



PRESS RELEASE



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Contact: Michael Oates
Phone: (302) 475-6119
E-mail: MOates@anew.com

Bayshore Residents to Re-dedicate Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary: Original Exhibit Damaged by Superstorm Sandy

DOWNE TWP., N.J. — Bayshore residents will gather on May 9 at 9:45 a.m. to [re-dedicate](#) New Jersey's only horseshoe crab sanctuary, the sign for which was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy on Oct. 29. Those assisting them include the [Downe Township Recreation Committee](#), [Ecological Research & Development Group](#), [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) and local officials.

The Downe Township community recently [re-installed the interpretive panel](#), making this re-dedication possible. Hurricane Sandy ripped the original panel and its support structure from the beach, leaving behind only the interpretive panel, which was found buried in the sand.

“Whereas some communities look forward to May flowers or fall foliage, we look forward to the annual spawning of [horseshoe crabs and the shorebirds](#) they attract,” said Dave Raudenbush, chair of the Downe Township Environmental Commission. “We consider them part of our cultural heritage, and that’s why everyone involved considers it so important to preserve this shoreline for their benefit.”

Downe Township is the first New Jersey community to participate in the ERDG’s [Backyard Stewardship® Community-based Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary Program](#), which also includes seven bayshore communities in Delaware.

In 2009, Downe Township voted to set aside a portion of its Delaware Bay shoreline for the celebration and recognition of the importance of this ancient marine species. The beaches along the Delaware Bay, including Fortescue, provide habitat for the largest spawning population of horseshoe crabs in the world during the months of May and June.

The original interpretive panel and support structure were supplied by the ERDG, the only organization in the world dedicated to conserving the four remaining horseshoe crab species. Township residents actively participate in the ERDG’s [Just flip ’em!® program](#), patrolling the beach daily and flipping over stranded horseshoe crabs so they can return to the water. The interpretive panel was funded by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a nonprofit organization that collaborates with others to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay.

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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program, leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.