

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Betty Anholt and Charles LeBuff teamed up on their latest book about the islands.

### **Special ‘Ding’ lectures examine islands’ conservation ethic**

Authors Charles LeBuff and Betty Anholt will debut their new collaborative historic work at two free special lectures at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge Visitor & Education Center on Thursday, Dec. 13. Their slide presentations at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. will cover highlights of their book *Protecting Sanibel and Captiva Islands: The Conservation Story*, which releases earlier that month.

A book-signing with the authors will follow both lectures. Their book is available for purchase in the Refuge Nature Store, profits from which benefit education, research, and conservation projects at the refuge.

LeBuff, who served as a refuge officer from 1958 to 1990, has also written *Images of America: J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge* and other books on island history.

Island historian Anholt is also author of the book *Sanibel's Story: Voices and Images from Calusa to Incorporation*.

*Protecting Sanibel and Captiva Islands* examines the overarching impulse of island residents and visitors to protect what is here. “People from former presidents and cabinet level executives to those whose names have often been forgotten have made it their mission to guard the integrity of the islands’ natural systems,” reads the book jacket. “This book describes the evolution of the conservation ethic on the islands and how it continues despite numerous obstacles.

Admission is free to the event, which is sponsored by the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis.

For more information on the lectures, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241.

Below is a schedule of special events planned by DDWS and the refuge for the upcoming season.

For details visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://dingdarlingsociety.org).

2019 Biweekly Wednesday Film Series – Jan. 9-April 3, 2019

2019 Friday Lecture Series – Jan. 18-April 12, 2019

Free Winter Programs – Jan. 7-May 5, 2019

Woodring Homestead 100th Anniversary Exhibit Unveiling – Jan. 23, 2019

Go Wild for “Ding”-Call of the Osprey Fundraiser – Feb. 13, 2019

#### 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 Store proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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