

# **LOWER CAPE FEAR STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

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**University of North Carolina Wilmington**  
**Chair, SDC**

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**New Hanover Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Director and Community Conservationist**



# Who We Are

- Began in early '04 as a loose coalition to recognize developers who go beyond compliance with their development projects
- Leadership from Bill Hart and Shelly Miller from the NHC Soil & Water Conservation district and Dave Thomas from the Wilmington Home Builders Association
- 10 original members – government and nonprofits – with financial support from the Realtors and Home Builders associations a key to getting it going
- Became a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization in May 2009
- Now have 12 members of our volunteer governing board
- 2014 will be our 9<sup>th</sup> awards ceremony



***Outstanding Stewardship Winner***  
Airle Gardens



# Timeline: Jan. 2004-March 2005

Bill Hart and Shelly Miller with the New Hanover County Soil and Water District along with home builders and realtors

Pender Soil & Water Conservation District approves involvement.

Award guidelines formalized.



A logo, modeled after a similar coalition from South Carolina, is finalized.

**January**

**September**

**December**

**January**

**March**

Approvals from New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington remain on hold. Delay perhaps due to city ordinances that do not allow developers to use some innovative water quality and storm water management practices.

New Hanover County commissioners agree to and sign resolution.

Brochure, sponsorship letter and application revised and finalized.

Public rollout at 2005 House Expo, followed by major media events.



# Timeline: 2006-Present

First Awards presented at HBA annual meeting

July retreat to create by-laws and form committees for Finance, Events, Outreach and Education and Awards.

Then-Governor Bev Purdue writes letter in support of SDC.

First training session held before Award Luncheon.

The 2014 Award Luncheon will be held on Feb. 19.

SDC receives 501(c)(3) status in May 2009

**2006**

**2007**

**2008**

**2009**

**2010**

**2012**

**2013**

**2014**



NC Assoc. of Soil & Water Conservation Districts passes resolution to encourage similar programs

Bylaws approved in July '08. Outline mission, organization, officers, funding. SDC membership formalized.

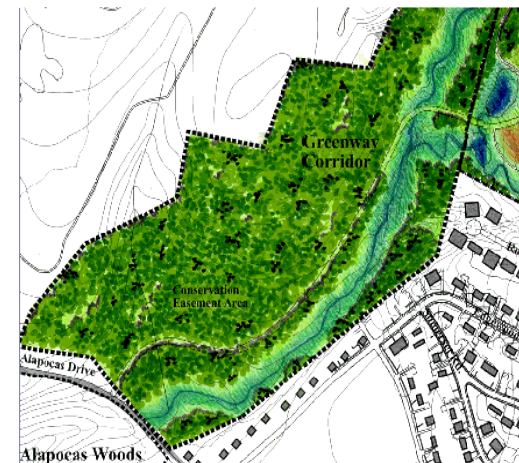
First Annual Report released.

Recognizes a new Stewardship Champion Award



# Stewardship Development Coalition

- Brunswick County
- Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District
- Business Alliance for a Sound Economy
- Cape Fear Green Building Alliance
- City of Wilmington
- New Hanover County
- New Hanover County Soil & Water Conservation District
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
- Pender County
- UNCW Master of Public Administration Program
- Wilmington Regional Association of REALTORS



# Purpose of Program

- Our mission is to encourage and recognize outstanding development that protects, conserves, improves, and provides awareness of our natural resources in the Lower Cape Fear region
- Accomplish our mission through the awards program and other educational and training efforts
- Judging is by an independent panel of experts familiar with different selection criteria
- 3 levels of distinction and recently added a Stewardship Champion Award to recognize individuals for their leadership
- Moved to a luncheon format in 2012 with a training program that awards continuing education credits



The Stewardship Development Coalition surveys a tri-county region of Southeastern North Carolina that includes Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick County.



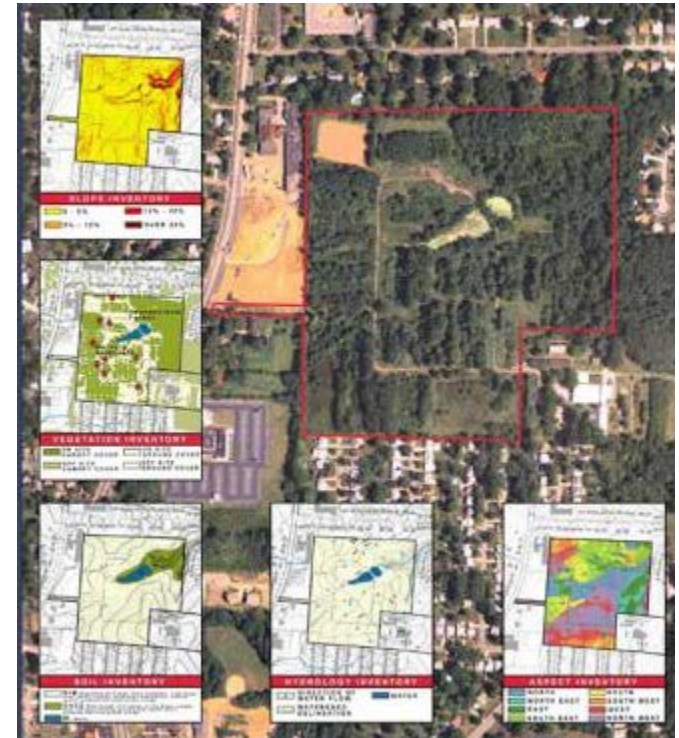
# Award Levels

- **Outstanding Stewardship**
  - The highest level of distinction that is only bestowed on projects that have achieved high marks in all applicable criteria.
  - Project must be substantially complete.
  - Project must demonstrate accomplishment or expected accomplishment of program goals.
- **Significant Achievement**
  - Project does not merit Outstanding Stewardship Award, but achieves high marks in applicable criteria.
  - One or more categories of criteria met.
  - Project must be under construction.
- **Special Recognition**
  - Project does not qualify for an award, but there is an element of the project that the judges believe warrants some level of recognition.



# Awards Selection Criteria

1. Site Inventory and Development Plan
2. Water Quality Protection
3. Green Building
4. Wetland and Riparian Preservation/Restoration
5. Wildlife Habitat Protection/Improvement
6. Vegetation Protection/Enhancement
7. Natural Project Amenities
8. Long-term Management and Maintenance
9. Community Outreach and Education
10. Re-use/Revitalization of Existing Sites





# Judging Process

- Independent panel of judges
- Comprised of professionals in the fields of engineering, natural resource sciences, architecture and green building.
- Review applications to determine if project should receive recognition.

For example, the 2013 Selection Panel included:

- Michael Mallin, UNCW Center for Marine Science
- Tracy Skrabal, N.C. Coastal Federation
- Ron Wilson, CFCC Architectural Technology Program
- Ryan Winston, NCSU Biological & Agricultural Engineering Program



# Timeline for Judging

- Aug. 31: Deadline for applications
- Selection committee screened applications
- Nov. 2: Presentations and site visits
- Nov. 9: Judging panel completed evaluation & forwarded to Awards Committee
- Nov. 14: Awards Committee recommendation to Governing Council based on panel evaluations

# Guidance for Evaluation

- **Primary Objective:** Find projects that demonstrate preferred development approaches to recognize as examples.
- **Secondary Objective:** Provide guidance to the applicant for improvements to receive future or higher consideration.
- *Not a test. Not a competition.*

Judge's name      Stewardship Development Awards:       Project name  
 Panel Evaluation:

Please respond completely to each of the questions or statements below. Use the back of this sheet or additional sheets as needed to fully evaluate the project and provide quality input.

1. Determine to what degree the criteria of each applicable category in your area of expertise and in general are met (barely, moderately, or exceptionally). If not applicable to that project or you do not feel qualified to make a judgment, indicate not applicable. Check one column for each criteria and provide a brief explanation of your rating in the space provided.

Criteria	exceptional	nominal	not met	not applicable
Site Inventory & Development Plan <small>(Explain)</small>				
Water Quality Protection <small>(Explain)</small>				
Green Building <small>(Explain)</small>				
Wetland-Riparian Preservation / Restoration <small>(Explain)</small>				
Habitat Protection / Improvement <small>(Explain)</small>				
Vegetation Protection / Enhancement <small>(Explain)</small>				
Natural Project Amenities <small>(Explain)</small>				
Long-Term Management / Maintenance <small>(Explain)</small>				
Community Outreach / Education <small>(Explain)</small>				
Existing Site Re-use/Rehabilitation <small>(Explain)</small>				

2. Based on evaluation in your area of expertise, and in general should this project be awarded the Outstanding Recognition award.  yes  no  
If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

3. If not, evaluate whether the project or certain aspects of it are worthy of the Significant Achievement level of award for achieving certain objectives of stewardship.  
 yes  no      If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

4. Provide suggestions for steps that could be taken to improve the project for future consideration.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Please provide any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the project.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return evaluation **no later than October 19** to Shelly Miller at New Hanover Soil & Water Conservation 230 Government Center Drive ~ Suite 100 Wilmington, NC 28403 or e-mail to [shelly.miller@nhswc.org](mailto:shelly.miller@nhswc.org)

Caption



# 2013 Award Recipients

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# Bradley Creek Elementary School

## *Significant Achievement Award Recipient*

- “Excellent job of inventory and cooperation with Soil and Water, great cooperation from the school and a great plan by Withers and Ravenel.”
- “The best way to teach a new generation is by letting them be part of the project. Excellent outreach activities to include the children and teachers.”



# Lower Cape Fear Hospice: SECU Hospice House of Brunswick

## *Significant Achievement Award Recipient*

- “The thoughtful and intentional design of the facility to provide privacy and comfort, while incorporating natural and aesthetically beautiful elements into the living spaces is outstanding.”
- “Beautiful, peaceful facility that fits in well with the Brunswick County environment. Nice use of native plantings.”



# Cape Fear Community College: Union Station Building

## *Significant Achievement Award Recipient*

- “A tribute to the former railroad building to act as a campus hub.”
- “Great use of the old railroad bed area to serve as a pedestrian link to other parts of the campus.”



# Bald Head Island Conservancy: Barrier Island Study Center

## *Outstanding Stewardship Award Recipient*

- “A wonderful example of how a team works to make energy efficient architecture.”
- “Great green building effort, great outreach, fits perfectly with the local environment, wonderful learning center for residents and visitors.”



# Piedmont Biofuels

## *Outstanding Stewardship Award*

- “Every detail of this facility is designed to provide the highest level of environmental stewardship, and a great deal of sweat equity was required to realize this project.”
- “Wonderful example of reclaimed materials being diverted from the Landfill. Small project with big ideas.”





# Award Winners

- 8 sets of awards
- Most in any year was 9, average about 5 awards per year

## ***51 total awards***

- 15 Outstanding Stewardship Awards
- 20 Significant Achievement Awards
- 7 Special Recognition Awards
- 9 Stewardship Champion Awards



# Examples of Our Recent Sponsors



# Lessons Learned

- Leadership is critical but what is needed can change over time
- It takes a lot of time to build the relationships that are the foundation of a new a coalition or partnership.
- However, while these relationships are important during the early stages, it is important to formalize rules, routines, and procedures to survive changes in personnel and allow you to repeat the program with less investment of time (e.g., by-laws)
- Have to temper your ambition and focus on what you can realistically accomplish with your limited resources



# For More Info

*Visit us at our website:*

[www.stewardshipdev.org/](http://www.stewardshipdev.org/)

*For more information contact:*

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**Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Award Program**  
*Promoting environmentally friendly public and private development*

Home | The Program | Sponsors & Members | Application Info | Banquet & Winners | Useful Links | Contact

### Environmentally Friendly Development

The Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Award Program honors residential, commercial and public development projects in Brunswick, Pender and New Hanover Counties that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship through the protection, conservation, improvement, and awareness of our natural resources.

### Program Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2009 Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Award Program winners! The 2008 Award winners were announced on November 19, 2009 at the 5th Annual Awards Banquet. Categories:

Today is Thurs., 12-09-2010

**Join us for the Annual Awards Banquet...**  
The Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Awards Banquet will be held December 9, 2010 at 101 Stone Chimney Place in Supply, NC. Hosted by Brunswick Realtors Association, this year's event is going to be great. [Click here to register and pay online](#) (\$2 service fee applies to online payments).

SDC Website

