

# PRESS RELEASE

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Caption: Images available upon request

## **Save the Date: Free Earth Day at the Refuge celebrates event's 50th**

This year, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge is throwing a free celebration on April 22 that will include no-fee admission to Wildlife Drive for cyclists and hikers, anniversary cookies, animal origami, the Lee County Green Bus, a bike tour, a scavenger hunt, and a free film showing.

Note: Monitor our COVID-19 [<https://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/covid-19>] in case this event is canceled.

The refuge will celebrate Earth Day in partnership with the Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge and Tarpon Bay Explorers (TBE). Bike rentals are complimentary at TBE all day. Pick up a bicycle there or bring your own to join the 9 a.m. guided bike tour that kicks off the day's special activities. The first 50 guests receive a free gift that day.

See below for the day's schedule of free activities.

7 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Free admission to Wildlife Drive for hikers and cyclists ONLY; vehicles pay \$5 for admission.

9 a.m. – Meet at the flagpole for Guided Bike Tour.

10 a.m. – Free anniversary cookies with the refuge's Blue Goose mascot in the Visitor & Education Center

1 p.m. – Free showing of *Plastic Paradise* film in the Visitor & Education Center

2 p.m. – Meet at the flagpole for a guided Scavenger Hunt on Indigo Trail.

All day – Animal Origami in the Visitor & Education Center

All day – Lee County Green Bus with outdoor activities in the Visitor & Education Center parking lot

For more information on Earth Day at the Refuge, call 239-472-1100 ext. 237 or visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events).

#### 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 profits.

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

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