



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N.C. Coastal Federation Offers Summer Boat Cruises

OCEAN - The N. C. Coastal Federation will once again offer their popular boat cruises this summer through the estuaries around Swansboro and Bear Island.

These marshes are extraordinary places with intriguing natural and cultural histories. Here, where the rivers meet the sea, we will look for wildlife and learn about the local history. Come get a closer look at and learn about the importance of clean water and the projects that protect these magnificent waters and why they are so special.

Marsh cruises aboard the passenger boat *Lady Swan*, the first of several this spring and summer, begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10 and will depart from the historic Swansboro waterfront at the Town Dock located at the end of Main Street. Space on the boat is limited to 40 passengers and registration is required. Other dates for marsh cruises are June 24, July 8 and 22 and Aug. 5 and 12.

The federation will also offer four new Coastal Cruise programs -- Trawling Adventure, Dolphin Watch, Shelling and White Oak River Expedition -- that will run every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning May 27.

Here's the rundown:

- **Trawling Adventure** - Every Tuesday at 9 a.m., May 27-Aug. 12. Participants will learn about local wildlife while pulling in a small net, called a trawl net, and using seine and dip nets, collecting crab pots and raking for clams.

- **Dolphin Watch** - Every Tuesday at 1 p.m., May 27-Aug. 12. Participants will cruise through estuaries in and around the White Oak River and Bogue Sound in search of bottlenose dolphin.
- **Shelling Cruise** - Every Thursday at 9 a.m., May 29-Aug. 14. Participants will look for shells along the beaches of Bear Island in Hammocks Beach State Park.
- **White Oak River Expedition** - Every Thursday at 1 p.m., May 29-Aug. 14. These cruises will focus on the history and wildlife of the river. Participants will have a chance to explore Jones Island, an uninhabited island in the middle of the river.

Coastal Cruises will depart from Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro. Participants will meet at the back deck of the Visitor's Center. Space is limited to 10 passengers for each cruise, and registration is required. Each cruise will last as long as two hour and will be held rain or shine. The cost is \$20 a person. All ages are welcome, but the programs are geared towards adults and older children.

Check the federation Events Calendar at www.nccoast.org or call the federation to register at 252.393.8185.

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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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