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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Titan Activists Get Pelican Award

Wilmington, N.C. – Residents who have diligently fought a proposed cement plant and limestone mine near Wilmington have won a Pelican Award from the N.C. Coastal Federation. The award is announced in the federation's annual *State of the Coast Report*, which was released today.

Kelly Stryker and the Friends of the Lower Cape Fear demonstrate what committed people can do. In their efforts to stop a heavily polluting industry from locating along the Northeast Cape Fear River, Stryker and the other members of the group have collectively spent thousands of hours educating area residents about the potential adverse environmental effects and health hazards associated with the proposed Titan Cement Co. plant. Over the last year, they have taken their message from a door-to-door campaign to the offices of EPA and to many of their state legislators.

Stryker, one of the founders of the growing citizen effort, has been a guiding light in this fight. A prodigious researcher and tireless advocate, she has somehow managed to balance her fulltime effort to fight Titan with her other fulltime job as a mother of three small children.

Stryker and the group is one of seven winners of Pelican Awards along the southeastern coast. The federation gives the awards annually to recognize extraordinary work that protects or preserves our coastal resources.

Other award winners along the southeast coast:

- **Environmental Education: Valerie Southgate and Jaimie McGirt:** During her second year of teaching in 1998 at John T. Hoggard High School in Wilmington, Valerie Southgate began bringing her classes out to the salt marsh in the hopes of sharing her love for the coast with her students. For 12 years, she has stressed the importance of the marsh and other estuarine habitats as critical components of our coastal ecology. One of her students, Jaimie McGirt, has displayed passion and dedication toward protecting and restoring our coast. Through her student teaching, mentoring,

volunteering and work with Hoggard's National Honor Society, McGirt has involved many of her fellow students in caring for the coast.

- **Volunteer: The 'Lockwood Army':** In 2007, 16 people joined the federation on a project to determine what is ailing the Lockwood Folly River in Brunswick County. They were dubbed the "Lockwood Army." The group took over 300 water samples to help determine what is causing the continued closure of critical shellfish beds in the river. The members of the army are: Lynn Bohlen, Shelia Drennen, Hans Forster, Bob Graham, Phyllis Evans, Ben & Eva Haddon, Tom Hetherington, Melody Knowles, Fred Loepp, John Michaux, Dave Pelizzari, Rich Peruggi, Kevin Talon, Joe Taylor and Hans Wagner.
- **Conservation/Restoration Project: City of Wilmington Stormwater Services and New Hanover County Planning Department:** New Hanover County and Wilmington joined forces to get funding from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund to buy 17 acres and build an 11-acre stormwater wetland in the Hewlett's Creek watershed. This project diverts two major stormwater outfalls away from the shellfish waters of the creeks and into a series of created stormwater wetlands. The project is part of an overall effort to restore Hewlett's Creek and its shellfish waters.
- **Local Government: Phil Prete (City of Wilmington) and Shawn Ralston (New Hanover County):** Recognizing that conventional approaches to development are not adequately protecting water quality, New Hanover County, Wilmington and Brunswick County unanimously adopted low-impact development (LID) technical manuals to allow for voluntary use of LID to manage stormwater. Phil Prete, Wilmington's environmental planner and Shawn Ralston, New Hanover County's environmental planner dedicated tireless hours toward developing the easy-to-read, user-friendly LID manuals.
- **State government: Mike Randall:** The dedication of one state government official is helping lead the way for use of LID in coastal North Carolina. Mike Randall with the N.C. Division of Water Quality has demonstrated a real commitment to using LID as an option for developers in meeting state stormwater requirements. He partnered with New Hanover County; Brunswick County; Wilmington; Withers & Ravenel, an engineering firm; and the federation to develop a LID manual and other supporting tools. Mike is a true champion of LID and actively promotes its use in North Carolina.
- **Business: New River Nets and Cofish International:** The Shepard family, owners of the New River Nets and Cofish International in Sneads Ferry, are long-time friends and supporters of the federation. Over the years, New River Nets has donated boating supplies, foul weather field gear and restoration supplies to help keep the federation staff well-equipped and ready to work in the field. Visit the federation's website, www.nccoast.org, to see all the winners.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation: "Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast"

The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) 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. NCCF headquarters are located at 3609 Highway 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. The headquarters include NCCF's main offices, the Cape Lookout Coastkeeper office, a gift shop, Nature Library, Weber Seashell Exhibit, ShoreKeeper Learning Center, and adjoining nature trail.

The NCCF also operates field offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org