



FALL 2014

Society Pages

News from Friends of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, a nonprofit Friends of the Refuge organization, supports environmental education and services at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge complex. It depends on membership support and private contributions and is grateful to those who help fund projects such as the Visitor & Education Center, internships, interpretive signage, research, student education, and informational literature.



Meet Happy Appy, our latest character; who is ready to help you get your game on!

GET READY FOR DISCOVER DING

The Refuge will host a public unveiling and "download-in" of its brand-new Discover Ding game app to kick off the free Family Fun Day at 10 a.m. on October 19 in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium. The first 250 guests to show staff their download get a special free T-shirt.

Our new costumed character, Happy Appy, will be on hand throughout the day to give free tutorials on downloading and using the app, which combines nature, gaming, social media, and GPS technology for an entirely new experience. Throughout the week, the costumed character will also be in the Education Center parking lot each morning at 9:25 a.m. to offer help and instruction.

In 1989, Refuge staff conceived "Ding" Darling Day, a one-day festival to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week and the birthday of "Ding" Darling, which both conveniently fall in October. Twenty-five years later, one day has grown into a week and hundreds of attendees have swelled into thousands.

To hail "Ding" Darling Days' Silver Anniversary, the Refuge has come up with 25 ways to celebrate the event, which kicks off with FREE Family Fun Day on October 19, 2014, and ends on October 25 with Conservation Art Day.

The debut of the Discover Ding GPS-based game app – the first of its kind in the refuge system – with an unveiling at 11 a.m. on Family Fun Day, October 19, and tutorials throughout the day and at 9:25 a.m. daily during the week. Look for the walking cell phones! (See sidebar this page.)

25 "Ding" Things Silver Scavenger Hunt weeklong with 25 fun prizes.

Free Silver Anniversary reusable tote bags filled with books and other goodies, while supplies last, on Sunday Family Fun Day.

25 Years of 'Ding' Days



4 Free 25-minute archery demonstrations and clinics on Family Fun Day.

5 Special free 25th anniversary presentations by Heather Hensen's Ilex Puppetry troupe on Sunday, featuring a new surprise refuge creature.

6 Free admission to Wildlife Drive on Sunday.

7 Free naturalist-narrated refuge tram tours Sunday on a first-come basis.

8 Free weeklong traveling exhibit of 2014-2015 Federal and Junior Duck Stamp art work in the free Visitor & Education Center.

9 25% off all Tarpon Bay Explorers tours Monday through Saturday – including tram, paddling, and nature cruise excursions.

10 25 stunning images of great blue heron courtship at a special free photographic presentation by Sallie Rich on Coastal Bird Day, Monday, October 20.

11 Free Great Florida Birding Trail presentation by Mark Kiser on Monday.

12 Free Beach Walk at Perry Tract on Beach & Water Day, Tuesday, October 21.

continued on the next page



The Refuge unveils its Discover Ding game app for "Ding" Days.



Live animals make Sunday Family Fun Day a big hit.

25 Years of 'Ding' Days

continued from page 1

13 Free 25-minute stand-up paddleboard clinics on Tuesday and Thursday.

14 Free wilderness paddles into the Refuge's Lady Finger Lake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act on Monday and Wednesday (experience necessary).

15 Free Calusa presentation and walk on Calusa Day, Thursday, October 23.

16 Free birding tram tours to Bunche Beach on Thursday and Friday. (Reservations required: 239-472-8900)

17 Free Estuary Exploration tram tours on Thursday and Friday. (Reservations required: 239-472-8900)

18 Free Refuge admission to bikers and hikers only on Trails Day, Friday, October 24. (Wildlife Drive is closed to all vehicular traffic other than special Tarpon Bay Explorers tram tours.)

19 First 25 bike rentals free at Tarpon Bay Explorers on Friday.

20 Free Scat & Tracks program with walk to the new Wildlife Education Boardwalk on Friday.

21 Free Animal Olympics throughout Friday at Bailey Tract.

22 Free admission to Wildlife Drive for everybody on Saturday's Conservation Art Day, October 25.

23 Plein-air artists along Wildlife Drive on Saturday.

24 25-cent Silly Photo Booth pictures available on Saturday.

25 Free meet-and-greet with federal duck stamp artists on Saturday.

For the full calendar of events, please visit www.dingdarlingdays.com/ddd-events.

BIG Thanks To This Year's 'Ding' Days Sponsors

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille

GREAT EGRET: Matzaluna: The Italian Kitchen, 'Tween Waters Inn

GREAT BLUE HERON: 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Arthur Printing, Bailey's General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Casa Ybel Resort, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Intech Printing, Island Sun, Jerry's Foods, Mike & Cannella Mullins, Ocean's Reach Condominiums, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Jim & Patty Sprinkle, West Wind Inn

REDDISH EGRET: Big Red Q Quickprint, Caloosa Tent & Rental, Casa Ybel Resort, Sally and Rich Ennis, Gulf Breeze Cottages, Sabal Signs, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, West Wind Inn

SNOWY EGRET: Barefoot Charley's Painting Co., Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Florida Weekly, George & Wendy's Seafood Grille, Good Wheels, Grounds by Green Ways, Island Therapy Center, Over Easy Café, Panther Printing, Sanibel Art & Frame, Wendy & George Schnapp, She Sells Sea Shells, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Suncatchers' Dream

Society Annual Meeting Notice

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Members and Friends:

This is your formal notice of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society scheduled for **Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 1 p.m.** and to be held in the auditorium of the Education Center at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

AGENDA

I Minutes of the Annual Meeting of December 4, 2013: Susan Cassell

II Treasurer's Report: Vasanta Senerat. Questions & comments from the floor.

III President's Report: John McCabe. Questions & comments from the floor.

IV Board Nominating Committee Report: Doris Hardy

Nominees presented by the Committee

Nominations from the floor (Nominees shall be members in good standing and have agreed to have their names go forward.)

Vote on Nominees

V Emeritus Board Committee Report: Susan Cassell

VI Open discussion of the Business of the Society

VII Adjournment

Your attendance at and participation in this meeting is encouraged.

Susan Cassell, Secretary

The 'Poop' on Scat

Refuge biology staff and interns conceived the idea, unsavory though it may seem, in the Refuge lunch room one day: an educational video about scat — the biology-correct word for animal poop.

The team built on a little ditty the education staff had been using to teach kids to be "wildlife sleuths," tracking down which animals had gone before them by "reading" their tracks and scat.

Enter the creative talents of Mark Meyers of Trade-Marky Films, Sanibel Island. With video camera in hand, he asked visitors, staff, interns, and volunteers of all ages to recite parts of the seven-stanza poem on camera.

The result? A hilarious look at the Refuge's animals and the surprises they leave. The video ties in with

the recent opening of the Refuge's Wildlife Education Boardwalk, which features scat replicas and etched animal tracks for about a dozen Refuge creatures. The educational flip-open scat panels offer information on each animal's diet and lifestyles, including alligators, bobcats, manatees, and roseate spoonbills.

"We are always looking for ways to get people excited about getting outside, and this is kind of a fun and silly way to accomplish that," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "At the same time viewers are being entertained by the concept of scat and our cute little poem, they are learning. We teach people to stop, look, and listen. It's amazing what you can learn through direct observation."

The *Scat Poem* video debuted on YouTube on Au-



An opening scene from our "scoop on poop" video.

gust 24. Check it out at <http://tinyurl.com/scatpoem>. Please share with friends and on social media. The video was made possible by support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society and the donated time and energy of Mark Meyers and his team.



Winter Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for February 17, 2015, to meet Steve Kress, who founded Audubon's Project Puffin in 1973 to restore Maine's historic but decimated puffin population. The fundraiser at the Sanibel Community House will benefit conservation work at "Ding" Darling. Tickets are \$100 each and will include a silent auction, sit-down dinner, and live entertainment.

Please contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org if you are interested in attending or sponsoring the event.

Steve Kress holds one of his project puffins.



YOUTH FISHING DAY

DDWS, the Refuge, and Tarpon Bay Explorers teamed up for their semi-annual Youth Fishing Day event this summer, hosting 28 kids from the YMCA of Fort Myers. Cast-netting, knot-tying, safety, and other lessons preceded an exciting cruise into Tarpon Bay, where everyone hooked into fish, including a 2-1/2-foot bonnethead shark. Thanks to the Lexington Fishing Club for its support of the event.

FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please "LIKE" us on **Facebook** by searching "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. (You can also "LIKE" the Refuge by searching for its "Official" page.)

Instagram users can find us at [@dingdarlingwildlifesociety](https://www.instagram.com/dingdarlingwildlifesociety). To follow us on **Pinterest**, search for Ding Darling and then click "Pinners" at the top left.



Stokes Tours

Longtime Sanibel Island winter residents and nationally acclaimed bird authors and TV personalities Don and Lillian Stokes will contribute their time and expertise to lead two fundraising birders tram tours of "Ding" Darling Refuge again next year on the morning of Friday, February 20.

Wildlife Drive is normally closed on Fridays, meaning tour participants will have the birds and the Stokes to themselves. Lillian Stokes will speak about and demonstrate bird photography on one of

the trams, while her husband, on a second tram, will focus on the principles of bird identification. Cost for each half-day tour is \$75 and includes continental breakfast.

Tarpon Bay Explorers, the Refuge's official recreation concession, will be donating the use of two trams. Together, they accommodate 80 passengers, so interested persons are encouraged to make reservations (239-472-1100, ext. 233) as soon as possible, because the Stokes' past tram tours have filled up quickly.

The Stokes have authored 32 books in their Stokes Field Guides series and have hosted a birding television show for PBS.



Don and Lillian Stokes

Sea Monsters!

It will be remembered as the summer of Sea Monsters. Thanks to grants from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation and a private family foundation, DDWS was able to bring in the *Sea Monsters* hands-on exhibit from Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota from June 1 through August 18. The grant also provided transportation to day camps and other groups that would have otherwise been unable to afford a trip to the Refuge.

During the exhibit's tenure at "Ding," the Refuge hosted a number of films and interactive presentations cooperatively with Mote staff via videocast.

An estimated 780 underprivileged kids were able to visit the Mote Marine Laboratory exhibit and Refuge thanks to grant monies.



Scholarship Awards

At a special after-hours gathering at the Refuge in June, DDWS awarded \$13,000 in conservation education scholarships to 12 students from the surrounding five-county area. The awards total was the highest ever in the seven-year history of DDWS' Environmental Scholarship Program.

DDWS will again be awarding scholarships at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. High school seniors and college students living in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry counties and pursuing careers in biology and environmental studies are eligible. For an application, please visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org/student-scholarships.



2014-15 Teacher Grants DOUBLED!


Deadline for our eighth annual teacher grants is October 31, 2014. This year, the DDWS Board of Directors voted to double the total available grant funds from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and to expand eligibility beyond Lee County to Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry counties for conservation education-related projects.

Teachers in the five-county area may apply for grants up to \$1,000 to purchase teaching aids, books, and classroom materials; fund new classroom science projects; take field trips; or conduct work projects in the community. The approved grant proposals will be awarded in November 2014 for projects to be completed by May 2015.

"The Education Committee is very pleased the Board has so generously increased the reach of our teacher grants," said Doris Hardy, DDWS Environmental Edu-

cation Committee chair. "With environmental education funding being cut throughout the school district, teachers and students are grateful to receive our grants to fund special projects. It's an important part of the Society's mission to educate and make future conservation stewards out of today's youth pool."

In the past seven years, the Society has granted more than \$39,000 to local schools for environmental projects. The teacher grants are funded by DDWS monies received from the DDWS Conservation Education Endowment Fund earmarked specifically for education. The fund was made possible by the late Kip Koss, grandson of Jay "Ding" Darling.

For further information and an application, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org/grants; or contact Gary Ogden at 472-1100 ext. 233 or Doris at hardydd@comcast.net. 



Students from Diplomat Elementary test water quality as part of their Water, Water Everywhere: Designing Water Filters grant project last year.



DDWS President John McCabe thanks Marc Giattini for his years of service to the friends group.


Marc Giattini Special Counsel

"**D**ing" Darling Wildlife Society has appointed Sanibel Island attorney Marc Giattini as special counsel to its Board of Directors.

"Marc is a former board member and vice president, and continues to provide invaluable counsel to the Society both on legal issues and organizational history," said DDWS President John McCabe.

Kip Koss, the late grandson of Jay Norwood 'Ding' Darling, had previously served as special counsel to bring the Darling family's perspective to DDWS. Working closely with Kip on Darling endowment and copyright issues, Marc became good friends with the family during his board tenure and has continued the relationship after Kip's passing last year.

"In appointing Marc to the special counsel position, we are recognizing his past and continuing vital contributions to the Society," said John McCabe.

"Succeeding Kip as special counsel is a great personal and professional honor," said Marc. "I look forward to continuing to serve the Society in any way I can." 

REFUGE NATURE STORE

Upcycle! Artists Showcase

During October, November, and December, the Refuge Nature Store will be showcasing the work of artists who participated in our inaugural Upcycle! Art Fest last spring. Their work, which makes use of re-imagined materials, will be for sale. November features the cleverly repurposed fixture lamps of Jay Lana, who

won second place in the Upcycle! judging. Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild members will be displaying and selling during October and December.



Jay Lana and his innovative lamps.

Lecture Series Preview

The 2015 "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Friday Afternoon Lecture Series kicks off on Friday, January 9, with a panel discussion "Communications Among Birders:




The popular environmental journalist Jeff Klinkenberg will be part of this year's lecture series.

How to Best Find the Birds You are Looking For," featuring local birding experts. The 14-week series ends April 10. Highlights include Jeff Klinkenberg, author of *Alligators in B Flat*; Bill Belleville, author of *Salvaging the Real Florida*; Neville Williams, author of *Sun Power*; and celebrity birding authors Don and Lillian Stokes. For the most up-to-date lecture calendar, please visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org/ lectures. Special thanks to **The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company** for sponsoring this lecture series once again.

Holiday Cards

Our 2014 holiday card sets will debut this year at "Ding" Darling Days, October 19-25. Pictured are two of six different bird portraits packaged in each box of 18. Cost is \$15.99 plus shipping.

The inside message reads: "May the beauty and wonder of nature bring you hope and joy this holiday season and in the new year."

Preorder your cards by calling 239-472-1100 ext. 241. Remember, all proceeds from purchases in the Refuge Nature Store benefit education, research, and ultimately wildlife at the Refuge. 



Roseate spoonbill by Theodore Cross and Yellow-crowned Night Heron by Craig Goettsch.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars, and join us! Visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org for details.

25th Annual "Ding" Darling Days - October 19-25, 2014

Friday Lecture Series - January 9-April 10, 2015

Wednesday Bi-Weekly Film Series - January 7-April 15, 2015

Trailgate Party 2015 - Dinner & Puffins - February 17, 2015

Birding Tram Tour with Don & Lillian Stokes - February 20, 2015

Second Annual Upcycle! Art Fest - April 1-2, 2015

Earth Day at the Refuge - April 18, 2015

Fourth Annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament - May 9, 2015

WGCU Radio Drive

At the invitation of WGCU FM, the local NPR affiliate, DDWS is participating in a radio drive to benefit local nonprofits. Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland and DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller will be on the air from 8 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, to talk about our mission. Listen in at 90.1 FM.



WGCU has offered to help us augment our marketing budget by awarding us with free radio

promos that we can use to promote our events and mission throughout the following year.

Call 800-533-9428 anytime during the pledge campaign (October 17-24). Make a pledge of \$250 to WGCU, and DDWS will receive eight radio spots. Pledges of \$500 earn us 16 spots; \$750 earns 24; and so forth.

Your gift will benefit WGCU Public Radio while providing us with valuable marketing opportunities that we would otherwise not be able to afford. You can also pledge support online at WGCU.org in October. Make sure that you select "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society as the nonprofit you'd like to support with free radio promos.

STAFF NEWS

Promotion for Sarah

DDWS recently promoted intern Sarah Lathrop to full-time DDWS Associate Director of Community Outreach & Development. She replaces Jess Shelton, who vacated the position in July 2014.

Sarah began her stint as a shared-use intern for the "Ding" Darling Refuge and DDWS in July 2013 as a recent graduate from Hanover College in Indiana.

"Sarah has been invaluable in upgrading the Refuge's web site and, as a Spanish major, expanding the Refuge's reach into the Spanish-speaking community," said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director.

"Her competence running our Theodore Cross High School Photography Contest this spring and helping with various fundraisers and projects proved to us that we didn't want her to leave when her one-year internship was up."

Sarah will continue to represent DDWS in promoting the Refuge through outreach and donor development programs.

"I learned so much as an intern and it was such a valuable experience," she said. "I am excited to serve as the associate director and continue to gain knowledge and enhance the work at the Refuge and Society as much as I can."



Sarah Lathrop.

Interns Re-Up

Biology intern Hanna Joergens has extended her six-month internship for another term and will be continuing at "Ding" Darling through January 2015. Education intern Megan Gallagher, upon finishing her six-month term, has signed on for another six months as a biology intern as well. Great to be keeping you around, ladies!



Megan Gallagher and Hanna Joergens

Congrats E-Award Nominees

Twenty-one staff, interns, and volunteers from the Refuge, DDWS, and Tarpon Bay Explorers (TBE) received nominations for the 2014 E-Awards for service above and beyond. The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau hosts the awards for outstanding hospitality service.

Our nominees include DDWS' Davis Horton and Birgie Miller; the Refuge's Tom Guertin, Marge Keller, Jim Scott, Helen Taylor, Jack Waszmer, Arthur Williams, and Bill Zack; and TBE's Patricia Clark, Brianna Coffman, Lewis Irvine, Dave Johns, Margie Klein, Steven Maddix, Wendy Rex, Adam Sauerland, Wendy Schnapp, Donna Yetsko, Steve Yetsko, and Julie Zugelder.

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

March 8, 2014 – September 1, 2014

Memorial gifts and gifts made in honor of special occasions are a wonderful way to pay tribute to family and friends who are important to us. Throughout the year, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society has received gifts in memory and in honor of loved ones. Thank you to everyone who supported the Refuge in this thoughtful and meaningful way.

We recently received gifts in **MEMORY** of the following:

Richard Bailey	Ted Kucera
Dr. Christina Barkley	Robert Lathrop
Rhoda Dorsey	Sarah Read
Virginia Foley	Bud Ryckman
Betty Johnson	Martha Ryckman
Bobby Kean	Dorothy Sidney
Max Lee Kirk	Judeith Steger
Kip Koss	Dr. Denison Stewart
James Kowalski	

We received gifts in **HONOR** of:

Joyce Barney	Dr. Andrew and Laura
Barbara Bazzone	Dahlem
Maya and Lily Birke	Kathy Flaherty
Brennan	Doris Hardy
Howard Buhse	Joan Leffel
	Birgie Miller

PRESCRIBED BURNS

Refuge fire operations prepared more than 150 acres of Bailey Tract, Sanibel-Captiva Road, and Legion Curve for prescribed burns this summer. Prescribed burns help reduce the risk of wildfires -- such as those that spread through the Northwest this summer -- by ridding the environment of underbrush. They also help renew natural resources that count on fire to regenerate.



Leave a Legacy and Support 'Ding' Darling in Your Estate Plans

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS) is proud to be mentioned in many of our departed benefactors' Last Wills and Testaments and as beneficiaries of retirement and other estate plans. It's quite simple to do.

You may name DDWS in your will as follows: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP] give, devise, and bequeath to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation located on Sanibel Island, Florida" [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for [designate the purpose, if desired, or leave blank for gifts to be used to address the greatest need]."

The IRS has granted DDWS tax-exempt status and any gift to our organization is tax-deductible and will help offset inheritance taxes your family or friends might otherwise be obligated to pay. **For more information, visit our Web site at www.dingdarlingsociety.org/bequest.**





Mangrove Cuckoo, courtesy of Rachel Mullin

Mangrove Cuckoo Research

For the second consecutive year, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society financially supported a telemetry tagging and tracking study on Mangrove Cuckoos in and around the Refuge. Below is a summary of the study’s progress in the 2014 season, by researcher Rachel Frieze Mullin.

“We have captured and radio-marked 10 individuals in 2014 (3 in March, 5 in April, 1 in May, and 1 in June). Dixie Beach Blvd in Sanibel was the most successful capture location, accounting for 3 individuals. Two individuals each were captured on John Morris Road in Fort Myers and along Wildlife Drive on J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The remaining 3 individuals were captured on the Lee County Electric Cooperative right-of-way on the Refuge, on Tarpon Bay Rd., and on the Indigo Trail on the Refuge. Using surveys conducted from the air and from the ground, we have estimated 193 total locations for these individuals.”

Good wildlife management and knowledge of various species start with good research. The elusive Mangrove Cuckoo is among one of the most poorly known North American birds, and the Refuge and Society are excited to have been a part of this research by providing the necessary support.

Mending Graffiti Trees at Refuge

Since 2010, there has been an increase of carved graffiti on gumbo limbo trees on the Refuge’s Calusa Shell Mound Trail. Gumbo limbos are native island trees nicknamed “tourist trees” because their red, peeling bark resembles sunburnt tourists. The tree’s soft, smooth bark is highly susceptible to vandals destructively carving their identity or affections into the vulnerable trees.

“These arrogant actions not only result in scarring these beautiful trees and exposing them to greater harm and disease, but they also ruin the natural wilderness experience many of our visitors come here to seek,” said Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik.

Landscaper Robert Walton with Grounds By Green Ways on Sanibel Island donated his expertise, time, and materials to show Refuge staff how to mask and mend seven defaced gumbo limbo trees using biodegradable, corn-based landscape fabric that is rated to last 10 years.

“Rob advised us to cover the graffiti with landscape fabric to protect the trees from disease and allow the scarred trees to heal faster,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. “We hope this will also deter further vandalism. Seeing the graffiti seems to encourage more of it.”

Harming Refuge wildlife and vandalizing federal property is unlawful. Anyone with information about this or any other vandalism on the Refuge should contact Toni at 239-472-1100, ext. 237.



Island landscaper Robert Walton from Grounds By Green Ways (left) shows Refuge Ranger Jeff Combs and intern Davis Horton how to wrap graffiti-damaged trees.

WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Here we showcase the best shots of wildlife taken at the Refuge recently by photographers, volunteers, staff, and others. This river otter capture comes from the motion-sensing infrared camera the Refuge has set up on Indigo Trail. It was taken at 3:26 a.m. on April 21, 2014. If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sarah Lathrop at sarah@ding-darlingsociety.org.





One Wildlife Drive
P.O. Box 565
Sanibel, FL 33957

Forwarding Service Requested

Phone: (239) 472-1100, ext. 233

Fax: (239) 472-7803

WEBSITE

www.dingdarlingsociety.org

E-MAIL

dingdarlingoffice@yahoo.com

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Saving Sea Turtles, the Exhibit



The Refuge unveiled its new **Saving Sea Turtles** exhibit in the free Visitor & Education Center on August 29. The exhibit highlights our five Florida sea turtles: loggerhead, green, Kemp's Ridley, hawksbill, and leatherback. Visitors learn the turtles' life cycles, the threats that face them, and the history of the sea turtle program on Sanibel Island.



The exhibit includes an interactive touch screen with videos and facts about each turtle, a cross-section of a loggerhead nest, rotating replica turtle shells for visitors to identify, and a replicated male loggerhead turtle. It was made possible by a grant from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) grant and other gifts to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society.