

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: Jeanne Walsh

Refuge Nature Store promotes new manager

Jeanne Walsh first visited the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island 15 years ago on vacation with her husband and three children. She was awed by the birds, raccoons, and alligators. Now she’s back, living on Sanibel. In December 2015, she took a part-time position at the Refuge Nature Store and last week was promoted to store manager.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) operates the Refuge Nature Store, proceeds from which benefit wildlife, habitat conservation, education, and research projects.

Formerly a part-time resident of North Captiva Island, Walsh moved to Sanibel last fall with her husband, David, a retired reinsurance executive.

Walsh, a native of New York City, graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She worked part-time for the Environmental Protection Agency while in school and later on Wall Street and for Merrill Lynch.

On North Captiva, Walsh worked for a retail operation at the popular Barnacle Phil’s restaurant, helping to publish a calendar and host art shows to benefit the North Captiva Conservation Fund.

“I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm and passion for ‘Ding’ Darling exhibited by the 250-plus volunteers,” Walsh said. “Staff members and interns of the society and the refuge are so enthusiastic and professional. They are dedicated to serving our wildlife as well as our visitors. The positive energy of the refuge is contagious!”

Walsh takes on the position vacated by Alison Conger, who is moving her family to St. Petersburg, Fla.

“Alison’s enthusiasm and energy will be missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors,” said DDWS executive director Birgie Miller. “Jeanne brings a significant background in retail and an understanding and appreciation of the non-profit world and is excited about moving into a full-time position and being an even more integral member of the ‘Ding’ team. We warmly welcome her.”

ABOUT DDWS

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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