



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Students to Restore Wetlands Along Stump Sound**

WILMINGTON – Students and teachers from two New Hanover County schools will celebrate America’s Wetlands Month by working to restore saltmarsh habitat along the shoreline of Stump Sound in Onslow County.

Students from Roland-Grise Middle School and the Friends School of Wilmington will join N.C. Coastal Federation staff on Tuesday, May 10 to plant over 3,000 saltmarsh grass seedlings at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Holly Ridge.

The saltmarsh 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 restore saltmarsh habitat, 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 2,700 students and teachers from Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender and Onslow counties have participated in the Student Habitat Education program, which is made possible by grants 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.

Volunteers and media are invited to the project at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Holly Ridge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please contact Ted Wilgis at the federation’s Southeast Region Office at 910-509-2838 or [tedw@nccoast.org](mailto:tedw@nccoast.org) to receive more information. In case of bad weather the event may be postponed. Please contact Ted at 910-231-6605 the day of the event to confirm the schedule.

You can find more information of Wetlands Month at  
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/>.

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

*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. The federation’s headquarters are at 3609 N.C 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out its website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).*