In 1945, out of fear for the wildlife and wetlands that claimed most of Sanibel Island, Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling succeeded in petitioning for the creation of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge. Seventy-five years later, J.N. “Ding” Darling NWR, which adopted its creator’s name in 1967 following his death, celebrates its rich history and legacy on December 1, 2020. The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) is helping to support a daytime celebration and will be hosting an evening gala to commemorate “Ding” Darling’s 75th Anniversary. The daytime celebration, in concert with "Ding" Darling Day, will be free and open to the public. It will combine a day of safe family fun, guided and self-guided distanced touring, and special guests, while following CDC guidelines. See inside for the schedule of activities. The day's festivities then will culminate with a ticketed evening event. The 75th Anniversary Gala will harken back to the 1940s with a drive-in theater theme. See more inside.

Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling penned this cartoon in 1949, one of a body of more than 15,000 editorial cartoons that appeared in newspapers across the nation for 50 years, winning the artist two Pulitzer Prizes. It portrays Darling’s vision of the wetlands he saved on Sanibel Island 75 years ago.
Refuge Daytime 75th Celebration Schedule
December 1, 2020

All planned activities comply with CDC distancing requirements.

ACTIVITIES

7:00am - 5:30pm
Wildlife Drive open, free of charge

9:00am
Information table opens with Ding-O Bingo scavenger hunt forms and hand-outs
Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail and parking lot stations open

9:30am
“Go the Distance” Distanced Bike Tour, Wildlife Drive (guided)

1:00pm
75th Anniversary Presentation, in parking lot

ONGOING EVENTS (9AM - 3PM)
Exhibitors along Wildlife Drive & Indigo Trail, CROW exhibit in parking lot
Art demonstrations by 2021 Resident Artist Rachel Pierce in parking lot
“Ding” Darling Day Amateur Nature Photography Contest Winners display in parking lot
USFWS Law Enforcement Trailer in parking lot
USFWS Fire Demo in parking lot
Ding-O Bingo Scavenger hunt with prizes
Plein-air artists on Wildlife Drive & Indigo Trail

'Ting' Darling Wildlife Society Holds Ticketed Gala

The evening of December 1, the Refuge’s Friends Group hosts the ticketed “Ding” Darling 75th Anniversary Gala. The event features a 1940s drive-in theater format with live music and a program projected onto an oversized screen. Profits from this sold out event benefit the conservation and education efforts at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you to those who will be joining us for your support in continuing “Ding’s” long-lasting legacy. Celebrate with us by donating $75 on www.dingdarlingsociety.org or give us a call at 239.472.1100 ext 4!

If you have questions about the events, please call 239.472.1100 ext. 237 or visit dingdarlingsdays.com

Celebrate 'Ding' Darling's 75th Anniversary at Tarpon Bay Explorers

The Refuge’s recreational concession, will be open for business as usual on December 1.

Visit tarponbayexplorers.com or call 239.472.8900 for more information about fees and reservations for the day’s narrated tours.

8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. Kayak Trail Tour
9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. Wildlife Drive Tour
9 a.m. Stand-up Paddleboard Tour
11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Nature & Sealife Cruise
3:45 p.m. Evening Cruise

Price Check

Then and Now

ITEM 1945 2020
Jar of Jelly $0.35 $4
New Car $800 $40,000
Manicure $1 $20
Vacuum Cleaner $40 $250
New Home $2,950 $425,000
Pack of Cigarettes $0.25 $6.30
Gallon of Gas $0.21 $2.50
Year of College Tuition $1,000 $20,000
Experiencing Nature Priceless Priceless

Time for Wildlife

How much time do you have?
DDWS Thanks Its Wonderful Sponsors

CALL OF THE WILD LEVEL
- Jim & Patty Sprinkle

CHAMPION LEVEL
- Jim & Liz Birmingham
- Todd & Barbara Bluedorn
- Boomer Duvin & Family

GUARDIAN LEVEL
- Margie Furniss & Ed Kfoury
- Bill & Laurie Harkey
- Willow the Whippet

PROTECTOR LEVEL
- Wayne & Linda Boyd
- Hank & Linda Spire
- John & Kathy McCabe

DEFENDER LEVEL
- Tiffani Kaliko & John Silvia
- William & Barbara Millar
- Greg & Linda Scherer
- Ron E. & Josephine Smith
- Mike & Terry Baldwin
- Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club
- The Gresham Family
- Paul Harmon

www.ding75.org • www.dingdarlingsociety.org
239.472.1100 ext 4