

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: World Oceans Day kicks off with a free guided beach walk.

Refuge celebrates World Oceans Day June 8

Take a guided beach walk for free, watch free films, and take advantage of free upcycled crafts, nature store specials, and hand-outs at World Oceans Day at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, on Friday, June 8, 2018.

Highlights of the special event include earth-friendly, upcycled crafts to take home and a ranger-led beach walk and clean-up at the refuge’s Perry Tract, accessible from Gulfside City Park. All clean-up participants receive a 10 percent off coupon for the Refuge Nature Store.

The store will host a special book-signing that day from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with author Charles LeBuff, whose revised second of edition of *The Sea Turtles of Southwest Florida* was released this year. He will also be signing copies of his other books, including *Florida’s Crocodile* and *The Sanibel Island Lighthouse*.

An “anti-plastic film festival” features four free film showings starting at 11 a.m. The first 50 attendees seated for the *STRAWS* film receive a free reusable stainless steel straw at the end of the airing.

“My interns and I decided to celebrate the day by drawing attention and educating people about the plight of plastic overload in our oceans,” said refuge conservation educator Sara

Hallas, whose team is organizing the event.

Below is the full schedule for ocean-friendly and free fun throughout the day:

9 a.m. – Free Beach Walk & Cleanup at Perry Tract (parking fees apply at Gulfside City Park)

11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Free Make-and-Take Upcycled Crafts in the Visitor & Education Center

11 a.m. – Free showing and brief discussion of the film *STRAWS* (32 minutes)

12 p.m. – Free showing and brief discussion of the film *Addicted to Plastic* (53 minutes)

1:15 p.m. – Free showing and brief discussion of the film *Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch* (57 minutes)

2:30 p.m. – Free showing of the film *Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?* (45 minutes)

For more information on World Oceans Day at the Refuge, call 239-472-1100 or visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events.

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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