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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wal-Mart To Help Build Rain Garden at Alderman

Wilmington, NC – Thanks to Wal-Mart, a “living classroom” will be built at Edwin A. Alderman Elementary School. Wal-Mart and the North Carolina Coastal Federation are teaming up with the New Hanover County Schools to install a rain garden on the school grounds. The project was announced on Friday, March 13 at 10 a.m. during a check presentation at the school on Independence Avenue in Wilmington. This is the fourth rain garden that Wal-Mart has helped to build along the North Carolina coast.

Diana Gardener, market manager for Wal-Mart, explained, “Wal-Mart is committed to environmental sustainability. We think it’s good for the environment, good for business and good for the communities in which we work. Rain gardens reduce pollution while teaching students how they can become proactive in protecting the environment. As a living classroom, the rain garden will continue to grow and be there for future classes to enjoy learning. “

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.

The school is located in the Hewlett's Creek watershed. Federation educators will work with the students and teachers in the classroom to help them understand the local watershed and prepare them to build and take care of the rain garden. The classroom activities support the N.C. Standard Course of Study. Construction and installation of the project is planned for September. Students, teachers, Wal-Mart volunteers, federation staff and volunteers will plant the gardens in October.

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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 only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. 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, Nature Library, Weber Seashell Exhibit, ShoreKeeper Learning Center, and adjoining nature trail. The NCCF also operates regional offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org