

NCCOAST.ORG | *Working Together for a Healthy Coast* | SUMMER 2019

OUR COAST



2019 PELICAN AWARDS

**LEARNING FROM
THE NETHERLANDS**

View our 2018 Annual Report



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of the Coast,

In this edition of *Our Coast* we celebrate some very special people with Pelican Awards who work to protect and restore our coast. It's very difficult to pick a handful of award winners each year because there are many deserving candidates. These awards were on my mind one recent morning as I headed offshore in my boat. The recipients selected come from many different walks of life, yet they share one coast.

Long ago, I realized that we should each make time to appreciate our coast. Its beauty and productivity rekindles enthusiasm for life and work. That is why here at the Coastal Federation we organize and promote chances to become immersed in the region's natural wonders. Our coast is more than a piece of fine art—it's a place to live, visit, work and play. This morning the weather on the radio reported 1- to 2-foot seas with wind blowing out of the southeast at 10 mph. Pelicans dive-bombed fish to claim their own rewards as I crossed the inlet's bar and headed out to sea.

The ocean was rougher and windier than the radio predicted. As I moved offshore, waves sprayed over the bow and into my face as seas built steeper. Tired of bouncing about, I headed into the lee of the beach for shelter from the freshening offshore breeze.

There I caught several spanish mackerel and then made my way back across the inlet bar to calm waters. On a nearby shoal, dozens of terns and pelicans dove to feed on small anchovies.

Here 1- to 3-pound bluefish schooled on the shoal. The blues attacked their prey as waves surged, crested and broke. Steering the boat as close to the breakers as possible, I joined the feeding frenzy. Casting about, my cooler soon contained fish for several dinners.

It was then time to go home. Back at the dock, I felt refreshed and energized and ready for another busy week at work.

We all get mad about injustices, mismanagement and dirty politics when it comes to how our coast and its communities are sometimes treated. At the Coastal Federation, we are forced to draw "lines in the sand" at times and do everything within our power to protect the natural and cultural riches of our coast. We prefer to avoid creating more polarization



and bickering and instead find ways to bring people together to enhance its stewardship. When that occurs, environmental protection is long-term and durable.

The people we select for Pelican Awards are inspired not by antagonism and angry emotions but instead by a sense of community and love for our coast. These awards demonstrate how people from diverse political, cultural and economic backgrounds can band together because they share a strong attachment, devotion and admiration for the coast itself. Love of place is a powerful and enduring force that has enabled the Coastal Federation's successful agenda since 1982.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Miller".

— Todd Miller, Executive Director



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

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COVER PHOTO: *A Day at Cape Lookout* by Logan Prochaska. Two birds sat and watched as the Coastal Federation's central staff spent the day at Cape Lookout National Seashore with the Beaufort Boys and Girls club.



OUR MISSION

The North Carolina Coastal Federation empowers coastal residents and visitors from all walks of life to protect and restore the water quality and critically important natural habitats of the North Carolina coast.

At the Coastal Federation, we have long believed in the power of everyday people who band together to make a difference. We know that strong partners can achieve amazing things—even if they don't agree on everything. Embracing diversity and inclusiveness is at the heart of our mission. We strive to make sure everyone has a voice in managing our coast and honor our everyday heroes through our Pelican Awards. *Coastal Review Online* reports the news so that everyone can be an informed advocate for our coast.

We were honored this year to give back to our coastal communities. We helped our coast recover after Hurricane Florence and supported our coastal way of life by protecting habitat and water quality. Our on-the-ground projects pumped over \$3.4 million into our economy and our new strategy to support oyster mariculture will cultivate a new industry for our coast.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Summary of Major Accomplishments

The Coastal Federation is the state's only nonprofit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and restoration of coastal habitats and water quality. **In 2018 we:**



Restored over
12 acres of oyster reef



Launched a shellfish
mariculture plan



Infiltrated over 7 million
gallons of polluted runoff



Restored over a half-mile
of living shorelines



Addressed stormwater
through retrofits and
watershed plans at
seven locations



Cleaned up 3,496 crab
pots and 317 tons of
marine debris



Reached over 327,000 readers
and won 26 awards through
Coastal Review Online



Engaged 5,935
people through
presentations, events
and volunteerism



Educated 7,326
students, many
from underserved
communities



Provided eight continuing
education workshops,
tours and trainings



Protected the coast
from offshore oil and
pollutants like GenX



Directed \$3.4 million to
the coastal economy to
restore habitat



Revenue and Expenses

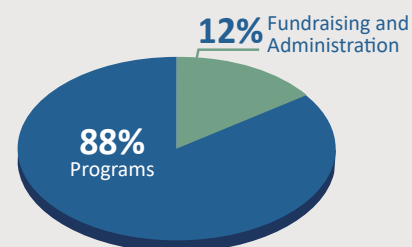
Full audited financials for the year ending Dec. 31, 2018 are available at nccoast.org or upon request.

Public Support

Memberships.....	\$237,631
Contributions.....	\$361,281
Private Foundations	\$1,549,284
Government Grants	\$3,835,795
Specialty License Plate	\$93,600
Events.....	\$78,759
Investment Losses	(\$220,560)
Miscellaneous.....	\$14,050
Total Grants and Revenues....	\$5,949,840

How We Spent Your Donations

Programs.....	\$4,818,491
Fundraising and Admin	\$682,669
Total Expenses	\$5,501,160



Support to the Community

Total Secured Grant Funds\$3,413,310

In 2018, the Coastal Federation secured \$3,413,310 in competitive grant funds from federal and state sources that went into our local economy as direct expenses to fulfill our 2018 goals and benchmarks. The majority of this was spent in economically disadvantaged counties to restore coastal habitats and water quality.



Five consecutive
years at the highest
rating level



Photo by Ken Blevins



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

2018 Board of Directors

LEADERSHIP

President	Joseph Ramus, Beaufort
Vice President	Dick Bierly, Morehead City
Treasurer	Doug Wakeman, Pittsboro
Secretary	Sarah Williams, Swansboro

AT LARGE

Allison Besch	Katherine McGlade
Peggy Birkemeier	Carmen Hooker Odom
Veronica Carter	David Paynter
Sandie Cecelski	Richard Peruggi
Kenneth Chestnut	Lewis Piner
David Cignotti	JoAnne Powell
April Clark	John Runkle
Tom Earnhardt	Allie Sheffield
Donald Ensley	Bland Simpson
Ernie Foster	Bill Smyth
Morty Gaskill	Donna Snead
Mac Gibbs	Angie Wills
Bill Hunneke	
Tom Looney	

Executive Director and Founder, Todd Miller

2018 President's Council

Joseph Ramus, Chair	Charles Meeker
Dick Bierly, Chair Emeritus	Carmen Hooker Odom
Phil Blumenthal	David Paynter
David Bryan	John Preyer
Hugh Cullman	Simon Rich, III
Dick Daugherty	William G. Ross Jr.
Tom Earnhardt	Billy Sewell
Joan Gillings	Bland Simpson
Jim Goodmon	Fred and Alice Stanback
Bobbi Hapgood	Nancy Hanes White
Olivia Holding	Smedes York
Tom Looney	

BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE



In the fall of 2018, Hurricane Florence's sustained assault on North Carolina brought record-breaking rainfall, flooding and devastation. In the wake of the storm, the Coastal Federation mobilized to alert the public about swimming advisories and shellfish closures due to contamination of coastal waters. We also successfully advocated for state funding to help communities recover and led the effort to clean up massive amounts of marine debris littering our coastal estuaries.

The severity and geographic scope of the impacts from this storm were eye-opening. Also eye-opening was how well our restoration projects—living shorelines, oyster reefs and wetlands—weathered the storm. In the face of more severe storms and continued degradation of coastal habitats in the future, this work is more important than ever. That's why we launched our Coastal Resilience Initiative to strengthen our natural defenses. We also began work with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and local stakeholders to develop the coastal portion of the State Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan. If you've weathered storms in the past, you know planning and preparation are critical—before the storm is upon you. These efforts will help ensure a healthy and resilient coast—now and for future generations.

Thank You to Our Major Supporters

Membership and contributions help protect and restore our beautiful coast and we are grateful for each and every supporter. Special thanks to the following donors who gave at recognition levels in 2018:

Allison Surfboards	Ella Ann L. & Frank B. Holding Foundation	John and Stephanie Mitchell	River Bluffs Development
Anchor Community Resources-	Kyle and Kelly Elliott	Jim and Marilyn Mohler	Boyd and Linda Rogers
Sea Dawgs Fishing Team	Emerald Isle Realty	N.C. Conservation Network	John Roney
Bob and Margy Ayres	Jean Flynn	N.C. Dept. of Justice-Environmental Division	John Runkle and Nancy Dole
Mary Baggett	Fin and Nancy Gaddy	N.C. Dept. of Agriculture	David Rusnak
Balloun Family Foundation	Charlie and Jenny Godwin	N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality- Water Resources	Rodney Sawyer
The Benevity Community Impact Fund	Grace Jones Richardson Trust	N.C. Dept. of Transportation	Saxer Family Foundation
Richard Bierly	Grady-White Boats, Inc.	N.C. League of Conservation Voters	Wayne Schriever
Bill and Peggy Birkemeier	William C. Hall	N.C. Policy Collaboratory	Seaglass Wines
Bissell Professional Group	Gary and April Hardee	N.C. Sierra Club	Michael and Janie Serbousek
Glenn and Jere Blackburn	David Harrison and Gail Kenyan	N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission	Dennis and Ann Sessom
Philip Blumenthal	Ken Hoffman	Network for Good	Bland and Ann Simpson
Kim and Sam Boyce	Olivia Britton Holding	North Carolina Community Foundation	Keith Smith and Lisa Jones
Scott Bradley and Kelley Shinn	Holiday Inn Resort	Clint and Amy Brown North	Smith Richardson Foundation
Maurice and Mary Hughes	Kathryn B. Howd	North State Foundation	Helen Solterer
Brookhart	Joseph Huberman and Ruth Bromer	Oceana	Brad and Shelli Stanback
Kathryn Peyton Brown	Hyde County	Carmen and Fountain Odom	Fred and Alice Stanback
Gail Bunce	IBM Corporation	The Orton Foundation	John and Megan Stanback
Charlie Burgess	Ken Karn and Sally Buchanan	Outer Banks Community Foundation, Inc.	Nancy Stanback
Maureen Burns	Mike and Willo Kelly	Outer Banks Visitors' Bureau	Stevens Towing Co. of NC, LLC
Marc Bush	Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science	Park Foundation, Inc.	Strauss Foundation
Lee and Diane Butzin	Gordon Cooper Klose	Adele F. Paynter	Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association
Calvin & Kelly Carter Family Foundation	Sandra Krause	David and Cary Paynter	Syd's Hair Shop, Inc.
Campbell Foundation	The Landfall Foundation, Inc.	Stuart and Linda Paynter	True North Foundation
Cape Fear Garden Club	Jo Ann Landry	Donald Peele	Town of Sunset Beach
Carlson Family Foundation	Tom and Lucy Looney	John and Joanie Preyer	Jim Vernon
Chalk & Gibbs	Lost Colony Brewing	Proud Pour	Stephen A. Wainwright
Kenneth S. Chestnut	Alan and Jackie Luria	Joe and Jackie Ramus	W. Borden Wallace
Coastal Provisions Market	John Marks through the Camp-Younts Foundation	Julian (Bubba) and Barbara Rawl	Walmart Neighborhood Market
Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc.	Mary Norris Preyer Fund	Adele Richardson Ray	Wells Fargo
Robert Coles	Beau and Sue McCaffray	Raymond E. and Ellen F. Crane Foundation	Monty and Nancy Hanes White
Georgette Constant	Charles Meeker and Anne McLaurin	RBC Capital Markets, LLC	Murray Whitehill
Burton and Heather Craige	Mellow Marsh Farm, Inc.	RBC Foundation	Without Limits Coaching, Inc.
Crystal Coast Waterkeeper	John and Nancy Merriner	Andy Read and Kim Urian	Wrightsville Beach Brewery, LLC
John S. Curry	Donald J. Miller	Restoration Systems, LLC	Wrightsville Beach Paddle Club, LLC
Collett and Martha Dilworth	Todd Miller and Julie Shambaugh	Revolution Mill	Smedes and Rosemary York
Scott and Mia Doron			Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
E.M. & O.W. Edwards Foundation, Inc.			Anonymous
EarthShare North Carolina			
Eastern Carolina Council			

MAKING ROOM FOR WATER

Special Report by Todd Miller

Are the Netherlands a role model for how coastal North Carolina can adapt to a more extreme climate and rising seas?

Answers to that question aren't simple.

During a recent, weeklong investigative tour, I saw extensive areas of the Netherlands heavily fortified by expansive flood control dikes and storm barriers that allow its communities to live and work at or below sea level. Active management of water over the past 1,000 years allowed for dense urban areas to prosper on former wetlands, estuaries and even the North Sea. The price paid has been high, not only in taxes but in environmental degradation.

Policy choices about how the Netherlands will continue to adapt to rising seas and extreme weather reflect economic, engineering and environmental realities now more than ever. Even in a country that prides itself on being able to control nature, there is growing recognition that there are limits to this strategy and more environmentally compatible and economically sustainable approaches are necessary for the country to continue to thrive.



Making room for the river. Within just five years, the polder in Werkendam was transformed from an area protected by dikes to an area open to high water.

"Living with water" describes the attitude and fortitude of the Dutch that has existed for centuries. "Going with the flow" is an emerging and evolving strategy that more experts and even some survivors of past catastrophic flood events now advocate. The Netherlands has built, enlarged and extended polders (dikes) and other flood barriers to hold back the sea. These diked cells converted coastal wetlands, rivers and estuaries into dry land and now provide about 50% of the land area that is home to many of the country's residents. Some of the country's most historic and industrial areas are now more than 15 feet below sea level.

These days it's frequently suggested that coastal North Carolina should replicate how the Dutch have adapted to sea level rise. As floods, salt water intrusion and rising groundwater levels become ever more common, there is growing interest in how the Dutch have lived with water.

One thing became very clear during my visit. While there are many similarities between our two countries when it comes to climate risks, there are also significant physical, cultural and institutional differences that will make how we respond to these risks very different. The Dutch don't have hurricanes and only receive about 30 inches of rainfall annually compared to us, some areas of our coast received 100 inches of rain in 2018.

Since the Netherlands began blocking off the sea centuries ago, sea level has risen by about 6 feet and their land has subsided by more than 10 feet. They removed and burned peat deposits and pumped out groundwater that has dramatically altered the elevation of their landscape.



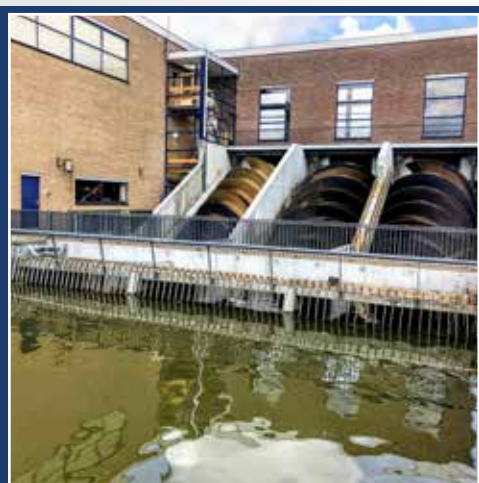
The largest storm surge barrier in the Netherlands is called Oosterscheldekering. It is the biggest of 13 such barriers. It took over a decade to build and was finished in 1986.

The population density of the Netherlands is about four times higher than North Carolina. The government taxes its residents specifically to manage and control water. Most of the country's vibrant economy is also located in its lowest and most vulnerable areas. They have little choice but to do everything possible to protect their "dry" land.

The Dutch work hard to control greenhouse gases by living as "green" as possible. Wind provides about 10% of the country's electrical needs. They depend heavily on trains and bicycles for transportation. Cities invest in green infrastructure as well. They aggressively use low impact development practices to control flooding. Large parking garages and public squares in places like Rotterdam and Amsterdam are designed to capture and store major "cloudburst" rainfalls to prevent flooding.

In the past couple of decades, some of the world's largest engineered flood prevention barriers have been built. These measures cost billions of euros and require hundreds of millions of dollars annually for maintenance.

Continued on page 6



The J.U. Smitgemoal is a pumping station that keeps low-lying polders (diked wetlands) around Kinderdijk dry. This station can pump 673,260 gallons of water per hour.

There is a growing recognition among the Dutch that building higher dikes and more storm barriers is going to become exceedingly more difficult and expensive and new options are now necessary.

Policy makers are beginning to embrace evolving strategies for adapting to floods. “Room for the river” is a new approach that restores flood plains and makes space for floodwaters. A large 50,000-acre area of previously diked farmland and small communities has been reengineered to connect this flood plain back with the river. When floods come, the water spreads out over this large naturalized area and does not flood downstream communities. During normal weather, the wetlands are a popular recreational park used for birding, hiking, fishing and boating.

Major lessons from my visit include:

- 1. Live green.** Everything possible must be done to slow down the warming of our climate. We should embrace “greener” lifestyles like the Dutch and replicate their environmental ethic to reduce climate risks.

- 2. There will be winners and losers.** Financial, cultural and environmental constraints dictate what communities can successfully adapt to climate extremes. The Dutch no longer attempt to protect all existing communities. Focus efforts where they’ll be most cost-effective and durable.

- 3. Adaptation takes time.** It takes decades to fund, design, permit and construct major resiliency projects in the Netherlands. We need to start now and make a financial and governance commitment to adaptation.

- 4. Capacity to govern is essential.** Successful adaptation programs require good governance that can make and execute long-range plans, raise funds and deliver consistent services that provide for the long-term operation and maintenance needs for infrastructure. We need to improve our institutional capacity in North Carolina to deliver long-term services.

- 5. Nature-based adaptation strategies work.** The Netherlands destroyed many of its wetlands and estuaries long ago as a result of its flood control efforts.

It now restores wetlands and green spaces to reduce flooding and these strategies are proving to be very cost-effective and durable. We have many similar opportunities in coastal North Carolina to restore wetlands and natural areas to make more room for water.

- 6. Redevelopment and capital improvements provide significant opportunities to adapt to a more extreme climate.** The Dutch have strong policies that promote the expanded use of green infrastructure when new investments are made to redevelop land or upgrade aging infrastructure. North Carolina should seize these once in a lifetime opportunities to build stronger and more resilient communities.

Clearly, there is plenty we can learn from how the Dutch live with water. We should never sacrifice our natural resources as the Dutch did long ago—and instead set in place environmental protection and restoration policies to serve as the foundation of our resiliency priorities.



The Maeslantkering is a storm surge barrier in South Holland, Netherlands and one of the largest moving structures on Earth. It is automatically triggered by a supercomputer to close when Rotterdam is threatened by floods. Photo: maaslant kering (5) by bertknot via Flickr

2019 PELICAN AWARDS



The 2019 Pelican Award winners give meaning to the phrase “coastal stewardship.” Without these winners, the Coastal Federation would not be able to reach our goal of keeping our coast healthy and beautiful. Congratulations to these dedicated individuals and organizations that demonstrate what we can accomplish when we work toward a common goal.

Photo: “Aviation International Airport.” Tundra Swans at Pungo Lake by Tom Earnhardt; writer, co-producer and host of UNC-TV’s *Exploring North Carolina*. 2018.

NORTHEAST WINNERS

Photo: Chris Hannant



Bill Trimyer

For Outstanding Volunteer Contributions to Our Coast

With the pitch, “What do you do with your shells? Why don’t you send them my way?” volunteer extraordinaire Bill Trimyer takes it upon himself to ensure we have a successful volunteer oyster shell recycling program on the northeast coast. The Coastal Federation’s new Restaurant to Reef shell recycling program collects shells from area restaurants to be used for restoration projects. The volunteer-based program depends on committed people like Bill, who recognizes the value of returning oyster shells to the water.

Bill spreads awareness at every restaurant he visits. He even has recruited two additional restaurants since the start of our pilot recycling program in 2017.

The bins of shell can weigh over 100 pounds and it’s hot and smelly work, but Bill remains unfazed. He is always the first volunteer to cover others’ pickup dates and was still picking up shells days before he had to take a break to handle some medical needs.

Bill takes volunteering a step beyond just completing a task. He truly supports the Coastal Federation’s mission by spreading awareness and fostering a sense of community with every shell pickup and we are so grateful for his efforts.

Hyde County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

For Fostering Successful Partnerships that Protect and Restore the Coast

Recognizing Lake Mattamuskeet was in need of rescue, Hyde County (pictured below), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission joined forces with the Coastal Federation to create a strategy to reverse its degradation and set a course for its future. Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest naturally formed lake in North Carolina, is a vital part of Hyde County’s amazing natural and cultural heritage and the centerpiece of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.

The 40,000-acre lake serves as a premier overwintering site for over 300,000 migratory waterfowl. The lake hosts a rich biodiversity that attracts nearly 60,000 visitors annually for educational and recreational activities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. County residents depend on a healthy lake to support their livelihoods tied to farming, recreation and hospitality.

Declining water quality and elevated water levels are threatening the future of the lake and lands within the watershed. In order to address these issues, project partners spent the past year developing a watershed restoration plan to reverse the trend of degradation. They first convened a diverse group of stakeholders and worked with the community on ideas for how to manage the lake and ensure its sound future. The plan now serves as the foundation for actions that will be taken over the course of the next several years.



CENTRAL WINNERS



Ed Phillips

For Exceptional Volunteer Contributions to Our Coast

For the past three years, Ed Phillips has consistently and enthusiastically volunteered with our central region office. During this time, he has contributed nearly 100 hours of service and we always look forward to working alongside him. Ed keeps us smiling with his great sense of humor and kindness. In anticipation of his move to North Carolina, Ed signed up to be a volunteer even before leaving his home in Virginia. He is passionate about protecting coastal habitats and wildlife and brings a wealth of knowledge with him to our restoration workdays. Ed has worked to support a healthy coast by building living shorelines, educating the community at local festivals and participating in numerous shoreline cleanups.

He also serves as our trail steward for Hoop Pole Creek and Patsy Pond nature trails, which involves routine monitoring, cleanup and maintenance. When he has a few minutes to spare, he coordinates area Boy Scouts to complete service hours with the Coastal Federation. Ed is always willing to lend a hand whenever it's needed.

Town of Cedar Point

For Voting to Preserve Critical Waterfront Open Space for Public Use

The Town of Cedar Point is a small, lovely and forward-thinking coastal town whose leadership and residents value their place and its quality of life. To ensure that people can reach the water, both now and in the future, the Town Board in 2018 voted unanimously to hold a voter referendum on a tax increase to purchase the 56-acre Masonic property on the White Oak River for public access and to protect and preserve green space.

It was Cedar Point voters who approved the \$2.5 million measure by a large margin. This commitment and dedication has helped leverage additional state and federal money making acquisition of the special waterfront site a reality. It will now be turned into a beautiful public resource for generations to come, thanks to the help of the Town of Cedar Point.



Big Rock Sports, LLC

For Outstanding Community Leadership and Collaboration

Since 2016, Big Rock Sports of Morehead City has given it their all to help with the Coastal Federation's restoration efforts in the central region. Their employees have helped build living shorelines from start to finish, from bagging shells in the dead of winter to installing those same bags in the heat of summer. They most recently helped to build a 500-foot living shoreline at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores. In addition to slinging oyster shell bags, the group consistently sends volunteers for shoreline cleanups and marsh grass plantings as well.

Over the past three years, Big Rock Sports employees have contributed almost 300 hours of service to the Coastal Federation. The organization has even taken steps to institutionalize community service by allowing staff to take time off work to volunteer and promotes environmental stewardship in its workplaces. Community partnerships like this one are vital to our restoration success. We couldn't accomplish all we do without supportive groups like Big Rock Sports.

SOUTHEAST WINNERS



Plastic Ocean Project, Inc.

For Advocacy, Engagement and Outreach to Keep Our Coast Clean of Debris

Bonnie Monteleone is the executive director and co-founder of Plastic Ocean Project. Her passionate mission to remove plastics from our oceans began in 2009. During her research as a graduate student at University of North Carolina Wilmington, Bonnie saw firsthand the devastation of plastic on the marine environment. Her research led her to work with Capt. Charles Moore, sailing 3,400 nautical miles across the North Pacific "Garbage Patch."

In 2012, she collected samples from the South Pacific as part of the film project, "A Plastic Ocean," a film described by David Attenborough as "one of the most important films of our time." After discovering that every single one of these samples contained plastics, Bonnie was compelled to take action. She decided to continue her research, educate the public and find real solutions to the epidemic. In 2012, Plastic Ocean Project was founded to do just that.

Bonnie continues to inspire our community to reduce single-use plastics and clean up plastic littering our coast. Her impact can easily be felt through programs such as Ocean Friendly Establishments, Renewlogy and UNCW Plastic Ocean Project. Bonnie is also an accomplished artist, turning some of the plastic collected on voyages into modern artistic masterpieces. This work not only storyboards her research, but also has become an award-winning traveling art exhibit.



Veronica Carter

For Inspiring Leadership and Commitment to the North Carolina Coast

As a Coastal Federation board member, Veronica Carter has provided her time, energy and considerable expertise on countless advocacy campaigns to protect our coast.

She represents the Coastal Federation on the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN). At the NCEJN, she works tirelessly on behalf of under-represented communities. Advocating for them on issues such as the Duke Energy coal ash spills of Lake Sutton, hurricane recovery efforts, and the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp. contamination site in the Town of Navassa, just across the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington.

In addition, Veronica has served on the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission, is on the Board of Directors for the Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity and is past president of Cape Fear Citizens for a Safe Environment.

A retired Army officer who has worked as both a federal and international civil servant at the United Nations Headquarters, Veronica is currently a private consultant with expertise in the areas of operations, management, leadership and logistics/supply-chain management. Veronica is just as dedicated to the coast she calls home as she is to the country, it is an honor to work with her.

COASTWIDE WINNERS

North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

For Dedicated Leadership Supporting Living Shorelines Along Our Coast

Amazing things continue to happen to North Carolina's estuarine shorelines thanks to the persistent efforts of Daniel Govoni, Dr. Braxton Davis and the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management.

For many years, the permit process for living shorelines was time consuming and required coordination with other state agencies. As a result, this posed a significant impediment for installing these

longer-term, less expensive and more environmentally friendly techniques to stabilize eroding shorelines.

In the meantime, permitting for bulkheads and seawalls remained easy, unfortunately resulting in the hardening of many miles of estuarine shoreline and the loss of important salt marsh and oyster habitat. Cognizant of this, the Division initiated an effort to revise and streamline the Coastal Area Management Act's General Permit for marsh sills.

After almost three years of meetings and coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Coastal Resources Commission adopted a revised General

Permit for marsh sills on April 1, 2019. Despite it being approved on April Fool's Day, it is no joke that this will help to increase the use of living shorelines over bulkheads in the state.



Bill Cary

For Leadership and Commitment to Advancing Effective Coastal Policy

Bill Cary is a tireless advocate for the coast and its natural resources. Since his initial involvement with the Coastal Federation when he led the effort to write a report on reducing impediments to living shorelines, Bill has worked with

us on numerous projects. In 2016, he assisted the Coastal Federation in planning and executing the South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit in Florida. In 2018, his role in the multi-stakeholder Shellfish Mariculture Advisory Committee was pivotal for the development of the state's first Strategic Shellfish Mariculture Plan.

Bill led the subcommittee that revised the existing shellfish leasing siting regulations, making recommendations for a more efficient process. Most recently, Bill helped organize the North Carolina Coastal Resilience Summit held in June, where he advised the content and structure of the event and served as the master of ceremonies for the two-day summit. Lawyer by trade, Bill possesses a breadth of exceptional skills. Among these, critical thinking is perhaps the most prominent one as it is easily evident in all interactions and outcomes that involve Bill. His ability to break down complex issues and analyze them methodically has been a tremendous asset for our coast.

Charismatic, witty and personable and always ready to jump on a four-hour long drive to the Atlantic for a meeting, Bill is a true friend of the coast. Because of Bill's dedicated work and passion, North Carolina has a more robust coastal policy.

Port City Daily

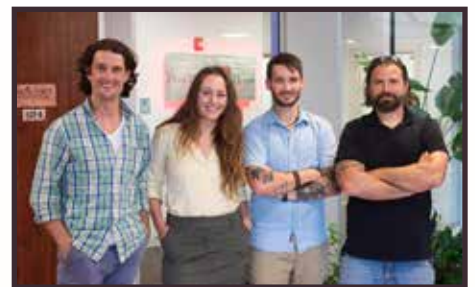
For Diligent, Vigilant Reporting on Coastal Environmental Issues

There's no greater goal for a community newspaper than to become indispensable to the community it serves and *Port City Daily* has done much to reach that objective. From an environmental perspective, this means reporting on issues that matter in terms of public health and natural resources.

Through its reporting on industrial polluters, development, marine debris, offshore oil and gas development, conservation and water quality issues,

Port City Daily has demonstrated a commitment to environmental journalism and to its readers. During the past year alone, this online-only newspaper that serves the Cape Fear region has been noteworthy in its coverage of coal ash at Lake Sutton, proposed methyl bromide fumigation, state port expansion plans, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the water supply, residential and business growth and its related challenges including water and sewer infrastructure, habitat loss and affordable housing.

The newspaper features tight, crisp writing that examines the various facets of the issues, with relevant headlines, background information and context that serve the reader well. The staff covers important meetings, great and small, to be the public's eyes and ears. *Port City Daily* has the feel of a small-town paper while spanning a coverage area with a handful of reporters that would be daunting for a much larger staff.





North Carolina Coastal Federation

Working Together for a Healthy Coast

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Newport, NC 28570

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Become a member – let's work together to protect and restore the coast.

To join or renew your annual membership,

visit nccoast.org/membership.

You can also renew by mailing a check to 3609 N.C. 24 (Ocean),
Newport, NC 28570.

Your membership helps protect, restore and wisely manage our coastal rivers, sounds and beaches.

Join the conversation.

Help us spread the word and make a difference. Find us on Facebook as the **North Carolina Coastal Federation** or follow us on Instagram and Twitter [@nccoastalfed](https://twitter.com/nccoastalfed).

Questions? Call us at 252-393-8185
or send us an email at nccf@nccoast.org.



Get involved – meet new people, learn new skills and have fun!

Northeast Region

Day at the Docks
Sept. 14, 2019
Hatteras, NC

Southeast Region

Low Country Boil
Sept. 7, 2019
Wrightsville Beach, NC

Central Region

*2019 Living Shorelines Tech
Transfer Workshop*
Oct. 8-9, 2019
Beaufort, NC

Visit nccoast.org/events for a full list of our upcoming events and volunteer days.