



North Carolina  
Coastal Federation  
*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

**MEDIA INVITATION  
2015**

**October 14,**

**Contact:** Kathleen Callahan

**Phone:** 603-770-0066

**Email:** kathleenc@nccoast.org

**NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION  
MEDIA TOUR of NORTH RIVER FARMS**  
North Farm Road | Otway | North Carolina  
**Friday, Oct. 16, 2015, 1:30 p.m.**

---

Join the North Carolina Coastal Federation in welcoming our "Peer-to-Peer" Russian exchange environmentalists, see the latest restoration work being done at North River Farms and observe a drone demonstration by Duke University Marine Laboratory researchers.

---

As part of a direct exchange program between Russian environmentalists from the Environmental Watch of the Northern Caucasus and the North Carolina Coastal Federation, we hope you will join us for this unique exchange and demonstration.

**Goals of our exchange:**

- To facilitate a dialogue, potential collaboration and idea exchange between similar groups in Russia and America.

**Join us to:**

- Meet and interview the visiting Russian environmentalists and learn about their work in Krasnodar along the Sea of Azov.
- Tour one of the largest wetland restoration sites in the state, speak with the federation scientists working on the project and learn what's in store for the future of this one-of-a-kind property.
- Watch a drone demonstration and interview the Duke University researchers involved in the project.
- Speak with federation executives about their experience in Russia and how they have benefited from the Peer-to-Peer" opportunity.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article31814247.html>

*Executive Director Todd Miller's op ed from the News and Observer written about the federation's experiences in Russia. It calls the public to action, urging them to watch for the slippery slope that stems from a disregard of the democratic process and lack of enforcement of environmental regulation to corruption.*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

With funding from a U.S. State Department grant titled "Peer-to-Peer," and additional funds from the private foundation, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Kate Watters, executive director for Crude Accountability, has set up a direct exchange program between Russian Environmentalists from the Environmental Watch of the Northern Caucasus and the North Carolina Coastal Federation. One of the main goals of the program is to simply facilitate conversations between Russians and Americans.

From June 17-23, three representatives from the North Carolina Coastal Federation traveled to Krasnodar, Russia. While there, they toured the region, learning about the group's work to develop a nature reserve along the Sea of Azov that would provide protection for this Ramsar-designated area. The Ramsar-treaty designates areas that are known for their importance to waterfowl habitat, but does not necessarily provide any management or protection guidelines. The EWNC is trying to develop a preserve that will ensure the needed management and protection.

As part of the Peer-to-Peer Exchange, four Russian Colleagues will spend Oct. 14-21 with the federation, learning more about their habitat restoration work and how they work in local communities to facilitate environmental protection. The federation has set up a series of project tours, site visits and meetings during the exchange.

#### **Individuals available for interviews:**

- Dmitry Shevchenko, deputy director, Environmental Watch of Northern Caucasus
- Kate Watters, executive director, Crude Accountability
- Dr. Joe Ramus, Duke University Marine Laboratory
- Dr. David Johnston, Duke University Marine Laboratory
- Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith, Duke University Marine Laboratory
- Dr. Mike Burchell, North Carolina State University
- Kris Bass, Kris Bass Engineering
- Todd Miller, executive director, North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Dr. Lexia Weaver, coastal scientist, North Carolina Coastal Federation

For directions to North River Farms, please contact Lexia Weaver at 252-646-2408.

#### **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.

--30--

[Web](#) | [Event Calendar](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Coastal Review Online](#)

[Forward this email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe™](#)

This email was sent to rachaelc@nccoast.org by [kathleenc@nccoast.org](mailto:kathleenc@nccoast.org) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)

NC Coastal Federation | 3609 HWY 24 (Ocean) | Newport | NC | 28570