

The Tea Room Times

Presented by: The White Heron Tea & Gifts

The Story of

The Little Teapots



Not a day goes by when someone visiting our tearoom notices the inconspicuous shelf behind our check out area and asks about the small shelf stuffed with mini teapots. Usually, it's to ask if they are for sale, which I proudly share that they are not, and how the collection came to be. To this day, it brings me such joy when someone inquires about them because it allows me to tell their story.

For those of you who have known me for any length of time, you know that my first love these days is tea. It wasn't always that way. I never drank tea prior to deciding to open a tearoom. I know, for as much as I love it now, it may be a shocker to learn that it wasn't always a part of my life.

If you ask me what I love most about tea, it's hard to decide. I really love it all. I love the notion of having tea with a friend, the prettiness of it. I love the elegance of etiquette that ensues when we sit down around a pot. And I truly love the teapot.

Ah, the teapot, the bringer of joy, not just for what is inside of it, but for

even how it looks on the outside. While our shop has any number of styles and colors (I am especially fond of our line of teapots made in the U.S.A.), the options for teapots available around the world is really endless.

Several years ago, while visiting the Charleston Tea Plantation in South Carolina, I fell in love with unique and artsy designs from Blue Sky. If you've ever seen one, you know. They come in animal designs, and even some buildings and more. I fell in love with them and was fortunate to create a collection at home of octopi, fish, and even a Valentine's Day themed one. I love my private collection, and while it never gets used, just seeing it every day brings me joy.

My Blue Sky collection wasn't my first teapot collection. No, that honor goes to the collection of mini teapots at the tearoom that has been a part of our establishment for the past five years. But how did they come to be, and how did they kick off my obsession with cute tea pots?

Perhaps that is the most heartwarming part of this story. I met David and Midge Prace in 2001 when I worked at the then West Pasco Chamber of Commerce. Both were active in the activities of the West Pasco Historical Society, and

Fall 2025

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The White Heron Tea & Gifts, as seen on Daytime TV, ABC Action News, Bay News 9, and House Hunters. Featured in Tea Time Magazine, Destination Tea, Tampa Bay Magazine, Suncoast News, and Tampa Bay Times. Voted Best Tearoom in Tampa Bay by readers of the Tampa Bay Times Best of the Best (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020)

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Dear Friends and Tea Lovers...



Happy Fall!

I can't believe we are already at the "pumpkin spice and everything nice" segment of the year. I know, like many of you, I can't wait for the heat of the summer season to dissipate but right now it seems like another year is flying by.

I am excited to bring you our latest newsletter, packed with lots of great tea topics and a full schedule of events taking place from September to November. It seems like this is the time of year we start seeing more guests, and we start having more events, so we can't wait to see you for tea soon.

Now for the fun stuff, here's a few updates about our tearoom that we want you to know about.

Best of the Best – People's Choice by the Tampa Bay Times:

Thank you to all who voted for The White Heron in this year's Best of the Best, People's Choice poll by the Tampa Bay Times. I am so proud to announce that once again, The White Heron was awarded "Gold" for Best Tea Room in Tampa Bay.

This is the sixth year the poll has had a tearoom category, and the sixth time we have been awarded Gold. It is truly our honor to continue to serve you tea every day, and to be recognized for what we do. It's all because of you, and we thank you for trusting us when your friends and family come to visit, and for when you really just want that extra special experience.

Downtown Updates Near the Tearoom:

In an effort to create a more welcoming downtown district, the City of New Port Richey has started construction on Nebraska Avenue (known as Railroad Square), to the north side of the building that houses the tearoom. The road is closed, but you can still access our back parking lot through Missouri Avenue, just south of the tearoom.

Parking is limited in the back, and sometimes there are construction crews working there as well. The city is making every effort to limit our impact, and we appreciate your patience too.

Large parking lots are all around the tearoom, less than a block away. There is a public lot at Adams Street (behind the big brick building behind the tearoom) and on Bank Street (behind the Richey Suncoast Theatre). These lots are free to park in and are easily accessible for you to reach the tearoom.

For an even more fun experience on the weekends, plan to come a little early and park in the City's parking garage off of Main Street and US 19 and grab the DART shuttle to downtown. It stops at the corner of Nebraska and Grand (by the Richey Suncoast Theatre). From there, cross Grand Boulevard to our building. The DART will take you back to the parking garage after teatime (with a little tour around town too).

Price Increase for Afternoon Tea:

After much consideration, and taking into account all of our options, we will be increasing our pricing of our Afternoon Tea in the tearoom to \$26.95 (plus tax and gratuity), effective October 1, 2025.

This is not something we have taken lightly and have been discussing for nearly a year. With increases in food and operational costs, it has become necessary for us to make a slight price adjustment to our Afternoon Tea service. We have looked at many options to avoid this slight increase, looking at how we can adjust our tea service, but to be honest, I am not comfortable with sacrificing our service or quality. Our quality and care, and attention to detail is something we are known for, and something our guests appreciate and comment on most frequently.

Over the past 10 years, we have only adjusted our pricing 3 times. Each time, we wait until we can't wait anymore, as we really dislike having to make this decision.

We know times are tight everywhere, and we appreciate your understanding as we work to absorb some of the rising costs our small business has endured. We appreciate your understanding, encouragement, and continued support by coming and joining us for Afternoon Tea.

Please be sure to stop in and pick up our newest, and updated brochure, or view it online at www.thewhiteheronfl.com

Thank you for your continued love and support of our beautiful tearoom. Happy Steeping!

Kelly M. Hackman

The Little Teapots, continued....

me being born and raised here in New Port Richey, I was instantly drawn to them. They were one of the first to buy prints I had made of some of my photography in 2003, when I worked for Great New Port Richey Main Street, and showed my art in their Progress Energy Art Gallery. Gosh, that seems like a lifetime ago.

Throughout my years, and all I did in the community, David and Midge were always so supportive. They were constantly encouraging me, sharing my story, and showing up to whatever I was doing in the community. So, it was no surprise that they would often come and enjoy tea in our tearoom once we opened. From the very beginning they would come for their birthdays and would even stop in just to say hi in their jaunts around town.

When Covid happened, and most of the world came to a halt, so did seeing our guests, and it became a very lonely time for us. Of course, we knew our guests and our friends were feeling that way too, so we started opening the gift shop on a limited basis. It took a while for people to feel safe enough to come see us, even with our protocols in place to do just that. As guests started to realize what we were doing, we started to see some stopping in to pick up tea.

It wasn't too long after we started our modified hours that David and Midge made their way into our shop. I remember sitting in the tearoom, enjoying a nice pot of tea, when my mom came in and said, "your friends are here to see you." I wasn't sure which friends but was pleasantly surprised when I rounded the corner and saw David and Midge standing in the middle of our gift shop. Midge was holding a small box, which she handed me. As I opened it, she said, "we are starting to downsize, and we thought you would just love this."

I slowly opened the decorative box, only to see a small, decorated metal teapot. I knew right away that this was a piece that I would put up for a collection, as it was too small and not made of the right material to use for drinking from. It was cute and as I stared at it, I found myself smiling for the first time in a long time (this time was very stressful for our business and the rest of the world).

I hugged and thanked them both for thinking of me. It was the first time I had hugged someone that wasn't my family in months. I could feel them both relax as we embraced. It

was truly a heartfelt connection. After we separated, David joked, "whew, I'm so glad you like it because we have more." I told him it would be an honor to have them, and he vowed to bring me more in the future.

Thus, our tradition of David and Midge stopping by the tearoom every 1-2 weeks started. Each visit they would bring me a new teapot for my collection. They would tell me where they got it, we would visit, hug, and they would be on their way. Looking back, I wish I would have written down the stories they told me about each one.

As they brought in more teapots, I decided I wanted to display them in our shop for others to see, not just because they were cute, but because they remind me of two very special people in my life and of how tea can bring us together.

It turns out that my mom had a shelf that fit perfectly where I wanted to display them. She painted the shelf white and mounted it to the wall behind our cash register area so that our guests could see them too.

In total, they brought me ten mini teapots for my collection, and they started a trend. Since then, other friends have been out and about and found mini teapots to add to my collection. Every time I receive one, it melts my heart and reminds me about the two very special people that started my collection.

Today, I am nearly out of room on my small shelf, but the memories and the love that the mini teapots bring to me each time I see them is ever growing. I light up when someone asks about them because, while a majority of them were given to me by a very special couple, each one I receive means that someone saw it and thought of me. To me, even though I love my mini teapot collection, it's the thought that I crossed someone's mind that means the most.

*My mini teapot collection is currently behind our cash register area, on display for all of our visitors to see. If you ever want to know more about them, just ask us the next time you visit. I love sharing the story of how the collection came to be because it reminds me of some dear friends who live on in my heart.



Upcoming Events

September 2025

Fascinator Fundamentals: Design, Decorate, and Wear with Confidence - Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6 pm

In this class, participants will be introduced to the art of fascinator making, beginning with a look at the history of the fascinator and how these stylish headpieces have evolved over time. Students will see how fascinator bases are created, explore different fabric choices used in millinery, and practice techniques for shaping and texturing feathers. They will also learn how strategic placement enhances the overall design and how to properly secure and wear their finished piece with confidence.

To complement the creative experience, guests will enjoy an elegant tea service provided by The White Heron Tea Room, featuring delicate cucumber sandwiches and freshly brewed hot tea.

To purchase tickets for this activity, check out our Facebook Page event, and click the event link

Masquerade Tea Time with Author Sarah - Sunday, September 21, 2025 - 2 pm -

Come enjoy an afternoon out at our literary masquerade! Celebrate award-winning author, Sara Tunder's newest release, *Down in Flames*, the second book in her fantasy/steampunk trilogy. Sara will read an excerpt from her new book and will be open to signing and discussion afterwards.

Tickets for this event are available from the event on our Facebook page, or at <https://square.link/u/YD3WLdtT>

Tea Leaf Reading with Dawne - Friday, September 26, 2025 - 4 - 7 pm

What are the tea leaves trying to tell you? Join our tea leaf reader, Dawne, as she looks into your destiny and answers your burning questions, by reading your tea leaves. 15-minute one-on-one session, guests should arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled reading time. \$25 per person. Your tea leaf reading time will be provided to you when you register. Call (727) 203-3504.

Fourth Friday - Downtown New Port Richey - Friday, September 26, 2025 - 6 - 10 pm

Come downtown and enjoy New Port Richey's monthly event. The outdoor market that fills Downtown New Port Richey with creativity, community, and good vibes! Each Fourth Friday features a rotating lineup of talented artisans, makers, and small businesses offering handmade goods, art, jewelry, woodwork, gifts, and unique finds.

Stop into our gift shop until 7 pm this evening.

October 2025

Tea 101 with Kelly - Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 10 am

Join me to learn about tea, and why we love this beautiful leaf so much, and enjoy samples of three original teas as we talk about proper steeping and the benefits of drinking tea. Class is \$25 per person. Call to reserve your space today at (727) 203-3504

Cotee River Bike Fest - October 11-12, 2025 - Tearoom and Gift Shop Closed

Our tearoom and gift shop will be closed Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th due to the downtown event, Cotee River Bike Fest. Downtown will come alive with the sounds of roaring motorcycles and rock bands on two stages. For more information, visit www.coteeriverbikefest.com

The Art of Feathers: Advanced Millinery Techniques - October 16, 2025 at 6pm

✨ Advanced Feather Techniques Class ✨

Take your millinery skills to the next level! This advanced workshop is designed for those who already have a foundation in fascinator making.

To complement the creative experience, guests will enjoy an elegant tea service provided by The White Heron Tea Room, featuring delicate cucumber sandwiches and freshly brewed hot tea.

📌 What you'll learn:

- The different types of feathers used in millinery
- How to shape, curl, and manipulate feathers for added dimension
- Step-by-step techniques to create a feather flower

📌 Recommendation: It is strongly recommended that you take Fascinator Fundamentals prior to this class to ensure you have the basic skills needed

Tea Leaf Reading with Dawne - Friday, October 24, 2025 - 4 - 7 pm

See listing above for more information. \$25 per person. Your tea leaf reading time will be provided to you when you register. Call (727) 203-3504 to reserve your tea leaf reading time and pay for your visit.

Fourth Friday - Downtown New Port Richey - Friday, October 24, 2025 - 6 - 10 pm

Check out general event information above. **Stop into our gift shop until 7 pm this evening.**

Witches Tea - Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 6 pm

Join us for a night of ghoulish and spooky fun in our tea room.

The tearoom will be transformed into a "haunted mansion" and guest will enjoy our fun Halloween atmosphere.

Dress up for even more fun (costumes encouraged but not required).

The evening's menu includes: salad, tea sandwiches and savories, scone, and petite desserts.

Guests will also enjoy two of our delicious Fall teas.

\$40 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

Advance reservation required. Please call early as spaces tend to fill quickly. (727) 203-3504

November 2025

Fascinator Fundamentals: Design, Decorate, and Wear with Confidence - Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6 pm

See class listing on September 11th for event information.

Our Tearoom will be closed on Thursday, November 27th, for Thanksgiving.

Small Business Saturday - Saturday, November 29, 2025 - 11 am - 4 pm

Join The White Heron and other small business in downtown New Port Richey as we celebrate the spirit of small business entrepreneurial spirit by spending the day downtown, shopping, dining, and enjoying all we have to offer.

Stop in our shop for specials throughout the day! Check out our social for specials.

Receive a complimentary tea sachet sample with your purchase.



Tea Parlour to Go: Options Expanded

We have many guests who stop in and ask if they can get our "Happy Hour" options from our Parlour to go.

We are excited to announce that if you stop in during the day and want our "Deluxe Happy Hour" to go, we can now offer that to you.

Our Deluxe Happy Hour offers our homemade chicken salad on croissant, 2 mini cucumber sandwiches on white bread, and an iced or hot tea of the day (no substitutions on the tea sandwiches).

This "grab and go" option will be available starting September 10th. Just stop in and order at the register and we will get it packaged up for you.

Other Items Available to Go:

- Scones: Plain and Flavored (with house-made Devonshire Cream)
- French Macarons: assorted flavors
- Hot and Iced Teas: you pick the tea
- Boba Tea (popping boba with your choice of flavored tea)



Afternoon Tea to Go: available with advance order only.
\$24.95

Fall Tea Sampler

We are excited to bring back our seasonal tea sampler.
Enjoy our favorite Fall Flavors in one place.

This seasonal sampler includes 6 of our favorites!
Each flavor includes 3 tea sachets for a total of 18 cups of tea!

Almond Rocker
Carmel Apple
Farmer's Market Kettle Corn
Golden Apple Spice
Pumpkin Cream Chai Oolong
Sleepy Hollow Pumpkin Chai



Limited quantities available for this year's tea sampler.
Pre-order on www.DriftwoodTeaCompany.com
Orders will ship on September 22, 2025

Warm Apple Pie Cocktail

Recipe Inspiration: Apples are always popular during the cooler months. Ripe red apples are refreshing and delicious whether served as a whole fruit or in a warm apple pie. Therefore, we thought, what better ingredient to use in a delicious winter cocktail!

If you enjoy apples and spices of cinnamon and nutmeg, this is the cocktail for you. Whether sitting in front of a warm fire reading a good book or by the campfire with friends, this delicious cocktail will have you relaxing and enjoying the winter months in no time.

This cocktail is best served warm with a cinnamon stick for garnish.

Food Pairing: This cocktail pairs lovely with spice cake with cream cheese icing.

Ingredients:

2 Apple Spice Black tea bags (Driftwood Tea Company or your favorite brand)
*If you prefer loose tea, use 1 tablespoon tea for 12 ounces of water (you want it slightly strong)
12 ounces of water, heated to 212 degrees F
2 ounces Spiced Rum
2 tsp sugar (optional)

*Garnish (optional)

Cinnamon Sugar (mix 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon and 2 tablespoons granulated sugar)
2 tablespoons water or simple syrup (we prefer Torani sugar cane, available at most grocers)
1 cinnamon stick

Directions:

Heat water to 212 degrees F.
Pour 12 ounces of hot water into a large mug or other tea steeping vessel, add 2 tea bags, and cover cup (you want to keep the tea as hot as possible).
*If using loose tea, put tea into mesh steeper, stepper basket, French press, or whichever other vessel you choose to steep in.
Steep tea for 5 minutes (be sure to set a timer).
While the tea is steeping, prepare your glass (see option below for cinnamon sugar rim)

*Optional - Sugar Rim: if you choose to rim your glass with cinnamon sugar, do that before adding spice rum to the glass. Take water or simple syrup and pour onto a folded napkin. Turn glass upside down and place rim on napkin, moistening the rim. Lift glass and place rim in cinnamon sugar to coat the rim. Lift glass and put right side up on counter. Continue with next step, filling glass.

Add 2 ounces spiced rum of your choosing to your drinking glass.

After 5 minutes, remove tea bags. Dispose of tea bags.
Add tea to spiced rum, mix, garnish with cinnamon stick (optional) and enjoy.





The White Heron Tea & Gifts
Driftwood Tea Company
6228 Grand Boulevard
New Port Richey, Florida 34652

Featured

Fall Tea

Sugar Shack Smoky Maple

Reminiscent of winter festivals among the maples, this tea starts with toasty notes and ends slightly sweet.

It's perfect for sitting in front of the fireplace (or campfire).



Luxury Ingredients: Black tea,
Safflower petals, Natural flavors,
and Real Maple Syrup

Tea(s) From: Sri Lanka

Antioxidant / Caffeine Level:
High / Medium

Tea information available on www.DriftwoodTeaCompany.com

CONTACT US

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Visit us on the web at
www.thewhiteheronfl.com
Enjoy our tea at home. Visit our
tea website at
www.driftwoodteacompany.com

**Reservations required for
tearoom services. Please call a
minimum of 24 hours in
advance.**

**Large parties are encouraged to
call well in advance as the tearoom
fills quickly.*