



Employee Of The Year

STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Public health nurse Diane Cavenaugh accepts the Brunswick County Health Department's first annual Employee of the Year award from health board member Dr. Jeffrey Mintz last Monday night. Cavenaugh, a child health worker who spearheaded the department's immunization program, was nominated by fellow employees and approved by a Board of Health committee. Her name will be the first engraved on a plaque in the health department that will recognize the superior job performance of one worker each year.

173 ACRES OWNED ON ISLAND

State Completes Acquisition Of Bald Head Maritime Forest

North Carolina has completed its acquisition of a tract of maritime forest land on Bald Head Island.

The state recently acquired 44 acres of maritime forest on Bald Head Island, bringing the acres of state-owned land on the island to 173. The site contains some features unique among North Carolina maritime forests, and its subtropical climate provides the northernmost home for some animals and plants, said a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

The Bald Head forest is the seventh component of the N.C. Coastal Reserve. The Coastal Reserve program, part of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, protects natural areas for research, education and compatible public uses.

This is the second acquisition phase at Bald Head Island. In 1993, the state acquired 128.4 acres of maritime forest and wetlands on the island with \$4.3 million

in grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Natural Heritage Trust Fund. Property donations from Bald Head Island Ltd. bring the total value of the acquisition to \$5.3 million.

North Carolina also gained ownership of a 20-acre complex of small islands as part of the recent acquisition. That land will be added to the Bald Head Island Natural Area managed by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

The Nature Conservancy's North Carolina Chapter handled negotiations for the property, which the state began acquiring in 1993.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit membership organization which locates, protects and maintains ecosystems, communities and species native to the state. The chapter has protected 365,315 acres of North Carolina lands and wetlands.

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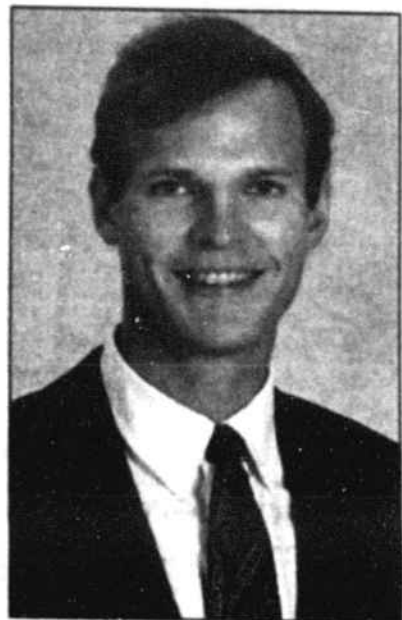
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