

13th Annual Buddhist Horseshoe Crab Rescue and Blessing Dharma Assembly to Take Place in Delaware

Ecological Research & Development Group and Shan Ning Temple partner to conduct a beachside ceremony for the protection of horseshoe crabs and all living beings



Little Creek, Delaware - May 16, 2023 - The Ecological Research & Development Group (ERDG), a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 and dedicated to the conservation of the world's four horseshoe crab species, and the Shan Ning Temple of Gaithersburg, Maryland, invite the public to their 13th annual Buddhist Horseshoe Crab Rescue and Blessing Dharma Assembly.

The event will take place on Sunday, May 21st, 2023, starting at 10:30 am at Pickering Beach, Delaware, an ERDG Backyard Stewardship Community Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary.

Event Details

The blessing ceremony will take place on the beach, just left of the public beach access trail entry point, which can be easily seen from the public parking area. Attendees are kindly requested to refrain from parking on side streets, as they are private property reserved for local

residents. Furthermore, participants are encouraged to show respect for the host community by avoiding the dunes and maintaining the cleanliness of the beach.

Pickering Beach can be found east of Dover at the end of Pickering Beach Road, off Route 9. As a point of interest, the morning high tide will coincide with the start of the ceremony at 10:30 am, providing an opportunity to witness the horseshoe crabs spawning.

Blessing and Rescue

Each spring, these ancient animals come ashore to spawn and are often stranded upside-down due to rough surf and spawning activity. Unable to right themselves, they suffer and die. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 am, with participants walking the beach halfway through to assist stranded horseshoe crabs in returning to their marine habitat. They will then return to the initial gathering point for the conclusion of the ceremony, which will end around 12:30 pm. Rinpoche's from ERDG and Shan Ning Temple will lead the ceremony, blessing these ancient mariners and dedicating the merit of the assembly to all living beings who are suffering worldwide.

Preparation and Additional Information

The ceremony will occur rain or shine, barring high winds or lightning. Attendees should bring an umbrella or hat and wear appropriate footwear for potentially wet conditions. Bug repellent is also recommended.

ERDG's Just flip 'em!TM program, started in 1998, aims to reduce horseshoe crab mortality from stranding during spawning by encouraging simple acts of compassion and appreciation for these remarkable creatures who will not survive our indifference.

For more information, please contact Glenn Gauvry, aka Sangjie Tieba Rinpoche, founder and president of the Ecological Research & Development Group, at (302) 236-5383 or via email at erdg@horseshoecrab.org.