

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Chelle Koster Walton  
239-472-3499  
[ChelleTrav@aol.com](mailto:ChelleTrav@aol.com)

Caption: Scholarship winner Ronald Ward-James and his mother Cherry, DDWS President Susan Cassell, Refuge Environmental Education Specialist Toni Westland, and scholarship winner Miles Rubinski.

[image available upon request]

### **DDWS awards scholarships for environmental studies**

On Apr. 27, 2009, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) awarded two \$500 Environmental Studies scholarships to local students at a special ceremony at Broadway Palm Theatre in Fort Myers. The presentation was part of the 17th Annual Excellence in Education Awards sponsored by the *News-Press* and Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce.

Scholarship winners included Ronald Ward-James, who will be studying ecology and environmental science at Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall, and Miles Rubinski, who will be majoring in chemistry and physics at Stetson University in Deland, Florida.

“DDWS is pleased to continue its support for deserving students who want to pursue college degrees in science and environmental studies,” said Doris Hardy, DDWS Education Committee chair.

This is the second year DDWS has contributed to the education awards. DDWS is a non-profit, friends-of-the-refuge organization that supports the Education Center, “Ding” Darling Days, and other educational programs at the refuge.

To join DDWS and become a friend of the refuge, stop in at the Refuge Education Center or visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org).

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