



# Friends Update

**December 10, 2018**

The year-end holidays are upon us, a hectic time for most. Here is a "short-attention-span" version of news and coming events:

- The Friends and FWS are sponsoring "**A Critter Christmas**" at the Savannah NWR Visitor Center on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 2-4 PM. Crafts, refreshments, Santa and more. [DETAILS](#)
- The annual **Holiday Sale** at *The Gator Hole* will be held from 9AM - 4PM at the Savannah NWR Visitor Center on Saturday, December 15, 2018. For one day only prices will be marked down 20% on all store merchandise (Duck Stamps excluded). Other clearance items will be marked down even more. Net proceeds from all sales go to the Friends for projects on our refuges.
- The Friends have received a grant for \$7750 from the **Community Foundation of the Lowcountry** to expand our Pinckney Island NWR accessibility project. Big thanks to the Foundation! Project [DETAILS](#).
- The Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex has been allocated ~\$14 million to repair damages done to the refuges by Hurricane Irma and to make improvements (such as raising portions of The Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive) to ameliorate future damage. Work is expected to begin sometime in 2019. No word yet on when the US Army Corps of Engineers will begin repair on the water control structure.
- Unusually high tides recently have over-topped a portion of the Wildlife Drive, forcing temporary closures of the drive. Fortunately, the Drive remained undamaged as the waters receded. Watch the FWS website for updates on closures during future high tides. See [VIDEO](#).
- We have purchased the steel trusses for [The Kingfisher Discovery Center](#). All of the regulatory hurdles have been completed, so we are ready to start clearing the site. We are still soliciting donations to assist with the usual unanticipated expenses that come up during construction. Make your tax-deductible donations [HERE](#).
- Tax time is coming - it's not too late to make your contribution to the Friends! Think tax deduction - think the Friends! [Donate](#)

- We are in need of volunteers to staff the Information Desk at Savannah NWR. We especially need to recruit an assistant store manager for *The Gator Hole*. No previous retail experience is need!.

Rick Shields  
President

**Join the Friends!**

**Renew Your Membership**

**Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges, Inc.**

PO Box 16841, Savannah, GA, 31416

[www.coastalrefuges.org](http://www.coastalrefuges.org)

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