



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join N.C. Coastal Federation to Explore Rich Inlet

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - Take a boat trip with the N.C. Coastal Federation to explore the sandbars and shoals and see the diverse wildlife of inlets of our southeast N.C. coast.

The federation is teaming up with Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours Inc. to offer a trip to Rich Inlet and Lea Island on Thursday, June 5. The federation's Coastal Advocate Mike Giles and Captain Joe Abbate will be your hosts on an excursion to explore the varied marine ecosystems and important birding areas of the unspoiled Hutaff-Lea Island barrier island complex.

The four-hour trip, part of the federation's new Coastal Adventures series, will leave the dock at 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided aboard Capt. Abbate's *Shamrock*.

"The trip provides guests 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," Coastal Advocate Mike Giles said. "We will observe a variety of shorebirds that call our coast home. We might even see the evasive piping plover or red knot."

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

For federation members, the event fee is \$30. For nonmembers, the fee is \$45.

For more information or with questions, call 910.509.2838 or email nccf@nccoast.org.

From May to November, the federation will host a series of events 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 DIY 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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