



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Help Clean Up Our Coast at Big Sweep Event

OCEAN -- The N.C. Coastal Federation invites volunteers to help clean up a coastal marsh between Morehead City and Beaufort in Carteret County on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The cleanup is part of the fall N.C. Big Sweep.

“Growing up in a large, polluted coastal city, I know how lucky we are to have such pristine coastal environments here in eastern North Carolina,” said Lexia Weaver, a coastal scientist at the federation who is from the Miami area. “By doing these cleanups, we can keep it that way.”

In addition to picking up trash, volunteers will also help collect information on the kinds of debris collected. This information will help to understand where our clean water laws are not working and to pinpoint the sources of debris in order to help enforce laws and focus educational efforts.

Volunteers should register through the federation’s web calendar at www.nccoast.org and meet at the Causeway Pier on the left after crossing the high-rise bridge from Morehead City into Beaufort at 1 p.m.

Please bring wading boots, waders or shoes that can get wet and muddy. Trash collection supplies and data cards will be provided as well as drinks and snacks. Children under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Scouts will be given credit towards merit badges. Please contact Dee Smith, the Carteret County Big Sweep coordinator, at 252-222-6359 for more information.

If you would like to help out more, another cleanup will also be held that day in Atlantic Beach at New Bern Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Smith for more details and to register.

N.C. Big Sweep is an award winning non-profit organization whose mission of a litter-free environment is achieved through statewide cleanups and environmental education. Since it was founded in 1987, almost 335,000 volunteers have collected over 11 million pounds of debris from our environment. Along our coast, litter is dangerous to wildlife that mistake litter for food or become entangled in trash items. It is also a hazard to humans and hurts our economy.