



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Earth Day Event Planned at New Federation Office, Ed. Center

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - The N.C. Coastal Federation will host a Rain Garden Party on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate Earth Day and the end of volunteer renovation work on its new Coastal Education Center and Southeast Office.

Volunteers from GE Hitachi, UNC-Wilmington and the community will plant rain gardens as well as paint and prep the Education Center for its Grand Opening.

The GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy plant in Wilmington donated \$2,500 to the federation's campaign to renovate the 1946 Palmgrenn-O'Quinn beach cottage and committed volunteers to build demonstration projects that will reduce stormwater at the federation's new home in Wrightsville Beach's Historic Square.

The low-impact development projects planned for April 26 are funded by the GE donation and include rain gardens planted with native plants, rain barrels and cisterns, grassed swales and educational, informative signs.

"We are extremely grateful to GE Hitachi and its local employees, who worked with us to obtain this wonderful support to assist with our stormwater reduction and education projects at the Center," said Todd Miller, the federation's founder and executive director. "The funds and volunteers are a

great help and represent the strong support GE provides for the community."

To date, more than 180 GE volunteers have contributed nearly 1,200 hours on federation oyster reef and salt marsh restoration projects in the Southeast.

For nearly six months, the federation has organized a series of volunteer events, known as Renovation Fridays, at the new office. Dozens of volunteers have helped sand and scrape walls, paint the porch, move furniture and ready the center for its public debut. Volunteers' sweat equity, enthusiasm and time enabled campaign donations to be used for major renovations and new programs.

On Saturday, May 3, at 2 p.m., the doors to the center will finally open. Members of the community, federation volunteers, public officials and press are invited to take a tour, enjoy light refreshments and witness the historic ribbon-cutting ceremony. For more information on this event and the center, visit [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).

For more information on future federation volunteer opportunities, visit [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) or contact Coastal Education Coordinator Ted Wilgis at (910) 509-2838 or [tedw@nccoast.org](mailto:tedw@nccoast.org). In addition, GE Hitachi's media contact, Jon Allen, can be reached at (910) 509-2838.

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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](http://www.nccoast.org).

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