

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

‘Ding’ lecture to explore the islands of Pine Island Sound

Denege Patterson, an archaeology tour guide from the Randell Research Center of Pineland, Fla., introduces 24 of the 90-some islands that share Pine Island Sound with Sanibel and Captiva islands in her book *A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound: A Geological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspective*.

A series of breathtaking aerial photographs and color maps will accompany the author’s two free presentations at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, March 24, part of the 2017 “Ding” Darling Lecture Series at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island. She will talk about how the islands were formed, why the region is so biologically productive yet vulnerable, which islands contributed the most important archaeological discoveries about indigenous people, why only five of the islands were never submerged, how the Gulf beaches and passes achieved their present form, and the islands’ intriguing human history.

For 17 years, Patterson has worked side-by-side with archaeologists in the field and laboratory at Randell Research Center. Following her presentations, she will be signing copies of her book, which are available for purchase in the Refuge Nature Store, proceeds from which benefit wildlife 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). The season’s complete schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all remaining lectures.

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.

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*

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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