

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: 2016 scholarship donors and recipients with “Ding” Education Committee member Wendy Kindig (far left) and Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik

March 31 DDWS scholarships application deadline

Application deadline for about a dozen scholarships from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 or more each, is March 31, 2017. High school seniors, college, and graduate students in or from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties pursuing degrees in environmental-related studies can apply.

The scholarships will be awarded at a special ceremony at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island in June 2017.

This is the 12th year that DDWS will be awarding scholarships. The program began in 2005 with scholarship awards in 2006 from Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession. To date, DDWS has awarded \$85,000.

“Tarpon Bay Explorers started the program by offering two \$1,000 scholarships in 2005,” said DDWS executive director Birgie Miller. “When four applicants turned out to be highly deserving, they doubled their commitment that year. Through the years, co-owner Wendy Schnapp has increased her annual contribution to \$5,000 and has awarded 37 scholarships of \$1,000 each. We applaud Tarpon Bay’s commitment to conservation education, always-generous support of the refuge, and effective seeding of a program that now annually awards up to \$15,000 to local students.”

Interested students can find more information and printable application forms at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/student-scholarships.

It is still possible to honor friends and family members with a conservation scholarship in their name. To learn more, please contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Named scholarships to date for 2017 include:

Richard Bailey Memorial Scholarships (2 scholarships)

Mike and Terry Baldwin Scholarship

Dr. Andrew and Laura Dahlem Scholarship

Dr. H. Randall Deming Scholarship for Conservation and Environmental Studies, a permanently endowed scholarship

Hans & Leslie Fleischner Scholarship

Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship

Francine Litofsky Scholarship

Tarpon Bay Explorers Scholarships (5 scholarships)

Jane Werner Environmental Scholarship, a permanently endowed scholarship

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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