



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 2, 2013

Contact: Todd Miller, executive director
252-393-8185; toddm@nccoast.org

Triangle Brewery Manager, Engineers Win Environmental Awards

A manager of a Triangle brewing company and an area engineering firm won 2013 Pelican Awards for their environmental work from the N.C. Coastal Federation.

Bob High, brand manager for Natty Greene's Brewing Co. in Raleigh, and Withers & Ravenel of Cary are among the 13 people, groups and businesses in North Carolina that won Pelican Awards from the non-profit environmental group.

The annual Pelican Awards recognize exemplary action to protect and preserve the coastal environment. The winners will receive the awards Saturday at a luncheon at the Duke Marine Lab near Beaufort.

"These awards are our way of recognizing extraordinary commitment to protecting and preserving our coast," said Todd Miller, the federation's founder and executive director. "We should never underestimate the power that many people bring to the effort of assuring that our coast remains a healthy and vibrant place. We can't thank them enough."

North Carolina became home for Bob High in 1994 and he quickly became a regular at the Outer Banks and its world class beaches. High loves the water and understands that the things he enjoys most depend on good water quality -- fishing, kayaking, surfing, and yes, craft beer. You see, clean water is essential to making beer, and beer is what Natty Greene's does best.

As brand manager at Natty Greene's, High looks for opportunities to pair events with causes that are important and meaningful to him -- athletic events, outdoor adventure, music festivals and most anything coastal. He met up with the federation about 10 years ago and has been looking for ways to help ever since.

In the past year alone, High has hosted or helped to organize multiple fundraisers for the federation in all over the coast. These events have included Cycling for the Coast on Bogue Banks, Manteo's annual Fish Fry and Shrimp Boil, a retreat at Ocracoke, a seafood festival in Raleigh, a workshop in Wilmington and several events held at the Raleigh Natty Greene's.

For decades Withers & Ravenel and the federation existed on parallel paths, and in some instances likely supported opposing views on coastal land development. But today, the two organizations work hand in hand to enthusiastically promote the use of low-impact development, or LID, an innovative approach to controlling stormwater pollution that mimics natural hydrology.

It all started around 2007, when Withers & Ravenel develop a standardized stormwater design and permitting tool called LID-EZ. LID-EZ makes using LID stormwater management approaches such as infiltration, bio-retention and permeable paving easier for developers. LID EZ was first developed for the southeast N.C. coast. The tool caught the eye of the state Division of Water Quality, and Withers & Ravenel is now creating a new LID-EZ that can be used by developers and engineers statewide.

In addition to LID-EZ, Withers & Ravenel has partnered with the federation to develop watershed restoration plans, LID manuals for local governments and to design and install rain gardens and stormwater wetlands. They have also been featured presenters at multiple workshops organized by the federation for development professionals.