

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

Sobczak, predators wind up ‘Ding’ lecture series 2017

Charles Sobczak, author of *Alligators, Sharks, & Panthers: Deadly Encounters with Florida’s Top Predator — Man*, will be presenting two programs at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, April 14, as the finale to the 2017 “Ding” Darling Lecture Series at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island

Sobczak’s PowerPoint presentation will explore man’s complex and often strained relationship with the planet’s other top predators. It explores recent and historical fatal attacks on humans in Florida and how these have influenced our perception of wildlife here and beyond. It also takes a close look at the important differences between new world and old world predators.

Sobczak lives and writes on Sanibel Island. His *Alligators, Sharks & Panthers* has won several awards including a silver medal from the Florida Publishers and Authors Association for both best adult nonfiction and best young adult nonfiction. He is also the author of *Living Sanibel: A Nature Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands* and *Living Gulf Coast: A Nature Guide to Southwest Florida*.

Following his presentations, Sobczak will be signing copies of his book, which are available for purchase in the Refuge Nature Store, proceeds from which benefit wildlife, research, and education at “Ding” Darling.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors the free 12-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

Seating for the lectures in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure a place to sit. 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 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/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

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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