



For Immediate Release

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Community Work Days Set for Federation's New Coastal Center

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH -- With renovations in full swing on the newly-relocated Palmgren-O'Quinn beach cottage, the N.C. Coastal Federation will have the first community work days at the project site in Wrightsville Beach.

People can join federation staff on Friday, Oct. 25, and on Nov. 15 to begin the process of prepping and painting portions of the renovated exterior of the historic home.

Decks, porch structures and the entire ground floor were had to be removed in the spring before the house could be moved to the Historic Square in Wrightsville.

"The process of renovating an historic home to be re-purposed as our offices and a coastal education center is exciting, but challenging," said Tracy Skrabal, the regional manager of the federation's Southeast office. "Due to the age of the structure, we continue to discover surprises that require upgrades for safety and to ensure accessibility for all of our community members. This type of work makes the project more difficult and expensive than just building a new facility, but worthy of the effort."

Earlier this year, the federation began its campaign to raise \$600,000 to move, renovate, furnish and landscape the historic Palmgren-O'Quinn house and to expand education and restoration programs.

"With major financial donations, and contributions of services and materials, we are over halfway to reaching our funding goal," Skrabal added. "We are so encouraged by the community support for this project, and donating some sweat equity to the cause is a great way to help us to restore this classic beach cottage to her former magnificence."

The 1948 building was donated to the federation when the owners learned that the nonprofit conservation group was looking for a permanent regional education center and office. The

3,000-square-foot house was moved in July by barge and then over land to its permanent location at the Wrightsville Beach Historic Square. The center is scheduled to open early 2014.

The two workdays are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on these planned workdays, contact Ted Wilgis at our southeast office at 910-509-2838 or tedw@nccoast.org.