



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Shellebration' Oyster Roast for the Coast

WILMINGTON - Bring the oyster season to a great close with an oyster roast for the coast. The N.C. Coastal Federation is hosting a "Shellebration" of the oyster on Saturday, March 1 in Wilmington. The Oyster Shellebration will feature steamed local oysters, live bluegrass music by Big Al & Possum Creek and Brothers Egg, craft beers, thousands of dollars of door prizes and fun activities.

The event will celebrate oysters and a healthy coast, and proceeds will fund education programs at the N.C. Coastal Federation's new Coastal Education Center in Wrightsville Beach. "We're celebrating oysters and their role along our coast," explains Ted Wilgis, a federation educator. "In addition to being delicious, oysters are critical to coastal water quality and habitat. Healthy oyster beds are a sign of good water quality and a focus of many of our restoration efforts along the coast.

The Shellebration is set for 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the lawn at the Tidal Creek Food Cooperative Food Market (rain or shine) on Oleander Drive. Tickets include a traditional oyster roast, corn chowder, cornbread from Great Harvest Bread Co., desert, one free beverage and a chance to win an amazing door prize. Craft beers from Atwater Brewery, Beer Army Combat Brewery, Lost Coast Brewing Company and Red Brick Brewing are being provided by Freedom Beverage Company. Soft drinks and tea are being provided by Tidal Creek Co-op. The oysters are coming from the waters near Rich's Inlet and being provided at a significant discount by Henry Temple, a local expert oyster grower.

A variety of local and regional businesses are sponsoring the event and have generously provided door prizes including: outerwear from Cape Fear Sportswear; memberships and classes from Wilmington Yoga Center and TrYoga; kayak rentals from Hook, Line & Paddle; a cruise on the Cape Fear from Wilmington Water Tours; concert tickets from Thalian Hall; gifts and gear from Cape Fear Native and the Flying Fisherman; gift cards from Catch Restaurant and Havana's Restaurant; and many others.

Similar events are being held that Saturday in Swansboro in Onslow County, Hatteras on the Outer Banks and in Raleigh. The local event is sponsored by Tidal Creek Cooperative Food Market and Freedom Beverage Company.

Tickets are limited and will sell out. Cost is \$35 for federation members and \$45 for non-members. Members also get an extra free ticket for a door prize. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.nccoast.org; call the federation at 910-509-2838, or stop by the Customer Service desk at the Tidal Creek Co-op.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation:

"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 the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates field offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at www.nccoast.org.

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