

# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-699-4754

[ChelleTrav@aol.com](mailto:ChelleTrav@aol.com)

Caption bluegiraffe: The Blue Goose and Blue Giraffe: a beautiful, new relationship. (Pictured: Blue Giraffe owners Lise and Geoffrey Letendre.)

## **Blue Giraffe Great Egret sponsor for “Ding” Days 2017**

Blue Giraffe Island Dining has donated at the Great Egret sponsorship level to “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) for its 29<sup>th</sup> annual “Ding” Darling Days birding and eco-festival, which will draw more than 6,000 visitors to J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge the week of Oct. 15-21, 2017

“We are so excited to become sponsors for our first ‘Ding’ Darling Days,” said Blue Giraffe owner Geoffrey Letendre. “Like the Blue Giraffe, the event is very community-minded, and we are proud be associated with it.”

“‘Ding’ Darling Days is a free event we present to educate the public about the refuge and the importance of wildlife conservation,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, event co-chair. “We could not do it without the generous support of the Blue Giraffe and all our wonderful sponsors.”

The following sponsors have already showed their support for “Ding” Darling Days 2017: Doc’s Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Blue Giraffe Island Dining, Wayne & Linda Boyd; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Andrew Thompson Company, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Cape Coral Kiwanis Club, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Island Condo Maintenance, Island Sun, Panther Printing, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts, Sanibel Moorings, Jim & Patty Sprankle, Sunny Day Guide, TopBirdingTours.com; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Art & Susan Cassell, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Sally & Rich Ennis, Florida Weekly, Island Inn, Jensen’s on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Mitchell’s Sand Castles, Painting With a Twist, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Stewart and Sons Insurance, Inc.;

**SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Barefoot Charley's Painting Co., John Brennan, Phyllis Gresham, Grounds by Green Ways, Marina Customer Service Training, Sanibel Art & Frame, Sanibel School Steel Drumming Band, George & Wendy Schnapp, Jim & Anne Scott, Vasanta Senerat, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Chelle Koster Walton.

“Ding” Days sponsorships start at \$200. For information on becoming a sponsor, visit [www.dingdarlingdays.com](http://www.dingdarlingdays.com) or contact Sarah Lathrop at [sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org) by July 30, 2017.

“Ding” Darling Days annually celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week and the birthday of Jay “Ding” Darling, the refuge’s namesake and father of the Federal Duck Stamp Program. The event is co-presented by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, DDWS, and Tarpon Bay Explorers.

#### 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, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

###