

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
Contact: Birgie Miller
239-292-0566
director@dingdarlingsociety.org

Logo attached

Registration for fifth annual ‘Ding’ Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament open through April 29

[Sanibel Island—February 2016] A 100 percent purse promises to make the fifth annual “Ding” Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament on May 7, 2016, the hottest competition on the water. It pays out 100 percent of the entry fee as tournament awards. Registration deadline is April 29.

The competition is limited to 50 teams. The team fee of \$500 for up to four anglers also includes a Captain’s Dinner the night prior and awards ceremony dinner the evening of the tournament. All events take place at Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille on Fort Myers Beach.

Doc Ford's -- with locations also on Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach -- has again committed to being the title sponsor for the 2016 tournament, along with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

Diversified Yacht Services, Inc., of Fort Myers Beach will, for the fifth consecutive year, provide support at the Presenting Sponsors level. Proceeds benefit wildlife and conservation education at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

“There’s not another tarpon tournament like this in the area,” said Marty Harrity, Doc Ford’s co-owner. “In past years we’ve had fishermen from all over the country. Last year we paid out \$25,375 in awards to five out of 48 participating teams. We already have 24 teams signed up for this year – way ahead of past years!”

“Doc Ford’s has been a faithful supporter of our efforts at ‘Ding’ Darling, helping greatly to bolster refuge programs and research to balance federal budget shortfalls,” said Birgie Miller, DDWS executive director. “Last year we raised \$50,000 for the refuge as a result of sponsorships,

donations, and auction proceeds. We're so grateful to Doc Ford's for this huge effort on our behalf."

For more information on the tournament, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/tarpon-tourney.

Anyone interested in becoming a tournament sponsor should contact Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Tournament sponsors include: **Title Sponsor:** Doc Ford's; **Presenting Sponsor:** Diversified Yacht Services; **Platinum Sponsors:** Florida Weekly, The Gresham Family, Hoge Lures; **Gold Sponsors:** Anisa Stewart Jewelry, Bella Signs & Designs, Island Inn, Raisers Edge, Sanibel Gear, Sanibel Island Fishing Club

ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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