



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coastal Federation's Native Plant Festival Set for April 16

OCEAN – More than 4,000 native plants, trees and shrubs again will take center stage on Saturday, April 16, for the N.C. Coastal Federation's eighth annual Native Plant Festival.

The plant sale and celebration will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the federation's headquarters at 3609, N.C. in Ocean in Carteret County, about halfway between Morehead City and Swansboro. The event is a fundraiser for the federation and proceeds benefit restoration projects.

Federation members will be offered a sneak peak of the festival on Friday, April 15, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Members will be required to show their membership card for admittance. Those interested in becoming a member can join on site, by calling 252-393-8185 or on the federation's website at www.nccoast.org.

Plants, perennials, trees and shrubs will be available for purchase in a variety of sizes, including three- and seven-gallon pots. Every plant comes with an information sheet that includes planting instructions and interesting facts. A complete listing of plants for sale can be found on the federation's website at www.nccoast.org.

The federation encourages use of native plants to sustain a healthy ecosystem. The plants help to restore regional landscapes which in turn provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Most native plants are hardy, can withstand extreme regional temperatures and require little or no fertilizer.

To learn more about the benefits of using native plants around the house, check out our blog on native plants, *Rosie's Posies*. It is hosted by Rose Rundell, the federation's administrative assistant. Her informative blog highlights native plants and their benefits.

The festival is free and open to the public. Rundell organizes much of the yearly event and describes the Native Plant Festival as family-friendly. "My favorite part of the festival is seeing all the people come together and make this a community event," she said. "It is a fun way to spend a day. You have food, entertainment, crafts and beautiful plants to enjoy."

This year, Rundell says there will be more plants than ever and also a wider variety of entertainment and craftsmen. Saturday will be filled with music from the festival stage. Musicians include: 4EverAll, the Americana/folk team of Chris and Allison Whitaker of Newport; KUDUBAI, a bluegrass band from Beaufort; folksinger Frank Gaines (solo guitar); and the Croatan High School Jazz Band.

Local seafood restaurant Crabby Patty's will be on hand cooking up shrimp and fish for hungry festival-goers on Friday and Saturday.

Regional artists and craftsmen will offer coastal crafts and artwork for sale both days. Their offerings include pottery, water colors, hand-made jewelry, natural soaps and much more. "We have a record

number of artists and craftsmen attending this year,” says Rundell. “It’s going to be the largest and best festival ever.”

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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