

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

### **‘Ding’ to host ‘Ocean Doctor’ Guggenheim for opening of lecture series**

As founder of the nonprofit organization Ocean Doctor, dedicated to advancing ocean conservation worldwide, David E. Guggenheim will share “Lessons from the Deep: What the Oceans Are Telling Us and Why it Matters” at the first “Ding” Darling lecture of the season. It will take place at The Community House at 2173 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel Island starting at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.

The upcoming season’s “Ding” Darling Lecture Series evolves with the times and persisting distance protocols by moving to the larger venue with five scheduled lectures through March 19.

Guggenheim is a marine scientist, conservation policy specialist, ocean explorer, submarine pilot, and educator who is also an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University and creator of the Cuba Conservancy. He has worked in Cuba for more than 20 years leading collaborative research and conservation efforts focused on advancing economically and environmentally sustainable solutions for coastal communities to protect and sustain coral reef ecosystems.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) hosts the 17th annual lecture series and HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors Guggenheim’s lecture.

The season’s complete schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all starred (\*) lectures; books will be available for purchase on-site the day of the lecture or in advance at any of the DDWS Refuge Nature Store outlets. Locations include the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel, at 2250 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel, and online at [ShopDingDarling.com](http://ShopDingDarling.com).

Seating for the free lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. About 200 seats will be available. Facemasks will be required. DDWS will be filming most lectures and broadcasting them on Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/dingdarling](http://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.

Upcoming lectures:

Friday, Jan. 29 - Ocean Doctor David E. Guggenheim, "Lessons from the Deep: What the Oceans Are Telling Us and Why it Matters," sponsored by HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management

\*Thursday, Feb. 4 - Photographers Clyde and Niki Butcher, *The Everglades*, sponsored by Wayne and Linda Boyd

\*Friday, Feb. 19 - Author Jack Davis, "The Bald Eagle: Symbol and Species in American History," sponsored by Southwest Florida Eagle Cam

\*Friday, March 12 - Author Paul Bannick, "Gray Owl: A Visual Natural History," sponsored by Bill & Laura Harkey

\*Friday, March 19 - Author Kirk W. Johnson, *Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century*, sponsored by Ashton Kirchner Group/Keller Williams Realty Sanibel & Captiva, HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management, Geoffrey & Karen Moss, and Sanibel Carts

\*starred lecture indicates book signing to follow

#### 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 [dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com).

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