

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Images available upon request.

Save the date for 20th annual “Ding” Darling Days

Mark your calendars for this year’s “Ding” Darling Days birding and eco-festival at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida, the week of Oct. 18-24, 2009. The theme of this year’s event is “Let’s Go Outside!”

Family Fun Day kicks off the week this year with free fun on Sunday, Oct. 18. It features all-free refuge tram tours, live wildlife presentations, hot dogs, a touch tank and butterfly house, and kids nature crafts.

Art Through Conservation Day winds up the celebration on Saturday, Oct. 24 with visits from Federal Duck Stamp winners and a nature cartoonist, children’s author, and art teacher.

Free and discounted birding, biking, kayaking, and sea life boat tours will fill the week between the two events.

The 20th Annual “Ding” Darling Days celebrates the birthday of the refuge’s namesake, father of the Duck Stamp program and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Jay N. “Ding” Darling.

“This year’s event promises to be the best ‘Ding’ Days ever,” said Wendy Erler, “Ding” Days committee co-chair for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. “We’re very excited about the addition of the art day to honor our Duck Stamp Winner and get families involved in nature through the arts.”

Visit www.dingdarlingdays.com for updates on events and to sign up for weekly bulletins or call the refuge at 239-472-1100.

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