



North Carolina Coastal Federation | 3609 Hwy 24 (Ocean) | Newport, NC 28570
Phone: 252-393-8185 | Fax: 252-393-7508 | Email: nccf@nccoast.org | Web: <http://www.nccoast.org>

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sarah Phillips
Phone: 252.393.8185 x117
Email: sarahp@nccoast.org

Community Marsh Planting Set for Jones Island

Ocean, N.C. - Strong storms and wind-driven tides have chewed into the shoreline of Jones Island in the White Oak River near Swansboro over the years causing considerable erosion. On Saturday, May 30, the N.C. Coastal Federation and volunteers will lend a hand to help fix the erosion problem by helping to create a “living shoreline” on the island.

Living shorelines are alternatives to bulkheads and other hardened structures that typically armor our coastline, killing the natural functions of the marsh. The living shoreline project will help stabilize the island’s eroding shoreline by helping to restore valuable marsh habitat.

The N.C. Coastal Federation will work with volunteers to plant 10,000 smooth cordgrass plants (*Spartina alterniflora*) along the shoreline of Jones Island from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Jones Island is one of those special places that will now be protected forever. The federation bought a portion of the island through a grant from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund in 2007 and donated it to Hammocks Beach State Park. N.C. Audubon, which owned an adjoining tract, also donated its land to the park. About 70 percent of the island is now permanently protected and designated a White Oak River Clean Water Preserve.

The federation’s planting on May 30 is just one of many events planned for the island this spring and summer. On June 15, an oyster sill will be built to work in conjunction with the planted shoreline to provide habitat for baby oysters and other fish and education programs led by the federation and Hammocks Beach State Park are being planned for the summer.

The media is invited to attend the May 30 and other planned events on Jones Island. We will offer ferry transportation Saturday from Hammocks Beach State Park maintenance dock to Jones Island and back. Please wear closed-toed shoes and casual, outdoor dress

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The N.C. Coastal Federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. Its headquarters and central regional office are at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro. The federation also has a Northeast Regional Office in Manteo and a Southeast Regional Office in Wilmington. For more information or to join call 252-393-8185 or visit the federation's website at www.nccoast.org