

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Nature photographer Clyde Butcher presents a stunning photographic presentation highlighting Big Cypress Swamp and other natural treasures.

Caption: HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management again sponsors the “Ding” Darling lecture series.

‘Ding’ Darling lecture series visits Subirdia, baby birds, Big Cypress Swamp

Welcome to Subirdia, Heart of a Lion, and A Naturalist Goes Fishing: The book titles featured in the 2017 “Ding” Darling Friday Lecture Series are as intriguing as varied. The series takes place in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island starting Friday, Jan. 20, and winding up April 14.

The free 12-lecture series kicks off with two consecutive photographic presentations: Mark Renz on Jan. 20 and Clyde Butcher on Jan. 27. Sponsored by HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), the series features noted authors, photographers, and experts in nature-related fields.

Other lectures will examine migratory birds in a changing climate, animal forensics, the sounds of nature, and the islands of Pine Island Sound.

The free lectures will be held twice each Friday (except Feb. 10), at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The season’s complete schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all except the one starred (*) lecture. Stay tuned to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series for forthcoming information on lecturers.

Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure seating. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Visitor &

Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the free Visitor & Education Center, Indigo Trail, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of refuge and DDWS management, staff, and board of directors.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/lectures for links to lecture descriptions.

Jan. 20 – Author-photographer Mark Renz, *Naturally Twisted: A Look at the Wild*

Jan. 27 – Photographer Clyde Butcher, *Big Cypress Swamp: The Western Everglades*

Feb. 3 – Author Dr. James McClintock, *A Naturalist Goes Fishing: Casting in Fragile Waters from the Gulf of Mexico to New Zealand's South Island*

Feb. 10 - NO LECTURE

Feb. 17 – Author Dr. John Marzluff, *Welcome to Suburdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*

Feb. 24 – Author Will Harlan, *Untamed: The Biography of Carol Ruckdeschel*

March 3 – Author Dr. Laurel Neme, *Animal Investigators: How the World's First Forensic Lab Is Solving Crimes & Saving Endangered Species*

*March 10 – Researchers Dr. Jennifer McCabe & Dr. Brian Olsen, “Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World”

March 17 – Author-artist Julie Zickefoose, *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*

March 24 – Author Denege Patterson, *A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound: A Geological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspective*

March 31 – Author Will Stolzenburg, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat's Walk Across America*

April 7 – Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*

April 14 – Author Charles Sobczak, *Alligators, Sharks, & Panthers: Deadly Encounters with Florida's Top Predator — Man*

*starred lecture indicates no book-signing to follow

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, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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