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# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Sam Bland Gets Lifetime Achievement Award

**Ocean, N.C.** – Sam Bland, the longtime superintendent and ranger at Hammocks Beach State Park, has received the N.C. Coastal Federation’s Lifetime Achievement Pelican Award. The award was announced today in the release of the group’s annual *State of the Coast Report*.

Bland, a resident of Emerald Isle, was among the six people, organizations or businesses along the Central N.C. coast that received Pelican Awards this year.

After 30 years with the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 22 of them at Hammocks Beach State Park, Bland retired in February. “Sam took care of the park in a way that protected its natural resources while allowing the public to enjoy and understand its spectacular natural heritage,” noted Lauren Kolodij, the federation’s deputy director. “That’s a tough balancing act when you’re responsible for protecting one of the crown jewels of our state.”

Other Pelican Award winners along the Central coast:

- **Business: Wal-Mart:** Wal-Mart has been an active supporter of Coastal Federation projects and environmental education for several years. The company has funded six school rain gardens along the coast and provided hundreds of volunteers from their stores along the coastal region for plantings of gardens and shorelines, shell bagging events and area clean-ups.
- **Citizen Action: Dick Bierly:** Some people retire to relax but not Dick Bierly of Morehead City. Recognizing the link between a healthy coastal environment and a healthy coastal economy, Bierly has been a major player in bringing both economic and conservation interests to the table to discuss complicated coastal issues. He is a strong advocate of effective planning and promotes the connection between land uses and water quality and played a major role in the debate and adoption of the state’s coastal stormwater rules last year. He also developed the concept of an academy on growth strategies for local elected officials that the federation has worked with partners to organize and hold.

- **Environmental Education: Jeannie Wilson Kraus:** Jeannie Wilson Kraus recently retired as education curator from the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. She has been educating students and adults along the N.C. coast for many years and still leads programs to Cape Lookout National Seashore and into the Croatan National Forest. She is the author of *A Guide to Ocean Dune Plants Common to North Carolina* and *A Guide to Salt Marsh Plants Common to North Carolina*, and has been a frequent guest on the federation's cable show and has volunteered her time in the past to help lead trips with federation educators.
- **Volunteer: Donna Snead:** Donna Snead, who splits her time between Virginia and North Carolina, lives in Emerald Isle. She volunteers for many organizations in Carteret County, but logs the most hours for the federation. Donna works diligently helping to restore habitat and staff's federation booths at festivals. In 2008, Donna volunteered over 100 hours for the federation and she hasn't slowed down in 2009. Her constant energy and sincere interest in volunteering have endeared her to federation staff and other volunteers.
- **Conservation/Restoration: Cape Lookout National Seashore and the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center:** The Cape Lookout National Seashore and Core Sound Water Fowl Museum and Heritage Center wanted to reduce bacteria concentrations entering into Core Sound by identifying, designing and installing several low-impact development treatments. Two cisterns, three rain gardens and a stormwater wetland were installed at the museum and at the adjacent seashore's visitor center, and they are helping to capture, absorb and filter polluted stormwater runoff that would have otherwise flowed into the sound.

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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](http://www.nccoast.org)*