



WINTER 2020

Society Pages

News from Friends of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the non-profit Friends of the Refuge organization, supports the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex through the generation of independent funds to undertake student education, internships, research projects, informational literature, advocacy, land acquisition and facility enhancements. Efforts may extend beyond the Complex's borders and involve partnerships with like-minded conservation organizations.

Shopping 'Ding' Just Got Easier

New e-Commerce Site Debuts



Can't make it to the Refuge? Now you can purchase a great number of "Ding" Darling Nature Store items with a click of a button. On November 4, ShopDingDarling.com went live for purchasing from anywhere in the U.S.

The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society operates the Nature Store to support the Refuge through the sale of logo apparel and memo-

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READY, SET, CELEBRATE!



The Refuge 75th Anniversary Season

In 1945, in fear for the wildlife and wetlands that claimed most of Sanibel Island, Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling succeeded in petitioning to create the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge, which islanders requested to be named in his honor after his death in 1962.

As the Refuge approaches its official 75th anniversary on December 1, 2020, staff and the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society have been gearing up to celebrate throughout the milestone year.

"Seventy-five years, that's huge!" said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "And we plan on celebrating it big time!"

Highlights of the anniversary season include a Clyde Butcher photography exhibition running now through February 5; Project Refuge: A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash on March 10; a WoW mobile educational unit christening; special art exhibitions and lectures; and limited-time offers at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's recreation concession. We also will be hosting Nashville songwriter Langhorne Slim to write a song about the Refuge in honor of its 75th anniversary,



The unveiling of a new "Ding" Darling Cartoonist Studio Exhibit on December 2 set the celebration of the Refuge's deep-set heritage in motion.

part of the Songscales public lands project. The celebration will culminate on December 1 with a grand public reception at the Refuge.

See pages 6 and 7 for an entire calendar of events for the 2020 winter season and visit ding75.com to learn more about the celebration.

Darling twice won Pulitzer Prizes for his often controversial political cartoons in the *Des Moines Register* in the early 1900s. Many focused on conservation issues far ahead of their time. Darling also served as the first head of the U.S. Biological Survey, the precursor to today's U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. While serving, he created the Federal Duck Stamp program to fund new refuge lands and drew the first duck stamp himself. A newly revamped exhibit about his life and accomplishments opened in December as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

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75th Anniversary Film Series

The eighth annual “Ding” Darling Wednesday Film Series kicks off its biweekly showings this winter with a schedule of seven films that explores natural facets from bluebirds and bees to man’s interference with water supplies and the Florida Everglades.

First up on January 8, *Bluebird Man* focuses on the efforts of 91-year-old Alfred Larson, who has been monitoring and maintaining over 300 nest boxes for bluebirds in Idaho for 35 years in efforts to stem



the bird’s decline. One of the season’s highlights, *The Swamp*, on March 18, chronicles repeated efforts to transform the Florida Everglades into an agricultural and urban paradise, ultimately leading to a passionate campaign to preserve America’s greatest wetland.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society hosts the free film showings in the Visitor & Education Center with sponsorship from Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts. Seating is

January 8:	<i>Bluebird Man</i>	February 19:	<i>BLUE</i>
January 22:	<i>Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?</i>	March 4:	<i>Ghost Bird</i>
February 5:	<i>Water & Power: A California Heist</i>	March 18:	<i>The Swamp</i>
		April 1:	<i>Bird of Prey</i>



Queen of the Sun listens to bees on January 22.

limited and on a first-come basis.

Below are the season’s scheduled films. All films begin at 1 p.m. A short discussion will follow each film. For more information, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

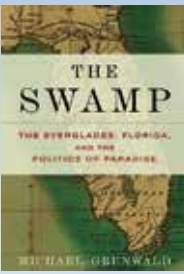
Limited Tickets Remain: The Swamp Special Lecture

With our coastline under siege from red tides, algae, and rising seas, Michael Grunwald’s award-winning book about the Florida Everglades’ backstory has never been more relevant or urgent. On March 20, the author will make a special appearance at The Community House on Sanibel Island, hosted by DDWS to benefit water-quality research and education at the Refuge.

The bestselling Florida author will be doing book-signings for two separate events that Friday. An exclusive cocktail-and-nosh reception with an author meet-and-greet starts at 5:30 p.m. for a limited number of ticketholders. At \$125 each, reception tickets also include reserved VIP seating at the 7 p.m. lecture that will follow. Tickets for the lecture only are \$30. Reserve your seat now for either event at tinyurl.com/dingswamp.

Reviewers at the *Washington Post* declared *The Swamp* “brilliant.” The *Boston Globe* called Grunwald “a superbly lucid and masterful stylist, blending exhaustive research and superlative prose into a book as valuable as a week in Fort Lauderdale at one-hundredth the price.”

Thanks to our sponsors for helping to support the special lecture: **Guardian Sponsor** WGPU; **Defender Sponsors** Mike & Terry Baldwin, The Gresham Family, Pfeifer Realty Group, Hank & Linda Spire, Re/Max of the Islands.



See the exhibition for free in the Visitor & Education Center through February 5.

Clyde Butcher Exhibition

Clyde Butcher’s America’s Everglades Collection exhibition debuted at the Refuge on November 13 — the second venue for the new exhibition and the last in Florida for a while. It runs for free through February 5 as part of the Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration. You can tour the exhibition daily (except during lectures and film showings, when only a part the exhibition will be accessible) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thanks to exhibition sponsors Mark and Gretchen Banks and opening day sponsors Wayne and Linda Boyd.

Free Winter Programs

The Refuge has announced its calendar of daily free tours and programs for winter 2020. The seasonal calendar begins on Monday, January 6, 2020, and runs through Sunday, April 19. Daily programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and include such diverse activities and topics as “Ding” the Man, Beach Walk, Endangered Species, and Indigo Trail Walk.

New this year, in honor of the Refuge’s 75th Anniversary, the “Ding” the Man program takes place every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Visitor & Education Center. It explores the life of Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling through never-before-seen memorabilia and tales of his groundbreaking achievements in the realms of editorial cartooning and conservation.

Long before there was a refuge named “Ding,” the cartoonist won two Pulitzer Prizes, started the Federal Duck Stamp Program and designed the first stamp, and pushed for the creation of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge, which now bears his name.

“We are excited to tell this important story, because so many don’t realize our deep-seated origins,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, who will present the program. “Our full range of programs promises something for all ages.”

For a full look at programs, tours and descriptions, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs. Free educational programs are made possible through support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society.



“Ding” Darling at work cartooning: Learn more about the man and his work at a free weekly program.

SHOP ‘DING’

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rabilia, kids toys, eco-friendly kitchen accessories, art, birding guides and other nature books, fair-trade decorative pieces, and a wide variety of other gifts related to nature and conservation.

In phase I of the store’s e-commerce site rollout, ShopDingDarling.com will carry a limited number of items available for online order. Gradually, staff will add more items, but in the meantime, other in-store items not included on the site still are still available by phone order at 239-472-1100 ext. 241.

“We are excited to extend the reach of our Nature Store to cyberspace,” said Nature Store Manager Ann-Marie Wildman. “As a team, we have been working several years on realizing this goal. Thanks to the efforts of store assistants Chris Galloway and Carrie Harmon and photographer Scott McPhee, plus the support of all the DDWS staff.”



CELEBRATE!

continued from page 1

“Jay Darling would surely be proud of how far the Refuge has come since its inception,” said Doris Hardy, who heads a committee that is planning anniversary events throughout an 18-month period starting last fall. “We have added acreage to the complex, built a Visitor & Education Center, educated hundreds of millions, and, most importantly, given wildlife a safe haven.”

Supervisory Ranger Toni Westland and “Ding” Darling reprisor Tom Milligan snap a selfie before the unveiling of the new exhibit.

“Darling once said: ‘I’m learning one thing the hard way... you have to re-educate the public mind about every 15 or 20 years or it forgets everything learned a while back.’” said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director. “Although we’ve made impressive strides in the past 75 years, we must understand that our work to educate, protect, and preserve is never finished.”

A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash

Mark your calendar for this exciting inaugural event’s “Twist Tie Optional Lunch” and runway show starting at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, at The Sanctuary Clubhouse on Sanibel Island, part of the Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Tickets for Project Refuge are now on sale for \$100 each. Visit projectrefugeding.com to purchase tickets and learn more about the event.

Thanks to our generous Project Refuge sponsors: **Guardian Sponsor** Lee County Solid Waste; **Protector Sponsor** Pfeifer Realty Group; **Defender Sponsors** Jim and Dulce Doss, Boomer Duvin and family, Doug and Sherry Gentry, Mitchell’s Sand Castles, Sanibel Moorings, Jim & Patty Sprinkle;

Please contact Dot Voorhees at 239-472-1100 ext. 239 for information about sponsoring or volunteering for the event.

GO FOR DING

LOVIN’ SPOONBILLS

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF PROTECTING WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY 12, 2020
5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
SANIBEL COMMUNITY HOUSE

\$150

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
CALL DOT VOORHEES AT
239.472.1100 EXT. 239.

PER PERSON

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

CALL OF THE WILD

Jim & Patty Sprinkle

Boomer Duvin & Family

Trish & Darlene Blackmore

Mike & Terry Baldwin

Hank & Linda Spire

John & Kay Morse

Doug & Sherry Gentry

Sarah Ashton

Re/Max of the Islands

Mitchell's Sand Castles

Stewart & Sons Insurance Inc.

Gresham Family

Willam & Barbara Millar

Sanibel Moorings

DEFENDER

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Call Dot Voorhees at 239.472.1100 ext. 239.



'Ding' Darling Day

Concentrated into one fun-packed day of outdoor activity and conservation art, the 36th annual "Ding" Darling Day brought to the Refuge a good and enthusiastic crowd, despite light early morning rain. From a morning hike with Refuge Lead Biologist Jeremy Conrad to archery, crafts, live snakes and other animals, and paddleboarding and fishing clinics — this year's "Ding" Day presented a wide variety of activities for all ages.

We couldn't do it without the generous support of our sponsors: **ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS:** Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Mitchell's Sand Castles, Feather Jim & Patty Sprinkle; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** Bailey's General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Casa Ybel Resort, The Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Island Sun/River Weekly, Just Water, Rotary



DID YOU KNOW?

The Eastern Indigo Snake is the longest snake in North America and may reach a size of 8.5 feet and a weight of 11 pounds for males; females are smaller (6.5 feet, 6.5 pounds).

Club of Sanibel-Captiva, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Sanibel Moorings, Sunny Day Guide; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton - Realtor, RE/MAX of the Islands, The Gresham Family, Island Inn, Jensen's on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Tiffani Kaliko and John Silva,

Up-close wildlife experiences — from butterflies to an Indigo Snake — made a bit at "Ding" Darling Day.

Dick & Emily Muench, Palm Printing, Stewart & Sons Insurance; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Ambu Yoga, Big Red Q Quickprint, John Brennan, Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership, Colony Inn, Panther Printing, Santiva Chronicle, George & Wendy Schnapp, Winston & Gretchen Spurgeon, Nancy Tome.

WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Here, we showcase the best of wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, interns, and others. Former Art Intern May Jernigan visited recently and was able to capture a shot of a rare Great Blue Heron white morph (on the right), also known as a Great White Heron. Some mistake the bird for a Great Egret, on the left.

Thanks to a generous donor, DDWS and the Refuge are in the process of installing a number of new motion-activated trail cameras throughout Refuge lands. Recently, one of the cameras snapped an alligator on the move at 2 p.m. (below).

If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sierra Hoisington at shois@dingdarlingsociety.org.



DID YOU KNOW?

White morphs differ from Great Blue Herons in more ways than color. They are usually slightly larger and have yellower legs, slightly heavier bills, and shorter head plumes.



2020 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As excitement builds for the "Ding" Darling 75th Anniversary Celebration, so too does the demand for support of a calendar-full of special events. We count on sponsorships to support the Refuge by bringing event attendees here to educate them and enrich them with a love of nature. Visit tinyurl.com/dingsponsor to learn about the different upcoming sponsorship opportunities and find one that fits your interests and passion. All sponsorship donations are tax-deductible. For more information, contact Dot Voorhees at dot@dingdarlingsociety.org or 239-472-1100 ext. 239. For more information about the 75th anniversary events, visit ding75.com.



Membership donations and annual gifts are essential for the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society to continue its support of conservation and education efforts at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Below are just a few unique giving opportunities on our wish list this year to enhance the impact of support at the Refuge. To see the scope of the Society's impact and for more ideas and opportunities for giving, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org.

All gifts are tax deductible.



Honor Gift: Any Amount

An gift in their honor of a loved one to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society is a wonderful way to tell friends and family that you love them. Send a general gift or designate it to a specific area. For a gift of \$10,000 or more, a permanently endowed fund can be established.



Vortex Diamondback Binoculars: \$190 per binocular or \$5,700 for a class set of 30

More than 250 classes from around the area come to the Refuge by bus each year. Many of these kids are missing the link between the natural world and wonder. Being able to see the beauty of Roseate Spoonbills, American White Pelicans, warblers galore, and much more will stay with these students throughout their lives. Help us encourage the next generation of passionate birders.



Everyday Education Supplies: \$50 per class or \$12,500 per year

From owl pellets to nature journals to pencils, countless classroom supplies are in demand by our educators to support the 5,000 children who come to the Refuge annually. With an ever-decreasing federal education budget, we hope that you will choose to support our educators, who tirelessly educate and inspire our next generation of conservation stewards.



Wall-mounted White Board: \$200

Our education team prepares many in-class lessons and discussions for the days kids need an escape from the Florida rain and heat. A wall-mounted white board would make for more room in the classroom for more interactive activities.



Support an Intern Stipend: \$200 per week or \$10,400 per year

Throughout the year, we have several interns from across the country come to the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge to gain experience and help fill in gaps with staffing cutbacks in the fields of non-profit management, education, biology, and visitor services. These interns, usually recent college graduates, provide invaluable support to the Refuge while gaining hands-on, practical experience as they enter their career field.



Update Water Quality Research Equipment: \$9,000

Water quality is the most pressing concern of the refuge. Water management from Lake O and the Calossahatchee is the largest impact to the refuge, and it requires monitoring to better understand how lake releases impacts water quality within the refuge boundaries. Through this equipment, Refuge biologists measure dissolved oxygen, salinity, dissolved organic material in the water column, chlorophyll, PH and turbidity, and water depth. This information provides the refuge with real time water quality data. In order to continue the collection of this important data, the logger systems of these research systems need to be updated.

This year, we hope that you choose to support the many conservation and education efforts at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Best wishes in this new year from our "Ding" family to yours.



For more information about making a gift to support an item on the Refuge's 2020 Wish List, please contact the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society at 239.472.1100 ext. 4.

JANUARY

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE VISITOR & EDUCATION CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 29 Clyde Butcher Exhibit	30 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Daily Winter Programs Start	31 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	1 Clyde Butcher Exhibit	2 Clyde Butcher Exhibit	3 World Environment Day Clyde Butcher Exhibit	4 Clyde Butcher Exhibit
12 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	13 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	14 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	15 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	16 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	17 Lecture Series: Julie Zickefoose (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	18 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs
19 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	20 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	21 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	22 Film Series: Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us? (1p.m.) Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	23 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	24 Lecture Series: Clyde Butcher (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	25 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs
26 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	27 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	28 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	29 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	30 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	31 Lecture Series: Marina Marchese (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 26 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	27 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	28 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	29 Film Series: Water & Power: A California Heist (1p.m.) Final Day of Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	30 Free Winter Programs	1 Clyde Butcher Exhibit Free Winter Programs	2 Free Winter Programs
9 Free Winter Programs	10 Free Winter Programs	11 Free Winter Programs	12 Go Wild for "Ding" Event at Sanibel Community House Free Winter Programs	13 Free Winter Programs	14 Lecture Series: Cynthia Barnett (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Free Winter Programs	15 Free Winter Programs
16 Free Winter Programs	17 Free Winter Programs	18 Free Winter Programs	19 Film Series: BLUE (1p.m.) Free Winter Programs	20 Free Winter Programs	21 Lecture Series: Jeff Klinkenberg (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Free Winter Programs	22 Free Winter Programs
23 Free Winter Programs	24 National Wildlife Day Free Winter Programs	25 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	26 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	27 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	28 Lecture Series: Craig Pittman (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	29 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs

MARCH

YES, THERE REALLY ARE THAT MANY ACTIVITIES THIS SEASON! WE KNOW THE FONT IS SMALL, SO PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.DINGDARLINGSOCIETY.ORG

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	2 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	3 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	4 Film Series: Ghost Bird (1p.m.) Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	5 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	6 Lecture Series: Paul Bannick (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	7 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs
8 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	9 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	10 Project Refuge Event at The Sanctuary Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	11 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	12 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	13 Lecture Series: Nancy Judd (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	14 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs
15 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	16 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	17 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	18 Film Series: The Swamp (1p.m.) Global Recycling Day Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	19 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	20 Lecture Series: Eliot Kleinberg (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Artist "in Residence" Exhibit An Evening with Michael Gunwald at Sanibel Community House Free Winter Programs	21 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs
22 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	23 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	24 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	25 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	26 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	27 Lecture Series: Jack Davis (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	28 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs
29 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	30 Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	31 Final Day of Artist "in Residence" Exhibit Free Winter Programs	1 2 3 4			

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Free Winter Programs	30 Free Winter Programs	31 Free Winter Programs	1 Film Series: Bird of Prey (1p.m.) Free Winter Programs	2 Free Winter Programs	3 Lecture Series: Jeri Magg (10a.m. & 1p.m.) Free Winter Programs	4 Free Winter Programs
5 Free Winter Programs	6 Free Winter Programs	7 Free Winter Programs	8 Free Winter Programs	9 Free Winter Programs	10 Free Winter Programs	11 Free Winter Programs
12 Free Winter Programs	13 Free Winter Programs	14 Free Winter Programs	15 Free Winter Programs Spring Migratory Sale at the Nature Store	16 Free Winter Programs	17 Free Winter Programs	18 Free Winter Programs
19 Final Day of Free Daily Winter Program	20 21 22 Earth Day	23 24 25				

Great Horned owl

Roseate Spoonbill

Little Blue Heron

osprey

45/82 Society



Together, through planned giving, we can continue the education and conservation efforts at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

Continue Your Impact

Many of our members help shape the future of the Refuge by designating the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society as a beneficiary in their estate plans. They become members of the **45/82 Society** (signifying the year of the Refuge's establishment in 1945 and the year of the Society's founding in 1982). A combination of large and small planned gifts received throughout the years has enabled the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society to continue its support of the Refuge in areas of land acquisition, education, research, and other important conservation efforts.

Supporting these efforts through your estate is easier than you may think.



The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge acts as an incubator for so many different young beings. From the nearly featherless Green Heron chicks excited to explore a new world, to the 5,000 students who are bused here each year to learn about our environment, the small and impressionable find a special place to grow at "Ding." It needs to stay protected, and **you** can help that.

Thank You for your commitment to conservation.

By creating a personal legacy, you also create a lasting legacy for the Refuge. Your gift through your estate plan, large or small, is critical to the Refuge's future survival. We would like to recognize you as a member the 45/82 Society, unless you prefer anonymity. **If you have already remembered the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and make a plan to fulfill your wishes at the time the gift is realized.**

For more information on how to leave a lasting gift for conservation, please contact Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org, or visit our website at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/leave-a-legacy.



Martha Huard's "Flight"



Larry Brophy's "Keep Your Distance"

'Ding' Day Photo Contest

On October 20, DDWS announced the winners of its annual "Ding" Darling Day Amateur Nature Photography Contest as part of the "Ding" Day celebration. Earlier, on October 8, judges had selected three winners and 11 honorable mentions out of 191 entries from 20 states and Switzerland — one of the highest number of entries in the contest's 27 years. All photograph entries were shot at the Refuge Complex.

First place went to Kent Jager of Sanibel for his White-eyed Vireo portrait. Martha Huard from Bo-

keelia, took second place with a photo of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron titled "Flight." In third place was Larry Brophy from Fort Myers with an American Alligator shot titled "Keep Your Distance."

"We usually see a lot of birds in the contest, but the alligator is also an iconic Refuge animal," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, one of three judges.

"We always choose three judges for the contest," said Terry Baldwin, a DDWS Emeritus Board Member who

coordinates the contest along with DDWS Development Officer Sierra Hoisington. "They include a Refuge staff member, a professional photographer, and a member of the Sanibel community."

The winning photographs and honorable mention entries will be on display in the Refuge Education Center throughout the year. You also can view them and find information about next year's contest at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/photo-contests.

WoW! We're Almost There

The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society is thrilled to announce that, thanks to the extreme generosity of our membership, we were able to meet the anonymous \$50,000 dollar-for-dollar challenge grant for our Wildlife on Wheels (WoW) project by the end-of-year deadline. A big "Ding" thanks to all of our conservation education-minded donors.

To bring the project to completion by our March 2020 goal — in time to be part of our 75th Anniversary Celebration — we need to raise an additional \$85,000 to purchase a truck and other equipment and exhibits. We are seeking a truck donation and monetary donations and pledges of any size.

The educational WoW project began with an anonymous

\$100,000 family grant this spring; since then, the grant and other donations have brought the total raised to \$200,000.

"These donors believe in education as the key component to making a difference in protecting what is left in our world for the wildlife and the people who depend on it," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "We are always looking for new and creative ways to engage people of all ages in conservation. We are so excited about the possibilities of teaching and inspiring in hard-to-reach communities through WoW."

Donations will fund learning stations that interpret mangrove ecosystems, water quality, water conservation, pollution and plastic, animal scat and tracks, Florida's native animals, wildlife sounds, and other topics that meet the Ref-



WoW will deliver hands-on nature enrichment to all ages.

sion. With the help of volunteer teachers, WoW will sync with Florida curriculum standards.

"The Refuge will continue bringing school children here by bus — nearly 8,000 students annually," said Toni. "But our WoW mobile rig will allow Refuge staff to reach thousands of more kids and their families who are otherwise unable to experience the Refuge."

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation to support the WoW project can contact Birgie at 239-472-1100 ext. 232 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.



Artist rendering of Wildlife on Wheels by May Jernigan



Marilyn with Teddy Roosevelt reprisor Joe Wiegand in the Nature Store, where she volunteered up to a few weeks before she passed.

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS
September 1 – November 30, 2019

Memorial gifts and gifts made in honor of special occasions are a wonderful way to pay tribute to family and friends who are important to us. Throughout the year, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society has received gifts in memory and in honor of loved ones. Thank you to everyone who supported the Refuge in this thoughtful and meaningful way.

- We recently received gifts in **MEMORY** of the following:
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Susan Balsiger | Marilyn Kloosterman |
| Clifford Barton | Anne Latt |
| Mickey Bowers | Kenneth L. Lloyd |
| Dr. Leroy C. Butler | James “Jay” Nelson |
| Barbara Anne Carter | McCormick |
| Rosalie Courter | Diane and Jenny Norfray |
| Debbie Cutchin | William O’Hara |
| Rex Dakos | Kathryn & Wayne Overholser |
| Robert Dick | Harry Sabiers |
| Chuck Donofrio, Jr. | Jean Sandhoff |
| Suzanne Dubuc | Susan Raber Satterfield |
| John Fisher | Donald Schoenewolf |
| Margaret Godsea | Peter Haldor Sneve |
| James M. Griffith | Gene Steele |
| Dr. Melva Jo Hendrix | Dod Wainwright |
| H. Frank Hicks | Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker |
| Rev. Bob Ingraham | Jane Werner |
| Carolyn Lee Johnson | Joy White |
| Lou Karakas | Bertha Wright |
| Jimmy Karp | Pam Zapf |
| John & Priscilla Kennedy | Bertram & Marilyn Zheutlin |
| Robert P. & Marcia S Kline | |

- We recently received gifts in **HONOR** of the following:
- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Iver Brooks | Ley and Shari Smith |
| Jeff Combs | Gary Swick |
| Sue Danford | Jane & Paul Sylves |
| Richard Ladner | Dr. and Mrs. Albert Weyman |
| Matthew Reed & Shannen Hayes | Ann-Marie Wildman |

Farewell to a Steadfast Friend

With tremendous sorrow, the entire “Ding” Darling family received the news in September that founding member of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society Marilyn Kloosterman had passed at age 95. Marilyn served on the DDWS Board of Directors from July 1988 until December 2008, and was elected to the Emeritus Board of Directors that same month. She served as Board President from 1995 through 1997. Marilyn was instrumental in raising funds to build our current Visitor & Education Center, and chaired the Education Committee for several years. She volunteered at the Refuge as a rover and at the front desk and Nature Store for more than 30 years, up until a few weeks before her death.

“We can’t even begin to count all the contributions Marilyn has made to the Society and Refuge,” said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. “Her memory lingers everywhere in very tangible ways as reminders of the kind, generous, cheerful soul she was. Everyone

loved Marilyn, and we all miss her.” Marilyn’s dedication and selflessness gained the attention of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Southeast Region and federal office on several occasions. In 1998, she received the Regional Director Volunteer Award; in 2006 the Humanitarian Award for helping raise funds for FWS employees affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Secretary of Interior presented her a Recognition Certificate for her volunteer service in 2002. She received the DDWS Founder’s Award in 2017, one of only four members presented with the award. Thanks to an anonymous donation that matched gifts up to \$8,545 (the number of hours Marilyn donated during her 34 years of service), DDWS has established the permanently endowed Marilyn Kloosterman Education Fund. To donate to the fund or find out how you can establish an endowed fund, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome Two New Interns

This fall, “Ding” welcomed two new interns to help out this season with labor shortages caused by federal budget cuts. Welcome to DDWS shared-use intern April Arthur and education intern Hannah Pauly.

Hannah, a Chicago native, graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in May with a degree in community and environmental sociology and a certificate in sustainability. For a previous internship, she worked in environmental education at the Madison Children’s Museum. She will assist Refuge Conservation Education Sara Hallas with school-year programming through May 2020. The education team has scheduled 58 field trips to the Refuge for this school year.

“It’s really exciting to run into new animals every day at the Refuge and learn more about them,” said



Hannah. “I really look forward to student field trip days. I love taking the kids outside so that they can explore the Refuge and see the wildlife.”

April graduated from Clemson University, South Carolina, in 2018 with a degree in wildlife and fisheries biology. A native of North August, South Carolina, she later moved to Columbia to work for the Richland Library building experience in programming, design, and customer relations.

“I absolutely adore Sanibel!” said April. “I am an avid birder, so I’m thrilled to live in a place with so many diverse species that I can see right out my window.”



DDWS provides living stipends and other benefits for more than a dozen interns each year. The Refuge supports interns with free housing. To support the Refuge internship program, contact Sierra Hoisington at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or shois@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Advocacy Update

by Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler,
DDWS Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs

The upcoming Florida legislative session is critically important to improving the quality of the water that surrounds the Refuge. One reason is because Governor DeSantis has asked the legislature to commit to providing \$625 million a year for three years for water infrastructure projects, such as the storage and conveyance of water.

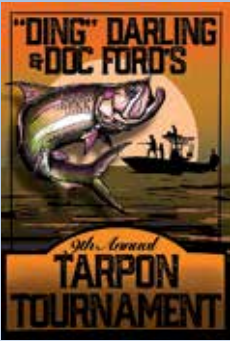
It is highly likely that the legislature will provide the funding, but uncertain if it will provide it for more than

one year at a time. Another reason this session is so important: the legislative proposal that Governor DeSantis recently made based on the work of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. In an attempt to reduce the amount of nutrients that enter our waterbodies, this proposed legislation addresses issues such as septic systems, biosolids, and stormwater treatment. In the recent past, the Florida legislature has been hesitant to pass such legislation.

The advocacy committee has created an online library to help readers understand the water-related issues we are facing. You can access it at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/advocacy-resources.

Tarpon Tourney Filled!

Registration for the ninth Annual “Ding” Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament opened on December 1 and filled its field of 55 boats quickly thereafter. We have unveiled our new logo specially designed for us by our 75th anniversary Artist “in Residence” Ed Anderson. Anyone who wishes to become a sponsor or auction donor to benefit Refuge conservation and take advantage of the worldwide publicity that the tourney garners should contact Dot Voorhees at 239-472-1100 ext. 239 or dot@dingdarlingwildlifesociety.org. The tournament, which takes place on Friday, May



Action from last year’s tournament (photo by David McCleaff/Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau)

22, this year is a catch, care, and release format that aims to educate the fishing community about ethical fishing practices and the importance of water quality. All registration fees return to the anglers in the form of prize awards. Refuge support comes entirely from sponsorships and silent auction proceeds. Visit ding-darlingtarpontourney.org for details.

Artist in ‘Residence’ Exhibition

Mark your calendar for February 25 through March 31, when the Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration Artist “in Residence” program reaches its culmination with a special exhibition. Idaho artist Ed Anderson spent several weeks last summer capturing local scenes and sharing his talent with kids and adults. He created murals with students at the Quality of Life Center of Southwest Florida and PACE Center for Girls—Lee County. He also led public art-journal walks at the Refuge and painted in pop-up studios along Wildlife Drive. His exhibition in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center will reflect his creative time on Sanibel Island. It opens free to the public most days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thanks to the S. Kent Rockwell Foundation for sponsoring Ed’s residency program and to The Gardner Families for supporting the PACE outreach.



Ed Anderson found inspiration at the Refuge and around the islands. Here, he sketches in his journal a rendering of “Ding” Darling’s studio on Captiva, now part of the Rauschenberg artist compound, where Ed held a special event last summer.



IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

Gifts with Just a Click

The new ShopDingDarling.com site grows steadily as Nature Store staff adds more items. Gift categories include Home, Apparel, Col-



lectibles, Books, Art, Eco-Friendly, and Kids. Visit today for shipping anywhere in the U.S.A. Don’t see what you’re looking for? Email naturestore@dingdarlingsociety.org or call 239-472-1100 ext. 214



From stuffed toys for kids to clothing the features Clyde Butcher’s Ghost Orchid, the new e-Commerce site carries your favorite “Ding” gifts.

for information on ordering store products not yet included on the website.

Remember, DDWS members receive a 10% discount at the Nature Store. Profits from all Nature Store sales go directly to the Refuge for educational programs and wildlife research.

75th Anniversary Lecture Series

The 16th annual “Ding” Darling Friday Lecture Series, which runs January 17 through April 3, features a line-up of authors and experts in the world of birds, nature photography, and conservation. From woodpeckers and panthers to rain and hurricanes, the topics promise one of the best seasons yet as the Refuge celebrates its 75th anniversary. HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management and Sanibel Carts co-sponsor the free 12-lecture series with support from DDWS.

The free lectures will be held twice each Friday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The season’s complete schedule is listed below. Asterisks* indicate that a book-signing will follow the lecture.

Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save their seat and one extra with personal items and then can explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time or risk being reassigned. This year, DDWS will be filming most lectures and broadcasting them on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/dingdarling.

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

- *January 17 – Author Julie Zickefoose, *Saving Jemima: Life & Love with a Hard-Luck Jay*
- *January 24 – Nature Photographer Clyde Butcher, “America’s Everglades: Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher”
- *January 31 – Author & Honey Sommelier C. Marina Marchese, *Honeybee: Lessons from an Accidental Beekeeper*
- February 7 – Zoo Miami Ambassador Ron Magill, “From Butterflies to Lions: A Walk on the Wild Side”
- *February 14 – Author Cynthia Barnett, *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History*
- *February 21 – Author Jeff Klinkenberg, *Alligator in B Flat: Improbable Tales from the Files of Real Florida*
- *February 28 – Author Craig Pittman, *Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Endangered Florida Panther*
- *March 6 – Author & Photographer Paul Bannick, *The Owl and the Woodpecker: Encounters with North America’s Most Iconic Birds*
- March 13 – Upcycle Designer Nancy Judd, *RecycleRunway.com*
- *March 20 – Author Eliot Kleinberg, *Black Cloud: The Great Hurricane of 1928*
- *March 27 – Author Jack Davis, *All About Eagles and Other Florida Eco-Topics*
- *April 3 – Jeri Magg, *Remarkable Women of Sanibel & Captiva*



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PHOTO CONTEST 2019



DID YOU KNOW?

Kent Jager of Sanibel took first place in the 27th annual "Ding" Darling Day Amateur Nature Photography Contest with this stunning portrait of a White-eyed Vireo. See page 9 for more pictures and news about the contest.

White-eyed Vireos favor mangrove forests in Florida. Elsewhere they are found in deciduous scrub, overgrown pastures, old fields, forested edges, second-growth forests, and streamside thickets.