

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

‘Ding’ lecturer to discuss ‘CSI for wildlife’

Human and wildlife forensics both use science to link a suspect to a crime scene and victim. Yet while human forensic scientists deal with just one species of victim -- homo sapiens -- wildlife forensic scientists deal with thousands.

Using real life stories from around the world, Dr. Laurel Neme, author of *Animal Investigators: How the World’s First Forensic Lab Is Solving Crimes & Saving Endangered Species*, will explain how innovative science uses a variety of techniques -- from genetic analysis to morphology -- to solve crimes against wildlife and reduce the scale of wildlife trafficking. Her two free presentations take place at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, March 3, as part of the 2017 “Ding” Darling Lecture Series at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

Neme and her “CSI for wildlife” has been featured on ABC News Nightline, C-SPAN, and NPR's Science Friday. She is a contributor to *National Geographic* and hosts "The WildLife," a podcast that explores the mysteries of the animal world through interviews with scientists and other wildlife investigators.

Following her lecture, Neme 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 except the one starred (*) lecture.

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 3 – Author Dr. Laurel Neme, *Animal Investigators: How the World's First Forensic Lab Is Solving Crimes & Saving Endangered Species*

*March 10 – Researchers Dr. Jennifer McCabe & Dr. Brian Olsen, "Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World"

March 17 – Author-artist Julie Zickefoose, *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*

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*

* indicates no book-signing to follow the lecture

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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