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Contact: Todd Miller
Phone: 252.393.8185
Email: toddm@nccoast.org

Duke Marine Scientist Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Ocean – Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith, who has spent much of his professional life delving into the mysteries of our marsh lands and coastal waters, won the N.C. Coastal Federation's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kirby-Smith is a professor emeritus in the practice of Marine Ecology at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort. He has worked closely with the federation on numerous restoration projects, including our wetlands project at North River Farms in eastern Carteret County, the stormwater retrofit project at our Hoop Pole Creek preserve in Atlantic Beach and the rain garden at the Cedar Point Town Hall.

The award was one of 15 Pelican Awards the federation gave to individuals, groups and agencies across North Carolina. The annual awards recognize exemplary action to protect and preserve the coastal environment. The winners were recognized today at a ceremony at the federation's headquarters in Ocean in Carteret County.

Kirby-Smith was there when the North River wetlands were cleared and the land was ditched and drained for agriculture in the 1980s, studying the effects on hydrology and water quality. He is now documenting the effects of the wetlands restoration.

Kirby-Smith's dedication in determining water quality effects of runoff into estuarine waters has provided valuable information that has been used to manage shellfish and to

improve water quality. His knowledge of bacteria and stormwater has helped put North Carolina on the forefront of efforts nationally to control this form of pollution.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was one of six Pelican Awards given to people, groups or agencies chosen from candidates across the state. The others are:

Advocacy Award, John Hood, John Locke Foundation: John Hood, the president and chairman of the John Locke Foundation, took an active role in legislative debate over terminal groins along the N.C. coast. The foundation is a conservative think-tank in Raleigh that expressed worries about the potential negative consequences terminal groins would have on the beach, property owners and taxpayers. The federation and John Hood shared common concerns, and Hood worked to make the terrible terminal groin bill somewhat less onerous.

Legislator of the Year Award, Rep. Carolyn Justice: In a year that has brought dramatic changes to our legislature and assaults on our coastal regulations, Rep. Carolyn Justice has provided continued leadership and loyalty to her coastal roots and beliefs. A Republican who represents Pender and New Hanover counties, Justice was one of the key members of the House to support and defend new coastal stormwater rules and continues that battle today. For the past three years she has been sometimes the lone voice in the legislature opposing the plans of Titan Cement to build a massive cement plant near Wilmington.

Special Recognition, *The Coastal Cohorts*: Cohorts Don Dixon, Bland Simpson and Jim Wann have been singing about the Carolina coast and spreading their environmental message for more than 25 years. Their popular performances often benefit the federation's work. The Cohorts marked their 25th anniversary in 2010 by conducting a tour around the state to raise money and awareness for the federation.

Inland Volunteer of the Year Award, John Runkle: As one of the federation's founding board members, John Runkle has been totally engaged in the federation since its incorporation in 1982. Most recently he has chaired the new Inland Committee leading the initiative to help expand the federation's reach statewide. He and his wife, Nancy Dole, are famous for their member socials held at their home tucked up in the woods of Chapel Hill. While he's guiding the committee in the center of the state, John is an active participant in whatever the federation is doing – from planting rain gardens to sponsoring federation events. As an environmental attorney, John represents communities across North Carolina facing threats from landfills, incinerators, wastewater discharges and over-development. He is the general counsel for the N.C. League of Conservation Voters.

Partner of the Year Award, NOAA Community Habitat Restoration Center: The Restoration Center in NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation is a strong and enduring partner with the federation. The center protects, restores and promotes stewardship of coastal and marine habitat to support our nation's fisheries for future generations. The federation's ongoing partnership with the Restoration Center has led to broad benefits to the N.C. coast. Over the past 10 years, the Restoration Center has invested more than \$10 million in the N.C. coast.

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