

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

Living with wildlife in the neighborhood topic of ‘Ding’ lecture

In *Welcome to Suburdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*, Dr. John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington, explores the relation between wildlife and man as urbanization spreads. On Friday, Feb. 17, he will be presenting two free programs at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., part of the 2017 “Ding” Darling Lecture Series at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

“In *Welcome to Subirdia*, I reveal that our suburbs and city parks are often remarkably rich in bird diversity—holding more species than either wilderness areas or urban centers,” says Marzluff. “In fact, suburbs may play a key role in preventing loss of species in the face of the dramatic disruptions of climate change and other human impacts.”

Marzluff’s research on wildlife social behavior has been the focus of articles in the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Audubon*, *Boys Life*, *The Seattle Times*, *National Wildlife*, *Consumer Reports*, *Time*, and *Science*. He will sign copies of his book, available in the Refuge Nature Store, following the two lectures. Proceeds from Nature Store sales directly benefit refuge wildlife, education, and research.

“Just as we affect the birds around us, they shape our culture, commerce, and quality of life,” says the author. “When we make an effort to enhance bird habitat in our cities and towns, we cultivate communities that value nature, that are attractive and exciting places to live and work, and that improve the mental and physical health of our neighbors.”

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.

Feb. 17 – Author Dr. John Marzluff, *Welcome to Suburdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*

Feb. 24 – Author Will Harlan, *Untamed: The Biography of Carol Ruckdeschel*

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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