

❖ St. James community driven oyster shell recycling & reef building project

J. Taylor Ryan- Town of St. James, Brunswick County

The Town of St. James has successfully implemented an oyster shell recycling and reef building project. The work stemmed from the community's participation in a March 2006 workshop hosted by the N.C. Coastal Federation. Since then, the community has developed a close working relationship with UNCW, N.C. Coastal Federation, & DENR. The project has gained financial support from the Mayor and Town Council; they have appropriated funds to this recycling and restoration effort annually. The project engages St. James volunteers to build reefs alongside UNCW Interns. These community efforts are called workshops and are very well attended. In addition, the project receives volunteer support from the church youth and the local Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Ryan will explain the reasons for this project's initial and continued success. The community driven project will hopefully serve as a model for how other local municipalities can work with non-profits, universities, government agencies and community volunteers to realize common goals. Moving forward, the Town of St. James will build oyster shell recycling bins in Spring 2014, hold their 5th annual oyster dinner and receive new permits for continued restoration and reef building work.