

In fond memory of Nick Williams, beloved defender of the coast and Center board president.

The Center's board and staff were saddened to hear of the death of our board president and friend, Nick Williams, a resident of Vernonburg, near Savannah. Nick passed away on February 21 from respiratory illness complications.

Three years ago Nick joined the board of the Center for a Sustainable Coast, and at the time of his death he was serving as board president. During his service to the Center, the staff, board members, and advisors developed a genuine fondness for Nick as well as a deep respect for his abiding dedication to the conservation of Georgia's coastal environment. He will be missed as both a committed environmental advocate and colleague.

In the late 1960s and early seventies, Nick played a leading role in stopping the city of Savannah from polluting the Vernon River through successful legal action. In recent years, he resumed his battle to defend water quality through work on the Vernon River Committee. To protect wildlife habitats and the natural landscape, Nick and his wife, Suzie, put their Vernon River homesite as well as their Highlands, North Carolina property into conservation easements, and encouraged others to follow their example.

Nick's strong interest in coastal environmental issues led to his appointment by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to an advisory group in efforts to develop rules for the Marshlands Protection Act in 2005. The following year he was asked to serve on a related group advising DNR about requirements for docks and marinas.



Nick Williams (1927 – 2008)

Consistent with Nick's generous nature and his concern for safeguarding coastal Georgia, he left word with his family that he wanted donations made in his memory to go toward supporting of the Center for a Sustainable Coast.

In recognition of Nick's service to the Center and his renowned environmental convictions, we are creating an award program in his honor. Starting this year and in the years ahead, an annual Nick Williams Coastal Georgia Sustainability Award will give credit to deserving individuals and groups for their valued efforts to conserve and sustain the treasured natural resources that are so essential to our quality of life in coastal Georgia. We invite you to submit nominations for the award after our new program is formally announced.

It is worthwhile to live and fight courageously for sacred ideals.

~ [Norbert Capek](#)

