

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton  
239-699-4754  
[ChelleTrav@aol.com](mailto:ChelleTrav@aol.com)

Caption: Tom Korbutt's "My Sandy Look" took first place in 2016's "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest.

### **'Ding' Days photo contest opens**

July 15 marks the opening of the 30th Annual "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest. Deadline for submission is Sept. 15, 2017, and all entries must be submitted electronically.

The contest, sponsored by the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), is held in conjunction with "Ding" Darling Days, Oct. 15-21, 2017 ([www.dingdarlingdays.com](http://www.dingdarlingdays.com)).

Complete contest rules are listed below. For an entry form and other contest information, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/photo-contests](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/photo-contests). DDWS will announce winners and award prizes at Conservation Art Day on Saturday, Oct. 22, during "Ding" Darling Days.

Entries must be delivered by email to [ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com) by Sept. 15, 2017. For assistance, please call 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or email [shois@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:shois@dingdarlingsociety.org).

Please note the change in rules from previous years' contests: This year, entries must be submitted electronically. In an effort to maintain its commitment to the environment, DDWS will no longer be accepting photo contest entries by mail.

- There is a \$25 per person entry fee that provides you with a membership to the Society and is used to defray the cost of the contest. ONE FEE COVERS TWO ENTRIES PER PERSON.
- Only AMATEUR (all ages) photographers are eligible to enter (may not possess a professional photographer tax identification number for the sale of photographs).

- Photos must be taken at J.N. “Ding” Darling NWR and have been taken within two years of entry date.
- Each person may enter up to two photos but is eligible to win only one award.  
ONE \$25 FEE COVERS TWO ENTRIES PER PERSON.
- Photos must be submitted electronically via email to ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com. Each photo must be a JPEG file of at least 2000 x 1500 or 2 megabytes (MB). Panoramic photos are not allowed.
- Photos that have won awards in previous “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society photo contests may not be resubmitted.
- Judging will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or anything that will identify you on your photograph.
- Judging criteria:
  - 1) Technical excellence (sharpness, lighting, composition, exposure)
  - 38829776) Originality/creativity
  - 139031728) Interest
  - 139031776) Ability to be reproduced for publication
- Only limited image modifications are permitted. Minor manipulation should be used only to produce a more natural looking photograph. Cropping is allowed but adding any elements not existing in the original scene will not be. Judges, at their discretion, will disqualify any photos that appear to be manipulated beyond these guidelines. All photo files will become the property of DDWS. Photos may be used by DDWS in any way with appropriate credit to the photographer.
- First, second, and third place winners and honorable mentions will be formally announced during the “Ding” Darling Day’s weeklong celebration held in October. Cash prizes will be awarded: first place \$200, second place \$150, third place \$100, honorable mentions \$25.
- There are three judges: A refuge staff person, a professional photographer, and a member of the Sanibel community.

“Ding” Darling Days sponsors for 2017 include: **ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS:** 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, Santiva Chronicle, 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, Panther Printing, 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.

#### 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).

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