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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jones Island Work Day Planned

OCEAN – Don your work boots for the first in a series of yearlong volunteer activities to help protect the White Oak River.

Volunteers will meet at Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m. for the N.C. Coastal Federation's first volunteer activity of the year in its Central Region. They will boat to Jones Island, a 22-acre island at the mouth of the White Oak River. The volunteers will work with federation and park staff to clear brush, trim trees and shrubs, clean up trash around the island and perform basic building maintenance.

Volunteers will be working on Jones Island throughout the year, especially in the spring and summer, to help complete oyster and shoreline restoration projects. The work will include stabilizing eroding shorelines with marsh plants and filling bags with oyster shells that will be used to build a sill to help protect the newly planted shoreline. The shoreline and sill will provide important habitat for fish and shellfish, protect the shoreline from erosion and help protect water quality in the White Oak River.

Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes to January's work day and weather-appropriate clothes that could get dirty. Snacks and drinks will be provided. All ages are invited, though children under 13 need a parent or chaperone with them. If you are interested in helping or need more information, please contact Sarah Phillips at 252-393-8185 or sarahp@nccoast.org. Space is limited on the boat, so please RSVP.

The federation acquired much of the uninhabited island in 2005 and donated it to Hammocks Beach. The park and the non-profit group are currently working to start an environmental education center on the island and plan to offer programming there this summer.

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

The North Carolina 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. The federation’s Central Regional Office is in our headquarters building at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro. The federation also operates regional offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out our website at www.nccoast.org