



*We must free ourselves of the hope that the sea will ever rest. We must learn to sail in high winds.*  
 – *Hammer Parsons Grant*

## Dear Friend of the Coast,

War, recession, and relentless assaults on coastal resources over the past couple of years have tested and bestowed new opportunities on the North Carolina Coastal Federation. We've learned to do more with less; to challenge old ways of doing things; to critically evaluate results; and to adjust our sails when situations warrant.

While we've navigated some troubled waters, I'm confident that our organization is stronger today because of the experience. With lessons in hand, we reflect on our 2003 work and look optimistically at the future. Generally, we're pleased with our organization's course. However, we've planned a few modifications to respond to new opportunities.

Many funders are showing increased interest in the restoration of our natural resources. We took advantage of increased funding to work more closely toward one of the Federation's primary goals – to restore and protect coastal habitat and water quality. Restoration work at North River Farms continues on schedule to convert nearly 5,000 acres of farmland back to wetlands. Additional shoreline restoration projects will be completed in the coming years, and the Federation is now helping lead efforts to restore oyster habitat in North Carolina.

We've seen expanded grassroots interest. Citizens are expressing a greater interest in being actively engaged in our work – to truly partner. To meet this interest, we're focused on engaging volunteers in contacting decision-makers, participating in public meetings, helping our three Coastkeepers in new initiatives, and assisting with on the ground restoration projects.

Our education program has merged into our restoration program. Students and teachers have responded enthusiastically to the student wetland nursery program and we're expanding the program to include tree plantings and oyster habitat restoration – giving our young people the opportunity to have a positive and lasting impact on our coast.

We know also that we must be vigilant in raising recurring revenues and diversifying our funding base. Our new Native Plant Program was a great success and will become an annual event. Not only will it raise funds for our Coastkeeper program, but will encourage homeowners to use environmentally friendly native plants. We launched our special license plate program that promotes the need to "protect our coast" statewide while raising money for operations. The program was introduced in 2003 and we are now working toward getting the needed 300 applications.

While strengthening our programs and future revenue potential, important work was accomplished in 2003. As testament to the year, and to the credit of an active board of directors, more than 250 volunteers, and a skilled and dedicated staff, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation named the North Carolina Coastal Federation "2003 Land Conservationist of the Year."

This recognition is sincerely appreciated. However, we know that our success is the result of the steady support and friendship that you and other members offer. Thank you for helping the North Carolina Coastal Federation to navigate during all kinds of weather.

Sincerely,

*Todd Miller*

Todd Miller  
 Executive Director

# 2003 Highlights

- Jan DeBlieu, author and longtime environmental activist in Manteo became the NCCF's third Coastkeeper. She began active duty in March and covers an area from the Virginia line, south to Ocracoke. With the addition of the Cape Hatteras Coastkeeper, the NCCF has extended its reach to cover the entire North Carolina coast.
- The public ceremony to open Emerald Isle Woods was held on May 2. The 40-acre property was purchased through a \$2.4 million grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The undeveloped land allows the Town of Emerald Isle in Carteret County to manage and prevent polluted storm water runoff.
- NCCF members rallied at Hammocks Beach State Park for the May 3 annual meeting and Coastal Celebration. The full day event offered 17 field trips, entertainment and workshops.
- The Cape Lookout Coastkeeper posted the new "Sewer Patrol" on the NCCF web site, highlighting the misdoings of chronic polluters in eight coastal counties. The website contains a comprehensive database by county of all sewage discharges that were fined at least twice in the last five years. The website is a new tool to encourage the public to watch for polluters within their communities, thereby improving enforcement.
- In an important decision that affirms federal protection of wetlands, a federal judge ruled that the development company of Holly Ridge Associates acted illegally when it ditched and drained over 200 acres of wetlands in Onslow County without a permit. The ruling came in a case brought by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of the NC Shellfish Growers Association and the NC Coastal Federation. The case arose from massive wetland ditching and drainage in southeastern NC during the late 1990's.
- The NC Environmental Management Commission approved the final Phase II storm water rules that will guide the expansion of federal Clean Water Act permits for storm water systems to counties and municipalities across the state. The final Phase II rule extends the timeline for local governments to implement post-construction storm water controls by two years from the date local governments receive their permits from the state. The rule also sets a threshold of 12% built-upon-area within ½ mile of shellfish waters, which provides the most stringent rule in the state – a direct result of NCCF's lobbying efforts.
- Through Time Warner Cable, the NCCF began production of a monthly cable show in May, titled "Coastal Review." The half-hour show is aired weekly from Raleigh, east and features issues and events along the coast.
- The ninth annual *State of the Coast Report* was released on October 3 at three regional press conferences. In the report, the NCCF called on NC's political leaders to appoint a special commission or legislative committee to decide if the state needs to overhaul its 30-year-old programs meant to protect its coastal environment. Instead of the customary grades, this year's report featured 22 Pelican Awards, which were given to people, organizations, state agencies and local governments to highlight outstanding efforts in 2003 to protect the coast's natural resources.
- NCCF saw a number of new initiatives and large legal wins, including the "Living Shorelines" Law. The bill was introduced by Representative Keith Williams, from Onslow County on behalf of the NCCF and creates a general permit for marsh and sill projects. The bill will speed up the process and promote natural shoreline erosion control projects over chemically-treated wooden bulkheads which destroy marine habitat. Also, Senator Marc Basnight added a provision to the bill that gives the force of law to State rules that ban hardened structures on the oceanfront and inlets.
- Restoration efforts escalated during 2003. At North River Farms, 250 acres of forested wetlands were restored from converted farmland during January and February and an 88-acre wetlands restoration project within the southeastern segment of the farm in late 2003. In addition, 3.5 acres of coastal marsh were restored, involving 15 restoration events, ~24,000 marsh plants, 173 school students and 88 citizens. Three "living shoreline" restoration projects were completed at Oriental, Columbia and Stump Sound with NOAA funding made available through NCCF's partnership with Restore America's Estuaries.
- The Cape Fear Coastkeeper is helping lead oyster habitat restoration efforts in the state. A Valentine's Day conference for groups involved in oyster restoration was organized by NCCF for the purpose of drafting a master plan for oyster habitat restoration in North Carolina. The Plan has been drafted and brings more than 20 groups together to coordinate restoration efforts. As part of this Plan, NCCF conducted oyster restorations at various locations in Carteret, Onslow and New Hanover counties, creating three acres of new oyster habitat.
- NCCF continued to organize quarterly meetings of the Coastal Caucus, a group of 21 environmental groups engaged in coastal issues. Member groups participated in the statewide storm water public hearings and the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) public meetings and submitted joint comments on key coastal issues including the storm water rules, marinas, and on the Living Shorelines draft bill. The Caucus continued to monitor and participate in 2003 Coastal Resources and Environmental Management Commissions' meetings.
- Special legislation was passed to allow the NCCF to create a custom license plate through the Division of Motor Vehicles. The full plate design will hit the road as soon as NCCF receives 300 applications.
- The Cape Hatteras Coastkeeper was busy after Hurricane Isabel struck the northern coast in September. She received numerous phone calls that people were illegally filling wetlands with sand that had been pushed across Hatteras Island in Dare County during the storm. At her urging, field investigators with the US Army Corps of Engineers visited Hatteras Island in mid-November. They issued 20 notices of violation for illegal wetlands filling and sent out eight more notices on Roanoke Island.
- In November, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund approved a \$972,000 grant to purchase 52 acres at Morris Landing near Holly Ridge. The property helps to protect the relatively unpolluted waters of Stump Sound, an extremely productive fisheries area for shellfish, shrimp and finfish. The site also will serve as an oyster shell storage site and support a new shell-recycling program.
- The Progress Energy Foundation funded NCCF's student wetland nursery program. NCCF educators engaged middle school students in the construction of six wetland nurseries at schools, and conducted restoration projects at six coastal waterfront sites.
- A three-year grant was awarded to NCCF to work with the NC Division of Environmental Health Shellfish Sanitation Section. In partnership the groups will develop better techniques to survey the state's coastal shorelines and identify sources of pollution.





## Individuals

John L. and Christine D. Almeida, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Ayres, David Barnes, Rebecca E. Battye, Dick and Mary Bierly, Peter Braasch, Bill and Anne Brashear, Clem and Marjorie Bribitzer, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Brinsfield, Dr. and Mrs. Mike Brooks, Drs. Patrick and Suellen Cabe, David R. Carr, Jr., Bethany E. Chaney, Bill Coolidge, Susan and Robert Crenshaw, Hugh Cullman, Martha and Collett Dilworth, Lee H. Dunn, R. J. Eckhardt, Kathleen Bryan Edwards, Laura B. Edwards, Susan Edwards and David Staub, Anne Faircloth, Bob and Emily Farmer, Ernie and Lynne Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. French, James Barrie, Ellen and Morty Gaskill, Dr. and Mrs. Charlie Godwin, Adelaide Gomer, John C. Gudger, William C. Hall, Mr. James G. Hanes III, Bobbi and Matt Hapgood, Mary Price Taylor Harrison, Olivia Britton Holding, Kathryn B. Howd, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hubbell, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Hynes, Dr. Tom John, Jr. and Brenda Butka, Mr. and Mrs. Seby B. Jones, Jr., Bill and Ellen Kealy, William and Lisa Kelly, Drs. Art Klose and Mary Katherine Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. William Knox, Dr. and Mrs. Lanneau D. Lide, Jr., Anne Logan, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Long, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Lynch, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Mallette, Jacqueline L. Mardan and Omar Mardan, Alexander Massengale, Edmund "Beau" McCaffray, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. McCord, Dot and Larry McGee, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Meyer, Lea Midgett, Todd Miller and Julie Shambaugh, Mandy Misner and Martin Willard, Theresa Morton, Frank Nesmith, Rob Nichols and Marilyn Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Olive, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Paynter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peelle, John P. Preyer, James A. Protzman and Jane Brown, Rick Puhala, Bill and Meg Rawls, Jr., Bill and Dot Reist, Juanita Remien, Mr. and Mrs. James Rice, Ms. Ann Page Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Roberson, William M. Rohe, John Runkle, Mary E. Schlegel, Jane and Malcolm Scully, Richard Scully and Lee Kimball, Melvin and Tillie Shepard, Ann and Bland Simpson, John R. Spruill, Lisa Jones and Keith Smith, Fred and Alice Stanback, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stanback, Sally Steele and Lee Taylor, Craig and Cathy Steffee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Venable, Dr. Stephen A. Wainwright, Doug Wakeman, Dean Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Webster, Dr. and Mrs. John Wells, Franklin and Carolyn West, Harry C. Wigmore, Steve and Jane Wolfe.

## Groups and Businesses

Earth Share of NC, ECR Incorporated, Emerald Isle Realty, Grady White Boats, Inc., J&B Aquafoods, New River Nets, Progress Energy, Restore America's Estuaries, Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, Trout Unlimited, Walex Products Company, Inc.

## Foundations

Beldon Fund, Captain Planet Foundation, Inc., DENR Division of Water Quality, EPA, Ella Ann L. and Frank B. Holding Foundation, Grace Jones Richardson Trust, Julian Price Family Foundation, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Mary Norris Preyer Fund, Moore Charitable Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA Community Restoration, NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Seby B. Jones Family Foundation, The H. Smith Richardson Jr. Charitable Trust, The Randolph Foundation, The Winston Salem Foundation, and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

## Public Support and Revenue

Statement of support, revenue and expenses for the year ending December 31, 2003

### PUBLIC SUPPORT

Donations	\$16,184,600*
Donations for future years	50,000
Education/Workshop fees	32,000
Grants	502,290
Investment income (losses)	40,394
Memberships	96,712
Gift Shop Sales	11,689
Special projects	314,290
Miscellaneous	11,017

**TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT and REVENUES** **\$17,242,992**

### EXPENSES

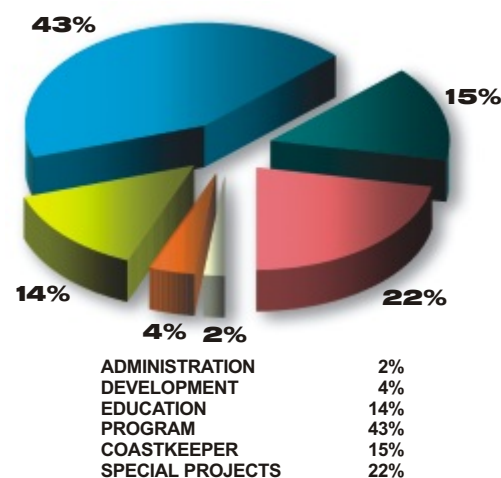
Administrative	27,380
Development	44,984
Education	145,297
Program	458,120
Coastkeeper	157,146
Special Projects	234,375

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$1,067,302**

Change in Net Assets	16,175,690
Net Assets at beginning of year	10,406,012
Net Assets at end of year	26,581,702**

\*Includes conservation easement received in 2003  
\*\*Includes \$25,529,157 in donated property that is now permanently restricted by conservation easements that have no cash or resell value.

### EXPENSES



The North Carolina Coastal Federation's 2003 audit was prepared by Carroll & Gainey, CPAs, PC. Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

## 2003 NCCF BOARD

### NCCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Melvin Shepard, Jr. Sneads Ferry
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Dick Bierly Morehead City
<b>TREASURER</b>	Olivia Holding Raleigh
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Meg Rawls Morehead City

### BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Raymond Burby, Chapel Hill; Bill Ducker, Sunset Beach; Susan Edwards, Greensboro; Emily Farmer, Emerald Isle; James Barrie Gaskill, Ocracoke; Bob Hall, Durham; Sarah Hamilton, Morehead City; Bobbi Hapgood, Charlotte; Minnie Hunt, Sunset Beach; Jackie Mardan, Wilmington; Mary Hunter Martin, Raleigh; Randy Mason, Emerald Isle; Edmund "Beau" McCaffray, Wilmington; Dot McGee, Raleigh; Lewis Piner, Wendell; John Preyer, Raleigh; John Runkle, Chapel Hill; Bland Simpson, Chapel Hill; Doug Wakeman, Pittsboro; Keith Walker, Beaufort; John Wells, Beaufort; Stephen Wolfe, Jamesville.

### DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Ann Carter, Bob Daland, Kathryn Howd

## 2003 NCCF STAFF

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Todd Miller
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR</b>	Jennifer Beck
<b>VOLUNTEER/OFFICE MANAGER</b>	Sheila Brodnick
<b>CAPE HATTERAS COASTKEEPER</b>	Jan DeBlieu
<b>PROGRAM MANAGER</b>	Lauren Kolodij
<b>BUSINESS MANAGER</b>	Jo Ann Marsh
<b>SENIOR STAFF SCIENTIST</b>	Tracy Skrabal
<b>DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR</b>	Sally Steele
<b>PROGRAM ANALYST</b>	Jim Stephenson
<b>CAPE LOOKOUT COASTKEEPER</b>	Frank Tursi
<b>CAPE FEAR COASTKEEPER</b>	Ted Wilgis



**Vision:** The North Carolina Coastal Federation will be an effective leader in restoring and protecting a healthy coastal environment.

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

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state's largest non-profit organization working to restore and protect the coast.

### NCCF Headquarters

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Newport, NC 28570  
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E-Mail: [nccf@nccoast.org](mailto:nccf@nccoast.org)  
[www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is located on Highway 24 in Ocean, NC, between Swansboro and Morehead City. Our offices, nature library and shop are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm.



LAYOUT/DESIGN: Anita Lancaster, Jacksonville, NC



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*- Hammer Parsons Grant*



# 2003 Annual Report

*Citizens Working Together For A Healthy Coast*