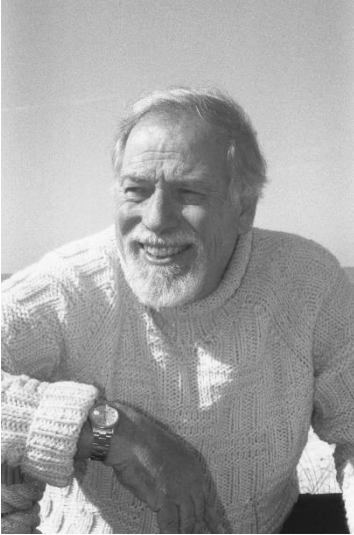


Stephen B. Oresman Intern Project Fund



Steve is pictured above on a Captiva beach.

Steve has loved the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, “the sanctuary” as he calls it, since his first birding trip to Sanibel in 1954, when he and his wife, Enid, traveled from his Air Force base in Mobile, AL. He has been visiting regularly ever since.

Despite growing up in New York City, Steve had a fierce, natural passion for birding from a young age. His love of birds was so intense he was kicked out of the Boy Scouts for arguing over the identification of a bird with a scoutmaster. Steve’s wife, children, and their families love and respect (and sometimes endure) this passion.

Though he never pursued a career in science, instead becoming a successful business consultant, Steve has an interest in all natural science pursuits. This diversity of interest has made him an inspiration to birders, naturalists, and scientists alike. “Magpie,” as he is known in the birding community, has traveled the world over in search of birds but always returned to the “Ding” Darling Refuge.

Steve’s daughter Pam Browning and her family established this fund in honor of his 90th birthday to inspire future generations of naturalists, whether as a career or a passionate hobby like Steve’s. As the world becomes more specialized and we seek specific knowledge in sub-fields, holistic science and naturalists are falling by the wayside. Steve often says, “This is what we need most!” The family hopes that those making use of these funds will think not just of the white pelicans and elusive mangrove cuckoos, but also of the mangroves and wetlands where these birds live, the precarious salinity balance that the mangroves depend upon, and the carbon and sediments that are bound within those mangrove roots. In the end, all of these create the exquisite ecosystem in our beloved “sanctuary.”



Steve is pictured above in a photo by Edward Kasper that appeared in the Sports Illustrated article “The Great Bird Bash” May 7, 1979.

Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the Stephen B. Oresman Intern Project 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.