

Jay Carter, Dr. Jay H. Carter III & Associates, Inc.

The Sandhills of North Carolina, particularly the Southern Pines and Pinehurst areas and their surrounding residential and golf communities, are a challenging environment in which to conserve red-cockaded woodpeckers. In spite of the challenges, or more likely because of them, Jay Carter has, for at least the last 25 years, taken on those challenges. Jay has lived and worked in the North Carolina Sandhills all of his adult life and one cannot discuss red-cockaded woodpecker management or conservation in the Sandhills without invoking Jay's name.

Unsatisfied with the complex conservation challenges in the urban and wood lot settings of the Sandhills, Jay, during the past decade has expanded his work area to include the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and even Louisiana. Jay has a reputation for getting involved in the most ecologically challenging, politically complex and potentially controversial red-cockaded woodpecker projects in the southeast. I know, I have to deal with all of these same projects as the recovery coordinator and federal regulator. And I am always pleased to find out that Jay is the wildlife consultant for the agency, corporation or individual involved. Why? Because I know, although at first it may appear illusive, we will find common ground among the affected parties and an ecologically sound solution for woodpeckers. Jay is a skilled negotiator, who uses his strong ecological background to design and implement solutions to some of our most pressing and challenging red-cockaded woodpecker and conservation issues on public and private land. He is a champion for recovery in every sense of the word. We are pleased to present you this award. Thank you Jay.