

## **DENR staff recognized for sustainability efforts**

The DENR Sustainability Committee received a whopping 24 nominations for the 2008 Sustainability Awards. Winners were announced at the Jan. 6 Managers' Meeting and presented by former DENR Secretary Bill Ross. And the award goes to:

### **Group Project: Winner - N.C. Zoo – Horticulture Section**



Left to right: John Seymour and Victoria Tillotson (DENR Sustainability Team), Stephen Moore (N.C. Zoo), Kevin Wood, (N.C. Zoo), Bill Ross (former DENR secretary).

The zoo installed an automatic irrigation control system to better manage water use in animal exhibits, saving 3.33 million gallons of water and \$27,852 in water costs the first year.

### **Group Project: Runner Up – N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation**



Left to right: John Seymour and Victoria Tillotson (DENR Sustainability Team), Erin Lawrence (N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation), Don Reuter (N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation), Bill Ross (former DENR secretary).

The Parks and Recreation division won runner up for its multi-pronged sustainability efforts, ranging from alternative fuel use to green construction practices for new building and retrofitting older ones using more energy efficient and recycled fixtures and materials.

### **Individual Large Project: Winner – Rachel Eckert**



Left to right: John Seymour and Victoria Tillotson (DENR Sustainability Team), Rachel Eckert (N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance), Bill Ross (former DENR secretary).

Rachel reenergized, reorganized and revamped the N.C. Project Green program. NC Project Green assists local and state government in their efforts to become more sustainable. In 2008, NC Project Green held six statewide meetings to kickoff the new effort and held one “Green Your Fleet” meeting.

### **Individual Large Project: Runner Up – Justin Welker and Jacob Boyd**



Left to right: John Seymour and Victoria Tillotson (DENR Sustainability Team), Justin Welker (N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries), Jacob Boyd (N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries), and Bill Ross (former DENR secretary).

Justin and Jacob with the Division of Marine Fisheries initiated a monofilament gill net webbing recycling program. The recycled monofilament gill net webbing is made into fish attractors which are returned to the division and used to enhance fish habitat. The project reduces the amount of monofilament in the landfills and also in our rivers, sounds and oceans.

### **Individual Small Project: Winner – William W. Jones, Sr.**



Left to right: John Seymour and Victoria Tillotson (DENR Sustainability Team), William Jones (N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation), Bill Ross (former DENR secretary), Addison Moore (Jones' grandson), Rosemary Jones (wife), William Jr. (son).

William constructed and installed a cistern behind a new maintenance building to store and recycle collected rainwater for use for vehicle washing and landscape watering.

### **Individual Small Project: Runner Up – Jerry Dorset**

Winston-Salem Regional Office's Jerry Dorset's project went the extra mile to organize local governments to pass regulations and set up programs that help farmland owners and the environment on a more hands-on level than is currently employed.

This year, judges of the Sustainability Awards recommended that two additional awards be presented. The "Creating a Culture of Sustainability" award was presented to Jill Pafford, an environmental engineer in DENR, and Bill Laxton, DENR's deputy secretary, for their tireless efforts devoted to the Green Square project.



Left to right: John Seymour and Victoria Tillotson (DENR Sustainability Team), Deputy Secretary Bill Laxton, Jill Pafford (Secretary's Office), Bill Ross (former DENR secretary).