

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: *The Million Dollar Duck* tells the past, present, and future of the somewhat eccentric Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

Animal Planet film follows duck stamp mania at ‘Ding’

Animal Planet’s *The Million Dollar Duck* continues the fifth annual “Ding” Darling Wednesday Film Series on Jan. 18, at 1 p.m. in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center auditorium. The film presents an entertaining view of the Federal Duck Stamp Program from the perspective of artists, collectors, and program administrators.

Of course Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling figures importantly in the film as the founder of the duck stamp program – the only juried art competition run by the federal government -- and artist of the original duck stamp.

Winner of the coveted Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature in addition to the Jury Award for Documentary Feature at the 2016 Slamdance Film Festival, *The Million Dollar Duck* follows artists through the trials and tribulations of competing in the “Olympics of wildlife art” and the prospect of earning a million dollars as a result of winning the annual contest that began in 1934.

Among the most successful conservation tools ever created, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has created more than 5.7 million acres of protected wetlands across the nation.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge hosts the free eight-film, biweekly series with sponsorship from Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts. Seating is free, but limited and on a first-come basis.

Below are the season’s remaining scheduled films. All showings begin at 1 p.m. For full descriptions of the films, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

Jan. 18 – *The Million Dollar Duck*

Feb. 1 – *Racing Extinction*

Feb. 15 – *Before the Flood*

March 1 – *Sonic Sea*

March 15 – *Why Just One?*

March 29 – *Seed: The Untold Story*

April 12 - *The Future of Energy*

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 dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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