

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Kids can make Mother Earth ornaments at Earth Day at the Refuge

### **Biking, hiking, crafts for Earth Day**

Bike or hike Wildlife Drive for free, create earth-friendly crafts, and follow guided tours at this year's Earth Day at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

The refuge will celebrate the 46th anniversary of Earth Day in partnership with Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) and Tarpon Bay Explorers. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., families can do make-and-take Earth Day crafts including recycled soda-bottle butterflies and jelly fish, Mother Earth ornaments, and baskets made from "plarn" –recycled plastic bag yarn.

Below is the full schedule for earth-friendly and free fun throughout the day:

7 a.m.-7 p.m. Wildlife Drive is open free to bikers and hikers only (\$5 fee per vehicle).

8 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE bike rentals provided by Tarpon Bay Explorers. Must pick up bikes at

Tarpon Bay Explorers' location at Tarpon Bay Road and Sanibel-Captiva Road.

9:30-11 a.m. Biking the Refuge Tour-Join a naturalist on the 4-mile Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail

Loop to learn about the refuge's bird life and ecology. Meet at the flagpole.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Ongoing Earth Crafts in the Education Center Classroom

10-11 a.m. Guided Hike along Indigo Trail-Join a refuge naturalist on a guided nature hike along

Indigo Trail to the Wildlife Education Boardwalk. Meet at the flagpole.

11-1:30 p.m. Reading in the Refuge-Family story-time about sea turtles. (Visitor & Education Center Auditorium)

For more information on Earth Day at the Refuge, call 239-472-1100 ext. 236 or visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/earth-day](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/earth-day).

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](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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