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Press Release

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Mattamuskeet Takes First Place in Federation's Photo Contest

Ocean, N.C. – Linda Sunderland's stunning photo of Lake Mattamuskeet took first place in the N.C. Coastal Federation's 2009 Photo Contest. Sunderland of Sunrise, Fla., won the \$500 cash prize.

Kyle Humphrey of Kure Beach won second place with his brooding photo of a swamp in Brunswick County, and Bill Meserve of Newport came in third with his serene photo of a marsh along the White Oak River in Cedar Point. Honorable mentions were awarded to Cheryl Burke for her photo of Bogue Sound and Brian Higgins for his Scuppernon River photo.

Almost 100 photographers submitted entries in the contest, which featured coastal landscapes. The contest, sponsored by Emerald Isle Realty, ended April 15 and the judges announced winners today.

"People are passionate about protecting the beauty of our coast," stated Frank Tursi, Cape Lookout Coastkeeper and one of the contest judges. "Most of the photographs captured those spectacular places, including highly visited areas, as well as little-known locations. We hope by bringing attention to these unique treasures in our state, that we can work together to protect them."

You can view the winners of the federation's photo contest by visiting www.nccoast.org.

The N.C. 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. Its headquarters and central regional office are at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro. The federation also has a Northeast Regional Office in Manteo and a Southeast Regional Office in Wilmington. For more information call 252-393-8185 or visit the federation's website at www.nccoast.org

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