

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Sanibel Moorings team members Grace Mazzarella, Kari Cordisco, Bill Zak, and Tereso Vasquez with Refuge mascot, the Blue Goose.

Sanibel Moorings joins ‘Ding’ Days sponsors

Sanibel Moorings Resort this year joins the sponsors for “Ding” Darling Days for the first time, at the Great Blue Heron Level. “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) co-hosts the 29th annual 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.

“‘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 Sanibel Moorings and all our wonderful sponsors.”

“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.

The following sponsors are also supporting “Ding” Darling Days 2017: **ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS:** Doc’s Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Blue Giraffe Island Dining, Wayne & Linda Boyd, Gardner Families, Jim & Patty Sprankle; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Andrew Thompson Company, Bailey’s General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Cape Coral Kiwanis Club, Island Condo Maintenance, Island Sun, Panther Printing, Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sanibel Moorings, Santiva Chronicle, Sunny Day Guide; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Blu Site Solutions, Casa Ybel Resort, Art & Susan Cassell, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Sally & Rich Ennis, Florida Weekly, Phyllis Gresham,

Grounds by Green Ways, Island Inn, Jensen's on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Mitchell's Sand Castles, Muench Families & Periwinkle Park, Painting With a Twist, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Roberta and Realtor David Schuldenfrei, Stewart and Sons Insurance, Inc., TopBirdingTours.com; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Ambu Yoga, Barefoot Charley's Painting Co., Big Red Q Quickprint, John Brennan, The Butterfly Estates, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP), Colony Inn, Henderson Franklin Attorneys at Law, Island Therapy Center, Marina Customer Service Training, Sanibel Art & Frame, Sanibel School Steel Drumming Band, George & Wendy Schnapp, Jim & Anne Scott, seashells.com, Vasanta Senerat, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Tents and Events, Chelle Koster Walton.

“Ding” Days sponsorships start at \$200. For information on becoming a sponsor, visit www.dingdarlingdays.com or contact Sarah Lathrop at sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org by Aug. 16, 2017.

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, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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