



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 5, 2010

Contact: Sara J. Hallas
Phone: 252.473.1607
Email: sarajh@nccoast.org

Eat Some Oysters Then Help Bag the Shells

NAGS HEAD --Volunteers are invited to help bag recycled oyster shells that will be used in an ongoing shoreline restoration project at Jockey's Ridge State Park.

The bagging will take place Saturday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Jockey's Ridge visitors' center during the annual George Barnes Valentine's Day Oyster Reef and Roast. The roast is hosted by the Friends of Jockey's Ridge State Park. Last year close to 100 volunteers attended the event, named in honor of a retired park superintendent.

The park is working with the N.C. Coastal Federation to restore portions of its eroding estuarine shoreline. Part of the restoration includes building an oyster sill, using recycled oyster shells. The sill will protect the shoreline from waves until planted marsh grasses mature and stabilize the shoreline. This is the second phase of the project. A grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership is paying for the work.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Justin Barnes at Jockey's Ridge at 252-441-7132 or at justin.barnes@ncdenr.gov or the federation's Sara Jean Hallas at 252-473-1607 or at sarajh@nccoast.org.

Caption for attached photo: Volunteers from the Friends of Jockey's Ridge fill mesh bags with recycled oyster shells at last year's George Barnes Valentine's Day Oyster Reef and Roast. The bags will be used to restore eroded shoreline at Jockey's Ridge State Park.

###