



The Dare County Employee of the Year for 2003 is Clyde Gard. Solid Waste Management Superintendent. Cliff Ogburn, Dare County Employee of the Year for 2002 and Chairman of the County's 2003 Employee of the Month Committee, presented the award at the Board of Commissioners meeting on January 5th. Gard received a wedged prism award, five days of vacation, and will serve as Chairman of the County's Employee of the Month Committee for 2004.

Gard has worked with Dare County since 1982 when he became a truck driver. In June of 1999 he was promoted to Landfill Superintendent and currently holds the position as Solid Waste Management Superintendent. He is responsible for the Buxton and Manteo Transfer Stations, the Dare County Construction and Demolition Landfill, the Dare County Dirt Pit, the Old Sanitary Landfill in East Lake and all the County's heavy equipment. He also oversees 18 employees, is currently responsible for the storm debris clean-up, and according to Gard, "still sleeps six hours a night."

"He is a working supervisor who has earned the respect of his peers and those he supervises by putting his heart into every project," said Ogburn before presenting the award. "Clyde has forged a reputation based on integrity, honesty, and fairness. According to his co-workers 'It is a distinct honor and privilege to work along side this man and to know him as a co-worker and friend.' He has been called the 'go-to guy' and whenever folks in his department don't know how to do or fix something, they call Clyde. He personifies what the citizens of Dare County want in their government employees."

Gard and his wife Robin have three children, Lisa, Timothy and Samantha, as well as two grandchildren, Sidney and Bailey. Gard has also been Chief of the Manns Harbor Volunteer Fire Department since 2000 and was a charter member when it was first organized in 1976.

"I'm very pleased and honored that I would be selected as Employee of the Year," Gard said. "I'm just a small part in the wheel. I have a good staff and co-workers. That's what makes it work."

Gard was selected Employee of the Year by the selection committee who reviewed information about each Employee of the Month recipient for the entire year.