Dr. Robert G. Meeker Conservation Fund

Dr. Robert G. Meeker enjoying the Refuge: "I think my favorite place on earth would be the 'Ding' Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island in Florida" Dr. Robert G. Meeker

David and Robert Meeker, the sons of the late Dr. Robert G. Meeker, set up an endowed fund with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society to generate funds for the Refuge into the future.

Dr. Meeker was a Professor of English at Bloomsburg University for nearly 30 years, earning his doctorate degree in literature from Lehigh University in 1990 at age 63. Besides literature, Dr. Meeker was a great lover of early jazz and big-band music. In addition to these passions, Dr. Meeker traveled for many years to Sanibel Island, Florida, to enjoy the warmth and natural wildlife, claiming that "Ding" Darling was his favorite place on earth.

Four generations of Meekers have traveled to Sanibel Island and to the Refuge to appreciate its unspoiled natural wonder, beginning with Dr. Meeker's father, who visited often in the early 1960s. For more than 20 years, Dr. Meeker and his wife, Beverly, visited the Refuge daily during their annual visits to Florida. They came to know the Refuge well and learned through experience when and where to find their favorite birds. They particularly enjoyed talking to and learning from the Refuge staff.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be associated with the Refuge, and it is our ongoing hope that this fund will not only promote and encourage conservation and respect for the natural world but will also inspire the next generation of naturalists," said David Meeker, Dr. Meeker's son.

Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the Dr. Robert G. Meeker Conservation Fund can visit dingdarlingsociety.org and click the donate button.

To learn more about establishing your own permanent endowed fund, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4. Donors can establish an endowment with a gift of $10,000 or more. Proceeds earned by the investment go towards supporting the Refuge mission.