



Planned Gifts for our Coast

Leaving the N.C. Coastal Federation in one's will is an easy and important way to continue a love of the coast and an appreciation for the federation's work. To date, 21 members have notified the federation that they have made such arrangements. Here's one couple's story.



While their early histories took different paths, Penelope and Joseph Kilpatrick now share a tradition of service and giving, and a love of the coast. This philosophy and their affection for coastal North Carolina inspired the Winston-Salem couple to include the N.C. Coastal Federation in their will.

Penelope was born in New England and as a small child was amazed at the abundance of starfish that could be found along the Maine coast.

"As I got older the starfish diminished and the tidal pools looked different," she recounted. "Even as a small child, these things registered."

Her family later moved to North Carolina and took vacations on our coast. Penelope later lived in Pamlico County for a number of years and was on the staff that opened the new state aquarium at Fort Fisher near Wilmington.

"While I lived on the sound," Penelope said, "I learned to value the marsh and the life that begins and ends there. I love all the land and we must be good stewards of the land. I think the Coastal Federation attempts to do that."

As a child, Joseph frequented the New Jersey shore in the 1950s and '60s, which even then was crowded and over-developed. "My dad was an avid sailor and our family vacations involved renting sailboats," he explained. "Those adventures began a life-long appreciation for the cycle of life along the coast, the extraordinary resources of the coast and an understanding of the need to protect them."

After attending Davidson College in 1970, serving in the army and completing law school at the University of North Carolina, Joseph landed a job at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. "Early on the foundation developed a focus on conservation and the environment," said Joseph. "I recall meeting Todd (Miller, the federation's founder and executive director) when he sought a grant during the first year of the Coastal Federation. It was the beginning of a very fruitful relationship. Because of my professional responsibilities, I had an intimate view of the federation's work that caused me to appreciate it as something quite special."

When he retired from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation at the end of 2000, Joseph continued his friendship with Todd and the federation. He accepted our invitation in 2006 to help with the federation's \$3 million campaign, and he helped the federation to surpass its goal.

About four years ago, in their late 50s, retired from full-time work, Penelope and Joseph took a closer look at their estate planning.

Joseph explained: “We had had the same will for about 30 years. Then we bumped up against 60 and we had a new perspective -- things had changed. Children were grown. Grandchildren were entering the picture. We took a fresh look and gave it a lot of thought. We knew we wanted to share our modest estate with our children, as well as the Center for Purposeful Living, an all-volunteer residential and service community, which is central to our lives now. We also wanted to support the Coastal Federation. We admire the overall excellence and multi-dimensional conservation approach taken by the federation and we want it to continue beyond our lifetime.”

When asked what Joseph finds most appealing about North Carolina’s coast he responded: “I find the satellite view of the coast to be profoundly beautiful. You can’t find that kind of coastline anywhere else in the world. The North Carolina coast is one of those priceless treasures we want our grandchildren to experience and appreciate before we die.”

To learn more about how you can perpetuate your caring for the coast through your will, please contact Sally Steele, the Coastal Federation development director, at sallys@nccoast.org or 252-393-8185.