

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Joe Wiegand portrays President Theodore Roosevelt.

‘Teddy Roosevelt’ speaks out on conservation at ‘Ding’ lecture

Joe Wiegand has been bringing President Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt to life for more than a decade and has performed in all 50 states and overseas, including a White House performance in honor of Roosevelt’s 150th birthday.

As part of the free “Ding” Darling Friday Lecture Series, Wiegand will address the audience on period environmental issues during his two “Theodore Roosevelt Speaks out on Conservation” presentations. They will take place beginning at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018, in the free “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center on Sanibel Island.

Expect a thorough explanation of the relationship between U.S. natural resource policies and the duties of citizenship based on thorough research of Roosevelt’s life, his writings, policies, and speeches. Questions from the audience will follow.

Formerly a veteran political consultant and elected public servant in his native Illinois, Wiegand is a political science graduate of the University of the South – Sewanee, in Sewanee, Tenn.; a former graduate assistant at Northern Illinois University’s Center for Governmental Studies; and a Harry S. Truman Scholar and Thomas Watson, Jr., Fellow.

Admission is free to the lectures, which are sponsored by HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management along with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

The season’s remaining schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all of the starred (*) lectures.

Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure seating. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Visitor &

Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time or risk reassignment.

As usual, Wildlife Drive is closed on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the free “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center, Indigo Trail, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s official concessionaire located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of refuge and DDWS management, staff, and board of directors.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

Feb. 16 – Impersonator Joe Weigand, “Theodore Roosevelt Speaks out on Conservation”

*Feb. 23 – Author Stephen W. Kress, *Puffin Project: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Sea Bird Back to Egg Rock*

*March 2 – Author Larry Nielsen, *Nature's Allies: Eight Conservationists Who Changed Our World*

*March 9 – Author Kevin Karlson, *Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, and Vultures of North America*

*March 16 – Author Tom Butler, *Wildlands Philanthropy: The Great American Tradition*

*March 23 – Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*

*March 30 – Artist and author Dawn and Blair Witherington, *Florida's Living Beaches: A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber*

April 6 – Mote Marine Researcher Dr. Erinn Muller, “Coral Restoration”

April 13 – Avian researcher Dr. Kenneth Meyer, “Swallow-tailed Kites: 10,000 Miles to Survival”

*starred lecture indicates book signing to follow

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 dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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