



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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State coastal agency invites people to celebrate National Estuaries Day, National Public Lands Day

BEAUFORT – The N.C. Division of Coastal Management’s Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve Program is inviting people to join the agency for the Sept. 28 celebrations of National Estuaries Day and National Public Lands Day.

The Rachel Carson Reserve, in partnership with the North Carolina Maritime Museum, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Institute of Marine Sciences, and the town of Beaufort, will host a National Estuaries Day and National Public Lands Day celebration from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Maritime Museum, 315 Front St. in Beaufort. The event is free. It includes educational activities and a marine debris cleanup on the Rachel Carson component of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve from 9 a.m. – noon. Registration is required for the Rachel Carson Reserve cleanup. Contact Rachel Carson Reserve site manager Paula Gillikin at 252-220-0776 or paula.gillikin@ncdenr.gov to register. You also may visit www.nccoastalreserve.net for information. A cleanup along the Beaufort waterfront will be conducted simultaneously and does not require registration. To participate, meet on the Maritime Museum patio at 9 a.m.

The Masonboro Island Reserve in Wilmington will host educational activities, an interpretive hike, and a marine debris cleanup from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Participants should meet at the “Third Beach” area of the Masonboro Island Reserve, under the N.C. Coastal Reserve tent. The Masonboro Island Reserve is accessible by boat only, and can be reached by private watercraft or ferries departing from Wrightsville Beach. Please contact Masonboro Island Reserve education specialist Marie Davis at marie.davis@ncdenr.gov if you have questions about this event.

The Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge Reserve will participate in the Pocosin Lakes Fun Day hosted by the Friends of Pocosin Lake National Wildlife Refuge from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This National Public Lands Day celebration is free. It features a variety of educational activities and exhibits for families to enjoy. The event will be held at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 205 South Ludington Drive in Columbia.

North Carolina’s estuarine system is the third largest in the country, encompassing more than 2 million acres. National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration of estuaries, the vibrant coastal areas where rivers meet the sea. It is a great opportunity to learn more about these magical ecosystems and how people can help protect them. National Public Lands Day is the nation’s largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands.

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