



**For Immediate Release**

**May 13, 2013**

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## **Volunteers Needed for Marsh Planting at Trinity Center, Salter Path**

OCEAN -- The N.C. Coastal Federation and the Trinity Center are recruiting volunteers to help plant 2,500 marsh grasses on Saturday, May 18, to protect and restore the center's eroding shoreline at Sander's Point.

Through the years, numerous storms, particularly Hurricane Sandy last year, have eroded the center's shoreline along Bogue Sound. The roots of the newly planted marsh grasses will help reduce erosion by holding the sediments in place. The grass blades also will slow waves during storms and provide a sheltered place for important fish and crabs to live and grow. The plants will also help to improve the water quality of the sound.

This restoration is the first part of a multi-phase effort that will include building a 200-foot-long sill using mesh bags filled with recycled oyster shells. Marsh grasses will also be planted landward of the sill. To create the sill, thousands of oyster shell bags will be strategically placed parallel to the shoreline to slow down wave energy. The oyster shells inside the bags will provide a hard surface for naturally occurring oyster larvae to attach to. After a few years the sill will be a fully functioning and productive oyster reef.

If the recycled oyster shells are delivered in time, volunteers on Saturday will also be able to bags shells that will be used to build the sill.

The Trinity Center is a retreat and worship center of the Episcopal Church's Diocese of East Carolina. It owns 62 acres in Salter Path on Bogue Banks in Carteret County.

Donations to the center's [capital campaign](#) are paying for the restoration efforts. The project may also be funded in the future through by a grant that the federation submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The planting will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Volunteers must contact Meghan Dinneen, Trinity Center's Sound to Sea Program coordinator, to register for the planting. She can be reached at 888-874-6287, extension 16; emailed at [mdinneen@trinityctr.com](mailto:mdinneen@trinityctr.com) or though the center's Facebook page

Participants should wear weather appropriate clothing that may get wet and sandy and closed-toe shoes, which are required. Drinks will be provided. The Trinity Center may also be providing lunch.

**Directions from U.S. 70:**

Follow U.S. 70 into Morehead City. Follow signs to Atlantic Beach and cross the bridge onto Bogue Banks. Turn right at the traffic light onto N.C. 58, West Fort Macon Road. Continue about seven miles. The Trinity Center is on the right, between Mile Markers 9 and 10. If you pass the blue water tower, you have gone too far.

**Directions from N.C. 24:**

Follow N.C. 24 through Swansboro. At the N.C. 58 intersection, turn right. Cross the bridge to Emerald Isle. Continue about 11 miles. The Trinity Center is on the left, between Mile Markers 10 and 9, just past the blue water tower.