

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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‘Ding’ Days 2016 to feature free International Birders Film Festival

In addition to honoring Jay N. “Ding” Darling’s 140th birthday and National Wildlife Refuge Week, this year’s “Ding” Darling Days, Oct. 16-22, celebrates the centennial of the convention between the United States and Great Britain (representing Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Also called the Migratory Bird Treaty, it was signed on Aug. 16, 1916.

Part of the “all things birds” celebration, the 27th annual “Ding” Days at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Fla., will feature a free, daylong International Birders Film Festival on Thursday, Oct. 20, in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium.

The film festival kicks off at 9:15 a.m. with “Birds of North America.” Four films follow: “Birds of South America” at 10:30 a.m., “Birds of Asia & Australia” at 11:45 a.m., “Birds of Africa” at 1 p.m., and “Birds of Europe” at 2:15 p.m.

International Birders Film Festival is part of the weeklong “Ding” Darling Days activities that begin on free Family Fun Day on Sunday, Oct. 16, and culminate on free Conservation Art Day, Saturday, Oct. 22.

Free programs throughout the week will address bird topics such as the refuge’s reddish egret study and the history of the “feather wars” plume trade. The refuge and Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s recreation concession, will be conducting birding tours and other free and discounted excursions weeklong.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), and Tarpon Bay Explorers cosponsor “Ding” Darling Days with generous support from the local community and businesses.

Watch www.dingdarlingdays.com for updates on events or to sign up for e-mail update bulletins.

The following 2016 sponsors make “Ding” Darling Days a popular interactive and educational event for kids, adults, residents, and visitors. More than 6,000 people attend the eco-festival each year.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS: Doc’s Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** George & Wendy’s Seafood Grille; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Andrew Thompson Company, Bailey’s General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Wayne & Linda Boyd, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Island Sun, Jerry’s Foods of Sanibel, John & Beth Newland, Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sanibel Moorings, Santiva Chronicle, Spotlight Graphics, Jim & Patty Sprankle; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Karen Bell, Big Red Q Quickprint, Casa Ybel Resort, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Sally & Rich Ennis, Florida Weekly, Phyllis Gresham, Island Inn, Jensen’s on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Mitchell’s Sand Castles & Forty/Fifteen Resorts, Painting With a Twist, Ed & Lynn Ridlehoover, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Stewart and Sons Insurance, Inc., Suncatchers’ Dream, Sharon Tucker, West Wind Inn, Don & Ann-Marie Wildman; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Barefoot Charley’s Painting Co., John Brennan, The Butterfly Estates, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP), Colony Inn, Grounds by Green Ways, Intech Printing, Island Cinema, Island Management, Marina Customer Service Training, Over Easy Café, Panther Printing, Sanibel Art & Frame, George & Wendy Schnapp, Select Vacation Properties, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Tents and Events.

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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