



CARTERET COUNTY

CROSSROADS

www.carteretcrossroads.org

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Community Forum on the Potential for Offshore Wind Energy Development in North Carolina 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2012 in Joslyn Hall at Carteret Community College.

First in Flight, First in Wind Forum: Join the NC Chapter of the Sierra Club for a panel discussion about the opportunities and obstacles for the development of offshore wind energy in the Tar Heel state. North Carolina has incredible wind potential, with better shallow-water wind resources than any other state on the Atlantic Coast - potentially 140 GW of total offshore wind capacity. On July 1, 2011, Governor Bev Perdue signed Executive Order No. 96, establishing North Carolina's Offshore Wind Economic Development Task Force. Come learn about the next steps to be taken to realize this potential source of clean renewable energy for North Carolina.

The forum is organized by the NC Sierra Club and co-hosted by Carteret Community College, NC Interfaith Power and Light and Carteret County Crossroads.

Dr. Stan Riggs, East Carolina University, headlines the 32nd Annual Crossroads Meeting! 7 p.m. Monday, February 27, 2012 in Joslyn Hall at Carteret Community College.

Dr. Riggs is a coastal and marine geologist who has been doing research on modern coastal systems since 1964 and has been on the faculty at East Carolina University since 1967. Much of his work over the years has dealt directly with integrating scientific understanding with utilization and management of various coastal systems including such critical issues as climate change and sea-level rise, shoreline erosion and land loss, hazard zone delineation, inlet dynamics, water quality, habitat preservation and natural resources.

Dr. Riggs and others have recently published a book, The Battle for North Carolina's Coast: Evolutionary History, Present Crisis and the Vision for the Future. In discussion of the new book, Dr. Riggs states, "Our vision for the future of North Carolina's coastal system and associated economy is based upon living in harmony with the coast. The vision for the coastal system of southeastern N.C., which is already largely urbanized, presents islands of opportunity for adaptation to change. This discussion should begin now, so that as the never-ending stream of storms takes its toll, we can systematically begin adapting to the changing conditions". The book offers a hopeful vision for the coast's future if the state's residents are willing to adapt to the barriers' ongoing and natural processes.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and cookies and a chance to bid on the arts and crafts in our annual silent auction. Prior to the presentation by Dr. Riggs we will hear brief comments from Crossroads President, Mark Hooper, and an update from our Partner Organization, the Carteret Local Food Network.

Hands Across the Sea - Tsunami Jazz Benefit: Saturday, March 17, 2012

Not long after the devastating earthquake and Tsunami hit the north-eastern Pacific region of Japan (March 11, 2011) Don and Caroline Hoss contacted their friend, Prof. Tanaka, and said, "What can we do to help?" His surprising answer was "sponsor a Jazz benefit". Now, almost a year to the month later, that suggestion has become a reality. The talented New York Jazz duo, Japanese-born vocalist Erika, and jazz guitarist Juancho Herrera (who hails from Columbia and Venezuela) will perform at Carteret Community College on Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m. Sponsors for this event are Carteret Crossroads, Carteret Community College, Arts Council of Carteret County, and representatives from the marine science community. For tickets and information call (252) 728-3885.

Carteret County Crossroads is an all-volunteer, member supported non-profit organization dedicated to protecting our coastal environment since 1979. Please check your mailing label for membership status. As always, we appreciate your continuing support.

Crossroads 2010-11 Board:

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We invite you to join Crossroads. Tax-deductible dues are per year:
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Please return this form to: Crossroads, 210 Pensacola Ave., Morehead City NC 28557.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Carteret Local Food Network (CLFN) Update:

CLFN, our partner organization, held their annual meeting at the Duke Marine Lab Auditorium on Thursday, January 19, 2012. "Local Food is one of the hottest topics being discussed in the universities" according to a NC State senior studying to become an FFA teacher, who spoke at the recent Carteret Local Food Network meeting. Citizens from the mountains to the coast are demanding that parts of their daily food be produced with more respect for the environment by keeping harmful toxins from reaching the aquifers and marshes and naturally improving the soil's ability to nourish crops, and with more respect for the farmers whose labor coaxes these retail crops from that soil and then delivers their food to market.

"Patience and encouragement have finally paid off!" reports Catherine Elkins, CLFN president - three CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) have launched in Carteret County to complement the two CSFs (Fisheries) that currently send their product to the Triangle, and there is potential for these CSFs to develop a local CSF market, too. Supporters of local foods and produce, and those looking for more information about CSAs, CSFS, classes, workshops and community events are directed to the CLFN website, www.carteretlocalfood.org.

Crossroads News and Notes: Carteret County Crossroads is run by a 12 member Board of Directors and advised by an Advisory Council of up to 25 folks. We have some recent job changes and Nancy Vietch is stepping down from the Board; we thank her for her service as Secretary to the Board. John Merriner has agreed to fill that position. Founding member Irv Hooper is stepping down as Treasurer, and Ron While has agreed to fill that position. If you are interested in serving on the Board or Council please let me know, Mark Hooper, mhooper9@ec.rr.com, 2252-729-2521.

We especially would like to thank Irv who has worked tirelessly for this organization. On our Facebook page, Carteret County Crossroads, we put up a photo collection, which runs across the top of the page, on his 90th birthday to honor his service with these words: Irv, thanks for your efforts to ensure we have clean air, clear water, and healthy natural systems. Thanks for your vision and dedication; you are an incredible role model. We all need to follow your example and slow down, open our eyes, and take a close look at the natural beauty around us and work hard to protect it.

Message from Crossroads President, Mark Hooper: Decisions 2012

In the coming year, we are following a number of important issues. There continues to be active discussion on the topic an Offshore Wind Energy Industry in North Carolina. The Sierra Club has presented information to local government and civic organizations and a public forum is scheduled for February 7, 2012, as noted in this newsletter. This issue has been debated in our local newspaper through editorials and letters to the Editor. The John Locke Society has presented information at a public forum against the development of Wind Energy. Carteret County Crossroads' mission in this discussion is to ensure that reliable and accurate information is presented on this topic.

There is also discussion surrounding Climate Change issues. It has been predicted that with increasing CO₂ levels we will see warming temperatures, an increase in sea level, and increasing effects from storm events. As we live in a county dominated by estuarine waters, any rise in sea level will have a real effect on us. If there is increased storm activity, this will be felt by the residents of this county.

We are seeing two responses to this topic, one from local elected government officials and another from individuals. Our leaders seemingly hope this will all go away as it is bad for business as usual. Individuals on the other hand are acknowledging the potential for increasing sea levels and higher storm activity. Houses are being raised; as we rebuild water dependent structures, we are thinking that we must plan for higher storm surge water levels than we have seen in the past. Docks are being re-built using concrete slabs, and water pumps and mechanical gear are being raised to higher levels.

On the topic of Wind Energy development and Climate Change there seems to be some local debate as to who has the expertise on these issues. Our county is home to nationally recognized Marine Science facilities; UNC, NC State, Duke, NOAA, and the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. Researchers at these labs are leading the way on research on both of these major topics. We must acknowledge their expertise and encourage them to speak out and be involved in these important issues on a local level.

Crossroads will continue to seek the best possible science on these topics and insist that the fundamental issues of sustainability and stewardship are also addressed. Please join us at our 32nd Annual meeting to hear Dr. Stan Riggs from East Carolina University speak on the future shape of the coastal zone in North Carolina.
