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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wal-Mart Partners with N.C Coastal Federation for Kitty Hawk Elementary Rain Garden Planting

Kitty Hawk, N.C.—Thanks to Wal-Mart, a “living classroom” will be built at Kitty Hawk Elementary School on Friday, May 22 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wal-Mart and the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) are teaming up with the Dare County schools to install a rain garden on the school grounds. School students will work alongside Wal-Mart employee volunteers, getting their hands dirty and learning how they can help protect the coast.

This is the fifth rain garden Wal-Mart has helped to build along the North Carolina coast.

Rain gardens are simple and effective methods for preventing polluted stormwater runoff and coastal flooding. Also known as bioretention areas, rain gardens are small depressions planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers that collect, store, and infiltrate stormwater runoff before it enters a local waterway. These methods are effective because they mimic the natural hydrology of the land. Rain gardens also provide aesthetically pleasing landscaping, natural habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife and promote sustainable design practices while encouraging environmental stewardship and community pride.

NCCF Coastal Outreach Specialist Sara Jean Hallas gave classroom lessons to 85 fifth grade students at Kitty Hawk Elementary to help them understand the local watershed and prepare them to build and take care of the rain garden. The four fifth grade teachers will be able to use the rain garden with classroom activities that support the N.C. Standard Course of Study, as well as an outdoor living classroom for the students to take ownership in.

For more information or to volunteer for this event please contact Sara Jean Hallas (NCCF) at sarajh@nccoast.org (252) 473 1607

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation: “Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast”

The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) is the state's largest nonprofit organization working to restore and protect the coast. NCCF headquarters are located at 3609 Highway 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

The headquarters include NCCF's main offices, the Cape Lookout Coastkeeper office, a gift shop, Nature Library, Weber Seashell Exhibit, ShoreKeeper Learning Center, and adjoining nature trail. The NCCF also operates field offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org