

The Coastal Federation's

# Pelican Circle

*Protecting the Coast for Future Generations*



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

## Paul Austin and Susan DeWitt Wilder

Susan DeWitt Wilder and Paul Austin have always seen the value in land conservation and open space.

Both grew up in the New England countryside before settling on the coast of Maine, where they are both heavily involved with local nonprofits that conserve land and protect and restore wetlands.

Susan and Paul were introduced to the North Carolina coast while on their way to visit friends on the Outer Banks ten years ago, and were thrilled with their drive through Down East in Carteret County. "We live on the marsh in Maine and just fell in love with that black needle-rush landscape and the seclusion Down East," Susan explained. They soon bought a house Down East and visit frequently. "We've made wonderful friends in the area and appreciate the ethic of self-sufficiency--fishing, beekeeping, and growing your own vegetables. The people we've met appreciate the culture and the quiet." Paul added.



During their time in Carteret County, Susan and Paul have become familiar with the work of the Coastal Federation, as several wetland and oyster restoration projects are located nearby. They've planted their property with native trees thanks to the Federation's native plant sale. "We particularly like the federation's advocacy and willingness to speak out strongly on topics other groups may shy away from," said Paul.

Because of their strong feelings about conservation and advocacy, they decided to leave their Down East property to the federation in their wills. "We want a sale of the property to benefit the federation and ideally to have it eventually owned by someone who shares the values of the federation. This is a very special area that deserves to be preserved so that others can enjoy it as well," Susan said.

The Coastal Federation can accept planned gifts of personal property in addition to traditional gifts of stock or cash. The federation's policy is to sell gifts of real estate and other personal property unless there is a special conservation value and fit with existing initiatives. Gifts to a non-profit are tax deductible and can reduce estate taxes. Please consult your attorney or financial planner for details.

*To learn more, or to notify us that you've included the federation in your plans, please contact the federation's Development Officer, Sarah King, at 919-210-2617 or [sarahk@nccoast.org](mailto:sarahk@nccoast.org).*

**Northeast Region**  
128 Greenville Street  
Manteo, NC 27954  
252.473.1607

**Headquarters & Central Region**  
3609 N.C. 24 • Newport, NC 28570  
252.393.8185  
[www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)

**Southeast Region**  
309 W. Salisbury Street  
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480  
910.509.2838