DENR staff recognized for sustainability efforts

By Chris Frazier
DENR Sustainability Team

Winners of the 2009 Sustainability Awards were honored at the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources' managers' meeting in January. The awards honor department employees for going above and beyond their regular job assignments to promote sustainable practices at work.

Honorees were selected from among 23 nominations. The winners were:

Group Project: Winner – The Diversity Council

Left to right: Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team), Lyn Hardison (DENR Diversity Committee), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary).

The committee was recognized for coordinating the "Bead for Life" events, providing an alternative to the purchase of unsustainable jewelry while creating a sustainable livelihood for Ugandan women.

Group Project: 2nd Place – The E2 Workgroup

Left to right: Jerren Rogers, Victoria Tillotson, Darren England, and Sarah Morrison (DENR E2 Workgroup), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary), Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team)

This award is for an E2 project that organized volunteer DENR employees at Jordan Lake State Park to clear away an invasive plant that impairs bird habitats.

Individual Large Project: Winner – John McDonald

Left to right: Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team), Mary Joan Pugh and John McDonald (N.C. Zoo), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary).

By purchasing reject oil pipeline steel and using in-house construction resources, John was able to save the zoo more than $1 million during renovations of the elephant and African plains exhibits.

Individual Large Project: 2nd Place (two winners) Sushma Masemore and Janine Nicholson

Left to right: Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team), Sushma Masemore and Sheila Holman (N.C. Division of Air Quality), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary).

Sushma coordinated with DENR divisions and sections to fulfill DENR's reporting obligations to the Climate Registry, a nonprofit organization collecting greenhouse gas emission information.

Left to right: Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team), David Knight (DENR assistant secretary), Janine Nicholson (Office of Conservation and Community Affairs), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary).

Janine stepped up to coordinate DENR's requirements under the Utility Savings Initiative and made sure the department's Energy Plan was submitted to the State Energy Office.

Individual Small Project: Winner – Brian Conrad

Left to right: Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team), Louis Daniel and William Conrad (N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary).

From December 2008 through September 2009, Brian composted 312 pounds of wet coffee grounds and filters from the Morehead City Office, diverting these materials from the landfill.

Individual Small Project: 2nd Place – Brandon Whitesell

Left to right: Angie Tate (DENR Sustainability Team), Brandon Whitesell (Office of Public Affairs), Dee Freeman (DENR secretary).

Brandon raised DENR employees' awareness of the "Ecofont," an ink-saving font that delivers clear, readable copy, but uses 20 percent less ink than conventional fonts, saving money and cartridges.

The Sustainability Team congratulates all the winners of the 2009 Sustainability Awards and encourages all DENR employees to continue to think “outside the box” for ideas to support a more sustainable workplace and a more sustainable world.