



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students to Restore Wetlands along Stump Sound

WILMINGTON – Students and teachers from Roland Grise Middle School in Wilmington will take their classroom lessons outside as they work to restore wetlands along the shoreline of Stump Sound.

The students will join N.C. Coastal Federation staff to plant over 3,000 salt marsh grass seedlings at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Holly Ridge on Tuesday, May 18. The planting was originally scheduled for May 4 but was rained out.

The restoration will be the final component for the students' year-long project focused on wetlands. The project incorporates classroom lessons and experiments, fieldtrips to local salt marshes and a student-supervised nursery for wetland plant seedlings at the school.

The students and teachers will be planting a native wetland grass, *Spartina alterniflora*, or salt marsh cordgrass. The goal of this planting is to improve water quality, help protect the shoreline from erosion and provide habitat for finfish and shellfish.

The [Student Wetland Nursery Program](#) is one component of the federation's Southeast Region Student Habitat Education Program. This initiative engages students in the classroom and in the field with activities and lessons on estuarine ecology and environmental stewardship. The program's activities are correlated with the N.C. Standard Course of Study and use North Carolina's coastal habitats as living classrooms. Since 2008 over 1,600 students and teachers from Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender and Onslow counties have participated in the Student Habitat Education program, which is made possible by the generous support from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. The foundation awards grants to nonprofit community agencies, universities and other partners for programs that promote the sciences, health and education.

Media are invited to the project at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Holly Ridge from 10 a.m. to noon. Please contact Ted Wilgis at 910-509-2838 or tedw@nccoast.org.

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