



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

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Erin Fleckenstein

Phone: 252-473-1607

Email: erinf@nccoast.org

Local Activists Get Award for Stopping Unwise Development

Manteo, N.C. – A group of activists who successfully fought off unwise commercial development along the northern Outer Banks received a Pelican Award from the N.C. Coastal Federation for their actions. The award is announced in the federation's annual *State of the Coast Report*, which was released today.

Residents of the Outer Banks north of Corolla in Currituck County became concerned about the spread of commercial development to a part of the island that has no roads or services. They formed Can Our Actions Save Tomorrow?, or C.O.A.S.T.? The activists pulled together information about the effects of development on stormwater and the water table, traffic on the beach, emergency service and evacuation problems, disturbance of wildlife and more. Their arguments were so carefully drawn that the Currituck County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the zoning change that would have allowed the commercial development.

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

Other award winners along the northeast coast:

- **Business: Bank of Currituck:** Last year, in the heat of the debate over the new state stormwater rules, the Bank of Currituck went out on a limb by hosting a workshop that helped to bring the federation's message of low-impact development (LID) to area builders. As president of the bank and a member of the federation's Board of Directors, Matt Converse cultivated a discussion with northeast coast developers and builders by hosting the workshop at the bank's Grandy branch. Converse has also offered to use branches in Grandy and Moyock as demonstration sites for green development and LID practices as a way of showing the public their commitment to sustainable development.
- **Environmental Education: Mary Doll (Cape Hatteras National Seashore):** Each year the Cape Hatteras National Seashore offers high-quality environmental education

outings that reach thousands of visitors. Mary Doll, the seashore's chief of interpretation, works hard to make sure the programs impart a great deal of information about the fragile coastal system of the Cape Hatteras region.

- **Volunteer: Cliff Ritt:** If you need something done to help protect water quality, rally the kayakers. That's been the philosophy of Cliff Ritt, the former president of the Outer Banks Paddling Club. In 2008 Cliff convinced club members to show up in force at numerous important public meetings, including a June rally in Raleigh asking legislators to support strengthened coastal stormwater regulations, the public meeting on the state's new Beach and Inlet Management Plan and a Manteo Board of Adjustments hearing on the permit for the federation's new office building. Thanks to his efforts, many voices have spoken loudly about the importance of protecting coastal waters.
- **Conservation/Restoration: Katherine Mitchell:** Katherine Mitchell has dedicated herself to helping restore the natural hydrology of the coast through the use of native plants and rain gardens. As the horticulturist for the N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island, she has spearheaded the installation of several low-impact development features on the aquarium property. Through her efforts, the aquarium has installed cisterns to collect run-off from the building's roof and a showcase rain garden, which she designed and maintains. Mitchell has served as a trusted advisor and partner to the federation in the design and installation of rain gardens throughout Manteo. She speaks frequently to public groups on the value of using native plants and installing rain gardens.

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