

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Grant supports refuge Sighting Board upgrade

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation recently awarded “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge a \$5,000 Arts & Attractions Grant to update and expand the board outside the refuge’s Education Center, which lists recent refuge sightings.

“We will use the grant to replace the Sighting Board’s current flimsy name tags with high-pressure laminate tiles,” said project chair Doris Hardy. “They will contain the names and photos of the nearly 300 species of birds, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles that call the Refuge home.”

Butterfly species will be a new addition to the board’s listings. The project committee is currently working on procuring un-copyrighted images of Refuge species.

“We are very pleased to receive this generous support,” said DDWS President Susan Cassell. “Visitors love checking to see what birds are at the Refuge on any given day. We get about 200,000 people walking by and looking at that board every year.”

DDWS is a non-profit, friends-of-the-refuge organization that supports the Education Center, “Ding” Darling Days, and other educational and research programs at the refuge.

To join DDWS and become a friend to the refuge, stop in at the Refuge Education Center or visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org.

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