



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2015

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## Volunteers Needed for Salt Marsh Planting

SMYRNA-The North Carolina Coastal Federation is recruiting volunteers to help plant salt marsh grasses at its most recent wetland restoration phase at North River Farms, located in Carteret County near Smyrna, N.C.

**The planting will take place from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Oct. 6, 2015**

North River Farms is a 6,000 acre tract of farmland that the federation and its multiple partners, members and community volunteers have been working to preserve and restore back to forested, freshwater and tidal wetlands since 1999. This wetland restoration project is one of the largest in North Carolina and among the largest project of its kind in the nation. About 3,000 acres of farmland have already been restored to wetlands and another 1,200 acres of existing forested wetlands and marshes have been preserved in perpetuity. Wetland restoration of the remaining 1,800 acres of farmland on the property is ongoing and will be completed by 2017.

The federation is currently working on a 3-acre tidal marsh and floodplain restoration at the headwaters of Ward Creek through a N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant. The salt marsh restoration was designed by Kris Bass Engineering, PLLC and the excavation was completed by Backwater Environmental, Inc. in August 2015. The first round of planting was performed by Carolina Silvics, Inc. in early September. This volunteer planting event will complete this restoration phase.

The restored marsh will help to capture, filter and reduce the flow of polluted and sediment-laden agricultural runoff into Ward Creek and North River, thereby helping to improve water quality with the hopes of eventually reopening these waters to shellfish harvest. The salt marsh will also provide valuable habitat for

fish, crabs and waterfowl.

For more information and to register, please visit the Events page at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org). Registration is required for planning purposes and to contact volunteers with any event changes.

### **About the North Carolina Coastal Federation**

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is a nonprofit membership organization that works to keep the coast of North Carolina a great place to live, work and play. Through a variety of programs and partnerships, the federation provides for clean coastal waters and habitats, advocates to protect the coast and teaches and informs people about the coast and what they can do to protect it.

The federation operates offices in Ocean, Manteo and Wrightsville Beach, N.C. To learn more, please visit [nccoast.org](http://nccoast.org) or call 252.393.8185.

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