

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: A sneak peek of Water/Ways

[Attached: Water/Ways, Florida Humanities, and Smithsonian logos]

Smithsonian Exhibit coming to ‘Ding’

Mark your calendars for Oct. 29 through Dec. 9, 2016, for a first-of-its-kind Water/Ways traveling exhibit in partnership with the Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program supported by The Smithsonian and Florida Humanities Council.

Water/Ways will take a global look at water relative to the environment, culture, and history. In collaboration with other local nature and art organizations, it will also examine the issues and context facing our liquid assets here at home.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), host of the exhibit, will be showing a film series focused on water issues, sponsored by LCEC. Other special family programs, giveaways, an interactive water table, and other activities are in the planning stages. On Nov. 26, a Kids Fishing Derby will take place on the causeway in conjunction with the exhibit.

The Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild is planning an artful water and nature exhibition titled “Engulfed” during the event. Partners along Sanibel’s “Wild Mile” Sanibel-Captiva Road corridor will be participating with programs and discounts, including Tarpon Bay Explorers, the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, CROW, and Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Through a highly competitive bidding process, ‘Ding’ Darling was chosen as only one of only six Florida locations to host Water/Ways. Representatives from the refuge and DDWS traveled to North Florida recently for instruction on how to set up and interpret the exhibit.

“It’s an amazing exhibit,” said supervisory refuge range Toni Westland, one of the representatives. “We love how it brings to light the growing problem of water scarcity worldwide and the overall high

Smithsonian-level quality. It certainly lives up to the Smithsonian name and promises to inspire all who experience it.”

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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