



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N.C. Coastal Federation Plans DIY Rain Garden Workshop

Wrightsville Beach - Lauren Kolodij of the N.C. Coastal Federations will join Sabrina Woofter of the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension for a workshop on Sept. 4 on the ins and outs of building backyard rain gardens.

The workshop will be held at the federation's Fred and Alice Stanback Coastal Education Center, 309 W. Salisbury St. in the Historic Square at Wrightsville Beach. The two-hour workshop starts 10 a.m.

Kolodij and Woofter will teach participants how to design and maintain a backyard rain garden to control stormwater runoff and provide great habitat for birds and other native critters. People will learn why these gardens protect our coastal waterways, what plants to choose and where to purchase them.

The informal class will also include a tour of the existing rain gardens, cisterns, pervious pavement, rain barrels and displays at the education center, providing great opportunities to gather ideas on the small steps people can take to protect coastal waters from polluted runoff.

"Coastal residents care a great deal about keeping their creeks and sounds clean, but they are often not sure what they can do to help with the problem of polluted stormwater runoff," says Kolodij, deputy director of the federation.

"Directing stormwater runoff from our downspouts into these small gardens instead of into street drains is something we can all do, and it makes a big difference in keeping our waters clean and healthy."

To get the rain garden projects started, workshop participants will receive a complimentary flexile downspout.

Money for this project is provided by a grant from the N.C. Environmental Enhancement Grant Program, which is administered through the office of the N.C. Attorney General.

The workshop will be free for federation members. Others will be charged \$5.

People can find out more about this and other programs planned at the education center on the federation's online Events Calendar at www.nccoast.org. They can also call 910.262.5178 or email laurenk@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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