

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption for lookintotheeye: John Moran's photographed "Look Into the Eye" Florida's Silver Glen Springs.

Caption for johnmoran: Photographer and water-quality advocate John Moran.

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

Photographer-advocate John Moran to present during 'Ding' Darling's Water/Ways exhibit

In conjunction with the visiting Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center Oct. 28 through Dec. 7, 2016, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will be hosting a free "Soak-It-In Speaker Series" on select Fridays at 1 p.m. The featured speaker on Nov. 18, photographer John Moran, will present a photographic lecture titled "Our Water, Our Future."

"This presentation replaces one earlier scheduled with photographer Mac Stone, who will be accompanying a group of scientists looking for new species in a never-before-explored area of Mozambique at that time," said Sarah Lathrop, associate director of DDWS, the nonprofit that is also funding Water/Ways' engagement. Lathrop administers the overall exhibit with supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland.

"We warmly welcome John, whose proactive work for Florida water quality makes him a perfect fit for Water/Ways," Lathrop said. "The six-week exhibit will take a global look at water relative to environment, culture, history, and spirituality. 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."

Moran, cofounder of the Springs Eternal Project to educate Floridians and decision-makers, concentrates on photography that captures the best of vanishing natural Florida. His latest programs focus on Florida's iconic springs as a case study for exploring the larger topic of water and Florida's future. Combining stunning photography with stirring commentary, Moran purports that there can be no long-term wellbeing in Florida unless we embrace a new way of thinking about water—mindful that tomorrow's Florida is being shaped by the choices we make today.

“Our Water, Our Future’ pairs photos from my 30-year archive, and historical photos from state archives, with contemporary views to create a then-and-now narrative of Florida's springs and rivers, and the changes we have seen,” said the photographer.

Admission to the lecture is free but limited on a first-come basis. The schedule of all free presentations in the series is listed below. All begin at 1 p.m.

Oct. 28 – Author Ellen Prager – Ocean Trivia program

Nov. 4 – Author Cynthia Barnett – Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America

Nov. 18 – Nature Photographer John Moran – Our Water, Our Future

Dec. 2 – “Water: Have We Missed the Boat?” interactive panel discussion

Also as a part of Water/Ways programming, DDWS will be 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, and an exhibit of Mac Stone’s water-related Everglades’ photography will also be on display.

Special Saturday family programs, giveaways, interactive water features, scavenger hunts, prizes, 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 most of its 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 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."

For a full schedule of Water/Ways programming, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/waterways.

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.

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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