



**SUMMER 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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 'Ding' Day, Anniversary Events



As we continue celebrating the 75th Refuge Anniversary this year, we invite you to join us for the 32nd Annual "Ding" Darling Day on October 18.

Stay tuned to

our social media and email bulletin channels for details on how we will be celebrating according to current government and health guidelines at the time. Following "Ding"

*continued on page 2*



*ABC7 interviewed Ranger Toni Westland about the Refuge's virtual Endangered Species Week events at Tarpon Bay Explorers.*

## The Refuge and the Pandemic

Along with the rest of the world, the "Ding" Darling Refuge and "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society were forced to pivot and adapt as a result of the coronavirus pandemic that gripped the planet and continues to dictate closings, cancellations, and other operational changes big and small. While Wildlife Drive and trails remained open throughout the lockdown period, the Visitor & Education Center and Refuge Nature Store, Tarpon Bay Explorers, and administration offices closed.

The Nature Store eventually was able to operate its online store at ShopDingDarling.com and Tarpon Bay Explorers restarted its retail, rental, ramp, and some tour operations in mid-May.

In the absence of school and other visiting groups, the Education Team and Refuge staff put together a popular virtual Refuge learning experience dubbed #DingatHome. Staffers posted weekday videos on the Refuge's Facebook page with the themes Movement Monday, Tale Tuesday, Wildlife Wednesday, Trail Thursday, and Fun-Time Friday.

Meant to educate and entertain students and families forced to school at home, the videos, along with a slew of other fun activities, are still accessible at dingdarlingsociety/articles/ding-at-home. Starting June 10, #DingatHome evolved into a more in-depth Virtual Summer Camp program, which runs through the summer. For the time being, free Refuge Summer Programs have been cancelled.

DDWS was forced to cancel some of its lectures and films, a visiting

artist exhibition, and other events.

Some calendar items, such as Earth Day 50th anniversary and Endangered Species Day, turned into fun virtual events broadcast through social media. DDWS staff also brought followers a #DailyDoseofDing, 30-second

*continued on page 3*





Volunteer Coordinator Ranger Jeff Combs (right) presents Patty and Jack Wettstein with their 5,500-hour award before stay-at-home orders went into effect.

# Volunteer Awards

This year, the Refuge personally presented awards to volunteers after staff announced the cancellation of the annual Volunteer Awards Luncheon because of COVID-19.

“While I’m disappointed that I will not be able to publicly recognize the extraordinary efforts of so many volunteers and their commitment to the Refuge and our natural resources, I also want to be proactive and heed the advice of professional public health experts,”

wrote Acting Refuge Manager Kevin Godsea in a letter emailed to all volunteers. “We will simply need to find other ways to honor our dedicated volunteers this year.”

Refuge staff reports that in fiscal year 2019, 311 volunteers worked 37,397 hours at the Refuge, representing a labor and benefits savings of more than \$900,000, equivalent to 18 full-time employees.

To the right are volunteers who won awards for reaching hour and year achievement levels.

## YEARS AWARDS

**20 years:** Tom Fleming, Joyce Jacobs, Peggy Hupfeldt, Marian Pool

**10 years:** Joyce Barney, Carolyn Bergen, Sue Danford, Tom Hoopes, John MacLennan, Alan Parker, Linda Parker, Greg Scherer, Garold (Gary) Schudel, Ruth Schudel, Cindy Seaman, Roger Tosch

## HOURS AWARDS

**9,000 hours:** Doris Hardy; **8,500 hours:** Marilyn Kloosterman; **5,500 hours:** Jack Wettstein, Patty Wettstein; **4,500 hours:** Terry Baldwin, John McCabe; **3,000 hours:** Malcolm Harpham, Ben Klaus, Mary Klaus; **2,500 hours:** Mike Baldwin, Jeanne Tyrer; **2,000 hours:** Mike Baldwin, Charles Dunham, Arland Oleson; **1,500 hours:** Shirley Bohnert, Sue McIntyre, Jim Newes, Helen Taylor; **1,000 hours:** Stan Bunsick, Gary Dutton, Marion Evans, Michael Galloway, Barb Guidotti, John MacLennan, Ilona Menzel, Nancy Riley, Pam Windust; **500 hours:** Susan Beittel, Carolyn Bergen, Carl Greenbaum, Sandy Greenbaum, Christine Mackenzie, Paul McKenney, Peter Meekin, Sherri Newes, Francie Slane, Anne Suss, Tom Ware, Pam Weiner, Wanda Werner; **250 hours:** Genia Alperin, Paul Andrews, Sarah Ashton, Carole Ecker, Mike Ecker, Carl Greenbaum, Sandy Greenbaum, Sonya Keene, Wendy Kindig, Herb Lawrence, Janet McLaughlin, Kimberly Powers, Mary Rice, Robert Roth, Ross Spencer, Kathleen Wilson, Judy Wright; **150 hours:** Katie Baker, Bud Dansby, Brenda Epperson, Randy Epperson, Diane Esslinger, Rose Flaherty, Brett Gooch, Jane Gieryic, Carl Greenbaum, Sandy Greenbaum, Lisa Hutchins, Joanne Prestia, Vince Thomalla, Diana Wideman, Judy Wright

## New Board Members

The DDWS Board of Directors welcomed two Sanibel Island residents as new members: William (Bill) H. Harkey and Robin E. Kirk.

Bill, a fifth-generation California “farm boy” grew up on a peach and prune ranch in northern California. After graduating from Oregon State University in 1971, he began a 30-year career in the U.S. Army, finishing as the director of public affairs at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, before he retired.

With his wife, Laurie, Bill began visiting Sanibel in 2002, and, by 2019, they became permanent residents. He participates actively in the Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva and is an avid golfer.

“Laurie and I have always been fans of the outdoors and wildlife,” says Bill, adding that they have witnessed the impressive impact the Refuge has had on wildlife populations since they first started visiting.

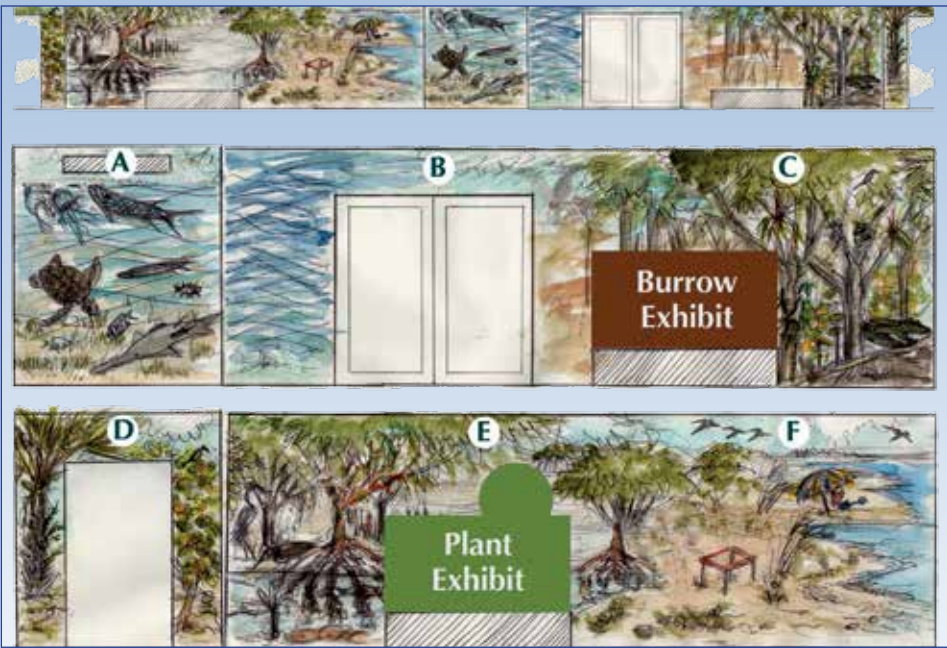
“The Refuge’s mission of public education and envi-

ronmental and wildlife protection is vitally important, but with the cutbacks in federal staffing and resource support, the role of the Society is even more crucial,” he said.

Robin grew up in the Ozark foothills of Arkansas with a love for nature and education, which led to an elementary education degree from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Her deep passion for nature and nurturing children’s love of reading resulted in volunteering for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio, where she worked with school groups. Later, Robin served as a seasonal park ranger and self-published children’s nature books that encouraged children to read and get outside.

“Upon visiting Sanibel in 2005, I fell in love with the conservation ethic and wanted to be a part of it,” she says. “‘Ding’ Darling provides the very opportunity to continue to learn about the natural world from the ground up to the top of the tallest mangrove trees. Now, as a full-time Sanibel resident, I love being a part of this organization and supporting ‘Ding’ in the many ways available, including the education of young explorers.”

# WoW Rolling Along



Interior classroom renderings by fabrication artist David Williams

Building, design, and curriculum planning continue on the Refuge’s Wildlife on Wheels (WoW) mobile classroom project. The planning team has been meeting with Lee County District Schools’ environmental teachers to help identify species the classroom should address and design a series of scavenger hunts that WoW facilitators will be administering to teach state standards — a different set of questions for each grade kindergarten through 12, plus a non-grade specific one for libraries and other non-school venues.

DDWS plans to unveil the completed WoW mobile classroom in October, in time for “Ding” Darling Day. This fall, WoW will begin visiting schools, libraries, conservation events, and economically challenged and minority communities in the five-county area to teach about water quality, the ecosystem, wildlife, and other topics that meet the Refuge’s mission.

“The Refuge will continue bringing Lee County schools here by bus — nearly 5,000 students annually,” said Ranger Toni Westland, who leads the WoW project along with DDWS Development Officer Sierra Hoisington. “But our WoW mobile classroom will allow Refuge

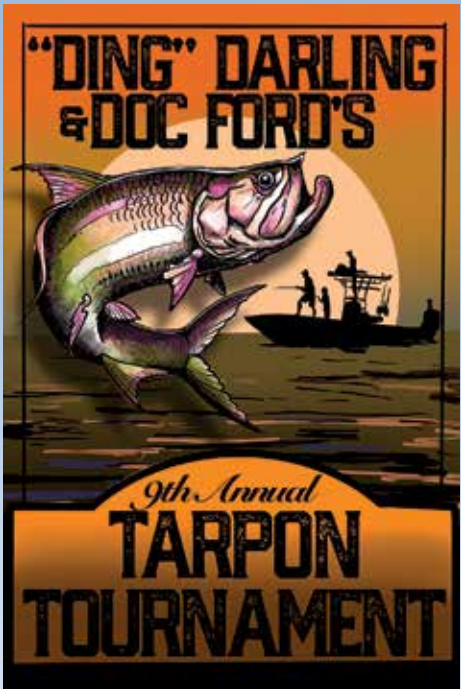


A sculpture of a baby Loggerhead Sea Turtle will become part of the hands-on exhibits.

staff to reach thousands of more kids and their families in a five-county area, who are otherwise unable to experience the outdoors at the Refuge.”

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation for ongoing needs for the WoW project can contact Birgie Miller (director@dingdarlingsociety.org) at 239-472-1100 ext. 232.

The Refuge is adding wildlife-themed reminders to keep visitors, staff, and volunteers safe and healthy.



## Tarpon Tourney Postponed

The Tarpon Tournament Committee reached the difficult decision to postpone until May 14, 2021, the Ninth Annual “Ding” Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament, originally scheduled for May 22, 2020.

Due to the impacts of the pandemic and the infinite number of variables with an event its size, the committee felt the decision was necessary to prioritize the health and safety of supporters, participants, staff, and volunteers. Thank you for your understanding.

The majority of sponsors generously asked DDWS to keep their sponsorship support for this year and promised support again for next year. Their generosity resulted in more than \$75,000 raised in 2020 to support conservation and water quality efforts within the Refuge Complex. Over the last nine years, the tournament has raised \$700,000 for conservation efforts at “Ding” Darling. We thank Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille for its loyal and generous support as the Title Sponsor and all other sponsors who understand the value of the Refuge to our island communities. For more information, please visit dingdarlingtarpountourney.org.

## CALENDAR

continued from page 1

Day, watch for the opening of a temporary, two-month 75th Anniversary exhibition titled “Ding:” The Man, the Art, the Stories.

The 75th celebration continues through December 1, 2020, the official anniversary day. The Refuge is planning a free public event at the Refuge to pay tribute to its longtime reign as one of the nation’s most famous and well-loved (by birds AND visitors) national wildlife refuges in the system of more than 560 sites. A ticketed Anniversary Gala in a drive-in theater format will take place that same evening; watch for more details to come. See the schedule of Upcoming Events on the back page for more happenings and activities that mark the milestone through the coming months.



## PANDEMIC

continued from page 1

virtual visits to the Refuge. Monitor dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/covid-19 for up-to-date information on the Refuge’s reopening. We thank everyone for their support and the notes, photos, and expressions of appreciation from those who were able to find some peace and nature along Wildlife Drive.



| J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Fee Increases on Wildlife Drive                                |                   |                 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Effective October 1, 2020   |                   |                 |
| Fees  | Through 9/30/2020 | As of 10/1/2020 |
| Motorized Vehicles  | \$5               | \$10            |
| Hikers & Bikers   | \$1               | \$1             |
| Annual Pass   | \$12              | \$25            |
| Visitor & Education Center  | FREE              | FREE            |
| Bailey Tract  | FREE              | FREE            |
| 100% of Entrance Fees support the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you for your support! |                   |                 |
| FREE Visitor & Education Center, open 9am - 4pm, everyday!  |                   |                 |
| Wildlife Drive is CLOSED on Fridays.  |                   |                 |
| All visitors must exit refuge lands and waters no later than 1/2 hour after legal sunset.                   |                   |                 |
| 1 Wildlife Drive, Sanibel, FL 33957 • 239-472-1100 • fws.gov/dingdarling                                    |                   |                 |

### Wildlife Drive Fee Changes

Effective October 1, 2020, admission fees to the Refuge's Wildlife Drive will change. The new fees are a result of positive feedback from two public comment meetings held in April 2019 and approval by the U.S. Department of Interior, which last okayed a fee change more than 30 years ago. The Refuge fielded a 60-day public comment period upon the announcement of proposed new fees.

As reflected in the chart above, daily vehicular admission fees will increase on October 1 from \$5 to \$10 and annual passes from \$12 to \$25. Entry fees for pedestrians and cyclists will remain at \$1 each for persons

ages 15 and older only. Admission to the Visitor & Education Center (when reopened) and Bailey Tract trails is still free. The cost of the Senior Pass, Access Pass, and other federal passes all remain the same and are available for purchase at the Refuge Nature Store.

"The fees help maintain structures, roads, and landscaping across our 6,400 acres," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, who oversees visitor services. "We also have become increasingly reliant on entrance fees for staff salaries, especially where public safety and security are concerned."

The fee income also is used to increase accessibility at the Refuge and for other visitor facilities.

### REFUGE STUDY

### Effect of Lake O Nutrients on Sea Level Rise

Mangroves may be a key component to mitigating climate change and sea level rise, an ongoing study at the Refuge has determined. But, could nutrients coming from the Caloosahatchee River and Lake Okeechobee be comprising an age-old natural process whereby mangroves and coastal marshlands organically adapt to sea rise by gaining elevation?

That's the answer Senior Refuge Biologist Jeremy Conrad chases as his six-year research project connects the dots between mangroves, carbon absorption, greenhouse gas, climate change, sea level rise, and the effect of nutrients on the natural rise in coastal elevation.

The project began in 2014 when the United States Geological Survey (USGS) partnered with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), which oversees "Ding" Darling.

"The Refuge was contacted by our FWS national ecologists about using our mangroves as a pilot research project to assess how much carbon is absorbed," said Jeremy. "Mangrove forests were believed to be one of the most effective at taking carbon out of air and storing it in the soil. We supported that research as it would directly assist us in gathering more information as to how to best manage refuge mangrove resources. Our goal is to maximize the health of our mangrove forests so they can store more carbon and help to offset climate change and sea level rise."

FWS partnered with the USGS National Land Carbon

Team to initiate the "'Ding' Darling Carbon Sequestration" project. As a co-principle investigator on the project, Jeremy designed a component to assess how water quality and nutrients affected the sequestration (absorption) process.

"We quickly identified that a healthier mangrove system and ecological functions are tied together," he said. Healthy mangrove systems are more resilient to rising sea levels, the biologist added. Mangrove root development, the build-up of detritus from leaves, and sediment from storm surge contribute to soil elevation in mangrove forests. Decomposition, which may be hastened by nutrients in the water, causes the ecosystem to lose elevation. As such, a healthier mangrove forest may have better ecological function and build more elevation, allowing the forest to persist longer with rising sea levels.

The Land Carbon Team received a federal Unit Award for Excellence of Service for their research in 2017, and now Jeremy carries on Refuge-based research building on the national study.

As he analyzes collected data, in the next year Jeremy expects results to provide a better understanding of when Sanibel will be under water due to sea level rise. With a reduction of nutrients, the mangroves may slow down that inevitability, he theorizes.

Funded by the Refuge with assistance from the



Above, Immature Green Heron by Susan Cassell

Below, Yellow-crowned Night Heron by Hal Espo



Here, we showcase a few of the best wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, interns, and others. May turned the Refuge into a nursery as a number of birds hatched and fledged their chicks. A big thank-you to all the photographers who sent us "outdoor-able" baby pictures.

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



Senior Refuge Biologist Jeremy Conrad holds a mangrove root core sample.

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, which supports interns who assist with the research, Jeremy studies the effects of nutrients on all of the natural processes that dictate fluxing elevation in the mangroves. Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) has also supported the project by providing water-quality support and access to its lab equipment for processing mangrove samples. Those interested in making a gift to support water quality research at the Refuge can contact DDWS at 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

## DDWS-Funded Water Research Equipment Installed

As water research equipment that monitors Refuge waters was about to become obsolete last year, DDWS stepped in to purchase new, updated equipment known as sondes. The in-water stations measure various factors that help biologists determine the health of the water in real time.

"We then report that data each week to the Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District in collaboration with the city of Sanibel, Lee County, SCCF [Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation], and Fort Myers Beach," said Senior Refuge Biologist Jeremy Conrad.

In collaboration with the Refuge, SCCF staff recently installed the two new sondes and data loggers. (The installation was delayed by the temporary pandemic closure of SCCF's Marine Lab, which is located on "Ding" Darling property at Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.)

"Water management from Lake O and the Caloosahatchee is the largest impact to the Refuge, and it requires monitoring to better understand how lake releases

impact water quality within the Refuge boundaries," said Jeremy. "The sondes located in Refuge waters measure water-quality parameters continuously via the logger system and transmit that data to a server that Refuge and SCCF staff can monitor from work or home."

"Clean water is the lifeblood of the Refuge and the entire planet," said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director. "There's no overstating the importance of understanding how Refuge waters are being affected by outside forces. The Wildlife Society did not hesitate to support the equipment for this crucial research as part of our mission to support Refuge studies, wildlife, and education."

"We are grateful to our friends group for this important show of support and for collaboration from other local organizations," said Acting Refuge Manager Kevin Godsea. "Partnerships such as this make possible great strides in the progression of water-quality research when staff and resources are otherwise limited."



One of the two sondes installed in waters along Wildlife Drive

## Clyde Butcher to Appear at Refuge

Following his winter exhibition in the Visitor & Education Center, esteemed nature photographer Clyde Butcher has become a fast friend of the Refuge, and vice versa. He was scheduled to make another appearance this month to sign copies of his newest *The Everglades* album, but printing got delayed because of the pandemic. He is now tentatively scheduled to return after the book publishes this fall for the signing. Watch "Ding" on the Wing bulletins for details. The Refuge Nature Store will be selling his new, highly anticipated coffee-table book for \$125 upon delivery, and currently is taking advance orders for \$95 each. Call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or email naturestore@dingdarlingsociety.org to preorder. Watch for news of an exhibition in November 2021 featuring the colorized photography work of Clyde's wife, Niki Butcher.



Clyde Butcher has donated two of his famous landscape prints to hang in the Refuge Visitor & Education Center, including this one titled Wilderness Waterway.

### Lecture Series 2021

Next season's Lecture Series will evolve with the times and persisting distance protocols by moving to the larger venue at the Sanibel Community House with only one 10 a.m. lecture per day on select days throughout the season. These dates have been confirmed at press time: January 29, February 4, February 19, March 12, and March 19. We are seeking sponsorship support for each lecture. Stay tuned for more details on the lectures and sponsorship opportunities for this unprecedented lecture season. We anticipate the 2022 lecture series will return to its traditional Refuge venue and format.



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack Davis, who is currently working on a book about the Bald Eagle, is on the 2021 lecture series schedule. Photo by Debbie Thomas

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOW US!

To "like" us on **Facebook** (along with more than 14,500 others), search for "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. (You can also "like" the Refuge by searching for its "Official" page.) You can follow us on **Instagram**, where we have 12,800 followers, at @dingdarlingwildlifesociety. On **Twitter**, search @DingDarlingWS. Also visit our **YouTube** channel by searching "ding darling wildlife society."





## MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

March 1 – May 30, 2020

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:

|                       |                        |                    |                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Catherine F. Andrews  | Barbara Ann Carter     | Howard Hendricks   | Bill Rankin        |
| Dr. Christina Barkley | Rosalie Courter        | George Howe        | Sarah H. Read      |
| Mark Banks            | Dan Davis              | Lee Williams, Jr.  | Jack Rushworth     |
| Joseph M. Blanda      | Dr. David Drachman     | Karen Kleinschmidt | Charlie Shipley    |
| Lenore Brager         | Jean Ely               | Uncle Mike         | Mary Shaul         |
| Stephen Bradley       | Ruth & Charlie Gerecke | Jeanne Neideck     | Tom & Bobbie Sharp |
| Jeff Butler           | Mike Gieryc            | Paul Pavlov        |                    |

We recently received gifts in **HONOR** of the following:

|                        |                         |               |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Elise M. Beltrami      | Joel & Wandrea Lauchner | Charlie Riley | Carol & Larry Strange |
| David and Nancy Felker | Beth Martinez           | Ron Senigen   | Sherri Wine           |

## TARPON BAY EXPLORERS SCHEDULE

(tarponbayexplorers.com; call ahead to 239-472-8900 to confirm schedule and make reservations)

**Tram Tours of Wildlife Drive:** July and Aug (if allowed to restart): Mon-Thurs 10am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm, and 4pm; Sat-Sun 10am, 12:30pm, and 3pm; Sept: Tues, Thurs and Sat 10am, 12:30pm, and 3pm

**Kayak Trail Tour:** Daily 8:30am or 10am; July and Aug also Mon-Fri 8:30am or 10 am, plus Mon-Fri 1pm

**Sunset Rookery Paddle:** Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat or Sun. All 2 hours prior to sunset

**Breakfast Cruise:** July and Aug: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am; Sept: Wed 8:30am

**Standup Paddleboard Tour:** Tues, Thurs, Sat all 9am and 2pm Tues and Thurs

**Nature and Sea Life Cruise:** July and Aug: Daily at 11am and 1:30pm; Sept: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun 11am and 1:30pm

**Evening Cruise:** July and Aug: Daily; Sept: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun all 2 hours prior to sunset

**Rentals and fishing charters:** Daily 8am-6pm

## DID YOU KNOW?

Red-breasted Mergansers need to eat 15 to 20 fish per day, which researchers suggest means they need to dive underwater 250–300 times per day or forage for 4–5 hours to meet their energy needs.



## Junior Duck Stamp Judging

For the third year in a row, Anna Grace Swanson took Best of Show in the 2020 Florida Junior Duck Stamp competition, which was judged by virtual means at the Refuge this spring. Her portrait of a Red-breasted Merganser (above) took first place among 918 entries from throughout the state. Anna Grace is an 11th-grader at Temple Christian School in Titusville.

The Junior Duck Stamp program began in 1989 on Sanibel Island, next door to the Refuge at The Sanibel School. Art teacher Jaye Boswell started it as a way to teach her students art and natural science at the same time. Jaye still often judges at the state competition, which always takes place at the Refuge. The Junior Duck Stamp competition has since become a national program and is run out of the USFWS.

## IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

## Online Store Saves the Day

Shortly after legislation shut down Sanibel Island retail operations due to coronavirus, Refuge Nature Store staff was able to resume operation of ShopDingDarling.com, our new e-commerce site. The site did a brisk business selling limited merchandise, including new items such as scarves and masks to cover faces. Curbside pickup for orders and donations at checkout are new features now available at ShopDingDarling.com. Call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or email naturestore@dingdarlingsociety.org.



## Announcing 2021 Luc Century Ornament

We have received the prototype for the 2021 Luc Century Holiday Ornament, which will debut at Holiday Shopping Night on November 30. This year's etched-glass, limited-edition keepsake features a sand dollar.



## New Instagram Site

'Gram fans should visit and like our new Instagram page dedicated entirely to the Refuge Online Nature Store. Watch for special online-only gift box offers (the eco gift box, for instance), new products, events, and discounts.

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

## 2020 Scholarships

In compliance with state stay-at-home guidelines, DDWS this year awarded \$20,700 in conservation education scholarships remotely to 10 students from the surrounding five-county area. During its 14-year history, the DDWS Environmental Scholarship Program has awarded a total of \$147,100 to deserving students.

“The Society is committed to educating today's youth to become conservation stewards of the future,” said DDWS Education Committee Chair Wendy Kindig. “We work with businesses and individuals to provide annual scholarships to award to outstanding students pursuing degrees related to conservation, wildlife biology, environmental engineering, policy, and science. A big thank you to our scholarship sponsors for their support.”

Ten donors sponsored the 10 scholarships this year. In lieu of the traditional physical awards ceremony, DDWS has invited scholarship recipients to send a video describing their plans to share with donors and perhaps others.



Wendy Kindig chairs the DDWS Education Committee.

Scholarships included the Richard Bailey Scholarship, Mike and Terry Baldwin Scholarship, Dr. Andrew and Laura Dahlem Scholarship, Dr. H. Randall Deming Endowed Scholarship for Conservation & Environmental Studies, Leslie & Hans Fleischner Scholarship, Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship, Win & Marilyn Kloosterman Memorial Scholarship, Barry & Francine Litofsky Scholarship, Tarpon Bay Explorers Scholarship, and Jane Werner Endowed Environmental Scholarship.

DDWS will be awarding scholarships starting at \$1,000 each at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. High school seniors and college students living in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry counties and pursuing careers in biology, conservation, and environmental studies are eligible.

For an application for next year's scholarships and to read full descriptions of 2020 scholarship winners and donors, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/student-scholarships. Thank you to our donors and their families for helping our next generation of conservation stewards achieve their dreams of making a difference. To learn more about DDWS scholarships, call 239-472-1100 ext. 232.

INCLUDE



Ding

IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE

PROTECT THE FUTURE... NOW.

Ensuring wildlife has a place to thrive in the future is as easy as naming "Ding" Darling in your will, or designating it as a beneficiary to your retirement plan, IRA, or other financial account.

## AN EASY WAY TO GIVE...

- There is no minimum amount for the gift.
- You can change your plans at any time.
- Help protect “Ding” Darling and its wildlife and inspire future generations to do the same.

## HOW TO WORD IT:

I give, devise, and bequeath to The “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation located on Sanibel Island, Florida [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for [designate the purpose, if desired, or leave blank for gifts to be used to address the greatest need].



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU



239.472.1100 EXT. 4

dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/leave-a-legacy





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Summer Camp — Through July 31, 2020

75th Anniversary Island "Spoonie" Scavenger Hunt

Kick-off - TBA

New Water Exhibit Unveiling - TBA

75th Anniversary Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25%

off boat and kayak tours) - September 12, 2020

Wildlife on Wheels (WoW) Unveiling — October TBA

75th Anniversary "Ding:" The Man, the Art, the Stories

Exhibition Opening — October TBA

75th Anniversary "Ding" Darling Day — October 18, 2020

75th Anniversary Proclamation at City Hall — November  
3, 2020

Holiday Shopping Night — November 30, 2020

Official 75th Anniversary Celebration — December 1, 2020

75th Anniversary Gala — December 1, 2020

Clyde Butcher Book-Signing — December TBA

2021 Friday Lecture Series — January-March, 2021

2021 Film Series — January-March 2021

2021 Annual Go Wild for "Ding" — February 10, 2021

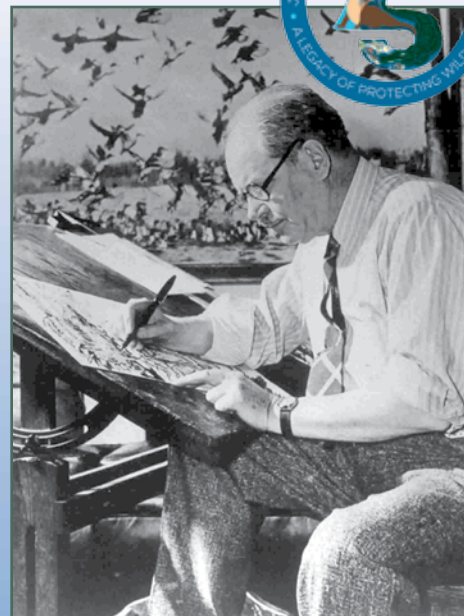
75th Anniversary Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25%

off boat and kayak tours) - November 14, 2020

**SOLD OUT!** Ninth Annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's

Tarpon Tournament — May 14, 2021

Niki Butcher Photographic Exhibition — November 2021



*This year's 75th Refuge Anniversary Celebration pays homage to Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, who created the Refuge in 1945. In October, the exhibition "Ding:" The Man, the Art, the Stories opens.*

Monitor our COVID-19 page ([dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/covid-19](https://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/covid-19)) for news of event cancellations.