

# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-699-4754

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

Caption: Muench family members David, Allie, Nathan, and Dick with Refuge mascot, the Blue Goose

## Periwinkle Park joins ‘Ding’ Days sponsors

The Muench Families & Periwinkle Park this year joins sponsors for “Ding” Darling Days for the first time, at the Reddish Egret Level. “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) co-presents the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Periwinkle Park and all our other 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, In Memory of Roger Bell, Intech Printing & Direct Mail, 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.

#### 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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