

ANN CARTER, interviewed by Glenn Blackburn on December 21, 2009. Ann was on the Federation's Board in the late 1980s and served as Treasurer for a time. Then, she was President of the Coastal Federation from 1990 to 1994 and was Vice-President for a short while after that. She also served a term as President of Carteret County Crossroads . She lives in Beaufort and is a long-time member of the Federation.

When asked what the Federation was like in the early 1990s, Ann said that there was a lot of volunteer activity. The organization was good at empowering volunteers. The staff of the Federation would usually give some directions to volunteers working on a particular project and then encourage the volunteers to work on their own. Volunteers did a lot of work involving water quality issues in the South River and the North River. Another big issue at the time was developers trying to put marinas in shellfish waters. Still another issue was stormwater runoff.

Ann said that she often worked at Federation headquarters two-three days a week while she was President. Among other things, she wrote most of the Pelican Pete inserts for the *Coastal Review's*. Ted Odell, Treasurer of the Federation, also spent a lot of time working at headquarters during those years.

Ann emphasized that Todd Miller was the driving force in the Federation during her presidency. She said that Todd is an "exceptionable individual." He is quiet and soft-spoken and inspires strong loyalty. He was so knowledgeable that the Board usually went along with his opinions and decisions. The Board members were committed to Todd and believed in him. (Ann noted in passing that several important Federation people -- Todd, Derb Carter, and Bob Hall -- are very much alike in that they are very smart, but also easy-going. They are not flamboyant, but they get things done.)

Todd was, in Ann's view, a "genius" at getting grant money. He writes beautifully on grant proposals and has an absolute commitment to the issues. Foundations trust him, because he tells the truth. And, the Federation has always been careful about managing money.

In addition to Todd, the staff during Ann's tenure included Jim Kennedy as Environmental Scientist. He was often out of the office lobbying on stormwater regulations. Also, there was Neil Armingeon as Project Director, Lena Ritter as Community Educator, and Donna Agnew as Development Director. Ann said that Donna was particularly good at organizing and publicizing events. Randy Mason became Operations Manager around 1992 and then Education Director after Lena retired. Ann stressed that Randy did a great job with the education programs and helped expand the educational outreach of the Federation. In particular, he organized boat tours for visitors to the coast and helped establish nature trails. He also did a lot of the physical work on the Federation's new headquarters at Ocean. Ann added that Lauren Kolodij and Jo Ann Marsh joined the Federation staff in the early 1990s and that Frank Tursi was writing major articles on the coast for the *Winston-Salem Journal* at that time.

The general goal of the Federation in the early 1990s was to balance environmental protection and growth, according to Ann. A lot of developers were hostile to the Federation, but the Federation did manage to work cooperatively with a few realtors and developers. The Federation was good at

opposing developers quietly, when it was necessary. Todd worked quietly with developers and could rally the troops at the right time. He was particularly good at getting all the necessary information -- the facts of the case -- and distributing it to people.

When asked about any weaknesses or failures of the Federation, Ann said that the Federation has become so big that it has lost the "hands-on" touch. The growth of the organization may be necessary, but something is lost as it grows. However, Ann believes that as long as Todd is there, the Federation will do what needs to be done. The big question is what happens when Todd leaves.

A strength of the Federation, in Ann's view, is that many people love the coast. They love the water, the sun, the fishing, the seafood, etc. And, many people have a feeling of getting a reprieve from reality when they visit the coast.

A big issue that needs to be addressed, in Ann's opinion, is that the traditional coastal culture -- the music, the lifestyle, the communities -- is disappearing. The coastal culture has been so diluted by all the people moving to the coast that it is dying. Could the Federation do something to keep the memory of the old coastal culture alive? We need to be aware that a culture is disappearing.

With regard to the issues of global warming and sea level rise, Ann said that the Federation needs to emphasize a positive approach. The Federation should be careful about getting on the global warming bandwagon. However, sea level rise is a reality on the coast and is affecting a lot of people, so the Federation should take a positive approach toward helping people cope with sea level rise.

On the question of whether there is any connection between people's religious beliefs and their environmental concerns, Ann said that the two aren't necessarily connected. You don't have to have formal religion to care about the coast. Many people feel a strong sense of stewardship for the coast.

In conclusion, Ann stressed that the Coastal Federation is a "citizen empowerment" organization. It is a very "democratic" organization, with people from all walks of life working together. Respect for the Federation is widespread.