



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Todd Miller Featured in TV Documentary

OCEAN – Todd Miller, the executive director of the N.C. Coastal Federation, is one of three North Carolinians featured in the television documentary *Environmental Heroes* that will air Thursday, Feb. 11, at 9:30 p.m. on UNC-TV.

Miller, a native of coastal North Carolina, started the federation in 1982 after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Working out of his home in the small sound-side community of Ocean in Carteret County, Miller directed the fledgling non-profit group in a successful fight against strip miners who wanted to mine 120,000 acres of peat in northeastern North Carolina. Much of that land is now preserved in national wildlife refuges.

“This story is about the thousands of seemingly ordinary people who have come together over the past 28 years to accomplish many extraordinary things for our coast,” said Miller. “I have been very fortunate to work with so many people who constantly surprise and energize me with their caring, dedication and abilities.”

Since its founding, the federation has worked with thousands of people and groups to protect and enhance our coastal environment. It now has almost 10,000 members and a staff of 18. Its headquarters remain in Ocean, though no longer in Miller’s house, and it has regional offices in Wilmington and Manteo. The organization has been involved in every major policy issue affecting the coast during the last 28 years. Its programs have educated thousands of children and adults and have restored more than 40,000 acres of estuaries. The federation also has purchased almost 10,000 acres of land, most of which has been given to state agencies for public use.

The other “environmental heroes” featured in the documentary are:

- Dean Brooks, a former dairy farmer from Goldston in Chatham County who started and runs one of the largest compost businesses in the Southeast. He and his family turn organic waste into profit while reducing garbage going into landfills.
- Gary Grant, a community activist from Tillery in Halifax County who has worked for decades to protect his African-American farming community from polluting industries such as corporate hog farms. He led the fight to institute a moratorium on hog farms in North Carolina.

The documentary was written and produced by students in the science documentary television course at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNC-Chapel Hill.

“We hope the documentary provides inspiration for people who believe that one individual can make a huge difference in protecting the environment,” said Tom Linden, the executive producer and director of the medical and science journalism program at the university.

The documentary previously was a finalist in the Carrboro Film Festival and the North Carolina Visions Film Festival.

See our Web site, www.nccoast.org, for more information about the federation.

For more information about the documentary, see www.unctv.org/environmentalheroes/index.html.

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