



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 13, 2010**

**Contact:** Sally Steele

**Phone:** 252.393.8185

**Email:** [sallys@nccoast.org](mailto:sallys@nccoast.org)

## **Emerald Isle Resident Wins Pelican Award for Service**

OCEAN – An Emerald Isle resident who started the N.C. Coastal Federation’s education program and whose ideas and vision led to its successful annual Native Plant Festival and an environmental education center on an island in the White Oak River has won the federation’s first Distinguished Service Pelican Award.

Randy Mason will receive the award, along with 11 other 2009 Pelican Award winners from across the N.C. coast, at a ceremony Saturday, May 15, at the federation’s main office in Ocean in Carteret County.

The federation gives the Pelican Awards annually to people, groups, businesses and local governments to recognize extraordinary work that protects or preserves our coastal resources.

Mason exemplifies what the awards are all about. He came to the federation in 1991 after a career of opening and managing stores for Sears. He started “Coastal Adventures,” which took small groups on coastal outings. He successfully partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to start the federation’s first student education programs and to establish interpretive nature trails. Mason retired from the federation 1998 and joined the non-profit group’s board of directors. As a director and dedicated volunteer, he created and helps run the federation’s Native Plant Festival, which is held each Earth Day weekend. He then helped to establish our Jones Island Education and Restoration Center in the White Oak River in Swansboro. Randy seems to always be available to help with the little and the big jobs - and does so with his famous good humor.

Other Pelican Award winners from the central coast are:

**Bob Hixson, volunteer award:** With a lifetime of experience in general carpentry, Hixson of Hubert has completed a number of repairs at the Jones Island center. The classroom building on the island wouldn’t be a reality if not for Hixson’s expertise. Battling mosquitoes and scorching heat, he

spent more than 21 days last summer renovating an abandoned washhouse into a classroom. He also volunteered his time for Jones Island clean ups and has even been a chef, steaming oysters for our board of directors meeting. Bob volunteers because the federation promotes a cause that he strongly believes in, water quality. An avid body surfer and kayaker, Hixson frequently paddles the Outstanding Resource Waters behind Bear Island where he takes long hikes and rides down the face of a few waves.

**Fred Adams Paving Co. Inc., business award:** This isn't just your ordinary paving company. They get it. They know that impervious pavement leads to polluted stormwater runoff, the top cause of coastal water pollution. Fred Adams Paving is the leader in sustainability and green building paving solutions, specializing in permeable pavers, porous pavement and green roofs. In spring 2009, the Morrisville company came to the coast to donate and install a permeable pavement walkway at Annunciation Catholic School in Havelock, one of the schools participating in the federation's School Rain Garden Program. The company has been enhancing commercial and residential properties for over 20 years with recycled and environmentally-friendly products. "Permeable pavers are well-suited for nearly any commercial or industrial area," said Adams. "They offer a great way to minimize pollution and stormwater runoff while still maintaining the beauty and durability that businesses desire."

**Public Radio East, community action award:** Who said that an oyster reef can't be built in a day? It can, with the help and support of Public Radio East of New Bern and its 60 volunteers who joined the federation in June 2009 to build a 150-foot-long sill made of mesh bags full of oyster shells at Jones Island in the White Oak River. The sill, which was built using 1,446 bags of oyster shells and 723 bags of marl, will help to reduce erosion of the island, create valuable estuarine habitat and, once it develops into a fully functioning oyster reef, will also help to improve the water quality of the river. Public Radio East collected pledges from their listeners to buy the 839 bushels of oyster shells that were used to build the sill. The radio station also provided great publicity for the federation and our Jones Island restoration projects. They'll be returning to Jones Island this year. This time they will be building a marsh in a day.

Since its grassroots formation in 1982, the federation is the state's only non-profit organization that focuses exclusively on protecting and restoring the N.C. coast through education, advocacy and habitat preservation and restoration. It has almost 10,000 members.

###