

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: An artist's rendering of the Perry Tract Kiosk

'Ding' Darling to unveil Perry Tract Kiosk at Gulfside City Park

The public is invited to attend the unveiling of an interpretive kiosk at Perry Tract, the only shoreline property that belongs to the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge complex on Sanibel Island. The unveiling ceremony takes place on Friday, October 6, starting at 9 a.m. adjacent to the boardwalk at Gulfside City Park. Parking fees apply.

The 4-plus-acre Perry Tract lies adjacent to the park and is named for ophthalmologist and malacologist Dr. Louise Perry. Upon her passing in 1962, she donated her winter home property to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to maintain as a safe haven for wildlife.

With support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge and a grant from the Lee County Tourist Development Council, and in partnership with the City of Sanibel, the interpretive kiosk's three panels pay homage to Dr. Perry and identifies wildlife, shorebirds, and seashells found on the beach and around the property's pond, which is closed to the public. Shell castings and a replicated sea turtle nest add a hands-on element to the exhibit.

"We are so grateful to our partners and Dr. Perry's family for making possible this opportunity to educate beachgoers about seaside ecology and the importance of conserving it," said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. "We invite attendees to take a beach walk with us following the ceremony at 9:30 a.m."

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

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