



North Carolina Coastal Federation | 3609 Hwy 24 (Ocean) | Newport, NC 28570  
Phone: 252-393-8185 | Fax: 252-393-7508 | Email: [nccf@nccoast.org](mailto:nccf@nccoast.org) | Web: <http://www.nccoast.org>

# Press Release

**December 3, 2008**

**North Carolina Coastal Federation Contact:** Sally Steele  
**Phone:** 252-393-8185 Extension 108  
**Email:** [sallys@nccoast.org](mailto:sallys@nccoast.org)

## **Meekins Donation Helps Fund Federation's Northeastern Office**

**Manteo, N.C.** –The Percy W. and Elizabeth G. Meekins Charitable Trust has announced a \$100,000 gift to the North Carolina Coastal Federation. The donation helps fund the Federation's new Northeastern Regional Office located on Grenville Street in Manteo, giving the environmental group a coast-wide presence.

The gift was made as part of the Coastal Federation's \$3 million Campaign to strengthen the organization and expand programming coast-wide. "The generosity of the Meekins Trust is a big boost to our campaign and our expanded efforts along the northeastern coast. This donation enables the Federation to have a permanent, fully-staffed office in the region, and to expand our education and restoration programs," stated Todd Miller, the Federation's executive director.

The Coastal Federation had operated primarily out of its headquarters located in Ocean, N.C. with a small home office in Manteo manned by one staff person, and a rented office in Wilmington. A key goal of the Campaign is to have equal programming in all three locations offering environmental education, restoration and Coastkeeper programs. With the early success of the Campaign, an office building was purchased in Manteo in September 2007. Following renovation, the office opened to the public in September 2008. Two new staff members joined Jan DeBlieu, the Federation's Coastkeeper for the region, and restoration and education programs are underway.

The office's Low Impact Development (LID) design is part of a larger effort to address stormwater pollution in the Town of Manteo. The design is a cost-effective way to reduce polluted stormwater runoff by treating it close to the source. The Federation bought the property in partnership with the town, which purchased the adjacent strip mall. The strip mall has been removed, and it will be replaced by a stormwater treatment park. The park will also serve as an

attractive public amenity. Meanwhile, the Federation's office building and lot were designed to infiltrate polluted runoff. The features include two small rain gardens, pervious pavement for parking and a 1,500-gallon cistern to supply water for the gardens and other uses such as washing vehicles.

The Percy W. and Elizabeth C. Meekins Charitable Trust provides grants for cultural resources and educational opportunities as well as for historic, health care, religious areas and community service programs that focus on Dare County. "The Trust is pleased to be a part of this worthwhile project and welcomes the Coastal Federation to Manteo," stated Trustee Bill Alexander.

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. The Manteo office is located at 128 Grenville Street and is open Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. To learn more about programs, visit the Federation's web site at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) or call 252-393-8185.

###