



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

# 2016 Pelican Awards & Boathouse Boil

**and Coastal Advocacy Institute Graduation**

Saturday, August 6, 2016 • 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
The Boathouse at Front Street Village  
Beaufort, NC



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# 2016 Pelican Awards & Boathouse Boil and Coastal Advocacy Institute Graduation

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**We also want to thank our silent auction donors. These items will be available until tonight's auction closes at 8:15 p.m. Auction item pick up is at 9:00 p.m.**

# North Carolina Coastal Advocacy Institute

The federation is proud to have been chosen to participate in the Stanback Internship Program for over 20 years. The Stanback program supports intern participation in our Coastal Advocacy Institute. The Institute offers opportunities to learn valuable skills while working alongside dedicated professionals. Interns of the Institute learn about coastal policy analysis, habitat restoration, environmental education and many other topics. Over the past 20 years, the federation has had the pleasure of working with more than 50 Duke University students. In 2011, we expanded the intern program to students at other universities as well. As of 2015, the Coastal Advocacy Institute intern positions are also supported through the Campbell Foundation.



*2016 Coastal Advocacy Institute Interns banding baby pelicans (left to right):  
Katherine Vayda, Maddie Fisher, Alison Andrews and Ginny Crothers.*

## 2016 Coastal Advocacy Institute Interns

### **Alison Andrews**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Bachelor of Economics and Public Policy

### **Maddie Fisher**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Bachelor of Environmental Science and Music

### **Ginny Crothers**

Duke University  
Master of Coastal Environmental Management

### **Katherine Vayda**

Duke University  
Bachelor of Environmental Science

# 2016 Pelican Awards

*The Pelican Awards annually recognize the exceptional work of people, businesses, local and state governments, organizations and educators to protect and restore our North Carolina coast. These award winners have demonstrated exemplary commitment and undertaken meaningful actions to help the federation reach our goal of a healthy and productive coast. Congratulations to you all!*

## NORTHEAST COAST AWARDS



### Paul Kutsko

*For Energetic and Enthusiastic Assistance with North Carolina Coastal Federation Programs*

Paul Kutsko moved to the Outer Banks after retiring, and our staff in the northeast is certainly glad he did. Paul has been an active volunteer since arriving on the Banks. He is highly motivated and always upbeat, and he brings great energy to long days in the field. Paul has gotten wet and dirty building oyster reefs. He's built birdhouses and helped teach students about our coastal environment. When Paul doesn't see events on the calendar he is sure to stop by the office and see how he can help. We're most grateful that he's shared his time and his wide range of talents with us.



### Total Marine Services

*For Dedicated Contributions to Advancing Coastal Restoration*

We knew that creating living shorelines at Jockey's Ridge State Park in Nags Head and near Durant's Point on Hatteras would be difficult because the locations were remote and hard to access. We couldn't have done it without Total Marine Services, a marine contractor in Wanchese. The staff there brought creative thinking, exceptional professionalism and even some fun and laughter to the job. They've also helped restore oyster reefs from upcycled crab pots, built a rain garden in a weekend and maintain and store our boats. Anything that needs doing, they do – or they'll figure out how to do it.



### Aaron McCall

*For Unwavering Commitment to Advancing Coastal Restoration*

Aaron McCall, the regional steward for The Nature Conservancy's northeast office, has one objective in mind – get the job done, whatever it takes. Aaron has worked with the federation's northeast staff for more than 10 years. Aaron's support never falters. He fills and hauls oyster shell bags, educates students, collects derelict crab pots, picks up trash, provides volunteers, fixes what breaks and doesn't care to stop for lunch.

# CENTRAL COAST AWARDS



## Keith Rittmaster

*For Dedication to the Research and Protection of Marine Mammals*

Biologist Keith Rittmaster has spent over 30 years protecting and studying marine mammals. During his work, he witnessed the devastating effect that marine debris has had on whales, dolphins, sea turtles and seabirds. He saw them entangled in fishing lines and felt compelled to do something about it. He's a member of the North Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network and the Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network and always responds to entanglement incidents. He started the North Carolina Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program to encourage the proper disposal of fishing line and has placed 42 recycling receptacles along the coast, collecting over 2,400 miles of line. Through his work as a natural science curator with the North Carolina Maritime Museum, Keith has shared his knowledge through presentations, workshops, publications and displays.



## Laura Price

*For Excellence in Volunteer Contributions to the Coast*

Laura Price has been a consistent presence at federation volunteer events along the central coast. Whether bagging recycled oyster shells, weeding vegetables at EarthWise Farm in Carteret County, picking up marine debris or planting marsh grasses, she is always a joy to be around. When asked why she volunteers so much, Laura simply said, "I enjoy working with the federation and helping the coast." Originally from Albemarle, North Carolina, Laura taught for 10 years in Carteret and Jackson counties and can sometimes be heard using her "teacher voice" to encourage students while building an oyster reef. Laura also has 20 years of experience as a mental health administrator. She enjoys kayaking, cooking and traveling.

# SOUTHEAST COAST AWARDS



## Oak Island Environmental Committee and Oak Island Volunteer Monitoring Team

*For Dedicated Volunteer Support for the Coastal Environment*

The North Carolina Coastal Federation and the Town of Oak Island have worked together since 2010 to improve the water quality of Lockwood's Folly River through oyster and marsh restoration projects, stormwater projects and increased education and outreach around community. Much of this success is the result of a dedicated group of volunteers from Oak Island. The Oak Island Environmental Committee and the Oak Island stormwater monitoring volunteers represent a small army of folks who show up rain or shine, haul countless bags of oyster shells, help with stormwater projects and help to spread our mission to preserve a clean coast.



## GE Volunteer Program

*For Dedicated Volunteer Contributions to the North Carolina Coast*

On an overcast and chilly Saturday in April, the shores of the Cape Fear River along Carolina Beach State Park were lined with green-shirted, hardworking General Electric volunteers. Almost 300 volunteers from the GE plant in Wilmington volunteered through the annual Work on Wilmington to build an oyster reef by placing over 4,000 oyster shell and marl bags into the river. While this was an amazing show of community support, it is just one of many examples of the GE Volunteer Program. Since 2004, over 1,000 GE volunteers have donated thousands of hours building oyster reefs and restoring salt marsh habitat with the federation alone. GE volunteers work with underserved students to build their STEM skills, contribute hundreds of hours each year to Work on Wilmington and work with many nonprofit organizations in the Cape Fear region.

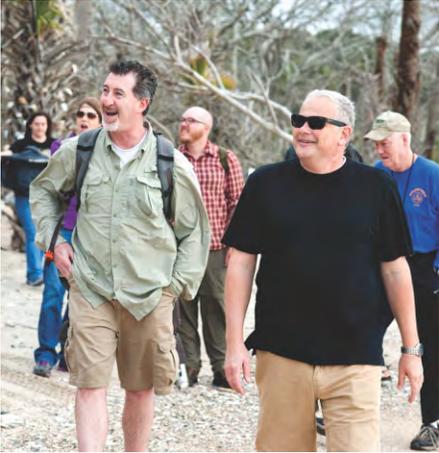


## Bruce Holsten

*For Advancing Advocacy Efforts to Ensure a Healthy Coast*

Bruce Holsten, the managing director of a strategic management and political consulting firm, has served on the Regional Advisory Committee for our office in Wrightsville Beach and has been a force in the development of New Hanover County's Comprehensive Plan. Bruce has extensive experience in industrial mining, and when he recognized the threat that Titan posed he came calling to see how he could help us stop Titan. His wise counsel helped us send Titan packing. He continues to be engaged in many of the federation's advocacy issues.

# COASTWIDE AWARDS



## Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University

*For Expert Research and Strategic Advice to Advance Sound Beach and Shoreline Management*

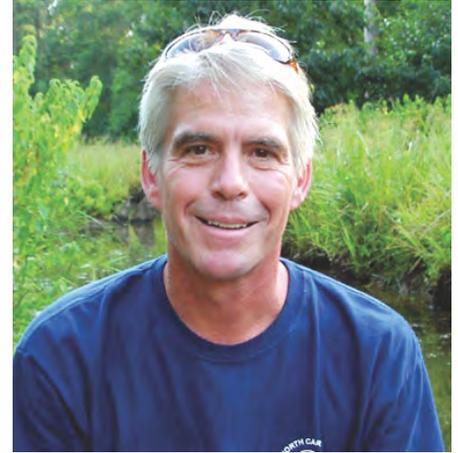
If you need to understand your coastal vulnerability, evaluate a proposed coastal engineering project or determine what the true economic implications of developing inlets are, ask Rob Young and Andy Coburn. If you need a forceful advocate for sane development policies along the beach, look no further. Rob is director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University, and he's picked up for the venerable Orrin Pilkey, who started the program decades ago at Duke University. The program takes a global view of modern coastal processes and geologic hazards, and it examines the scientific basis for managing developed shorelines in a time of rising sea level. Rob and Andy took over the program 10 years ago and have become leaders in the development of responsible strategies and policies promoting the long-term sustainability of our nation's coastal ecosystems.



## Jan Harris

*For Tireless Commitment to Advocating for Coastal Resource Protection*

Jan Harris is a bulldog. She works constantly to ensure that our coastal resources are protected for future generations, and she apparently never sleeps. She writes letters, attends meetings, conducts research and rallies her fellow residents of Sunset Beach and others to solicit their participation in coastal protection. For decades, Jan has spoken out against developing properties too close to inlets and other incompatible coastal land uses. Jan is what advocacy is all about and is a true friend of the coast.



## Doug Wakeman

*For Longtime Commitment to the North Carolina Coastal Federation and Coastal Environment*

Doug Wakeman is a numbers guy who believes you have to do well before you can do good. He's helped make sure the federation has done both. Now retired as an economics professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, Doug has been on the federation's Board of Directors since 1995. He's helped ensure the financial integrity of the organization by overseeing the compilation of our annual audits and helping staff keep track of grants, foundation gifts and donations. Doug has also prepared a number of economic analysis reports for the federation on a variety of issues such as beach renourishment, offshore drilling and terminal groins.

*Coastwide Awards continued on pg 8*





### Thirty-One Local Governments Exercising Leadership in Protecting Our Coast from Offshore Drilling

*Atlantic Beach, Bald Head Island, Beaufort, Belville, Carolina Beach, Carolina Shores, Carrboro, Caswell Beach, Cedar Point, Chapel Hill, Dare County, Duck, Emerald Isle, Holden Beach, Holly Ridge, Kill Devil Hills, Kure Beach, Manteo, Morehead City, Nags Head, Oak Island, Ocean Isle, Orange County, Southport, St. James, Sunset Beach, Surf City, Swansboro, Topsail Beach, Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach*

Oil and gas has never been commercially produced in the Atlantic Ocean. Over the past two years, many North Carolina towns and counties have ensured that the Atlantic Ocean remains free from oil and gas development. In January of 2015, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) proposed to include waters off of North Carolina for oil and gas development. In response, 31 local governments passed resolutions against offshore oil and gas drilling. These resolutions invigorated residents to understand the issue and realize the risky nature of this proposal. In March of 2016, BOEM removed the Atlantic Ocean from their five-year plan, ensuring these waters would be free from oil and gas development through 2022. According to BOEM, one of the main reasons for its decision is the number of coastal local governments that opposed its draft plan.



# Lifetime Achievement Award

## Campbell Road Nursery – Carlton Campbell *For Advancing Living Shorelines in Coastal North Carolina*

Carlton grows grass – no not the kind you grow in your yards and, no, not that kind either. He grows the kind of grass found along our estuary shorelines that creates important habitat for baby fish. He didn't intend to make marsh restoration his life's work. He wanted to be an engineer when he grew up. He instead became a pioneer in marsh restoration and shaped the way it is done in North Carolina. Carlton began collecting seeds from coastal marshes 50 years ago and grew them in small quantities for experiments run by N.C. State University. As more and more marshes were restored, he grew more and more seedlings. Carlton became the first person in the state to grow enough marsh grasses for large-scale restoration projects. He's retired now, and there are a half-dozen businesses that grow native grasses. Quiet and unassuming, Carlton will never take the credit he deserves, but without him the living shoreline work of the federation wouldn't be possible.



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