

## 2008 DIRECTOR'S BIOS

**Richard (Dick) Bierly-** Dick is retired from corporate America. His forty some years of experience, while varied, were primarily devoted to human resources and employee, management and organizational development. It is Dick's belief that environmental protection is primarily a local issue and local officials and citizens working together with open minds can find common ground.

**Robert E. Coles MD** – Bob Coles is an orthopedic surgeon at Carteret Surgical Associates, and has lived in Carteret County since 2000 and North Carolina since 1988. His background includes that of a biology major while at Harvard with an interest in Ecology, Ichthyology, and environmental issues. He lives with his wife and two children on Bogue Sound. As an avid fisherman and diver who has noticed changes in our oceans in the last few decades he wants to preserve the waters of Carteret County for the next generation.

**Jess Hawkins-** Jess recently retired from the North Carolina division of marine fisheries after 30 years of service, the last 12 years as an assistant to the director working on fisheries conservation and habitat protection issues. He currently works part-time at the North Carolina aquarium as a natural resource educator. Jess serves on the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and is interested in protecting the quality of water in Carteret county and educating people about the natural resources of the area.

**Irv Hooper-** Irv was born in Michigan, attended college at Eastern Michigan University and graduate school at University of Illinois where he received a Ph. D. in biochemistry. He worked in pharmaceutical research at Parke, Davis in Detroit, post-Doc at Ohio State University, and then to Syracuse, NY where he worked for Bristol Laboratories, a division of Bristol-Myers. Irv eventually became Associate Director of Research, with responsibilities for research laboratories in Tokyo and Montreal as well as Chemical Research at Syracuse. After retirement from Bristol, he moved to Beaufort and worked part-time for several years as a research associate at the Duke Marine Lab, working on oxygen recovery from sea water and on isolation of anti-fouling agents from marine organisms. Irv became involved in Crossroads after his daughter and her friends started the organization. He has served as President and as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor for the past several years.

**Mark Hooper-** Mark Hooper has been a full-time commercial fisherman since 1980. He and his wife, Penny, own Hooper Family Seafood, which currently specializes in soft shell crabs, hard crabs, and farm raised clams. They have lived on the shore of Middens Creek in Smyrna since 1982. Mark has worked on a number of small scale field based research projects funded through the North Carolina Fishery Resource Grant program and Blue Crab Research program. Mark also serves as the SCUBA Diving Safety Officer for the Duke University Marine Lab.

**John Merriner-** John recently retired from the NOAA-Beaufort Lab where he was a professional fisheries biologist for about 25 years. Earlier he worked for 12 years at Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA (as marine scientist in fisheries research and a graduate faculty member at College of William and Mary). His experiences in Carteret County date to the mid 1960s; since then significant population growth and housing development/expansion have changed much of Carteret communities and inshore/estuarine environments from the more pristine state of his early encounters. His interests are in habitat and fisheries issues.

**Theresa Morton-** Theresa is a native of the Crystal Coast and had two former Crossroads Board members, Meg Rawls and Penny Hooper, as teachers at Carteret Community College. She received a Bachelor of Science in Community & Justice Studies with a concentration in Political Science from Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. Currently an Employment Specialist, she assists individuals with disabilities to become more independent by supporting them building on their strengths toward becoming employed. Theresa enjoys volunteering with local organization concerning our natural habitat and serving others in our community. Local government supporting Cleaner Water and Recycling are two things she would like to see increase for NC's future.

**Joseph S (Joe) Ramus** - Since 1978, Joe have been a professor resident at Duke University's satellite campus in Beaufort, the Marine Laboratory. His primary concern is coastal water quality as affected by land use and stormwater runoff. Joe is co-founder and co-director of FerryMon.org, which since 2000 has fast-tracked the monitoring of water quality in the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound Estuarine System using underway, automated systems on the North Carolina Ferry Division's passenger/vehicle ferries. He has served on at least three county and regional committees with the personal goal of strongly coupling centralized wastewater management with growth and stormwater management, a risky but politically necessary coupling.

**Nancy Vietch** - Nancy Veitch grew up in Morehead City and attended the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She has a BS Degree in Travel and Tourism. Nancy currently lives in Morehead City and is the owner of Nancy's Nannies, Inc., a babysitting and nanny service. She enjoys gardening and Community Theater. Her environmental concerns are primarily the trees and water. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Carteret Community Theater, and is a member of the Crystal Coast Tourism Advisory group, the Carteret County Tree Ordinance Committee, Carteret County Chamber of Commerce as well as Crossroads.

**Ron White** - Ron completed a BS degree in Biology from West Virginia Wesleyan College and did graduate work in marine science and geology at the U. of Delaware and later at varied schools. He taught high school biology and physical science and studied Respiratory Therapy. He worked at the Mote Marine Lab, the Environmental Quality Lab. in Port Charlotte Fl and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Ron was manager and educator for the Foundation for PRIDE in the Turks and Caicos Islands and then began an environmentally based school aboard his sailboat Good Fortune where he taught marine science for varied colleges, exposing approximately 40,000 people to some facet of marine education over the last 28 years. Presently he and his wife own a small marina in Morehead City and still offer environmental trips aboard their sailing vessel Good Fortune.

**Clark Callaway**