



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join Federation Advocate Mike Giles on a Rich Inlet Exploration

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - The N.C. Coastal Federation along with Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours Inc. will sponsor two boat trips with the federation's Coastal Advocate Mike Giles and Capt. Joe Abbate to explore Rich Inlet and the Lea Island complex of shoals and sandbars north of Figure Eight Island.

The first trip is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 29 and the other for Friday, Sept. 26. Both four-hour trips start at 8 a.m.

The boat trips, part of the federation's Coastal Adventures series, will explore diverse marine ecosystems, visit important birding areas and see first-hand the unspoiled Hutaff-Lea Island barrier island complex. Lunch will be provided aboard Abbate's boat, Shamrock.

"The trips will give people the chance to see what makes this inlet system special and why our inlets should be preserved as much as possible and not altered by dredging or hardened structures," said Giles. "We will observe a variety of shorebirds that call our coast home. We might even see the elusive piping plover or red knot."

Space is limited. People, ages 10 and up, are asked to register early online at www.nccoast.org. The boat trips will begin at the federation's Fred and Alice Stanback Coastal Education Center, in the Wrightsville Beach Historic Square at 309 W. Salisbury St.

The trips cost \$40 for federation members and \$55 for others. For more information or with questions, call 910-509-2838 or email mikeg@nccoast.org. From May to November, the federation will host a series of events at the education center as part of a Coastal Adventures series. Special guests will provide hands-on, engaging opportunities for you to learn more about your coast, critters and cool do-it-yourself projects. Times and prices vary.

Additional summer programs offered at the Coastal Education Center include:

- A Coastal Speaker Series, featuring notable guests who will share experiences and insights.
- Touch Tank Tuesdays, an interactive, kid-friendly education session with coastal critters

Find out more about these programs on the federation's online Events Calendar at www.nccoast.org, call 910.509.2838 or email nccf@nccoast.org.

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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 Wrightsville Beach and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at www.nccoast.org.

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