



2023 was a year of tremendous growth and change for the Coastal Federation. As you will see in this annual report, we made great strides in each of our programs, from restoring acres of important oyster and wetland habitats, to cleaning up tons of marine debris, to protecting water quality in creeks and sounds across the coast.

Our outreach and engagement efforts also shone, earning accolades and reaching a diversity of people. Our daily online news service CoastalReview.Org covered numerous issues critical to coastal communities and reached nearly one million readers, and our student education programs continued to engage the next generation of environmental leaders.

We also successfully advocated for improved coastal policies and provided trusted, science-based information to coastal decision-makers on topics including beachfront management, stronger building codes for docks and piers, and new ordinances allowing for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels.

Our efforts to protect and restore salt marsh—one of our coast’s most productive habitats—has grown to the point that, at the end of 2023, we expanded our living shoreline program to become our new Salt Marsh Program. Moving forward, this new program will include a continued focus on the installation of living shorelines and a broader range of restoration and conservation approaches to ensure that salt marshes are protected for future generations.

2023 was also the final year that the Federation was guided by the leadership of Todd Miller, Federation founder and Executive Director for over four decades. Having grown this organization from a one-person operation in 1982 to being a recognized leader on the coast, Todd is a tough act to follow. As the Federation’s second Executive Director, I am in awe of what’s been accomplished over the past four decades, and I am eager to build on the solid foundation in the years ahead.

None of the successes outlined in this report would be possible without the collaboration and enthusiasm of thousands of partners, communities, and supporters. Together, we are making a lasting difference for our coast—Thank you.



Dr. Braxton Davis, Executive Director

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### LEADERSHIP

**President** April Clark, Swansboro  
**Vice President** Kenneth Chestnut, Wilmington  
**Treasurer** Doug Wakeman, Pittsboro  
**Secretary** Sarah Diehl, Swansboro

### AT LARGE

Allison Besch  
Ryan Bethea  
Peggy Birkemeier  
Veronica Carter  
Sandie Cecelski

David Cignotti  
Tom Earnhardt  
Kyle Elliott  
Donald Ensley  
Ernie Foster  
Yasmin Fozard  
Morty Gaskill

Mac Gibbs  
Sharon Harker  
Tom Looney  
Katherine McGlade  
Charles Meeker  
JoAnne Powell  
Joseph Ramus

John Runkle  
Michael Serbousek  
Allie Sheffield  
Donna Snead  
Jonelle Stovall  
Shelli Willis  
Angie Wills

*Dr. Braxton Davis  
succeeded Todd  
Miller as Executive  
Director in February  
2024. We thank  
Todd for his 41  
years of leadership.*



# A YEAR *at a* GLANCE

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND  
PARTNERS MADE OUR WORK THIS  
YEAR POSSIBLE.



1



2

**CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP LEFT:**

**1.** Federation teams scoured the coast for debris, ranging from destroyed docks to abandoned vessels.

**2.** Construction of oyster sanctuaries supports local workers, while the thriving sanctuary network supports oyster populations throughout the Pamlico Sound.

**3.** Over 70 new living shoreline projects reduce erosion, provide habitat, and improve water quality.

**4.** The Federation worked with partners to compile data on water quality, land use changes and more to develop watershed restoration plans in priority watersheds, and implemented water quality improvement projects ranging from stormwater retrofits to land conservation.

**5.** Youth from the Young Scientist Academy investigate a living classroom at Wrightsville Beach.

**6.** The Federation advocated for coastal protections at the state, local, and federal levels, including events like this legislative oyster shucking contest against champion shucker Jay Gallant.



6



3



4



5





**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.

## Summary of Major Accomplishments

The North Carolina Coastal Federation provides leadership on the coast through education, advocacy and restoration of habitat and water quality. In 2023, we:



Restored over 18 acres of oyster reef



Restored more than 10 acres of wetlands



Restored over 2 miles of living shorelines at 74 locations



Cleaned up 150 tons of marine debris, including thousands of crab pots and 4 vessels



Completed plans for water quality improvement projects in five watersheds



Mobilized nearly 500 volunteers



Expanded the NC Oyster Trail to include more than 80 delectable sites statewide



Directed over \$8 million to the coastal economy to restore habitat



Reached over 930,000 readers and won 5 awards through CoastalReview.Org



Engaged over 8,000 people through nearly 200 in-person community programs



Reached over 3.5 million households through multi-channel communications



Educated over 1,500 students through hands-on and virtual programs

## Special Achievements

We are particularly proud to highlight a few special achievements in 2023:

**Successfully advocated for better building requirements for residential docks and piers**, including prohibiting unencapsulated polystyrene in all 20 coastal counties, to significantly reduce debris from docks on our coast.

**Hosted 14 informational workshops and summits** in partnerships with organizations including the Pew Charitable Trusts, state agencies, Cape Fear Realtors, NC Sea Grant, the UNC Institute of the Environment, and others.

**Raised 85% of funds needed to establish the new Center for Coastal Protection and Restoration** through a multiyear capital campaign.

## Revenue & Expenses

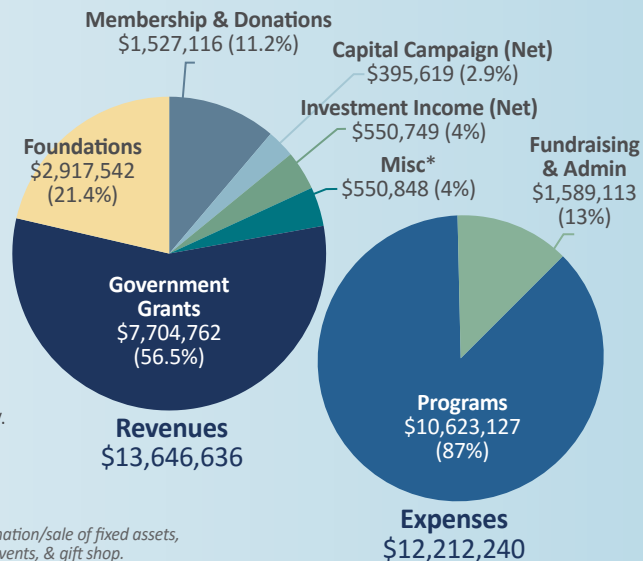
Full audited financials for the year ending December 31, 2023 are available at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) or upon request.

### Capital Campaign: \$581,128

These revenues were raised through a capital campaign to support the new Center for Coastal Protection and Restoration.

### Support to the Community: \$8,095,170

These direct expenses, provided primarily by competitive state and federal grants, were spent in the local economy restoring coastal habitats and water quality. This spending equates to an estimated 200 jobs annually.



Ten consecutive years with the highest ratings, reflecting a dedication to financial efficiency and transparency that less than 10% of American charities achieve.



# THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to every member and supporter who helps protect and restore our beautiful coast. Special thanks to the following who gave at recognition levels in 2023, including gifts to support our programs and to our capital campaign:

Bill & Collette Anderson  
Debra & Owen Andrews  
Pridie Arial  
Margy & Bob Ayres  
Wilma Bates  
Harry Baulch  
Connie Beach  
Jack Bell  
John & JoNell Benson  
Bill & Peggy Birkemeier  
Billy & Leslie Blackburn  
Glenn & Jere Blackburn  
Cheryl Blackwell  
Sam & Kim Boyce  
Neil & Kristen Boyd-Sullivan  
Scott Bradley & Kelley Shinn  
Brook & Mary Hughes  
Brookhart  
James Brooks  
Molly Brooks  
Kathryn Peyton Brown  
Ken Karn & Sally Ann Buchanan  
Joel Bulkley  
Dean & Gail Bunce  
Charlton & Peggy Burns  
Travis & Cassie Burt

Marc & Janis Bush  
Peter Butler  
Maria W. Campbell  
Kelly Carter  
Mark & Dawn Carter  
Veronica A. Carter  
Bill Cary  
Cas & Theresa Caserta  
Neil Chamblee  
Kenneth S. Chestnut  
John R. Clark  
Paul Cole  
Thomas Cook & Anna Owens  
Katharine Correll  
Tracy Mancini & Norris Cotton  
Burton & Heather Craig  
Kim & Jack Crouch  
John S. Curry  
Meg Davenport  
Michael & Donna DelaCourt  
Janet Duffy  
Pam & Jeff Duncan  
Lee H. Dunn  
Bonnie Y. Elam  
Kyle & Kelly Elliott  
Chris & Sloan Freeman

Roland & Jill Gammon  
Mir Gary  
Socrates Gliarmis  
Charles V. Godwin  
Jim & Barbara Goodman  
David Groves  
Michael & Carolyn Halpern  
Gary & April Hardee  
John & Katherine Haroldson  
Worth & Ann Harris  
Bill & Connie Hawkins  
Kyle Highsmith  
Susan Hill  
Ken & Cathy Hines  
Marcus Hodges  
Ken Hoffman  
Olivia Britton Holding  
Bill Hollan  
Laura Svetkey  
Kathryn Boeckman Howd & Edward Rucks  
Joseph Huberman & Ruth Bromer  
Jeanine & Mark Jackson  
Jerry Jackson  
Kathy Morgan & Richard Kearney

Noelle Kehrberg  
Michelle Kent  
David Kern  
Brigitte Kohlmeier  
Roman & Marie Kolodij  
Rob Lamme  
Gwen Langley  
Art Klose & Mary Katherine Lawrence  
Martha Lawrence  
Jerry & Jennifer Lazarus  
Joel Leander  
Mark F. Lefebvre & Elizabeth Campbell  
Robby & Gina Lemons  
Donald Lendle  
Charles Lewis  
Marcella Little  
Tom & Lucy Looney  
Laura Lukas  
Kaye Lyerly  
Annette Lynch  
Harry & Linda MacDonald  
John & Margaret Marks  
Nina Marable  
Robert Matheny  
James & Connie Maynard  
Beau & Sue McCaffray  
Susan McClelland  
Charles C. Meeker & Terri McGaughey  
Alex Mihajlov  
Archibald & Mildred Millis  
John & Stephanie Mitchell  
Jim & Marilyn Mohler  
Stephen Moore  
Malcolm Morrison  
Reid & Linda Murchison

Gordon Myers  
Bill & Sharon Nicholson  
Sherwin Odum  
Adele F. Paynter  
David & Cary Paynter  
Stuart & Linda Paynter  
Ralph & MJ Percy  
Joe & Jackie Ramus  
Sam Rankin  
Fen Rascoe  
Andy Read & Kim Urian  
Rich Redding  
Gray & Debbie Reed  
Brian Ricker  
Sean & Karen Riley  
Boyd & Linda Rogers  
Billie & John Roney  
Mary P. Rowlett  
John Runkle & Nancy Dole  
Kelly & Don Sankey  
Rodney Sawyer & Sharon Elliott  
Chris & Janet Saxer  
Andy Sayre  
Nancy Schaefer  
Bob Schall & Susan Lupton  
Joel & Cindy Schneider  
Wayne Schriever  
Wes & Jacque Seegars  
Michael & Janie Serbousek  
Judith Shackelford  
Todd Miller & Julie Shambaugh  
Peggy Sloan  
Janet & Walter Smith  
Keith Smith & Lisa Jones  
Robin Smith  
Helen Solterer

Margaret M Spallek  
Christopher Squier  
Brad & Shelli Stanback  
Fred & Alice Stanback  
John & Megan Stanback  
Mark Stanback & Nancy Popkin  
Paula J. Stober & Bill Bucklen  
Spurgeon Stowe & Katherine McGlade  
Charles W. Stuber  
Jonas Swartz  
J. Alex Thomas  
Ken & Joy Tilley  
Hubie & Alice Tolson  
John & Kim Towles  
Jitendra Trivedi  
Scott Clendenin & Susan Troxler  
James & Alison Vernon  
Doug Wakeman  
Sara & Borden Wallace  
Kimberly Walters  
Nathan Wax  
Ginger & Ralph Webster  
Andy & Suzanne Wheatcraft  
Jim Wheeler  
Monty & Nancy Hanes White  
Murray Whitehill  
Stewart Whitmire  
Shelli Willis  
Stephen Wright  
Smedes & Rosemary York  
Anonymous

## FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

A.E. Finley Foundation  
AB Goodrich Contracting  
Advance Signs and Service  
Aladon  
Anonymous Trust  
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership  
Berryman Oyster Fest  
Bosch Foundation  
Brier Creek Dental  
Brooks Pierce Law Firm  
Calvin & Kelly Carter Family Foundation  
Camp Youths Foundation  
Campbell Foundation  
Cape Fear Citizens For A Safe Environment  
Cape Fear Garden Club  
Carlson Family Foundation  
Carlyle Adams Foundation  
Carolina Brewery  
Carteret Community Foundation  
Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc.  
Coastal Wildlife Consultants LLC  
Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage  
Bill Wallex Products Company  
Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation

The Dallas Foundation  
Dare County Tourism Board  
Davey Resource Group Inc  
The Dickson Foundation  
Dini's Self Storage  
Dixon and Dixon Law Offices  
Dogwood State Bank  
Dominion Energy  
Duke Energy Foundation  
EarthShare North Carolina  
East Carolina Dermatology and Skin Surgery, PLLC  
East Coast Marine North / Sea Tow  
Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation  
The Educational Foundation of America  
Ella Ann L. & Frank B. Holding Foundation  
Emerald Isle Realty  
Fabricate Inc  
First Citizens Bank  
Fish America Foundation  
Full Throttle Speedway  
Golden LEAF Foundation  
GPI  
Grace Jones Richardson Trust  
Grady-White Boats, Inc.  
Guy C Lee  
Harbor Specialties- Beaufort  
The Harold H. Bate Foundation, Inc.  
Hillsdale Fund, Inc.  
Hyde County  
Inlet Inn

The Insurance Center  
Intracoastal Realty  
Jandy Ammons Foundation  
Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology, and Science  
Kitty Hawk Kites  
Landfall Foundation, Inc.  
Lyle Contracting Solutions, Inc.  
Mary Norris Preyer Fund  
Mellow Marsh Farm, Inc.  
Moore Charitable Foundation  
Moran Environmental Recovery  
N.C. Community Foundation  
N.C. Dept of Agriculture  
N.C. Dept of Justice  
N.C. Dept of Public Safety  
N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality  
N.C. Dept. of Transportation  
N.C. Land and Water Fund  
N.C. United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries, Inc.  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Natrxy, Inc.  
New Hanover County  
Northrop Grumman  
Ocean Conservancy  
Ocean Fest  
Onslow Bay Artificial Reef Association  
Onslow Bay Boatworks  
Orton Foundation, LLC  
Osborne Company of NC, Inc.  
Outer Banks Community Foundation

Parker Offshore LLC  
Parker, Poe, Adams & Berstein  
Patagonia  
Paul G Allen Foundation  
Pew Charitable Trusts  
Pimp Shrimp Clothing Co LLC  
Prentice Foundation  
Raymond E. and Ellen F. Crane Foundation  
Redwing Jewelry  
Reed Family Foundation  
Research Triangle Institute  
Rob Lamme and Associates  
Robert P. Holding Foundation, Inc.  
Sandbar Oyster Co.  
Saxer Family Foundation  
Schmidt Family Foundation  
Sea & Shoreline, LLC  
Seaglass Wines  
Starcke Family Foundation  
Stephenson Pope Babcock Foundation  
Stevens Towing Co. of NC, LLC  
Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association  
Surf or Sound Realty  
T.D. Eure Marine Construction  
Town of Holly Ridge  
Town of Morehead City  
TowneBank  
Trader Construction  
Triangle Community Foundation  
Truist Charitable Fund

U.S. Dept of Defense  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
U.S. Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Vacation Home Caretakers LLC  
Waste Removal  
Webster-Lyerly Endowment for Coastal Resource Protection  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas Asset Mge.  
The Willowmere Foundation  
Wrightsville Beach Outrigger Canoe Club  
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation  
Zulu Marine Services, Inc.  
Anonymous

