



www.dingdarlingsociety.org

**WINTER 2015**

# Society Pages

News from Friends of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the nonprofit Friends of the Refuge organization, supports environmental education, services, and land conservation at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Education and conservation efforts may extend beyond the complex's borders. We partner in these efforts where possible with like-minded conservation organizations.



Jim Sprinkle brings his puffin decoy to life with a rough cut on the band saw and the use of a taxidermy model for detailing.

## TRAILGATE 2015



## AN EVENING IN MAINE

This year we take the trailgating theme to Maine with "Dinner & Puffins." Make plans now to attend the third annual "Ding" Darling Trailgate Party on February 17, 2015, to benefit research and education at the Refuge.

"Because Maine is too chilly for outdoor trailgating this time of year, the trailgate party will take

*continued on page 2*

## 'Ding' Days 25<sup>th</sup>



IBEX Puppetry was on hand to once again wow Family Fun Day visitors with wildlife pageantry.



Above: We added archery lessons to the Family Fun Day repertoire this year.

Below: Our "Happy Appy" and Blue Goose mascots posed for photo opps.



The new "Discover Ding" game app, scavenger hunts, archery lessons, special tram tours, free paddleboarding, and a lot of flap about duck stamps: The 25th annual "Ding" Darling Days attracted thousands of visitors throughout the week of October 19-25 — our most well-attended event in our 25-year history. Thanks to Tarpon Bay Explorers and all of our wonderful generous sponsors for boosting us to success. See our glorious roll call of sponsors on page 2.

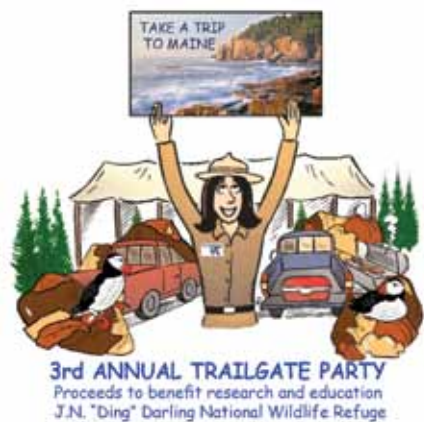


Federal Duck Stamp artist Adam Grimm met three Florida Junior Duck Stamp winners — three brothers from Jacksonville, Florida — on Conservation Art Day.



Live wildlife is always a bit on Family Fun Day.





## TRAILGATE 2015

*continued from page 1*

place inside the Community House," said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. "The event features a presentation by Dr. Stephen W. Kress, who founded Project Puffin in 1973 to restore Maine's historic but decimated puffin population."

Tickets are \$100 each and will include a live and silent auction, Maine-style sit-down dinner, and live musical entertainment. Headlining the live auction will be a life-sized puffin decoy carved by master bird sculptor Jim Sprinkle and a separate puffin feather carving whose purchase includes exclusive membership into the "Sprinkle Feather Club" and benefits.

Attendees can also bid on a unique field excursion in Maine with Dr. Kress, painted furniture, nature photography, and other items created especially for the event.

"Seating is limited and we once again anticipate a sold-out crowd," said event committee member and DDWS President Doris Hardy. "We encourage people to contact us if they would like to receive an invitation."

Please contact Birgie at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org if you are interested in attending or sponsoring the event. Or register online at <http://conta.cc/11v68VP>.

Thanks to the following sponsors who support Trailgate 2015.

**Champion Sponsor:** Mark & Gretchen Banks, Wayne & Linda Boyd, John & Kathy McCabe, Peter & Paula Bentinck-Smith; **Protector Level:** Mike & Terry Baldwin, Jay & Cindy Brown, Amanda Cross, George & Wendy's Seafood Grill, The Jacaranda, Sanibel Catering/Bailey's General Store, Shaker Investments, Trader's Store & Café, Don & Ann-Marie Wildman; **Defender Level:** Big Red Quickprint, Cip's Place, Tim & Suzanne Devitt, Melissa & Tom Gauntlett, Half-Crackerphoto.com, John Grey Painting, Queenie's Homemade Ice Cream, Suncatchers' Dream.

# High School Photo Contest

The second annual "Ding" Darling-Theodore Cross High School Photography Contest kicked off November 1, 2014, with a deadline of February 25, 2015. It invites high school students in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry counties to enter to win prizes that include a Canon digital SLR camera package, chartered class trips to the Refuge, and copies of *Waterbirds: Portraits and Anecdotes from Birding Adventures* by contest namesake, the late Theodore Cross.

Ted Cross, who lived part-time on Sanibel Island and has family still living here, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; advised the Johnson and Nixon administrations on anti-poverty programs; wrote the influential book *Black Capitalism*, among others; played a prominent role in President Obama's election; and created Birders United — a birding Web site that ranked legislators according to their record of bird protection support.

Late in life, Cross decided to indulge his love for

birds and photography and traveled the world — often visiting "Ding" Darling — to collect stunning portraits and stories to chronicle his adventures. Ted published *Waterbirds* in 2009 at age 85; he passed away shortly thereafter in February 2010.

"The Theodore Cross Family Charitable Foundation has made possible this contest with a generous grant," said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director. "We couldn't be more thrilled that they wanted their donation used this way for a second year."

"We are so happy to be supporting a contest in my father's name, a contest that will get our youth involved with nature by looking at it — as my father so loved doing — through a camera lens," said daughter Amanda Cross.

World-renowned, New York-based photographer Arne Svenson will judge the competition this winter. Entry rules and guidelines are listed at [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/photo-contests](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/photo-contests). Call DDWS at 239-472-1100 ext. 233 for more information.



Amanda Cross and family friend Jim Hellmuth handed out last year's awards.

## BIG Thanks To This Year's 'Ding' Days Sponsors

Thanks for helping us celebrate 25 years in style!

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille

**GREAT EGRET:** Matzaluna: The Italian Kitchen, Tween Waters Inn

**GREAT BLUE HERON:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio,

Arthur Printing, Bailey's General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Casa Ybel Resort, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Intech Printing, Island Sun, Jerry's Foods, Mike & Cannella Mullins, Ocean's Reach Condominiums, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Jim & Patty Sprinkle, West Wind Inn

**REDDISH EGRET:** Big Red Q Quickprint, Caloosa Tent & Rental, Casa Ybel Resort, Sally and Rich Ennis, Gulf Breeze Cottages, Sabal Signs, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, West Wind Inn

**SNOWY EGRET:** Barefoot Charley's Painting Co., Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Florida Weekly, George & Wendy's Seafood Grille, Good Wheels, Grounds by Green Ways, Island Therapy Center, Over Easy Café, Panther Printing, Sanibel Art & Frame, Wendy & George Schnapp, She Sells Sea Shells, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Suncatchers' Dream





Wildlife motion-activated cameras capture valuable images such as this one of a bobcat carrying a juvenile alligator in its mouth. The Refuge hopes to buy three more to expand coverage.

## Wish-List Giving

Membership donations and annual gifts are the lifeblood of the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. Check out additional and unique giving opportunities on the Refuge's "Wish List" below. *All gifts are tax deductible.* For online giving and more information, please visit [www.dingdarling.society.org/donations-text](http://www.dingdarling.society.org/donations-text). Or contact Birgie Miller at [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org) or 239-292-0566 about other "Wish List" items not included here. Thank you for your valuable contribution.

### Barred Owl (taxidermied) - \$700

Taxidermy wildlife specimens are a crucial tool in teaching the thousands of students who visit the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center classroom each year. Currently the classroom lacks a barred owl, one of the most common owl species to frequent the Refuge.

### Education Films - \$1,000

The first in a series of short, fun, and educational "Ding" Darling videos, *Wildlife Sleuths* follows Ranger Becky Wolff Larkins as she leads students on a mission to find clues to what species of wildlife have preceded their hike at the Refuge. DDWS is seeking donations for more videos on a variety of educational topics, which we will show in the Visitor & Education Center, community outreach, and elsewhere.

### Interpretive Wildlife Panel - \$500

Bailey Tract desperately needs new signage to educate its visitors. Because of the river running through this unique conservation land, Bailey Tract harbors slightly different wildlife than that seen along Wildlife Drive. The Tract needs several panels as the existing signs are falling apart, and many areas that have never had signage could highly benefit from it.

### Named Scholarships - \$500 or more

Honor or memorialize that special someone with a Con-

servation Education Scholarship in his or her name. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors and college students from within a five-county range who are studying in the fields of biology and the environment.

### Owl Pellets - \$40 per class

More than 250 classes from around the area visit the Refuge by bus each year, and one of their favorite interactive activities is the dissection of owl pellets, a valuable learning experience. Sponsor one class or many.

### Summer School Bus - five at \$400 each

The Refuge is fortunate to receive an annual family foundation grant to fund class trips to the Refuge throughout the school year. However, during the summer, we bring underserved day camp groups to the Refuge and need funds to provide busing for these special programs.

### Unspecified Honor Gift - any amount

Please feel free to honor a friend or family member with a donation that allows DDWS to put your gift to best use for the betterment of Refuge programs and research.

### Wildlife Motion Detector Cameras - three at \$250 each

Infrared, motion-activated cameras are invaluable to biology research on the Refuge. In 2015, we hope to purchase three more cameras to place strategically at Indigo Trail, Bailey Tract, and other areas frequented by bobcats, alligators, otters, raccoons, turtles, and other charismatic Refuge wildlife.

### Wi-Fi Camera - \$250

Our social media networks have become an important communication tool for education and outreach. A wireless camera would allow us to post images of wildlife and Refuge visitors to social media instantaneously, thus improving our reach relevance.

## UPCYCLE 2015:

# Two Big Days!

This year we expand our Upcycle! Art Fest to two days, by popular demand. The second annual festival will take place in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center on Wednesday and Thursday, April 1-2, 2015. More than 25 artists from around the U.S. will be selling works of art using repurposed and re-envisioned materials.

"We are once again planning an educational and entertaining event that will directly benefit wildlife and its habitat at 'Ding' Darling," said Barb Rogers, Upcycle! Art Fest Committee Chair. "Besides demonstrating the importance of recycling and conservation, it will offer visitors opportunities to purchase one-of-a-kind pieces and even try their hand at it."

The festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days and will feature works for display, judging, and sales. Activities will include a silent auction of select artists' work, make-and-take crafts for kids and adults, and other environmental goings-on.

"Last year's inaugural one-day Upcycle! brought thousands of art appreciators to look and buy," said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. "This year we added another day and are anticipating an even bigger event."

Artists wishing to register for the event can do so at [www.UpcycleArtFest.org](http://www.UpcycleArtFest.org). Artists will be accepted by a jury on a first-come and quality basis. Any businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring or participating in Upcycle! Art Fest should contact Birgie at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).



Bicycle tire recycle artist Andrew Corke will again be participating in Upcycle!

## FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please "LIKE" us on **Facebook** by searching "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. (You can also "LIKE" the Refuge by searching for its "Official" page.)

**Instagram** users can find us at @dingdarlingwildlifesociety. On **Twitter**, our handle is @DingDarlingWS.





# Fall Happenings



The *Islander* newspaper awarded the Refuge for Best Family Attraction in this year's readers' poll at a special luncheon on September 23.



DDWS and the Refuge hosted a soiree on September 23 in the Visitor & Education Center that brought together representatives from nearly 30 island non-profit organizations. About 120 guests enjoyed pass-around hors d'oeuvres, compliments of Sanibel Catering, plus beer, wine, and camaraderie.



Youngsters up to age 15 participated in this year's fourth annual Kids Fishing Derby on the Sanibel Causeway on Saturday, November 8. Thanks to volunteers from the Sanibel Island Fishing Club and Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters for their help and to other derby sponsors: Trophy Case, Lexington Fishing Club, Tarpon Bay Explorers, Shallow Bait, and Dale Shirley.



## IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

### New Look

Come see our Nature Store makeover. We're sporting a brighter, cleaner space to fill with wonderful new items we've found for you this season. Remember, all proceeds from your purchases directly benefit Refuge education and research.



*Many of our new Nature Store gifts use repurposed materials.*



## HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR

*Record crowds attended this season's Holiday Happy Hour shopping event at the Refuge Nature Store. They enjoyed meeting some of the store's artisans, free poinsettias with their purchase, hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, free gift wrapping and festivities.*



# Stellar Lecture Line-up

The granddaughter of Ansel Adams, prolific environmental writer and documentary filmmaker Bill Belleville, celebrity birding authors Don and Lillian Stokes, and solar power pioneer Neville Williams headline the eagerly awaited 2015 "Ding" Darling Nature Store Friday Lecture Series.

The free 14-week series kicks off on Friday, January 9, 2015, in the "Ding" Darling Visitors & Education Center Auditorium with a panel discussion by Lillian Stokes, Karl Werner, and David and Tammy McQuade titled "Better Birding through Social Media."

The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company is sponsoring the 2015 lecture series with support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. Because of their popularity, the free lectures will be held twice each Friday, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company has a true commitment to conservation and the health of our wildlife, and we're so grateful to have them team up with the Society on our lecture series," said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director.

Other lectures will examine the Florida Highwaymen artists, pesticides, the Everglades, and other relevant topics. The season's complete schedule is listed here. Book signings follow all of the starred (\*) lectures. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/lectures](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/lectures).



Sanibel Captiva Trust Company once again generously sponsors our Friday Lecture Series.

**Jan. 9** - Panel Discussion: "Better Birding Through Social Media"

**\*Jan. 16** - Speaker: Author Bill Belleville, *The Peace of Blue*

**\*Jan. 23** - Speaker: Author/Photographer Mac Stone, *Everglades: America's Wetland*

**\*Jan. 30** - Speaker: Author Neville Williams, *Our Solar-Powered Future*

**\*Feb. 6** - Speaker: Author Jeff Klinkenberg, *Alligator in B Flat*

**\*Feb. 13** - Speakers: Authors Don and Lillian Stokes, "Beautiful Birds of Sanibel"

**\*Feb. 20** - No Lecture - Volunteer Luncheon

**\*Feb. 27** - Speaker: Author Gary Monroe, *The Highwaymen*

**March 6** - Speaker: Sarah Adams, "Memories of My Grandfather, Ansel Adams"

**\*March 13** - Speaker: Author Frederick "Fritz" Davis, *Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science of Toxicology*

**\*March 20** - Speaker: Author Marie Read, *Into the Nest: Intimate Views of the Courting, Parenting, and Family Lives of Birds*

**\*March 27** - Speaker: Peggy Macdonald, *Marjorie Harris Carr: Defender of the Florida Environment*

**April 3** - Speaker: Jeremy Conrad, "Sea Turtles"

**April 10** - Speaker: Jerry Lorenz, "The Beauty & Science of Roseate Spoonbills"

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars, and join us! Visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) for details.

**Friday Lecture Series** - January 9-April 10, 2015

**Wednesday Bi-Weekly Film Series** - January 7-April 15, 2015

**Trailgate Party 2015 - Dinner & Puffins** - February 17, 2015

**Birding Tram Tour with Don & Lillian Stokes (filled)** - February 20, 2015

**Second Annual Upcycle! Art Fest** - April 1-2, 2015

**Earth Day at the Refuge** - April 18, 2015

**Fourth Annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament** - May 9, 2015

## NEW WEBSITE

Check out the Refuge's spiffy new, hot-off-the-press official website. Kudos to Sarah Lathrop for seeing the long, tangled project to completion. Visit [www.fws.gov/dingdarling](http://www.fws.gov/dingdarling) to browse.



## 2015 Officers

At its final meeting of 2014, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife elected officers for the upcoming year. They include (clockwise) President Doris Hardy, Vice President Mike Baldwin, Secretary Jim Scott, and Treasurer Vasanta Senerat. To view a copy of the 2013-2014 Annual Report, please visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/annual-meeting](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/annual-meeting).

## STAFF NEWS

### Welcome to Seasonal Interns

Four new interns have joined the ranks of Refuge and DDWS staff this fall for six-month work programs. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society provides support for about a dozen interns throughout the year.

"It not only fulfills our mission to educate a new generation of wildlife stewards, but provides valuable manpower to assist the Refuge's overworked staff," said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller.

Kasey Robb from Binghamton University in New York State will be assisting DDWS staff with outreach programs and helping the Refuge for special events and projects.

Dana Desousa from the University of Delaware is interning in visitor services. Education interns Jen LoDico and Elise Diehl are on board to help handle school groups



*DDWS shared use intern Kasey Robb*



*Visitor services intern Dana Desousa (left photo); education interns Jen LoDico and Elise Diehl*



and to facilitate the Florida Junior Duck Stamp program headed each year by Education Specialist Ranger Becky Wolff Larkins.

### Congratulations, Ranger Becky

Congratulations and best wishes to Ranger Becky — now Becky Wolff Larkins — on her betrothal to Keith Larkins on October 4, 2014. The wedding took place at Buckingham Farms in Fort Myers.



## Reddish Egret Research at 'Ding'



*A researcher prepares a reddish egret for its study mission.*

During June 2014, the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville, Florida, trapped and fitted a satellite transmitter on a reddish egret within the Refuge as part of a larger reddish egret forage habitat research study. Information on this egret, including date tagged, movement history, and maps is available at <http://arcinst.org/arci-tracking-studies>.

### MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

**September 1, 2014 – December 1, 2014**

Memorial gifts and gifts made in honor of special occasions are a wonderful way to pay tribute to family and friends who are important to us. Throughout the year, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society has received gifts in memory and in honor of loved ones. Thank you to everyone who supported the Refuge in this thoughtful and meaningful way.

We recently received gifts in **MEMORY** of the following:

Dr. Dudley Backup	Irene Klemmer
Jamie Block	Bill & Susie Knight
Zigrada Brookes	John William Lavis
Marshall B. Clinard	Robert Harrison Lepien
Larry Congress	Francine Litofsky
Amber & Taffy Davies	Cecil McLelland
Dr. H. Randall Deming	Wren Lisette Mousaw
Tom Dunn	Mary Parcells
Caroline DesPrez	Clair Postmus
George & Peggy Eldred	Dorothy Darling Powel
Arthur & Constance Goodman	Jay Reichman
Louise Fer Horst	Klaus Saegebarth
Radm William L. Harris USN	Florence Savage
Mark Holmen	Gene Steele
Max Lee Kirk	Jack Tucker

We received gifts in **HONOR** of:

Julie Armantrout	Robert G. Meeker
Joe Buehler	Gail Meier
Porter & Mariel Goss	Birgie Miller
Doris Hardy	Beverly Sklar
Susan Davis Heisler	Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Webb
Jean Kramer	Phil & Tina Weyman
John McEllen	

## WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

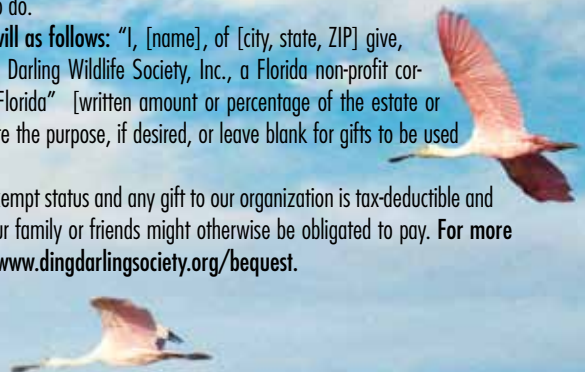
Here we showcase the best shots of wildlife taken at the Refuge recently by photographers, volunteers, staff, and others. This "Pelican taking off at sunset" portrait shot by Michael Femal of St. Petersburg, Florida, won honorable mention in the 2015 "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest. If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sarah Latbrop at [sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org).

## Leave a Legacy and Support 'Ding' Darling in Your Estate Plans

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS) is proud to be mentioned in many of our departed benefactors' Last Wills and Testaments and as beneficiaries of retirement and other estate plans. It's quite simple to do.

**You may name DDWS in your will as follows:** "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP] give, devise, and bequeath to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation located on Sanibel Island, Florida" [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for [designate the purpose, if desired, or leave blank for gifts to be used to address the greatest need]."

The IRS has granted DDWS tax-exempt status and any gift to our organization is tax-deductible and will help offset inheritance taxes your family or friends might otherwise be obligated to pay. **For more information, visit our Web site at [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/bequest](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/bequest).**







Thanks to Tween Waters Inn for its generous support of this season's film series

## SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE

Application deadline for student environmental scholarships from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society is March 31, 2015. High school seniors or college students in or from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties intending to pursue degrees in environmental-related studies may apply.

Interested students can find more information and printable application forms at [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/student-scholarships](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/student-scholarships). Anyone interested in establishing a named scholarship for \$500 or more, please contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

## 2015 Film Series

The third annual "Ding" Darling Wednesday Film Series kicks off its bi-weekly showings this winter with a schedule of eight films. Seating for the free film showings in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center is limited and on a first-come basis.

"Tween Waters Inn sponsors this year's series, which features fascinating nature documentaries exploring topics from bees to sea turtles.

"We want to thank Tween Waters, who is always there to step up to the plate when we need guest rooms and other support," said DDWS President Doris Hardy. "They are loyal partners."

Below are the season's scheduled films and times of showings. For full descriptions of the films, please visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/films](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/films).

January 7, 2:30 p.m.: *Cuba: The Accidental Eden*

January 21, 2:30 p.m.: *John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature*

February 4, 2:30 p.m.: *The 11th Hour*

February 18, 2:30 p.m.: *Sharkwater*

March 4, 2:30 p.m.: *Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?*

March 18, 2:30 p.m.: *Turtle: The Incredible Journey*

April 1, 2:30 p.m.: *The Gathering Swarms*

April 15, 2:30 p.m.: *Chasing Ice*



## Photo Contest 2014

Judges selected 15 winners out of 118 entries from 18 states plus France and Germany — over 37 percent more entries than last year — in the 2014 "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest. All photographs entered were shot at the Refuge.

The three winners received cash awards from DDWS at a presentation on Conservation Art Day, October 25 — \$100 for first place, \$75 for second, and \$50 for third. Each honorable mention winner received a \$25 award, which reflects a refund of the contest entry fee.

The winning photographs and 12 honorable mention award entries will be on display in the Refuge Education Center throughout the year. To view the other top-ranking entries, visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/photo-contests](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/photo-contests).

**1st Place:** Charles Woodrich, Glen Allen, Virginia — Prothonotary Warbler



PHOTO BY JASON BOECKMAN

**2nd Place:** Bill Fischer, Hindsdale, Illinois — Double Crested Cormorant Eating a Spotted Sea Trout

**3rd Place:** Jason Boeckman, Fort Myers, Florida — River Otter

**HONORABLE MENTIONS** (in alphabetical order):  
Scott Beacque, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts — Reddish Egret



PHOTO BY BILL FISCHER

Sandy Boyle, Sanibel, Florida — Male Anhinga on Nest

Thomas Brott, Cape Coral, Florida — Spoonbill in Flight

Michael Femal, St. Petersburg, Florida — Pelican Taking Off at Sunset

Cheri Hollis, Homer Glen, Illinois — Diamondback Terrapin Turtles

Kent Jager, Sanibel, Florida — Reflected Reddish Egret

Chris Kiewer, Clinton, New Jersey — White Pelican Sunning

Patty MacInnis, Sanibel, Florida — Bird Soup

Liz Noffsinger, Milford, Ohio — Tri-colored Heron

Rebecca Sabac, Boynton Beach, Florida — Reddish Egret

Don Thompson, Indianapolis, Indiana — Little Blue Heron

Ellen Trevor, Sanibel, Florida — Snowy Egret





One Wildlife Drive  
P.O. Box 565  
Sanibel, FL 33957

*Forwarding Service Requested*

**Phone: (239) 472-1100, ext. 233**

**Fax: (239) 472-7803**

**WEBSITE**

**[www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org)**

**E-MAIL**

**[dingdarlingoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:dingdarlingoffice@yahoo.com)**

**2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President** Doris Hardy

**Vice President** Mike Baldwin

**Secretary** Jim Scott

**Treasurer** Vasanta Senerat

**Members At Large**

Sarah Ashton Jim Hall John McCabe

Mike Mullins Dan Wexler

Don Wildman Richard Yanke

**Past President** John McCabe

**SOCIETY STAFF**

**Executive Director** Birgie Miller

**Office Manager** Gary Ogden

**Refuge Nature Store Manager** Lise Bryant

**Associate Director of Community**

**Outreach and Development** Sarah Lathrop

**ADVISORS TO THE BOARD**

Marc Giattini Bill Rankin

**Refuge Manager** Paul Tritaik

**Supervisory Refuge Ranger** Toni Westland

**EMERITUS BOARD**

Terry Baldwin Susan Cassell Milena Eskew

Millie Ford Don Heidorn Dick Hulit

Joseph Kelley Marilyn Kloosterman

Chip Lesch Cindy Pierce Jim Sprankle

Jeanne Rankin Mary Ruth Stegman

**Departed Members**

Art Krival Molly Krival Bud Ryckman

Gene Steele

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

**Editor** Chelle Koster Walton

**Photography** Chelle Koster Walton,  
Refuge & DDWS Staff

**Design and Production** Susan Holly,  
Lynne Egensteiner

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
5752  
Ft. Myers, FL

## Photo Contest Winners

First place award in this year's "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest went to Charles Woodrich of Glen Allen, Virginia, for his Prothonotary Warbler portrait. "It was one of a few small birds entered, and I think that's an interesting category," said Buck Ward, a local professional photographer who helped judge the contest. "It was well photographed with a lot of interesting motion and activity from the bird. And I liked the spider web." See page 7 for a list of other winners.

