



Coastal Happenings May 2014

Dear Friend of the Coast,

While much attention has focused on the incredible journey and preparation of our new Education Center in Wrightsville Beach, we're now turning our attention to work and an exciting menu of new programs. The southeast staff has big plans. From cooking classes and touch tanks to fascinating speakers, the staff has a great line-up of programs that take advantage of the center's 3,500 square feet.

We're especially excited that Joanna Cole is visiting on June 7 to share her latest book, *The Magic SchoolBus* and the Climate Challenge. It'll be a big ice cream party with games for children, a reading from Joanna and a book signing.

Of course, there are great programs taking place coast-wide that highlight the uniqueness of the three coastal regions. Check out our calendar and plan to join us this summer. We're sure you'll have fun while you learn something new. We hope to see you soon!

North Carolina Coastal Federation staff

[Stanbacks Honored](#)

The doors to the long-awaited Center opened in Wrightsville Beach Saturday. Todd Miller announced to the group gathered for the ribbon cutting, "The Center is named for one of North Carolina's great environmental families. The support that Fred and Alice Stanback provide to the Coastal Federation and the environmental movement in the state makes a huge difference. We can't begin to adequately express our thanks for what they have done and are doing to make the entire state a healthy and better place to live."

Coastal Review Online

Here is your [Monthly Summary](#) of articles from our online news service.



COMING EVENTS

May

14
Coastal Speaker Series
Wrightsville Beach

15
Director's Social
Chapel Hill

17
Charity Yoga
Nags Head

18
White Oak River
Birding Cruise
Hammocks Beach State
Park
Swansboro

20
Touch Tank Tuesday



Wrightsville Beach

20 & 21
Shoreline Planting
Jones Island
Swansboro*

27, 29
Coastal Cruises
Hammocks Beach State
Park
Swansboro



Senator Whitehouse Visits NC coast

The Coastal Federation hosted a visit by climate change crusader [Sheldon Whitehouse](#). The Democrat from Rhode Island has been trying to persuade his colleagues in the U.S. Senate to awaken to the dangers of climate change. He came to North Carolina last week to see and learn first-hand about the research being done on climate change's effects and to see what communities are doing to adapt.

Native Plant Sale

An assortment of trees, shrubs and flowers are still available. Members are welcome to drop by the Ocean headquarters Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



Wetlands Ditched in Pamlico County

It's been six months since the Pamlico County Board



June

3,5,10,12,17,19,24 & 26
Coastal Cruises
Hammocks Beach State
Park
Swansboro

5
Coastal Adventures
Wrightsville Beach

5, 12, 19 & 26
Boat the Bay
Manteo

7
Magic School Bus
Wrightsville Beach

10 & 24
Marsh Cruise
Hammocks Beach State
Park
Swansboro

11
Coastal Speaker Series
Wrightsville Beach

11 & 25
Huggins Island Cleanup

of Commissioners first wrote Colonel Steven Baker at the Wilmington District of the Corps of Engineers expressing its concern over widespread ditching of forested wetlands on a 4,600 acre parcel of land near the Neuse River in Pamlico County. After seeing even more ditching without permits and getting no explanation from the Colonel, the frustrated county sent another letter on April 8 directly to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy (with copies to its Congressional delegation) asking for her to look into what was occurring on the property. The county pointed out in its letter that EPA and NOAA recently released a report that showed continued unacceptable losses of these types of forested wetlands throughout the Southeastern U.S., and that clearly this was occurring because neither EPA nor the Corps was enforcing the existing legal safeguards for these types of wetlands.

The federation has been helping the county to draw attention to this massive loss of wetlands that are being drained into the primary nursery areas of the Pamlico Sound which is an estuary of national concern to the nation. [Read the full story.](#)



River City YouthBuild

The federation and YouthBuild students installed a cistern and rain garden at the Elizabeth City YouthBuild building. These Low Impact Development (LID) tools will work together to capture runoff from the building and filter it before it enters the traditional stormwater system. Students received training in siting and sizing LID features and then excavated and prepped the site. The YouthBuild program is run by River City Community Development Corp., a national program focused on helping at-risk young people ages 16 to 24. This [project](#) is funded by the Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities Program, Creating New Economies Fund.

Hammocks Beach State Park
Swansboro*



16 & 30
Summer Day Camp
Jones Island
Swansboro

17
Touch Tank Tuesday
Wrightsville Beach

18
Oyster Reef
Construction
Jones Island
Swansboro*

24-27
Service in Science
Summer Camp
Jennette's Pier
Nags Head

28
Kayak/Yoga Trip
Swansboro

* Volunteers needed

Visit our
calendar
for full details.





Maysville Students Study Coastal Habitats

Federation staff took third and fourth graders from Maysville Elementary School to Bear Island by ferry to learn about habitats. For many it was their first time on a boat and for some their first beach visit. The highlight? Having dolphins escort the ferry. This federation education [project](#) is funded through the Harold H. Bate Foundation in New Bern.

Coastal Cruises

Every Tuesday and Thursday this summer members can explore the central coast and learn about local history and wildlife. Choose from a Trawling Adventure, Dolphin Watch, and a Shelling and White Oak River Expedition.

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North Carolina Coastal Federation

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Covering the coast with offices in Manteo, Ocean and Wrightsville Beach

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