

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption for RUBBINGTABLE: Artisan Luc Century, Doug Ryckman, Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, Fred Ryckman, and DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller

Caption for RUBBINGTABLERUB: Rub of a roseate spoonbill

Caption for luc: Artisan Luc Century at work on the glass table

### **New rubbing table enhances the family experience at ‘Ding’ Darling**

J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge invites young visitors to “Make a Refuge Memory.” That is the vision behind the new and improved Rubbing Table in the Visitor & Education Center’s children’s hands-on section. Island glass-etching artist Luc Century created the table, incorporating the refuge’s request for a greater variety of Refuge flora and fauna.

“The original table became over-rubbed from so much love and use over the years,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. “Originally, it was the idea of cofounding member and first president of the ‘Ding’ Darling Wildlife Society, Bud Ryckman.” The family of the late Bud and Martha Ryckman contributed toward the new table, along with the Seraph Foundation.

“The new Rubbing Table builds on the vision of the Ryckmans to familiarize kids with Refuge wildlife through crayon rubbings,” said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. “It gives kids more options in terms of size and variety of the different images. It challenges kids to create entire Refuge scenes based on their expectations, experiences, and imaginations. Easy to move, it’s also more flexible for using with school field trips and other educational events.”

### **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](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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