

PenderWatch Announces Creation of Award and Fund

Don Ellson, president of PenderWatch & Conservancy, announced the creation of the Inez Bradt Environmental Stewardship award and Inez Bradt Environmental Education Fund at the environmental organization's annual meeting.

Ellson presented Bradt with the initial award in the shape of a sun symbolizing, said Ellson, "a beacon of hope and the beauty created when nature is preserved."

Bradt's legacy begins nearly a quarter of a century ago, when she began the North Carolina Big Sweep clean-up program in Pender County . She now serves as volunteer director in Pender County , as well as on the NC Big Sweep Board. Through the Big Sweep initiative, beaches and public areas are maintained. Documented data sent to the Ocean Conservancy inspired legislation to prevent inappropriate disposal of medical waste.

Bradt is the founder and volunteer director of Pender Pride, an environmental awareness program in Pender County , regularly writing articles for local papers and running contests in the schools.

Ellson recognized Bradt's "many years of energetic dedication to preserving the environment of Pender County ." She spent three active years on the PenderWatch Board, he said, and generously supported our beach cleanup program on Lea and Hutaff Islands .

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Ellson quoted "Miss Inez," as many know Bradt, in saying: "Life is a gift. We are here as stewards of this planet and have a responsibility to future generations for the legacy we leave."

PenderWatch's Inez Bradt Environmental Stewardship Award will be given on a discretionary basis to individuals or groups demonstrating exemplary environmental stewardship and volunteerism in Pender County .

The Inez Bradt Environmental Education Fund goes to education and outreach activities such as the planned nature trail near Hampstead Kiwanis Park or school programs.

Ellson invited Bradt's input on the fund direction.

For further information on PenderWatch or to become a member, call 270-3839, or sign up for PenderWatch e-notification by e-mailing vufinder@charter.net.