



CARTERET COUNTY

CROSSROADS

www.carteretcrossroads.org

210 Pensacola Avenue, Morehead City, NC 28557 | 252-729-2521

February 2013 | NL #139

Save the Date! Carteret Crossroads 33rd Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2013 at the DUML Auditorium

Carteret County Crossroads will hold its 33rd Annual Meeting on **Thursday, February 21, 2013** in the Duke Marine Lab Auditorium. The program, entitled **“Integrating science, technology, and common sense into sound environmental policy for Carteret County”**, will feature two speakers: **Spencer Rogers**, NC Sea Grant Extension Specialist in Hurricane-Resistant Construction and Shoreline Erosion, and **Harvey Walker**, Mayor Pro Tem of Morehead City and CEO of Coastal Carolina Industries, Inc., specializing in strategic planning in economic development for eastern NC with a focus toward green and state-of-the-art technologies.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments, fellowship, a chance to bid on **Silent Auction** arts and crafts and a **Seed Exchange** sponsored by our partner organization, the Carteret Local Food Network. (Bring labeled, viable vegetable and flower seeds to join in the seed exchange!) The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Message from Crossroads President, Mark Hooper: Crossroads 2013

As we begin a new year it is a good time to assess the situation and make plans for the coming year as a local environmental group. Last year we explored the potential of offshore wind energy and were involved in the sea level rise debate at the state level. These are both long term issues and we will continue to monitor them. This year we will look at the solar side of renewable energy and highlight fishery issues that are so important to our county. We also want to bring Science and Technology back into the environmental discussion. Our county is one of the top Marine Science centers in the nation. We need that expertise to lead the way on environmental issues.

The NC Legislature has the power to dictate the rules of discussion on Climate Change at the bureaucratic level, but we can help guide the discussion from the grassroots level. In 2012, the discussion of sea level rise policy development at the state level was driven by a pro-development group, NC-20. They felt if builders were denied one square foot of land on which to build, then the economic consequences would be grave. Yet in this county presently there are probably thousands of lots ready to be built upon, and hundreds of homes for sale. The notion that dire economic consequences will occur unless we are allowed to build right up to every marsh edge, creek bank, and ocean beach is false and must change. Up the coast in Rodanthe, one can look at houses sitting on the beach, with waves breaking on the front door, to realize the folly of the “we must build it here” attitude. Those houses were permitted on the shifting sands of a beach, common sense was ignored to make a dollar, and now each is a costly, uninhabitable blight on the landscape.

In 2013, we re-affirm our organizational goal of being involved in the development of sound environmental policy for our county. Together we can do this. We need to network, communicate, and be persistent. We have the vision and access to expertise. Let’s vow to stay in the conversation.

Finally, we respectfully ask that Governor McCrory and members of the NC Legislature address these two fundamental statements as we all work to move North Carolina toward a strong and sustainable future:

1. Environmental regulations did not cause the national economic downturn of the past few years.
2. It is possible to produce usable energy without burning fossil fuels.

Carteret County Crossroads is an all-volunteer, member supported non-profit organization dedicated to protecting our coastal environment since 1979. Membership dues are our primary source of revenue. As always, we appreciate your continuing support.

Crossroads 2012-13 Board:

Mark Hooper, *President*
John Merriner, *Secretary*
Ron White, *Treasurer*
Dick Bierly
Clark Callaway
Bob Coles
Jess Hawkins
Steph Miscovich
Gabriele Onorato
Ben Peierls
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Our webmaster is Debra Callaway

If you are not a member of Carteret Crossroads, we invite you to join.
Tax-deductible dues are per year:
Individual \$15 | Family \$20 | Patron \$50 | Lifetime membership \$200
To join, please send dues and this form to:
Carteret Crossroads, 210 Pensacola Avenue, Morehead City, NC 28557

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Carteret Local Food Network (CLFN) News: In 2009 the Carteret Local Food Network (CLFN) joined Crossroads as a partner organization. CLFN is a group of citizens working to build the local food system by increasing the abundance of fresh, healthy, locally produced food available in Carteret County. CLFN held its annual meeting this year on February 6, with guest speaker Barbara Justice Rooks leading a discussion, “Can Agritourism Work in Carteret County?” Mrs. Rooks, a farmer and educator, is the District Director of the NC Agritourism Networking Association and works with her extended family on their farm in Jacksonville, NC.

Agritourism is a means to highlight the beauty and value of farming by celebrating both rural heritage and sustainable methods for producing high quality local produce and livestock. From beekeeping to organic beef to shellfish mariculture to greenhouse tomatoes, Carteret County’s farmers and fishermen have a lot to offer. This year, as CLFN continues its work fostering local food production and strengthening the connection between consumers and the County’s farmers and fishing families, the organization also plans to explore the potential of developing agritourism in Carteret County. For more information about local producers, CLFN events and more, please visit the website www.carteretlocalfood.org.

Regional Effects of Hurricane Sandy, by Jess Hawkins

In late October 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern United States. The nation’s attention was focused on the devastation left after this Category 1 hurricane morphed into a ‘superstorm’ that slammed into our northeastern states. Many peoples’ lives were changed by this one storm event. Governments are still discussing what needs to be done to be better prepared for possible future events. The question of how to pay to rebuild is one that impacts all US taxpayers.

While Sandy “brushed” by North Carolina and news media turned their attention on New Jersey and New York, our citizens too had to adapt to the significant changes Sandy left in her wake. But this adaptation is nothing new. North Carolina has a history of hurricanes, and coastal citizens have always had to adapt, especially those “Outer Bankers”.

Unlike Hurricane Irene, Sandy did not produce the coastal flooding that left many folks living along our estuaries homeless. The absence of flooding this time around also spared us the water quality problems we saw from Irene. Many fish were already migrating out of our sounds when Sandy hit. But she did produce major changes to our Outer Banks that are challenging how we adapt and adjust to what she left. Sandy destroyed homes, damaged piers, flooded businesses and affected infrastructure. However, perhaps her most significant effects were on access to the Outer Banks below Oregon Inlet. The main road (Hwy 12) was destroyed in many places. Safety and health of the residents were primary concerns. Businesses lost fall tourism and fishing opportunities. Ferry routes were shoaled in; in fact Ocracoke Island access from Hatteras by ferry was stopped three months after the storm due to concerns about safety.

Sandy’s impacts force us once again to make choices about how best to repair and recover, especially on the Outer Banks. Let us hope we choose wisely and adapt in ways that increase our resilience in the face of future hurricanes.

In Memoriam—As this newsletter goes to press the local environmental community is honoring the life and service of one of Crossroads’ dear respected elders, **Irving Hooper**, who died last month at age 91. Irv was a model of civic participation and activism in the public interest. For more than thirty years Irv was a tireless advocate for Carteret County’s natural environment. He was a founding director of Crossroads, an accomplished nature photographer and the editor and principle author of this newsletter for many years.

Irv was a kind, soft-spoken man with a feisty, straight-talking pen and an unwavering conviction that citizens have a responsibility to participate in local governance through reasoned, thoughtful dialogue with elected officials. This is not flashy work—Irv had no interest in capturing the spotlight—and at times it is no match against pressure from special interests. But it is a vital part of our democratic process, and Irv backed his belief in that process with lifelong action.

Over the years Irv archived the Crossroads newsletters in a neat three-ring binder, dating back to 1986. The collection chronicles the environmental challenges faced by Carteret County over the years and Crossroads’ position on each, supported by reasoned argument. These newsletters are a testament to Irv’s persistence: over and over again as another special interest threatened the health of the local environment, Irv and other contributors presented sound arguments in support of robust environmental policies to protect the natural systems upon which our local ecosystem, economy and way of life depend. This notebook is a treasure, a testament to Irv’s many years of raising his voice to protect the natural world he loved so much. Thank you for everything, Irv.

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