

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-472-3499

ChelleTrav@aol.com

Images available upon request.

Doc Ford's major "Ding" Days sponsor

Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille has donated \$5,000 to "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) for its 2009 "Ding" Darling Days birding and eco-festival, which will take place at J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Oct. 18-24.

As a \$5,000 donor, Doc Ford's becomes a Roseate Spoonbill, a top level sponsor for "Ding" Days.

Doc Ford's joins Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP), Ocean's Reach, Jim Sprinkle, and West Wind Inn as sponsors of the 20th annual community event.

"We are grateful for the incredible generosity of these businesses and individuals and hope to see others join with them as sponsors in helping 'Ding' Darling with this popular island event," said Wendy Erler-Schnapp, committee co-chair.

For information on becoming a "Ding" Days sponsor, visit

www.dingdarlingdays.com/howtobecomeasponsor.htm or contact Birgie Vertesch

(Maverick21150@aol.com) at 239-292-0566 or Wendy Erler-Schnapp

(EcoErler@aol.com) at 239-470-1877.

"Ding" Darling Days celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week and the birthday of Jay "Ding" Darling, the refuge's namesake and father of the Duck Stamp Program. The event is co-presented by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, DDWS, and Tarpon Bay Explorers.

###