

DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife DuPont Nature Center to host Peace, Love & Horseshoe Crab Festival May 18

SLAUGHTER BEACH – The DuPont Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor Reserve, a DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife facility, will host its 10th annual Peace, Love & Horseshoe Crab Festival from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 18, to celebrate the spring arrival of spawning horseshoe crabs and migrating shorebirds. The center is located near Slaughter Beach at 2992 Lighthouse Road, Milford, DE 19963. Admission is free. The festival will be held rain or shine, except in the case of severe weather or coastal flooding.

Visitors will enjoy fun festivities and educational activities, with food available for purchase. Youth and families attending the festival will receive an Estuary Eco-Challenge passport to be stamped as they participate in a series of Eco-Station activities. The Eco-Stations will provide visitors with opportunities to identify shorebirds, get close to live horseshoe crabs and other aquatic species, create a craft, learn about aquatic species that live in the Delaware Bay, and much more.

Visitors will have great viewing opportunities from the center's large deck to see the interaction between horseshoe crabs and migrating shorebirds, including federally-listed threatened red knots, which depend on horseshoe crab eggs as food to help fuel their long journey from South America to their Arctic breeding grounds. DNREC's Delaware Shorebird Project Team members will be on hand to identify the

shorebirds along the shoreline surrounding the center.

Ample parking for the Peace, Love & Horseshoe Crab Festival will be available at the nearby Lacy E. Nichols Jr. Cedar Creek Boating Access Area located on Lighthouse Road, with a shuttle running to and from the center throughout the day.

Located on the edge of Mispillion Harbor at the intersection of the mouths of the Mispillion River and Cedar Creek, the DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife's DuPont Nature Center regularly offers a variety of interactive exhibits, school tours, and weekly educational programs. To view upcoming educational programs, visit de.gov/dnc. Spring and summer hours from May 1 through Aug. 31 are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information about the Peace, Love & Horseshoe Crab Festival, or about the DuPont Nature Center and its programs, please visit de.gov/dnc or call 302-422-1329.

Media contact: Joanna Wilson, DNREC Public Affairs, 302-739-9902

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