

# Crossroads

## Stormwater runoff.

Slowly but surely, our county is moving toward protecting water quality by limiting polluted runoff. The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) has included Morehead City and Atlantic Beach in the Phase II requirements and Emerald Isle is being considered for Phase II designation.

The EMC is working on a set of Coastal Stormwater Rules that would cover the entire coastal area of our state. These rules would be, in our opinion, the most effective way to improve our water quality. They will be brought to public hearing this fall and will undoubtedly be vigorously opposed by some of our local government officials and the Economic Development Council, who have steadfastly failed to recognize the necessity of maintaining our environmental quality as essential to the economic life of our community. **It will be vital for the public to support the adoption of these rules in the public hearings. We will keep you informed.**

The EMC has also adopted the Universal Stormwater Management Plan (USMP) which can be adopted by any local government and which will satisfy all state requirements for stormwater control.

Meanwhile the local communities are moving to develop their own regulations to protect water quality from stormwater runoff.

Beaufort has just passed a stormwater ordinance which is similar to the USMP.

Emerald Isle has had for several years an excellent stormwater ordinance that they feel produces as good results as Phase II.

Newport is working on a stormwater ordinance. They also had ten demonstration rain gardens installed in Newport by the Craven County Agriculture Extension Service and NCSU.

## Help wanted!

Our web site was developed and is maintained by Sally Anger. She now needs to cut back on this work and we hope that someone will volunteer to take on this job. Sally is willing to help anyone interested in taking over. **So, if you have an interest and some knowl-**

**An ounce of prevention...** The latest issue of The Chesapeake Bay Journal shows how difficult it is to reverse water quality degradation in our estuaries. After twenty years of effort the program to improve the health of the Bay has had minimal success. Water clarity has worsened; dissolved oxygen has improved slightly; nitrogen and phosphorous levels don't show any long term trends. Another report gives the Bay a grade of D+. Undoubtedly a major problem has been the increasing density of development in the area. One conclusion is that it is much easier to prevent loss of water quality than it is to reverse the process. Local government officials, please take note!

**Wasted Water.** A WaterSense Factoid from the EPA states that the amount of water leaking from plumbing fixtures in U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons a year. Water leaked still requires electricity to pump, supply and treat it, but it's not being used beneficially. That's a real waste of energy resources! If one out of every ten American homes addressed their leaky plumbing fixtures, not only would it save lots of water but it could also save more than 400 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, avoiding approximately 315,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That's equivalent to taking nearly 55,000 cars off the road. For more information, check <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>

**Dead Zones.** EPA Nonpoint Source News-Notes, May 2007 states that the number of "Dead Zones" is increasing worldwide. Recent scientific estimates indicate that the number of 'dead zones,' or low-oxygen areas, in the world's seas and oceans may have climbed to 200, up from an estimated 149 dead zones in 2004. Scientists believe a dead zone is caused by an overabundance of nutrients entering the waterbody, which triggers excessive algal growth, which in turn results in reduced sunlight, loss of aquatic habitat, and a decrease in oxygen dissolved in the water. Low oxygen levels in the water make it difficult for fish and other aquatic species to survive. Professor Robert Diaz at the College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science

cation of her impact that the position she advocated is still being debated.

### **Why recycle?**

The following article was provided by Theresa Morton who is a new Board member. She is a Carteret County native who had two former Crossroads Board members, Meg Rawls and Penny Hooper, as teachers at the Community College. She received a Bachelor of Science in Community & Justice Studies from Guildford College, Greensboro, NC.

Besides Crossroads, she works with Carteret County Partnership for Children, Communities in Schools, Crystal Coast Roots & Shoots and Crystal Coast Unity. She enjoys nature and volunteering and is a strong supporter of many local organizations including NC Coastal Federation.

### **Easy way to save trees.**

Say No to Junk Mail.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources wants you to know that you can save trees by Saying No to Junk Mail. For each ton of junk mail, 17 trees are destroyed. This fact is provided by the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. Junk mail not only uses valuable natural resources but also fills our precious land field space and contributes to pollution. You can 'Opt-Out' of being on Junk Mail mailing lists by going to: [www.p2pays.org/main/junk.asp](http://www.p2pays.org/main/junk.asp). This web site can assist you with 2 easy steps that will only take a few minutes. The first step is to complete a short 'Mail Preference Service Form' which you can fill out on line or mail in. The second step is to call an '800' number (888-567-8688). It is that easy. Take a few minutes and let's save some trees.

### **Crossroads news.**

Ron White, another new Board member, has a varied career. He has a BS 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

small marina in Morehead City and still offer environmental trips aboard their sailing vessel Good Fortune.

Please look at you mailing label to determine if your dues are up to date. We thank all of you who have paid their current dues.