



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Learn How Native Plants Protect Our Beaches

OCEAN – Sand dunes are very important when it comes to protecting our beautiful coastline. However, without sand and salt-hardy native plants to hold the sand in place, these dunes often disappear because of strong wind and storms.

The N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is partnering with the N.C. Coastal Federation and North Carolina Sea Grant to present two educational workshops, focused on building and maintaining the sand dunes using native plants. The workshops are at the aquarium on March 31 and April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon, and are free to the public.

The workshops will include presentations by Spencer Rogers from Sea Grant, Sam Bland from the federation and Rudi Rudolph, Carteret County Shoreline Protection manager.

“This is a great opportunity to educate homeowners and local community leaders on the importance of working with nature to help establish a protective dune ecosystem,” said Wayne Justice, special activities coordinator at the aquarium. “We are excited to be partnering with the federation and Sea Grant on this effort.”

After learning about dune systems and plants, volunteers can also protect beaches by planting two dunes on Bogue Banks. A volunteer planting day will be held on Monday, April 9, and Monday, April 23, from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. The April 9 event will focus on dunes in Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores; the April 23 event will focus on dunes in Emerald Isle.

Contact the aquarium at (252) 247-4003, extension 227, or visit www.ncaquariums.com for more information and to register.