeschger

Inland Region

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

John Runkle

# 2010 PELICAN AWARDS

The Pelican Awards annually recognize the effective work of ordinary people, businesses, legislators, non-profit groups, local governments and educators to improve environmental quality on the N.C. coast. These award winners have demonstrated exemplary commitment and undertaken meaningful actions to protect and restore our coast in 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

## Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith

Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith is a world-renowned marine scientist who has spent over 40 years delving into the mysteries of our marsh lands and coastal waters. A few years ago Bill was tending to his dogs when a copperhead bit him. Instead of going straight to the doctor, he tried to capture the snake, and got two more bites. (We've joked with Bill that if he worked for NCSU, the snake would have gotten him twice. If he worked for UNC, he'd have enough common sense to get out of the snake's way after the first bite.)

Other than teaching us how not to handle a copperhead, as professor emeritus in the practice of

Marine Ecology at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, Bill has worked closely with the N.C. Coastal Federation on numerous restoration projects, including our wetlands project at North River Farms, the stormwater retrofit project at our Hoop Pole Creek preserve in Atlantic Beach and the rain garden at the Cedar Point Town Hall, all in Carteret County. He has appeared numerous times at public hearings and as an expert witness to help enhance the protection of coastal water quality. His knowledge of fecal coliform and stormwater has helped put North Carolina on the forefront of efforts nationally to control this form of pollution.

Bill was there when the North River wetlands were cleared and the land was ditched and drained for agricul-

ture in the 1980s, studying the effects on hydrology and water quality, and he is now documenting the restoration of the land back to wetlands.

Bill's genuine interest and dedication in determining water quality effects of runoff into estuarine waters has provided valuable data that has been used by many in the management of shellfish resources and the improvement of water quality.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD:

### The Coastal Cohorts



Cohorts Don Dixon, Bland Simpson and Jim Wann have been singing about the Carolina coast and spreading their environmental message for more than 25 years. Their popular performances often benefit the federation's work.

The Cohorts marked their 25th anniversary in 2010 by conducting a tour around the state to raise money and awareness for the federation. The Cohorts put on shows in Manteo, Asheboro, Raleigh and Wilmington, performing songs from their original *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running* and *Wild Ponies* CDs.

The federation is fortunate to have such caring friends who are willing to share their talent. The members of the Coastal Cohorts have each been critically acclaimed over the years for their work.

Wann's Broadway musical was a Tony and Drama Desk Nominee for Best Musical and Best Music on Broadway, an Olivier Nominee for Best Musical in London and the longest-running musical in Chicago theater history.

Dixon of the rock band Arrogance produced *King Mackerel* and *Wild Ponies*. The celebrated singer-songwriter and record producer's other credits include working with REM, Hootie and the Blowfish, Marti Jones, James McMurtry and The Smithereens.

Simpson of the Tony Award-winning *Red Clay Ramblers* has also collaborated on the books *Into the Sound Country* (with his wife Ann Cary Simpson) and, most recently, on *The Coasts of Carolina* (with Scott Taylor). He also serves on the federation board.

#### ADVOCACY AWARD:

### John Hood, John Locke Foundation

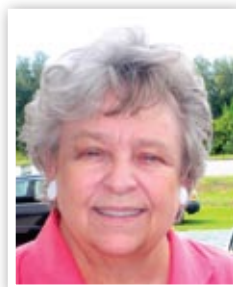
Last December we sat down with John Hood to discuss his views on terminal groins. He is the president and chairman of the John Locke Foundation, a conservative think-tank in Raleigh. In our meeting, he expressed worries about the potential negative consequences terminal groins would have on the beach, property owners and taxpayers, and we found we shared common concerns. In an era when it is simply assumed that environmentalists and conservatives are always at polar opposites, we discovered some similar perspectives about the proper role of government when it comes to promoting good stewardship of our coast. John agreed to write an op-ed piece with Todd Miller, the federation's executive director, that appeared in *Charlotte Observer*. The foundation also wrote about groins in its *Carolina Journal*, and its lobbyist spoke at a legislative committee meeting on the bill.

Too often self-proclaimed conservatives and liberals are all too willing to ignore their values for politically expedient reasons. This occurred with the groin legislation. The governor and too many lawmakers allowed themselves to be swayed by powerful money interests who give heavily to election campaigns. John Hood demonstrated he's not of this ilk. He acted in a manner sincere to his principles. He worked to make the terrible terminal groin bill somewhat less onerous. We greatly appreciate his help, and we want to look for ways to work together again. He demonstrated that being a good steward of our coast is high ground that people of all political persuasions can claim.

#### LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:

### N.C. Representative Carolyn Justice

In a year that has brought dramatic changes to our legislature and assaults on our coastal regulations, one legislator has provided continued leadership and loyalty to her coastal roots and beliefs. Representative Carolyn Justice continues to fight for her



constituents and for the coast she loves so dearly. In a time of turmoil and partisan politics, Representative Justice rises above the sometimes illogical happenings in Raleigh to provide that voice of reason for her House District 16, representing Pender and New Hanover counties.

A native of Wilmington, Justice served as the chairman of the Pender County Board of Commissioners from 1994 through 2002 and is now in her fifth term in the N.C. House.

In 2007, Justice was one of the key members of the House to support and defend the new coastal stormwater rules and continues that battle today. For the past three years she has been sometimes the lone voice in the legislature opposing the plans of Titan Cement to build a massive cement plant near Wilmington. Without question, Representative Justice sees the big picture, listens to both sides of a debate, and is not afraid to reach across the aisle to gain support for issues of importance.

#### PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

### NOAA Community Habitat Restoration Center

The Restoration Center, which is housed within NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation, is a strong and enduring partner. The center protects, restores and promotes stewardship of coastal and marine habitat to support our nation's fisheries for future generations.

Their vision is healthy and sustainable habitat that provides a range of benefits for abundant fish and wildlife, commercial and recreational opportunities and resilient coastal communities that can withstand hurricanes, flooding and other natural and man-made threats. That vision dovetails nicely with our own.

Our ongoing partnership with the Restoration Center, both on our own and through our national partnership as part of Restore America's Estuaries, has led to broad benefits to the N.C. coast. Over the past 10 years, the Restoration Center, particularly through the Community-based Restoration Program has invested more than \$10 million in the N.C. coast. These funds, in turn, have leveraged more than \$10 million in other funding and lasting environmental and economic benefits to the area. The Restoration Center is a powerful partner that provides the momentum we at the federation and other conservation groups need to do our work.

## Northeast Coast

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD:

### The Town of Duck

Many town officials have talked about banning the installation of sand bags on ocean beaches, but none have followed through—until this year. Last winter Duck became the first municipality in the state to outlaw sand bags as a means of controlling oceanfront erosion. The

vote by town council members was unanimous.

While the use of sand bags in North Carolina is legal to provide temporary erosion control, it's proved tricky to force homeowners to remove them when their permits expire. Planning Director Andy Garman noted that the council's opposition to sand bags built as members watched property owners in other towns defy orders to remove the bags.

The council followed up its sand bag ban with amendments to town ordinances that make it easier for property owners to move oceanfront structures back from eroding beaches. The new regulations ease normal setback, parking and drive aisle requirements for buildings that are moved westward from the high tide line.

While Duck is essentially a town with a privately owned beach, we hope that their forward-thinking policies on sand bags and building relocation will be replicated by other coastal communities that promote and provide public access.

**EDUCATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

**N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Ocracoke Campus**

Based in the historic U.S. Coast Guard Station in the middle of Ocracoke village, the center offers numerous seminars each year for several hundred public school teachers. The seminars give teachers a chance to learn about the coast's natural systems and bring hands-on activities about natural habitat back to their classrooms.

During a week-long seminar called Planet Wetlands, taught twice by federation Northeast staff members, teachers helped plant a living shoreline along the edge of the campus that fronts Pamlico Sound. The living shoreline consists of a granite sill that protects the center from heavy surf and a large wetland with a mix of grasses and shrubs. The project was funded by NOAA and the Restore America's Estuaries program.

The center's staff members, under the direction of Laurin Baker and Lena Donlon, were active partners with the federation in designing the living shoreline and planting thousands of marsh grasses behind the sill. The end result is a beautiful marsh where local residents and teachers from across the state can learn about the estuarine system.

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

**Tom and Lynn Thomason**

In 2006 when the Northeast staff issued a call for volunteers to help plant a rain garden at Manteo Middle School, a retired man from Nags Head out-worked



everyone, including people half his age. "He was unstoppable," Coastal Advocate Jan DeBlieu remembers. That man was our introduction to Tom, a retired Air Force colonel and former undersecretary of defense who had moved to the Outer Banks with his wife, Lynn.

Since then Tom and Lynn have become ever-present faces at federation volunteer events. Always willing to pitch in if they're in town (and if some other volunteer organization hasn't snagged them), they have helped plant rain gardens, bag oyster shells and worked to build a thriving restoration program in the region.

For the Thomasons, volunteering is a way to keep mentally and physically active. When they retired to the Outer Banks from West Springfield, Va., they wasted no time in finding organizations for which they could volunteer. "They're two of our mainstays," DeBlieu says. "It's unusual for us to hold a volunteer event and not have the Thomasons come, or let us know why they can't make it."

**Central Coast**

**EDUCATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

**Stan Cross, Warren Wilson College**

Stan Cross, education director at Warren Wilson College near Asheville, is one of the most positive people you'll ever meet. He loves what he does and appreciates what he has. His lifelong appreciation and admiration for nature and human communities have led him to understand how the two interact. He has led environmental education programs in Australia, Taiwan and Thailand, not to mention all over the U.S. Stan has been a leader in his field at Warren Wilson for 11 years and makes strong personal connections with students and professors alike. Stan

directs the Environmental Leadership Center's environmental education programs, which include local and national EcoTeams and the Internship Program.

Warren Wilson sends interns to the federation each summer, and they just keep getting better. Stan understands what the federation needs in an intern and makes sure to recruit the "right" ones. As long as the federation continues to partner with Stan and Warren Wilson, summertime education programs will continue to grow.

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

**Dudley's Marina**

Dudley's Marina in Cedar Point is making the most out of the rain. In 2008, the large marina installed four 2,500-gallon cisterns to capture the stormwater from the 20,000-square-foot roof of the building where boats are stored. The water collected is used to irrigate landscaping and wash down boats. This captured water used for their rail-way wash-down system is a closed system that recycles the water.

Thanks to cost share funding from the Carteret County Soil and Water Community Conservation Assistance Program, Dudley's is becoming a real showcase for stormwater reduction techniques. In 2010, Dudley's added a bioretention area that acts like a grassed bowl to collect and treat runoff from about 32,384 square feet of additional roof top and parking lot. Instead of polluted stormwater runoff shooting directly into the Intracoastal Waterway, Dudley's is using the rain as a resource.

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

**Emerald Isle Parrot Head Club**

"Party with a Purpose." That's the motto of the Emerald Isle Parrot Head Club. But it's more than just a motto. Members of this non-profit organization believe in leaving something behind. So in the process of making new friends and having fun the Jimmy Buffett tropical lifestyle way, they proudly assist with community and environmental projects. Since 2006, the Emerald Isle Parrot Head Club has provided more than 250 volunteer man-hours for the Hoop Pole Creek Clean-up and the Native Plant Festival annual events. They are a tremendous force in promoting the federation's mission and outreach efforts and come to every event with enthusiasm and an endless supply of cheer and laughter. You couldn't ask for a better group of volunteers to work beside.

In addition to the volunteer support for the federation, the Parrot Head Club has supported the local community by raising money for charities and groups such as the Wounded Warriors, the Broad Street Clinic, El Emergency Medical Services, Lifeline Canine and Island Cat Allies.

Other Club activities have included the ALS Walk, Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup and Toys for Tots.

## Southeast Coast

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

### Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc.



With 30 years of consulting civil engineering experience, Larry Sneeden has helped design a great variety of public and private civil engineering projects in southeastern North Carolina. In 2010 he started his own construction and consulting company, Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc., to focus on designing and implementing high-quality environmental and stormwater projects. Since then Larry has worked with communities on the Lockwoods Folly River and schools in the Hewletts Creek watershed on a series of innovative measures to reduce stormwater and protect productive and sensitive coastal rivers and creeks.

He has partnered with local soil and water conservation districts and the federation to work closely with these stakeholders to design and construct excellent, innovative projects. Larry and his crew go above and beyond normal contracting duties to make sure the projects are built to the highest standards and perform as designed. Working with multiple private and public partners, a variety of funding sources, community residents, volunteers and schools, Larry has displayed an amazing amount of dedication, patience, skill, expertise and generosity. He and his company provide an excellent example of a business as a coastal steward.

**EDUCATION AND RESTORATION PARTNERS OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

### Bradley Creek Elementary School and New Hanover County Schools

Thanks to the leadership and dedication of Bradley Creek Elementary School in Wilmington and New Hanover County Schools, there is much less polluted stormwater runoff flowing into Hewletts Creek. Over the past two years, the federation and the New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District have partnered with the school and the school system to install seven stormwater reduction projects at the school.

The projects were implemented through support from the community, numerous partners, the Community Conservation Assistance Program and a number of funding sources. The stormwater reduction measures include rain gardens, stormwater wetlands, bioretention areas and native vegetation enhancement. The 19-acre school property is adjacent to a tributary of Hewletts Creek, and the seven projects will capture and treat an estimated 100,000 gallons of stormwater runoff before it can enter the creek.

The school and school system have also supported student, teacher, administrator, parent and community member engagement in the projects through planting and maintenance of the projects. Over the past two years, the entire third grade has participated in classroom and field activities centered on the projects and geared to increase students' understanding of their connection to their local creeks and environmental stewardship.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

### Ian Oeschger

Over three years ago, the Wilmington community heard a loud knock at the door from a foreign-owned, mega-cement conglomerate called Titan America. One of the rowdy responders to this potentially nasty neighbor was Ian Oeschger. "I got involved with Stop Titan because it (the plant) seemed like a bad thing in an obvious way," says Oeschger.

Several of Ian's friends and neighbors shared this gut reaction, and so StopTitan.org was launched by citizens concerned about the proposed cement plant. "For me, working at the technology development level of projects like StopTitan.org is a way to feel more connected to where I live," says Oeschger.

As the volunteer webmaster, Oeschger researched, built, edited, uploaded and maintained over 140 pages on the website, donating hundreds of hours to the cause. He also helped design the Stop Titan logo, now seen on thousands of bumper stickers and yard signs throughout the community. Oeschger's contributions provided invaluable tools for

information exchange, branding and messaging.

"I am proud that StopTitan.org continuously framed the Titan issue as bad news for our community, while keeping the information empirical, data-driven and not too crunchy," says Oeschger.

Oeschger uses what he calls "modest geek skills" as an Information Architect for IBM. Ian lives in Wilmington, along with his wife, Rachel, and son, Eli.

## Inland Region

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

### John Runkle



As one of the federation's founding board members, it's fitting that John Runkle receive the first volunteer award for North Carolina's inland region.

John has been totally engaged in the federation since its incorporation in 1982. Most recently he has chaired the new Inland Committee, leading the initiative to help expand the federation's reach statewide. John and his wife, Nancy Dole, are famous for their member socials held at their home tucked up in the woods of Chapel Hill. While he's guiding the committee in the center of the state, John is also an active participant in whatever the federation is doing — from planting rain gardens to sponsoring federation events.

"John's one of those great board members you like to have. He asks the tough questions that need to be asked and he's 110 percent engaged in our work," says Todd Miller.

As an environmental attorney, John represents communities across North Carolina facing threats from landfills, incinerators, wastewater discharges and over-development. He is the general counsel for the N.C. League of Conservation Voters.

# A TRYING TIME IN RALEIGH: Federation Worked to Make Bad Bills Better

By Rob Lamme

When it ended its 2011 regular session on June 18, the N.C. General Assembly completed one of the shortest sessions in recent memory (never mind that legislators will likely come back for not one but two special sessions before the end of the year).

While the regular session was mercifully short, both the state House and Senate sprinted through a variety of legislation and a sharply-reduced state budget. Unfortunately, neither the bills nor the budget approved by the legislature did much to protect or preserve the state's natural resources; in many cases they did just the opposite.

Indeed, conservationists faced a perfect political storm this year: new majorities in both chambers itching to pummel any and all forms of regulation and a lousy economy that motivated lawmakers of all stripes to vote for anything – anything – that could be passed off as good for the economy.

The result was a steady stream of bills that challenged some of the state's most important conservation policies.

On the budget, legislators reduced funding for the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund by 88 percent while also sharply cutting other open space trust funds, putting at risk North Carolina's status as a national leader in conservation and natural resource protection. The budget also sharply reduced funding for the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the agency charged with ensuring that our water, air, beaches and mountains remain clean now and for future generations. Since 2008, the department's state appropriation has been reduced by 24 percent; its budget will cut by an additional 12 percent in 2011-12 and 22 percent in 2012-13. Taken together these cuts mean that DENR will have absorbed over 40% in budget reductions by 2013 – calling into question the state's ability to protect the natural beauty that attracts so many people to our state and that business



Rep. Carolyn Justice

and industry count on for economic development.

The N.C. Coastal Federation was involved in most if not all of the debates on conservation issues in the legislature, including one with a high profile: repeal of the state's decades-long ban on terminal groins. Terminal groins are jetty-like structures made of rock that are designed to change the way sand moves up and down North Carolina's inlets and beaches.

Coastal advocates will recall that the fight against arming our coast has been going on for several years, with coastal landowners on Figure Eight and Bald Head islands and some beach communities pushing hard to repeal the ban on groins in North Carolina. Never mind that the vast majority of coastal

scientists agree that groins simply shift the problem of coastal erosion to another part of the beach. Or that groins cost millions to build and maintain.

Despite these facts, numerous editorials and thousands of calls and emails from North Carolinians from across the state opposing terminal groins, the majority of legislators ignored the science and approved legislation that paves the way for four groins at inlets. Gov. Beverly Perdue allowed the bill to become law without her signature.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the federation and its allies were able to limit the damage on the groins bill, which includes a considerable number of hoops groin sponsors must jump through before any jetty is actually built. These include prohibitions on state funding unless directly approved by the legislature and restrictions on local funding without a popular vote. We were also able to get a bonding requirement included to insure that those who build these things can pay for their potential removal and for damage to surrounding property owners.

Special thanks to Rep. Carolyn Justice, a Republican who represents New Hanover and Pender counties, for her tireless leadership on this issue.

The waning days (and nights) of any session typically see a flood of bills approved at near-lightning pace – and it always seems that anti-environment proposals are some of the highest profile of this kind of late-breaking legislation. This session was no exception, save for the fact that there were many more of these bills this year. That said, the federation helped stop or improve a number of these, including a particularly





The federation produced a series of publications called *The Groin Gazette* that we emailed to all legislators while they were considering the bill on terminal groins. The *Gazettes* described the environmental, economic and legal ramifications of allowing such structures on our beaches.

nasty proposal to essentially gut the state's rules regulating airborne toxic chemicals. Though the bill passed a key House committee, its sponsor, Rep. Pat McElraft, R-Carteret, pulled it after a firestorm of controversy erupted.

We also helped revise a proposal to water down pollution standards in several of the state's key river and estuary systems and joined other groups in opposing a bill that directed the governor to pursue offshore drilling, apportioned revenues from offshore leases if the Federal government provides the state with revenue sharing and directed the development of natural gas exploration using a controversial drilling method known hydrofracking. The legislature approved the measure, but the federation and other environmental groups mobilized thousands of calls and emails to Perdue opposing the bill. Our grassroots efforts paid off when she vetoed the bill.

Senate Bill 781 followed a similar story. This poorly titled "Regulatory Reform Act" would gut the state's rulemaking and enforcement authority, leaving it to federal

regulators to safeguard the environment. The bill popped up with just two weeks left in the session and sped through the state Senate. After a whopping five-minute review of the bill by a House committee (the only committee discussion that chamber would have on this far-reaching legislation), the bill went to the House floor and was approved on the second to the last day of the session. Again, the federation and other conservation groups mounted a large grassroots effort opposing the bill and helped convince Gov. Perdue to veto it.

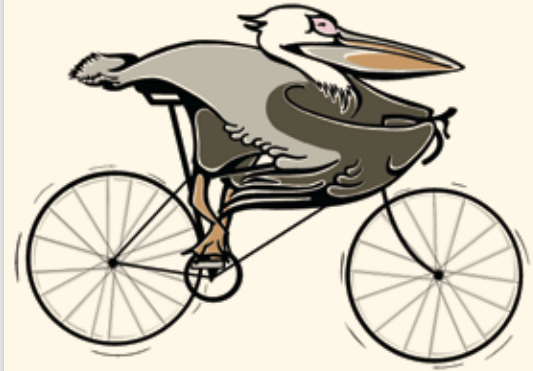
The General Assembly is scheduled to go back into special session in mid-July to redraw the state's legislative districts – and also consider overriding the Governor's vetoes. The federation will again try to convince legislators to support the vetoes of the bad environmental bills.

Visit our website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) for the latest update about these bills and how you can help support the governor's veto.

With the session now over, the federation will start planning our work for next session. Some of the issues we will be looking at include obtaining funding for the state's oyster restoration program, which was all but gutted this year; preparing for a full-scale assault on the state's stormwater and other environmental rules and developing a positive, pro-active agenda for coastal conservation that lawmakers – and voters – of all stripes can support.

Look for updates about the federation's priorities in future newsletters and email updates. And please let us know your priorities by visiting our website and Facebook page, by sending us an email or stopping by our offices in Ocean, Manteo and Wilmington.

*Rob Lamme is the N.C. Coastal Federation's legislative lobbyist*



## CYCLING FOR THE COAST

Bikers of all levels can enjoy the N.C. Coastal Federation's newest event – "Cycling for the Coast." Our ride, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 8 a.m., provides the perfect track along the scenic Crystal Coast. Riders will peddle through the beach towns of Emerald Isle, Salter Path, Indian Beach, Pine Knoll Shores and Atlantic Beach.

You can choose from 20K, 40K and 80K rides. The cost is \$35 for federation members and \$50 for non-members. Every rider gets an event t-shirt with our great Cycling for the Coast pelican logo. Proceeds will be used for the federation's restoration projects.

To register or for more information, visit [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) or call Sam Bland at 252-393-8185. To learn more about becoming a sponsor, contact Sally Steele at [sallys@nccoast.org](mailto:sallys@nccoast.org) or 252-393-8185.

### RIDE SPONSORS:

- Crystal Coast Outdoors
- The Tideland News
- WTKF 107.1 FM
- Bikes-R-In
- Carolina Cyclist
- Emerald Isle Realty
- Second Wind Eco Tours & Yoga Studio
- Outer Island Accents
- Rob Lamme & Associates

# RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES: NCCF'S NATIONAL PARTNER

One thing you may not know about us: the federation was one of the founders of the national group Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), and continues to serve on the board of directors today.

And that provides the N.C. coast with a host of benefits.

RAE is a national non-profit conservation organization, founded in 1994 and incorporated in 2000, dedicated to preserving the nation's network of estuaries through coastal protection and restoration projects that promote the richness and diversity of coastal life.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Based in Arlington, Va., Restore America's Estuaries is an alliance of eleven community-based coastal conservation organizations: the American Littoral Society, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, the Conservation Law Foundation, the Galveston Bay Foundation, the N.C. Coastal Federation, People For Puget Sound, Save The Bay – San Francisco, Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay, Save the Sound – a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Tampa Bay Watch.

RAE works with community, private and governmental organizations at the national, state and local levels to build partnerships and secure resources to restore and preserve estuarine habitats. It supports on-the-ground, community-based restoration projects through a partnership agreement with NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program. RAE also creates tools and resources to guide the restoration process and engages key stakeholders in a biennial national conference that attracts around 1,000 people. The next conference will be held in Tampa in fall 2012.

## RESTORATION

In 1993, Pew Charitable Trusts convened seven local coastal conservation groups and



**RESTORE  
AMERICA'S  
ESTUARIES**

they conceived an initiative that would link coastal organizations across the United States and work on the national level to further empower them at the local level. The group decided that on-the-ground habitat restoration of estuaries would be the most effective focus on which to work together. Since its creation, RAE and its members no longer have financial support from Pew, but they kept together and restored more than 56,000 acres of coastal habitat, yielding countless benefits to vital food supplies, human health, job creation, and quality of life. This work has raised and leveraged more than \$25 million in funding for habitat restoration, resulting in the completion of more than 800 local restoration projects throughout the U.S. In addition, over 300,000 volunteers have contributed toward the restoration effort.

## ADVOCACY

Restore America's Estuaries works with government agencies and Congress to develop more effective coastal habitat protection and restoration policies. RAE also promotes full funding of the agencies and programs that support coastal restoration work, such as NOAA's Restoration Center, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program and the Army Corps of Engineers' Estuary Restoration Act Program. The federation and our coast benefit from all of them.

Chris Lyons, RAE's legislative lobbyist, wants to remind our members and friends of the importance of constituents letting their local representatives hear from them clearly and often. By reminding them of the critical role that estuaries play in our state's and nation's economy and job creation, we hold them accountable for their votes and decision-making.

## RECOVERY ACT

In 2009 RAE successfully led efforts to advocate for habitat restoration funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, resulting in \$167 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center. The federation was also fortunate to be able to partake in the program, receiving a \$5 million grant to conduct large-scale oyster restoration in North Carolina.

One of our contractors, Stevens Towing, was able to provide living proof of the coastal environment/economy symbiosis: Simon Rich, a managing partner in the towing company, was our primary contractor for the Recovery Act project. He was able to relate the effect the funding on his company in a congressional briefing in DC in 2009 and in a panel discussion at the RAE national conference in Galveston in 2010.

The federation and the 10 other RAE organizations have a mutually beneficial relationship, the benefits of which will help our coast for years to come.

# N.C. COASTAL FEDERATION 2010 Annual Report



**MISSION:** To provide citizens and groups with the assistance needed to take an active role in the stewardship of North Carolina's coastal water quality and natural resources.

*"In 2010 we engaged 2,936 volunteers of all ages in shoreline and wetland plantings, oyster habitat creation, advocacy issues, clean-ups and other activities; reached 11,887 people with an education program and surpassed 10,000 members. We made great strides in engaging people in stewardship of our coast. In hindsight, it was good preparation for the coming storm."*

—TODD MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## NORTHEAST

- Started a watershed restoration plan for the Mattamuskeet Drainage District in northeast Hyde County that will be one of the nation's largest restoration projects. We're working with farmers and several state and federal partners to create a master plan for restoring the hydrology and habitat of 42,500 acres of previously ditched and drained farm land. As part of this project, partners redirected agricultural runoff to 600 acres of wetlands from former farm fields within the drainage district, reducing runoff and creating new habitat for migrating shorebirds; assisted Alligator River Growers in enrolling 4,168 acres of farmland into the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program; and began the installation of a water management project that will restore the hydrology on 1,400 acres within the district.
- Worked with the Columbia Board of Aldermen to adopt policies in favor of low-impact development.
- Held a Leadership Training: Growth

and Sustainability Strategies course in Currituck County for 45 professionals and elected officials.

- Conducted two week-long seminars on coastal natural history for public school teachers at the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Ocracoke.
- Installed a new 725-foot living shoreline at the center, with visiting teachers and local students and residents providing the volunteer labor.
- Extended the living shoreline at Jockey's Ridge State Park by 330 feet. This project



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



included engaging local school children and volunteers to bag 2,000 bushels of oyster shells.

- Taught lessons throughout the year on the importance of estuaries to more than 200 students through the federation's Wetland Nursery Program. Coordinated the planting of more than 30,000 coastal marsh plants and built living shorelines.
- Restored 27 acres of oyster habitat at Clam Shoal in Pamlico Sound, providing jobs for 15 commercial fishermen.
- Built two new rain gardens in Manteo and revamped the large rain garden at Manteo Middle School, engaging more than 150 local school children and volunteers.
- Led weekly field trips on Bodie Island with Cape Hatteras National Seashore staff.

Island Environmental Education & Restoration Center and completed the center's classroom. Eight hundred and thirty-eight volunteers contributed 4,898 hours through 49 events to plant marsh grass, build oyster reefs, conduct restoration monitoring, clean up the island and perform general maintenance. Three universities conducted research associated with restoration projects at Jones Island.

- Built six new rain gardens at Swansboro Elementary School, Queens Creek Elementary School, also in Swansboro, and Snug Harbor on Nelson Bay in Carteret County to reduce stormwater runoff

from the buildings' impervious surfaces.

- Installed three cisterns in Cedar Point in Carteret County to reduce stormwater runoff into the White Oak River.
- Planted marsh grasses with volunteers to restore 330 feet of shoreline at the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center on Harkers Island in Carteret County.

## CENTRAL

- Created an additional 300 feet of oyster shell bag sill at Jones Island in the White Oak River, planted a half acre of the island's shoreline with over 21,000 plugs of salt marsh grasses and deployed 10,000 bushels of loose oyster shells to create two acres of shallow oyster reefs along the island's northern shoreline.
- Continued partnership with Hammocks Beach State Park to manage the Jones



- Worked with a private homeowner to install a living shoreline along Bogue Sound at Pine Knoll Shores in Carteret County.
- Conducted wetland nursery, oyster and rain garden programs, educating 1,333 students in 22 schools in five central coastal counties.
- Educated 1,117 people through summer programs at Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro and Jones Island and an additional 1,448 community members through presentations, festivals and workshops.
- Conducted the Seventh Annual Native Plant Festival at federation headquarters, attracting more than 1,000 visitors to the newly-expanded event.

## SOUTHEAST

- Worked with over 1,500 people to oppose a proposed major port in Southport, which would pose enormous environmental impacts to the region if built.
- Continued a leadership role to oppose the proposed Titan cement plant near Wilmington, engaging more than 5,000 people in public meetings, hearings and trips to Raleigh to lobby elected officials to support the opposition efforts. These efforts have delayed Titan's permitting process and have made Titan a statewide issue, receiving national media attention.
- Successfully completed a study and implementation plans for the Lockwoods Folly River in Brunswick County and started working with property owners to implement practices to control polluted runoff. This program will serve as a model preservation/restoration strategy for other coastal watersheds.
- Hosted nine Community Clean Water Day events that engaged 117 landowners and community members in 14 projects to protect water quality, including rain gardens and bioretention and stormwater wetland restoration to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution in their communities.



- Worked with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries to place 20,000 bushels of oyster shells to restore five acres of oyster reef, employing 30 fishermen in the projects in Stump and Middle sounds.

- Educators provided classroom lessons, activities and field experiences to 1,103 students and 35 teachers. The students and teachers were engaged in all aspects of the Coastal Habitat Education Program, including the Wetland Nursery, Shellfish Habitat Restoration and Coastal Habitat Restoration Monitoring programs.
- Partnered with 120 students from Bradley Creek Elementary School in Wilmington and 100 volunteers to build two school-yard rain gardens and two stormwater wetlands, protecting nearby Hewletts Creek.

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2010 DONORS

The N.C. Coastal Federation is grateful to the many individuals, foundations, groups and businesses who donate to our work. We are honored by every gift and inspired by the generosity of so many. The following donors gave at recognition levels during the year.

Jeff & Roz Abrams, The Abrams Charitable Trust, Joel & Marla Adams, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, Neal W. Andrew, Archdale-Trinity Middle School, Robert & Margaret Ayres, Diann M. Barbacci, Gerry Barrett, Dick Bierly, Jere & Glenn Blackburn, Scott Bradley, Dr. & Mrs. H. R. Brashear, Clem & Marjorie Bribitzer, Ray & Nan Burby, Cape Fear Garden Club, Cape Fear Citizens For A Safe Environment, Carlson Family Foundation, Veronica A. Carter, Carteret Soil and Water Conservation District, The Dickson Foundation, Collett & Martha Dilworth, Diversified Biomass Company, Lee H. & Tharon Dunn, Susan Edwards & David Staub, Laura B. Edwards, Environmental Protection Agency, Ernie & Lynne Foster, Peter Fulton, Dr. & Mrs. Charlie Godwin, William C. Hall, Kimberlee Hoey, Ella Ann L. & Frank B. Holding Foundation, Olivia Britton Holding, Kathryn B. Howd, Aaron Johnson, Paul A. Jones, III, Ken Karn & Sally Ann Buchanan, Art Klose & Mary Katherine Lawrence, Susan Lupton & Bob Schall, Alan, Jackie & Josh Luria, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Lynch, Jr., Jacqueline L. Mardan & Omar Mardan, Ronald & Diane McCord, Dot & Larry McGee, Percy W. & Elizabeth G. Meekins Charitable Trust, Mr. & Mrs. John F. Mitchell, Dr. & Mrs. James L. Mohler, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund, N.C. Department of Justice-Environmental Division, N.C. Botanical Gardens, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Neal, NOAA Restoration Center, North State Foundation, North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, Outer Island Accents, Adele F. Paynter, Stuart M. Paynter, David & Cary Paynter, PPD Inc., John Preyer, Julian Price Family Foundation, Joe Ramus, Adele Richardson Ray, Restore America's Estuaries, Jim & Chris Rice, Ann Page Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Roberson, Katherine H. Rooney-Keto, John Runkle & Nancy Dole, Richard Scully & Lee Kimball, Julie Shambaugh & Todd Miller, Melvin & Tillie Shepard, Lisa Jones & Keith Smith, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Spruill, T. M. Stanback, Jr., Mark Stanback & Nancy Popkin, Fred & Alice Stanback, Sally Steele & Lee Taylor, Craig & Cathy Steffee, Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, Thanksgiving Dance Sponsors, Ken & Judi Tyminski, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mason & Jill Venable, Doug Wakeman, Wal-Mart Foundation, Jim & Patricia Wann, Ralph & Ginger Webster and William A. Williams.

## Summary of Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2010

### GRANTS AND REVENUES

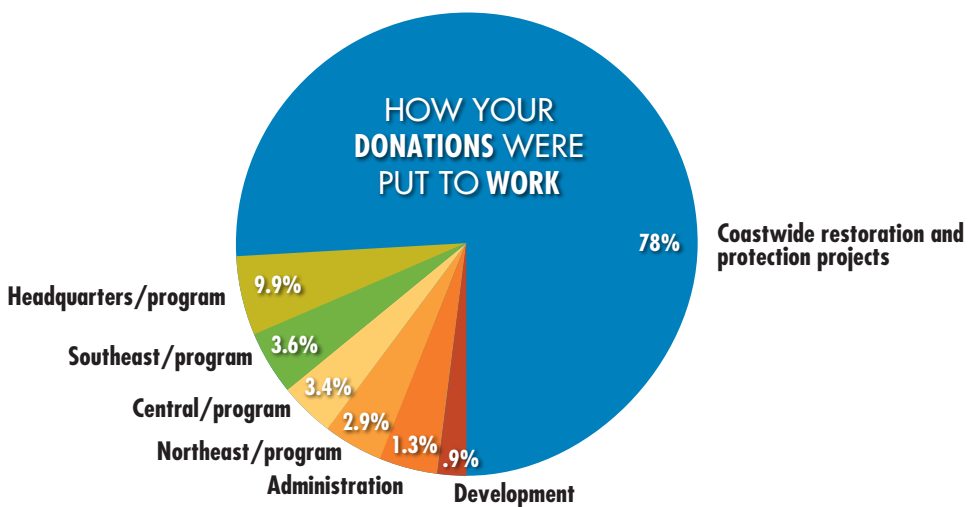
Donations	233,550
Campaign donations	243,809
Grants	839,445
Investment income	133,735
Membership	135,836
Special projects	3,500,107
Miscellaneous	17,768
<b>Total Grants &amp; Revenues</b>	<b>5,104,250</b>

### EXPENSES

Administration	82,153
Development	56,492
Headquarters/program	638,080
Northeast/program	183,547
Central/program	217,250
Southeast/program	233,913
Coastwide restoration	2,977,514
Land transferred	2,045,809*
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,434,758</b>

### NET ASSETS

Change	(1,330,508)
Beginning	32,740,790
Ending	31,410,282



\*The federation transferred 200 acres of land in Onslow County to the State of North Carolina. This transfer was consistent with the federation's mission and the restrictive covenants on the property.

The N.C. Coastal Federation's audit is conducted by Williams, Scarborough, Smith, Gray, LLP. Please contact the federation for a copy of the full audit or visit [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).

# Summit, Report Focus on Renewable Energy and N.C. Coast

Pioneers are beginning to stake out the country's next energy frontier off the N.C. coast because they know what every kid with a kite also knows: It gets breezy at the beach.

And nowhere along the East Coast does that breeze blow steadier and stronger than off the shores of North Carolina, which may soon find itself at the center of the rush to harness the wind.

Down near Oak Island, a small company is culturing microscopic algae – yes, pond scum – with the hopes of one day converting them into fuel to power diesel and jet engines. In Jacksonville, officials at Camp Lejeune are installing solar panels on base housing, and in the piney woods of the coastal plain, utility companies are eyeing trees and wood waste as sources of power for our homes.

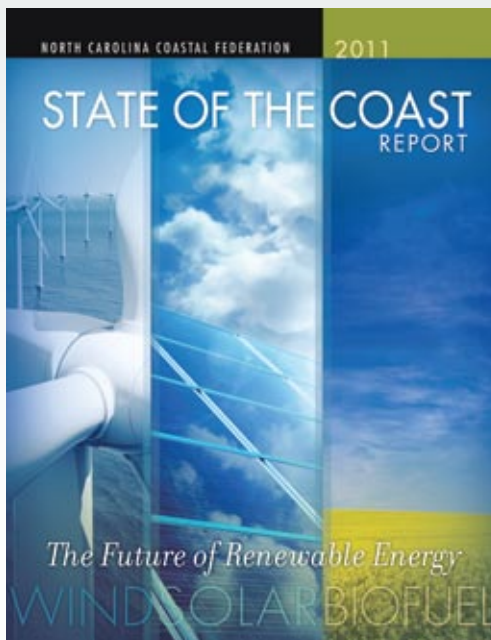
As we gradually move away from our reliance on coal, oil and other fossil fuels, we are increasingly turning to the wind, the sun and plants from farm fields and forests to power our future. Those and other sources of renewable energy are featured in the N.C. Coastal Federation's 2011 *State of the Coast Report*. The 16th annual report was released in June at a conference on renewable energy that the federation sponsored at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern.

Almost 150 people attended the all-day conference, which featured experts on a wide range of alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar and biomass.

The summit focused on the economic and environmental implications for future energy production along our coast. Potential future policy options were discussed. People in the audience had opportunities to ask questions and join in the discussions.

"Energy issues can be very complicated and hard for people to understand," said Dick Bierly, the federation's vice president, who presided at the conference. "The purpose of the *State of the Coast Report* and the summit is to educate the public and public officials about an issue that is so important to the future of our region and state."

Featuring new forms of energy in a *State of the Coast Report* also felt right for the



federation. The group has historically been opposed to offshore drilling for oil or natural gas, explained Frank Tursi, an assistant director with the federation and the report's editor and lead writer.

"If we keep saying 'No,' then we have a responsibility to offer acceptable alternatives," Tursi said. "*This State of the Coast Report* offers some of those alternatives."

The report focuses on wind, solar, biofuels and other renewable energy sources that could affect the state's coast and describes their potential benefits and possible challenges.

Offshore wind, for instance, offers great potential for generating electricity, Tursi noted. No power is generated that way in the United States, but almost every state on the east coast is developing policies to lure developers off its shores. Studies, though, have concluded that the wind blowing off the N.C. coast is the best anywhere in the country. If put to work generating electricity, that wind could theoretically supply all of the state's electrical needs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Like most of the energy sources featured in the report, wind power won't poison the air with pollutants or contribute to global warming by spewing tons of carbon dioxide. If an offshore turbine fails, blackened birds won't land on our beaches.

Transporting and erecting giant wind turbines offshore is expensive, Tursi said, driving the cost of the initial electricity they generate well above what consumers in North Carolina are used to paying. Power generated by wind farms on land is much cheaper, but those turbines have a greater risk of killing birds and bats.

Along the same lines, trees in coastal North Carolina are plentiful, and converting them to fuel for power plants could provide landowners with income. But it could also lead to unsustainable forestry practices that could threaten the ecological health of the state's forestland.

"So much of this is about balancing and weighing different facts," Steve Wall of the Biofuels Center of North Carolina says in the report. "None of these energy issues is easy. But when you look at the Gulf spill, maybe you think this is a better way to go."

## BALD HEAD ASKS FOR SANDBAGS TO PROTECT GROINS

In a rather lovely bit of irony, Bald Head Island is asking the state for permission to build a sandbag wall to protect sandbag groins that were supposed to stop the erosion on the island's western-most beach.

Bald Head has filed an application with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management to amend its current CAMA permit for the groins to allow the village to build a wall, called a revetment, made of sandbags to protect a sandbag groin field.

Erosion on the western end of the island in the Cape Fear River has increased dramatically recently, Bald Head says in its application. "As a result, significant loss of beach fill and dune, as well as deterioration and loss of multiple sand tube groins will in all probability occur," the village notes.

Bald Head received permission to build the groins in 2003. They were intended to stop the erosion that now threatens them.

# Nags Head Nourishment Project Moves Forward Under Scrutiny



A month into their controversial summertime beach nourishment project, contractors for the town of Nags Head had spread sand along nearly two miles of the 10-mile project area.

The quality of the sand, pulled from a quarry site two miles offshore, continued to be good. Nighttime patrols had found three loggerhead turtle nests and relocated them to undisturbed beaches in Kill Devil Hills.

Beach cottage renters who complained about the noise from the project, which runs night and day, were being moved to different houses whenever possible.

Town and state officials had also devised a plan for dealing with property owners who failed to remove sandbags from in front of their properties—a requirement of being included in the project. When contractors encounter a structure protected by sand bags, they stake the property and check the surrounding elevations. Sand spreading proceeds, but with an altered slope that may leave the property at the bottom of a bowl and subject to flooding, N.C. Division of Coastal Management officials said.

Dredges began pumping sand onto the beach May 24, a full two weeks before the project's anticipated June 6 start date. Town officials said a hopper dredge was able to be moved into the area sooner than expected.

Philip McKee, technical director of the project for the firm Coastal Science & Engineering (CS&E), says he spent six years

taking cores in the offshore area from which sand is being pumped. He says it's among the best nourishment material he's seen.

Over the summer CS&E staff will work with Great Lakes Lock and Dredge to place an estimated 4.6 million cubic yards of sand along the Nags Head oceanfront, enough to widen the beach by between 50 and 200 feet. The timing of the project—outside the standard dredging window of November through April—is highly unusual. Federal agencies normally bar summer dredging because of potential impacts to sea turtles, nesting birds, ghost crabs, sand fleas and other creatures that live in the swash zone.

The National Marine Fisheries Service strenuously objected to Nags Head's plans for summer dredging. But town officials made the case that seasonal stormy seas off the Outer Banks would make the project too dangerous, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed. A warm season project was also expected to be substantially cheaper. The service eventually deferred to the Corps on the safety question.

To avoid encountering sea turtles, a trawler works portions of the quarry site 48 hours before the dredge begins sucking sand from the bottom, town manager Cliff Ogden said. At the request of NMFS biologists, the town

**WHERE WE STAND:** The federation isn't opposed to beach nourishment projects as long as they're done properly. Sand pumped onto the beach must closely match what's already there and projects shouldn't interfere with nesting sea turtles or birds.

We also urge local officials and policy makers to recognize that barrier islands are dynamic places and that all measures taken to hold them in place are temporary.

That said, nourishment is by far preferable to building hard structures like jetties and groins on ocean beaches. The federation strongly supports North Carolina's longstanding ban against beach hardening. New legislation will allow the construction of up to four terminal groins on state beaches (see story, Pages 8-9).

also had the turtle excluders on the dredges changed to a more efficient model, he said.

Two independent observers ride on dredges, watching for turtles. Although permits for the project do not require turtle monitoring on the beaches, the town has hired monitors to patrol from dusk to dawn. "I don't know what more we could do to protect turtles," Ogden said, "short of not dredging."

The project has been locally controversial, in part because of wide skepticism that nourished beaches will withstand the stormy Outer Banks surf. But the town's funding plan has also raised eyebrows.

Originally the town hoped to be included in a nourishment project that would have spanned three towns and been funded primarily by the federal government, with secondary support from the state. But when the feds and the state stopped paying for new nourishment projects, towns like Nags Head were left scrambling.





*Students joined Girl Scouts and moms and their daughters to plant a marsh to protect Durant's Point in Hatteras.*

A referendum was held in in Nags Head in 2007 to raise local taxes to pay for renourishment. It failed by a wide margin. So the town convinced Dare County to pony up \$18 million from its Shoreline Maintenance Fund. The town borrowed another \$18 million to fund the project, using its future collection of local occupancy taxes as collateral. This enabled it to avoid asking voters for permission.

To service the loan, the town property tax rate will be raised between 2 cents and 16 cents per \$100 of assessed value, depending on the property's proximity to the oceanfront. An additional 1 percent will be tacked on to the bills of cottage and hotel room rentals.

Even so, the town has not come up with a plan to pay for future maintenance of the widened beaches.

Coastal Advocate Jan DeBlieu is watching to make sure that sand pumped onto the beach meets new state compatibility requirements. She's also monitoring turbidity in the ocean and making sure the project follows state and federal regulations for protecting water quality.

So far DeBlieu has uncovered no problems. Nonetheless, anyone with information about a potential water quality violation is urged to contact her at 252-473-1607 or [jand@nccoast.org](mailto:jand@nccoast.org).

The project is expected to last until October. After that, Nags Head residents will wait for the answer to the \$36 million question: Will the sand stay on the beach?

## **DURANT'S POINT LIVING SHORELINE NOW SHELTERS HATTERAS FISHING FLEET**

After years of planning, the spit of land that forms the tip of Durant's Point has been stabilized with a living shoreline, protecting the Hatteras Village fishing fleet from the intense waves of Pamlico Sound.

The federation's Northeast Region staff worked with local marine contractors to build a

rock sill that will absorb the energy from the large waves that form across the wide expanse of the sound. During the summer, southwest winds blow unimpeded across 45 miles of open water. Erosion in recent years has been severe.

The project, funded by NOAA through Restore America's Estuaries, has been a long-time dream of federation board member Ernie Foster. If the sound were to break through the Point, Foster noted, boats in the Hatteras commercial and recreational fishing fleet would be left vulnerable to storm waves.

The Northeast staff obtained permission from property owners to build a low granite sill along 350 feet of shoreline. It was designed to allow the passage of fish and other marine creatures into a shallow pool. Wetland grasses help absorb energy and stabilize sediment.

The sill was built in early May. Adult volunteers and local school students and girl scouts then worked over two weeks to plant 6,000 marsh grass sprigs behind it.

Construction of the living shoreline had strong support from local and county residents. When the question of how the sill would be maintained threatened to derail the project, the Dare County Commissioners agreed to take on responsibility.

Commissioners said stabilizing the Point was crucial to the survival of the Hatteras fleet.

Because Slash Creek separates the Point from Hatteras Village, the site was trickier than normal to reach. Two local companies, Kitty Hawk Kites and Hatteras Parasail, donated the use of kayaks for use by school students, and local watermen ferried other volunteers.

The portion of the Point stabilized is just northeast of the harbor entrance and was the thinnest and most vulnerable. Nonetheless, other sections of the Point continue to suffer from erosion. In coming years the federation hopes to find funding to extend the living shoreline to the rest of the Point's Pamlico Sound shoreline.

## **Birds, Water Quality Will Benefit from Atlantic White Cedar Restoration**

Starting this fall, the federation will be working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to bring the Atlantic White Cedar, and all the critters that depend on it, back to the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula.

This project will restore about 50 acres of cedar forests in northeastern N.C. Once a well-established ecosystem in this area, less than 5 percent of the original acreage remains and what does exist is primarily on public lands, particularly national wildlife refuges. Past efforts have been made to restore white cedar on private lands, as well, but the task has proven challenging.

This project will help cover costs associated with site preparation, planting and post-plant maintenance activities on private property.

Federation staff will work with our partners to identify appropriate sites and landowners interested in this cost-share opportunity, while expanding our visibility in the community. Sites must be wetlands or former wetlands capable of being restored and that have supported white cedar in the past.

A host of migratory birds will benefit from this project. In her study of the ecology of Atlantic White Cedar forests, Aimlee Laderman, a researcher at Yale University and the director of the Swamp Research Center in Woods Hole, Mass. states that, "Cedar stands in the Great Dismal National Wildlife Refuge supported the greatest bird density in coniferous forests recorded in the eastern United States. . . . twice as many birds per unit area as a surrounding maple-gum forest."

Her study also indicates that Dare County cedar stands contain an abundance of black-throated green warblers. Other breeding birds mentioned as having a close association with this habitat type include parula, prairie, prothonotary, hooded and worm-eating warblers, ovenbirds and yellowthroats. AWC stands also provide food and cover to wintering birds and other wildlife.

Of equal importance to the federation, water quality benefits will also be realized as hydrologic restoration is accomplished. Reduced erosion and a reduction in the usually high concentrations of nitrogen and mercury in these drained peat soils should result, leading to better water quality for the prime oyster waters of the sound.

Stay tuned to our website, [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) for more details as the project gets off the ground.



## JONES ISLAND BECOMES A BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY

If you've been following the central region's work for the past few years, you know we've been at Jones Island a lot lately. Jones Island, at the mouth of the White Oak River, is now part of Hammocks Beach State Park and that partnership has brought about many good things.

This spring and summer, new programs have been created with the goal of reaching people and groups new to the federation. In May, the federation partnered with Second Wind Ecotours of Swansboro to offer a kayak and yoga trip to the island. The trip filled quickly with 23 participants and more were on a waiting list. With such interest, the federation scheduled a July trip, which filled quickly as well.

Also, for the first time, the federation offered two summer day programs for rising third through fifth graders. Both camps were full within weeks, including a waiting list.

The camp participants boated over to Jones Island and spent the day exploring, learning about island ecology, habitat and the critters that use the island. With the excitement growing and the word spreading about these two camps, the federation will likely add more next summer.

The continuing marsh cruise programs in and around Jones Island and the White Oak River have also been a smashing success this summer. More than 75 people have participated in the cruises, learning about water quality, estuaries and cultural and natural history. This is the second year these marsh cruise



*Top: Armed with nets and enthusiasm, these day campers explored the waters around Jones Island. Above: A day of planting brings smiles to the faces of these Tiller School students.*

programs have been offered and we hope to continue the programs again next year.

### TILLER SCHOOL DIGS IT

After years of interest, Beaufort's Tiller School was finally able to install two rain

gardens on school property to collect and infiltrate rain water from the school parking lot, which regularly flooded during heavy rains.

With funding from Wal-Mart, the school's fourth and fifth graders and their teachers learned about stormwater runoff and rain gardens and in May planted over 200 plants in the rain gardens with assistance from federation staff and Wal-Mart volunteers. These native plants will help soak up a lot of the rain before it enters the nearby creeks and rivers. The gardens will be well-tended all summer by the student garden club and, next year, the entire school will continue to learn about and maintain their rain gardens.

## SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO

Chandler Nohr, a rising sophomore at Croatan High School in Carteret County, really cares about the environment. When Chandler first came to the federation in January 2011, he was merely looking for ideas for a community service project that his school requires.

After picking up debris and logging his findings at the Hoop Pole Creek and Patsy Pond nature trails, he decided that just once wasn't enough. He has continued working at the two trails, literally counting and comparing trail pollution and creating graphs with collected data. He is concerned that the lack of visitor knowledge will cause the trash amounts to rise, "affecting the ecosystems and organisms in the different areas of the forest."

Chandler is someone to look up to, not only because he is so young and making a difference, but because he is eager to help and won't stop until he does.

## A Big Thank You to...

...the Cabinet Shop in Morehead City and Artisan Granite and Marble in Emerald Isle for their generous donations to the new kitchen at the federation's headquarters in Ocean.



*The new rain garden at the Cedar Point Town Hall treats stormwater and is a pretty spot.*

## A New Rain Garden at Cedar Point Gets a Little TLC

Don Redfearn, public works director for Cedar Point, is the proud father of a large rain garden that was installed this spring at the Town Hall in western Carteret County to help reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff that enters the White Oak River.

The planning, preparation and planting of the rain garden would not have been possible without Don's genuine dedication and enthusiasm. Don went above and beyond the call of duty to make the project a success. And in his words, "that was a whole lot of work." He was there every step of the way and his hard work is evident in the beauty and function of the rain garden.

About 50 volunteers helped to plant the rain garden with over 350 native plants. Volunteers included close to 30 Navy Hospital Corpsmen from Camp Lejeune, members of the Town Board of Commissioners and the town mayor, administrator and staff. The planting was preceded by a special ground-breaking ceremony that was led by local officials.

The rain garden is working to capture and treat stormwater runoff from the Town Hall parking lot, roof and adjacent road and is providing habitat for butterflies and other insects. Town Hall visitors and students can also walk through the beautifully landscaped garden and learn about the effects of stormwater runoff on the White Oak River and simple ways to prevent it.

The garden is one of ten low-impact development (LID) measures that were recently installed in Cedar Point to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff

entering the White Oak. A grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) paid for the techniques, which also included cisterns, bioretention areas, pet waste receptacles and stormwater wetlands. The LID methods were also partly funded through the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation's Community Conservation Assistance Program.

Most of the projects were included in the recommendations of a watershed restoration plan that the federation, Cedar Point and other partners devised two years ago after determining that bacterial contamination was widespread throughout the lower White Oak and that stormwater was the primary culprit. An EPA grant paid for that work as well.

In addition to the recently installed stormwater reduction measures, the towns of Cedar Point and Cape Carteret are jointly working with the federation and the state to develop a low-impact development manual. The manual will offer LID techniques to developers to be used in new projects and will encourage citizens to incorporate techniques such as rain gardens, tree plantings and downspout disconnection into their own yards to reduce existing stormwater runoff. All of these efforts will help to clean up the White Oak.

As for the town's rain garden, Don continues to nurture his "baby" very closely. There is no doubt that the rain garden is in good hands. Thanks Don for all your hard work, the coast is a better place because of you.



# School Projects Now Treating 100,000 Gallons of Runoff

Thanks to a series of rain gardens, stormwater wetlands and bioretention areas installed at Bradley Creek Elementary School in Wilmington, much less stormwater is flowing into Hewletts Creek.

The N.C. Coastal Federation led the two-year collaboration with New Hanover County Schools and the New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District to design and build seven stormwater reduction projects on the 19-acre school property. One of the goals of the project was to capture and filter as much stormwater runoff as possible from the school's roof, playing fields and parking areas before it can reach the nearby headwaters of Hewletts Creek. We estimate that the projects are capturing at least 100,000 gallons of polluted stormwater whenever an inch and a half of rain falls on the school property. The soil, mulch and native plants in the rain gardens and wetlands are also filtering out bacteria, sediment and nutrients from that runoff.

Officials at the elementary school and New Hanover County Schools provided strong support for the collaboration. They were

willing participants and encouraged students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members to engage in all aspects of the projects.

Each year the entire third grade participates in classroom and field activities that are geared to increase students' connection to their local creeks and their environmental stewardship. The students and teachers also worked with hundreds of volunteers to plant over 2,000 native plants in the projects. The federation will continue to develop lessons, engage the students with rain garden activities and involve the community in the stewardship of the projects.

The N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Wilmington's Stormwater Services and Withers & Ravenel, an engineering firm, designed the projects. Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. built them.



*Students at Bradley Creek Elementary School helped plant rain gardens and learned about coastal ecology. Projects like this stormwater wetland are treating thousands of gallons of polluted runoff.*

The county schools' operations department assisted with the design, construction and maintenance of the projects. Financial support for the projects came from the Community Conservation Assistance Program, the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five-Star Restoration Program, Wal-Mart, Wachovia-Wells Fargo Foundation, Landfall Foundation, Cape Fear Garden Club and Work On Wilmington. Home Depot and Seaside Mulch donated material for the projects.

## **DRAFT PLAN DEVELOPED FOR NEW HANOVER CREEKS**

The federation continues to partner with Wilmington, the University of North Carolina-

Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach to develop a watershed restoration plan for Bradley and Hewletts Creeks in New Hanover County.

The draft plan incorporates results from years of water quality sampling data from UNCW and the N.C. Shellfish Sanitation Section into the plan as the basis for identifying points where stormwater pollution is flowing into the creeks.

Since stormwater is the greatest polluter of our coastal waters and is causing areas of the creeks to be closed to shellfishing, the plan will ultimately identify key opportunities to fix existing pollution problems and promote ways to prevent future input of stormwater. The goal of the plan is to reduce nonpoint source pollution loadings that contribute to water quality impairments.

The final plan is due in December and in its draft form offers real promise to clean up water quality in areas of the creeks surrounding Wrightsville Beach.

### **MORE FUNDS TO CLEAN UP THE LOCKWOODS FOLLY**

The federation was awarded \$70,000 from the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program to implement key recommendations of a plan to improve water quality in the Lockwoods Folly River in Brunswick County.

Also, the N.C. Division of Water Quality, through an EPA grant, will give the federation an additional \$105,000 for the effort.

The federation will partner with the Business Alliance for a Sound Economy,

Brunswick County, Oak Island, N.C. State University and Brunswick County communities to carry out several water quality initiatives being funded by the project.

### **PERMUDA ISLAND CAUSEWAY REMOVED**

For years, shellfish growers complained that the causeway to Permuda Island, built in the 1940s, was restricting normal tidal flow into this section of Stump Sound, among the most productive shellfish waters in North Carolina. The causeway is finally gone.

The federation, working with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management's National Estuarine Research Reserve Program, removed the last remnant of the old causeway in July. Permuda is part of the reserve system. Federation and reserve staff and volunteers then planted marsh grasses and placed 1,000 bags of oyster shells along the shoreline to control erosion and provide additional oyster habitat.

Discussions about removing a portion of the abandoned causeway go back as far as 2000. More than 300 feet of the causeway was removed seven years later and a tidal marsh replanted along the remaining point of land.

The N.C. Division of Water Resources provided the money for July's project to complete the restoration. The current owners of the causeway property graciously allowed us access to the mainland via the causeway for removal of the causeway remnants and debris.

## Permits, Lawsuits and Big Bully Titan

The first six months of this year have been filled with anticipated ups and downs, a few surprises and a few missteps by Titan America.

While we continue our efforts to stop this behemoth polluter from setting up shop on our coast, Titan has strayed from their good neighbor policy to one of threats, lawsuits and denials in its effort to gain permits for its massive cement plant and strip mine along the banks of the Northeast Cape Fear River.

After they lobbied the state for over three years to avoid a comprehensive environmental review, Titan officials politely returned the public money that triggered that review. In January they re-submitted a revised draft air permit application to the state Division of Air Quality. That application continues to be reviewed by the state and a draft permit is anticipated sometime this summer.

Federation staff and our legal team continue to monitor that process. We contend the state has the authority to require a comprehensive review before this critical permit would be issued. Gov. Beverly Perdue has ignored our requests for her to use her statutory authority to require a review, but instead states she will let the science decide the permit issue. A review would, however, provide the science needed to understand this project and evaluate all its possible effects comprehensively.

In the meantime, Titan has changed its public tactics. In March, the company filed a slander suit against two citizens who spoke against the project at a New Hanover County Commissioners meeting. This type of intimidation (called a SLAPP suit or strategic legal action against public participation) is meant to silence opposition. The lawsuit may have backfired on Titan, though, because it galvanized people to come to the aid of the two defendants.

In Virginia, meanwhile, state officials cited Titan's subsidiaries with numerous permit violations, including illegal discharges of polluted wastewater. Titan signed a consent order with the state agreeing with the violations, but the company maintained that they were technical and administrative in nature.

In another legal scare tactic, Titan threatened New Hanover County not less than five times in a letter sent to county officials protesting a proposed change in the 25-year-old zoning ordinance. Under the change, companies like Titan that want to build in heavy industrial areas and that pose significant threats to the public health, environment and natural resources would be required to obtain a special use permit. Titan told county officials that it would file a lawsuit against the county if the changes were made.

## Volunteer Profile: Kayne Darrell

Kayne Darrell is the founder of the grassroots organization Citizens against Titan. Kayne volunteers her time and talents organizing, empowering and motivating citizens in and around Wilmington to take part in this community fight.

As a resident of Castle Hayne, where Titan plans to build their cement plant and strip mine, Kayne is personally invested and will do all that she can to protect her family and home. As a former organizer with President Obama's campaign, Kayne boasts impeccable organizing and motivating skills that make her a radiant force behind this fight to do what's right for our community.

When she's not canvassing her neighborhood, delivering yard signs or planning a rally, Kayne enjoys running and working in her yard, which are more reasons to protect the air and water around her. Kayne, her husband, Doug, and their two dogs live in Castle Hayne, overlooking Prince George Creek.

## Interns Learning the Ropes at Advocacy Institute

We're trying something new this summer with our Duke University interns. Instead of assigning them projects and staff members to work with, we're giving them in-depth training and experience in all facets of non-profit environmental advocacy. We're calling it the Coastal Advocacy Institute.

The interns, we call them "fellows," are getting an opportunity to learn valuable skills in grassroots organizing, media relations, political lobbying, habitat restoration, environmental education and in a wide range of other fields necessary for successful non-profit environmental advocacy, such as public relations, information management, event planning and volunteer organizing.

The fellows are learning by doing. No one sits around at the federation merely contemplating high-minded theory and formulating far-reaching policies. There is simply too much to do. We're putting the fellows to work side-by-side with staff professionals. They've helped organize an energy summit in New Bern and get wet and dirty building oyster reefs and planting salt marshes on a regular basis. We've also arranged field trips and lunches with nationally renowned scientists and coastal policy experts.

The goal of the Institute is to offer a wide range of real-life experiences and on-the-job-training to students who have an interest in working for an environmental non-profit group or in related fields. When they're done, we'll give them a certificate, fete them properly and send them off as the next generation of environmental advocates.



## Meet Our Summer Interns

*Every summer the federation is lucky to have the services of bright, energetic college interns, who work at our headquarters' office on a variety of projects. Most of the interns come from the Stanback Fellowship Program at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. But we also get interns each year from Warren Wilson College near Asheville.*

### Here are the students who are working with us this summer:

**MICHAEL MCEVILLY**, a native of Houston, Texas, will be a second-year law student at Duke this fall. He has no work experience in the environmental field, which was one of the reasons he chose the federation for his internship. Michael has a strong interest in practicing in environmental law, especially in fields directly related to land use, animal law and the food industry.

**TOM MERCER** is a Montana native studying for his master's degree in engineering management at Duke University. He joined the federation to learn about fundraising and grant writing, to see a non-profit group's daily operations from the inside and to get dirty building oyster reefs and planting salt marshes. While here, Tom also plans to work on a lobbying research project or a Facebook or iPhone app.

**BRANDON MORRISON**, originally from Philadelphia, Pa, just finished his first year at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke, where he is pursuing a master's degree in environmental management. He is concentrating on coastal environmental

*Our interns, from left: Sam Pardo, Tom Mercer, Alden Picard, Gabriell Vires, Brandon Morrison and Michael McEvilly.*

management, with a specific interest in shoreline development. The federation, he said, seemed like a perfect match for his interests.

**SAM PARDO**, a native of New York, managed an urban tree planting program in New York City for a non-profit group there before enrolling at Duke. Sam was attracted to the federation by the group's diversity of interests and its restoration and preservation programs.

**ALDEN PICARD**, a senior from Warren Wilson College, is studying environmental education with a minor in outdoor leadership. Alden is focusing on leading our education programs at Hammocks Beach State Park, including an ocean animal touch-table and ecological hikes across Bear Island. During his two days a week in the office, he will be working on initiatives to green the office, including improvements to water efficiency and installation of another cistern.

**GABRIELL VIRES**, a native of Michigan, is currently working on a joint degree in coastal environmental management from Duke and a law degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her primary interests are in marine policy, particularly as it relates to the effects of manmade noise on marine mammals. While at the federation, Gabriell hopes to broaden her knowledge about coastal policy and learn about environmental education and grant writing.

# FEDERATION FOUNDER WINS NATIONAL WETLANDS AWARD

Todd Miller, founder and executive director of the N.C. Coastal Federation, won a 2011 National Wetlands Award, given each year by the Environmental Law Institute.



Todd was recognized as the Wetland Community Leader for his three decades of working protecting and restoring the state's coastal wetlands.

"Todd has been a tireless advocate for clean water and wetlands protection," said John Dorney, supervisor of the Wetlands Program Development Unit for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "From his earlier work in the peat lands of coastal North Carolina, which eventually became the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, to his recent work with local schools and governments on water quality improvement, Todd's work has ranged the gamut from large to small scale across North Carolina's extensive and sensitive coastal plain. His organization—the North Carolina Coastal Federation—is well known and well respected for its activism in

coastal protection."

Upon founding the federation in 1982, Todd successfully mobilized fishermen and farmers to defeat a proposed strip-mine that would have destroyed 120,000 acres of peat bogs. Todd's contributions have continued for 29 years so far, directing the federation in hundreds of projects and restoring tens of thousands of additional wetland acres.

Currently, the federation and its partners are restoring thousands of acres of wetlands and streams in Hyde County. Turning the farm fields back to wetlands is expected to benefit the rich fishing waters of the Long Shoal River and Pamlico Sound.

The National Wetlands Awards program is administered by the Environmental Law Institute and supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration. A committee of wetland experts representing federal and state agencies, academia, conservation organizations and the private sector selects the award recipients.

For more information on the National Wetlands Awards, visit [www.nationalwetlandsawards.org](http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org).

## FEDERATION LOSES TWO CLOSE FRIENDS

The federation is saddened by the loss of two dear friends.

Larry McGee, the husband of federation director emeritus Dot McGee, died on June 5 while kayaking the Bogue Sound waters that he loved so much.

Larry always accompanied Dot to every federation board meeting and special event. Dot was a long-time board member of the federation, serving from the mid-1980s until 2007.

Dot and Larry were the face of the federation in the Triangle area, working with other board members and volunteers to staff our booth at the N.C. State Fair and to help organize the "Save Our Sounds" campaign in the 1990s. In June, Larry participated in a legislative committee meeting voicing his opposition to allowing terminal groins along our coast.

Larry will be greatly missed by his family at the federation.

Another dear friend and former federation board member, Howard "Wink" Winkemeir, died in his sleep at his home in Wilmington on April 18.

Wink served on the federation's board in the 1990s.

Wink was so passionate about the environment that in 1986 he founded PenderWatch & Conservancy, an all-volunteer organization in Pender County.

Wink is survived by his lovely wife, Sue.



## FEDERATION GETS GENEROUS BOAT DONATION

Federation member Ron Kilburn of Oriental generously donated his 21-foot Sun Pearl sailboat to the federation, a gift for which we are deeply grateful.

Thanks Ron—she's a beauty.

## Newest Member of Federation Arrives

Sawyer Jackson Fleckenstein was born on June 12 to Erin Fleckenstein and husband, Fleck. Erin is our coastal scientist in the Northeast Region. Sawyer made a surprise appearance, being born at the Erin's home in Manteo. He is healthy and happy and at birth weighed in at eight pounds, three ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Sawyer's big brother, Toby, is being very helpful by singing lullabies to him.





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# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

- 10 - WHQR/NCCF Oyster and Saltmarsh Restoration Work Day, Morris Landing\*
- 17 - Cycle for the Coast
- 21 - Evening with the Coast, Great Outdoor Provision Company, Cameron Village, Raleigh
- 24 - National Estuaries Day, Ocean and Morris Landing\*

## OCTOBER

- 1-2 - N.C. Seafood Festival, Morehead City\*
- 15-16 - Oyster Festival, Ocean Isle\*
- 27 - Members Reception, William Mangum Gallery, Greensboro
- 29 - Volunteer & Member Event, Lockwood Folly

## NOVEMBER

- 17 - APNEP State of the Sounds Conference, New Bern Convention Center

## DECEMBER

- Volunteer Appreciation Event, Ocean

*\*Indicates that volunteers are needed.*



*Loggerhead turtle hatchlings on Bear Island scurry for the relative safety of the sea.  
Photo by Sam Bland*

## SAM'S FIELD JOURNAL LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE HATCHLINGS

All along the North Carolina's barrier islands, loggerhead sea turtle eggs that have been developing at the base of the sea oats-laden sand dunes will soon produce tiny hatchlings.

Busting free of their sandy hideout, the hatchlings will emerge under the cover of darkness. As they spill out onto the beach, they will race through a gauntlet of hazards as they head for their first taste of salty ocean water. They must out-maneuver ghost crabs, foxes and raccoons in an effort to reach the security of the water and begin their lives as mariners of the sea.

Hatchlings are able to crawl at the same sprinting speed whether they move over the loose sand or the hard-packed beach sand. As they move in loose sand, a packed ridge of sand forms behind the flipper, allowing them to push off without slipping. On the packed sand they use a claw on their flippers to dig into the sand and lunge forward; much like pushing off with a ski pole.

As they rush headlong into the darkness, they will seek out the ocean horizon illuminated by the stars and

moon twinkling from the heavens. This instinctive visual cue will attract them to the water like a moth to a flame.

In the ocean, they will swim like Olympic swimmers for about 24 hours in an effort to reach the protective comfort of the Sargasso Sea. Once past the breakers, they will maintain an offshore orientation by swimming into the incoming waves and swells. As they progress further out into open water, it is thought that the hatchlings are able to detect the earth's magnetic field and use this as a navigational compass.

Taking advantage of the Gulf Stream, the hatchlings arrive at the Sargasso Sea. It is here that the baby turtles will find a sanctuary among the floating mats of brown sargassum seaweed, where they will stay for a few years, growing to the size of a big dinner plate.

They will spend years floating and traveling the circular North Atlantic currents, logging up to 10,000 miles before returning as juveniles to the east coast. Later as mature adults, they will mate, and the ancient ritual will continue.