

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Luc Century's 2019 Sea Star ornament will be available this year for a limited, numbered edition of 75 pieces. This ornament proof will also be for sale.

'Ding' Darling extends holiday happy hours for shoppers

Free refreshments, extended hours, and complimentary gift wrapping: Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 27, the date of the Refuge Nature Store's fifth annual Happy Hour Holiday Shopping event in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center. The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will keep the store open two extra hours after the center closes, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The date also marks the nationally promoted Giving Tuesday, and the store will set up a Giving Tree that allows donors to easily contribute to education, land acquisition, and research projects at the refuge in the name of a loved one for holiday gifting.

The Refuge Nature Store has stocked special holiday items for the event, and it will have gift consultants ready with suggestions and free gift-wrapping with recycled paper. The store will serve wine, cheese, and other refreshments for the event. Shoppers who spend more than \$20 receive a free gift. Nature Store manager Ann-Marie Wildman will also debut the 2019 Luc Century Sea Star ornament, which will be for sale that evening.

"All profits from Nature Store purchases go directly to benefiting wildlife and conservation," said Wildman. "This has been a fun way to get everyone into the holiday spirit with an altruistic twist."

The Refuge Nature Store carries a complete line of birding and nature books for adults and kids, wildlife toys and games, local artisan wares, wildlife holiday ornaments, gifts made from recycled materials, nature-themed jewelry and home décor, logo T-shirts and hats, and a wide variety of stocking stuffers and other gifts for men, women, and children.

For more information on the Refuge Happy Hour Shopping, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241.

Below is a schedule of special public events planned by DDWS and the refuge for the upcoming season.

For details visit dingdarlingsociety.org.

Anholt-LeBuff Lecture – Dec. 13, 2018

Free Winter Programs – Jan. 7-April 28, 2019

2019 Biweekly Wednesday Film Series – Jan. 9-April 3, 2019

2019 Friday Lecture Series – Jan. 18-April 12, 2019

Woodring Homestead 100th Anniversary Exhibit Unveiling – Jan. 23, 2019

Go Wild for “Ding”- Call of the Osprey Fundraiser – Feb. 13, 2019

ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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