

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Students demonstrate the Go With the Flow interactive water table that educates about the effect of pollutants on watershed. Littleton Elementary School teacher Susie Hassett and DDWS created the table for Water/Ways and other special events through funding from a DDWS teacher grant.

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

Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit programming presents family H-2-GO Saturdays

In conjunction with the visiting Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Oct. 28 through Dec. 7, 2016, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will be hosting free H-2-GO Saturdays at 10 a.m. with activities and crafts for all ages.

“Each Saturday we will headline one main activity relative to water,” said Sarah Lathrop, associate director of DDWS, the nonprofit that is also funding Water/Ways’ engagement. Lathrop oversees the exhibit with supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “Throughout the day, participants can also interact with our Go With the Flow watershed table and take advantage of 10 percent discounts off the 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nature & Sea Life Cruise at Tarpon Bay Explorers. The discount is not effective the day after Thanksgiving, however. On that day, Nov. 26, we are conducting a Kids Fishing Derby on the causeway.”

All the H-2-GO Saturdays are free to the public. Below is a schedule of the weekly activities.

Oct. 29 – Marine Debris Timeline: Learn about decomposition and how to make friendship bracelets from recycled plastic bags.

Nov. 5 – The Incredible Journey: Travel through the water cycle as a droplet of water.

Nov. 12 – Pollution Solution: Identify sources of pollution on a walk around the refuge.

Nov. 19 – Food Web Frenzy: Become a part of the mangrove estuary system.

Nov. 16 – Kids Fishing Derby: On the Sanibel Causeway starting at 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 3 – WaterVentures: Explore the 53-foot traveling science center.

Also as a part of Water/Ways programming, DDWS will be hosting a speakers series on select Fridays and 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. .

“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 that we hope 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 more information on Water/Ways and a full calendar of events, 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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