

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: The Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit examines issues and impacts of water.

[Attached: Water/Ways, Florida Humanities, and Smithsonian logos]

### **Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit opens Oct. 28 at ‘Ding’ Darling**

The Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit opens at the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center on Friday, Oct. 28, and runs through Dec. 7, 2016, hosted by “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

“The six-week exhibit will take a global look at water relative to environment, culture, history, and spirituality,” said Sarah Lathrop, associate director of DDWS, who oversees the exhibit with supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “It will also examine the issues and context facing our liquid assets here at home through a panel discussion, an accompanying exhibit, and collaborative programming we have created internally.”

As a part of Water/Ways programming, DDWS will be hosting a speakers series on select Fridays and showing a water-related film series sponsored by LCEC on Wednesdays. The Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild is mounting an artful water and nature exhibition titled “Engulfed” during the event, plus exhibits of Mac Stone’s Everglades’ photography and historic water-related cartoons by Jay N. “Ding” Darling will also be on display.

Special Saturday family programs, giveaways, interactive water features, and other activities are also scheduled. On Saturday, Nov. 26, a Kids Fishing Derby will take place on the Sanibel causeway in conjunction with the exhibit. WaterVentures Florida’s Learning Lab will make a one-day stop on Saturday, Dec. 3. Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s recreation concession, will offer a 10 percent discount on 10 of its Saturday Nature & Sea Life cruises during Water/Ways.

“The outstanding, state-of the-art Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit lies at the heart of an exciting, engaging six weeks of programming for kids and adults. We hope it will ultimately send the message that

we all need to work together to preserve our valuable, vanishing water resources,” said Ranger Westland.  
"We are honored to be among the select venues hosting the exhibit."

#### ABOUT WATER/WAYS

Through a highly competitive bidding process, ‘Ding’ Darling was chosen as one of only six Florida locations to host the new Water/Ways. The exhibit, part of the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program, examines water as an environmental necessity and important cultural element. Water covers more than 71 percent of Earth’s surface, having an impact on climate, health, economics, politics, agriculture, transportation, and industry. Water/Ways explores the endless motion of water on Earth’s surface, below ground, and in the atmosphere, and it illustrates its effect on landscape, settlement, migration, and even spirituality. For information about the exhibit, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

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

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