



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Croatan Students to Volunteer to Help White Oak River**

OCEAN – Croatan High School students will volunteer an entire day to help the White Oak River.

The students will bag recycled oyster shells on Friday, Feb. 4, and Monday, Feb. 21, at the N.C. Coastal Federation office in Ocean in Carteret County. The bagged shells will be used later this year for oyster restoration projects in the White Oak River.

Other volunteers are also invited to help on both days and should meet at the federation's main office on N.C. 24 between Morehead City and Swansboro at 10 a.m. They will enjoy hot apple cider, light snacks and the fellowship of other like-minded volunteers and federation staff.

Croatan High School students and teacher Sheila Moore have been helping the federation bag oyster shells, plant marsh grass and clean up local trails for the past seven years. Moore, a Carteret County native and federation member, knows that involving her students in environmental stewardship activities can make a lasting difference.

"Our immediate coastlines and estuaries are still so pristine when compared with the rest of the world; however, this area is also at a crossroads," she said. "Every decision we face that deals with development or stormwater runoff or dredging and filling wetlands is an important one. I want my students to realize this and to be part of keeping our coastline and waters viable."

The federation recognizes the importance of our native oyster as a necessary ingredient of a healthy coast. Since 1998, the federation has been restoring and creating oyster and wetland habitat along the entire N.C. coast.

Federal and private foundation grants pay for these oyster bagging events and summertime restoration projects.

Volunteers who want to help bag oyster shells should wear closed-toed shoes and weather-appropriate clothes that could get dirty. Snacks and warm drinks will be provided from 10 a.m. until 1

p.m. All ages are invited, though children under 13 need a parent or chaperone with them. For more information, please contact Sarah Phillips at 252-393-8185 or at [sarahp@nccoast.org](mailto:sarahp@nccoast.org).

Founded in 1982, 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 preservation and restoration. Its headquarters is located in Ocean, N.C. and regional offices are located in Manteo and Wilmington. To learn more about the Coastal Federation visit [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org). For information about volunteering for other federation events, go to the Volunteer tab on the Web site or check out the Events Calendar.