



FALL 2016

Society Pages

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

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the nonprofit Friends of the Refuge organization, supports environmental education, services, and conservation at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Education and conservation efforts may extend beyond the complex's borders. We partner in these efforts where possible with like-minded conservation organizations.



DDWS donated Shark Whisperer books to Sanibel School and Lehigh Elementary students for a program with author Ellen Prager during Water/Ways.

Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit Highlights

Far more than a static exhibit, the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) Water/Ways has grown into six weeks of art and photography displays, films, speakers, family activities, and special programs that include a kids fishing derby and WaterVentures learning lab day. The exhibit is also made possible by support from the Florida Humanities Council.

continued on page 8



PHOTO BY LIZ NOFFSINGER

"Ding" Darling Days 2016 celebrates "all things birds."

'Ding' Days Celebrates #BIRDYEAR

In addition to celebrating Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling's 140th birthday and National Wildlife Refuge Week, this year's "Ding" Darling Days, October 16-22, commemorates 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 August 16, 1916. "Ding"



Birding tours and other get-outdoors activities fill the week of October 16-22.

Days 2016 will focus on "all things birds."

"That's not at all difficult, since the Refuge is known worldwide for its more than 250 bird species," said Toni Westland, Supervisory Refuge Ranger and Committee Co-chair for "Ding" Days. "We urge bird- and Refuge-

continued on page 2

INSIDE: HISTORY OF 'DING' DAYS • SPONSOR APPRECIATION • YEAR-END GIVING

'DING' DAYS

continued from page 1

lovers to share the #BIRDEYE hashtag on their social media postings throughout the year."

Family Fun Day, which traditionally kicks off the week with free activities, will feature live bird presentations on Sunday, October 16. Other highlights include all-free Refuge tours, archery clinics, hot dogs, a touch tank and butterfly house, Jim Sprankle bird-carving demos, and kids' nature crafts and bird games.

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. On Thursday, October 20, an International Birders Film Festival will air throughout the day. The Refuge and Tarpon Bay Explorers, the Refuge's recreation concession, will be conducting birding tours and other free and discounted excursions all week long.

On Friday, October 21, Darling's official birthday, the Refuge invites the public for free birthday cake and a showing of the *America's Darling* documentary film starting at 11 a.m.

Conservation Art Day winds up the celebration on Saturday, October 22, with visits from four-time and current Federal Duck Stamp winner Joe Hautman and our state Junior Duck Stamp winner. Nature art workshops include a photography tram along Wildlife Drive and make-and-take feather portrait. Visit www.dingdarling-days.com for a full calendar of events.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, and Tarpon Bay Explorers cosponsor "Ding" Darling Days with generous support from the local community and businesses. See this page for a list of our sponsors and a history of "Ding" Days.



Roseate Spoonbill level sponsors Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille

Thanks to Our 'Ding' Days Sponsors

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, 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, Island Therapy Center, Marina Customer Service Training, Over Easy Café, Panther Printing, Sanibel Art & Frame, George & Wendy Schnapp, Select Vacation Properties, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Tents 'n' Events.



YOUTH FISHING DAY

Tarpon Bay Explorers, along with the Refuge and other sponsors, hosted Youth Fishing Day in June. TBE hosts the event twice annually and invites kids who otherwise would not have the opportunity to come and learn how to fish. This year, 21 children from Pine Manor Summer Camp attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Wildlife Drive Fee-Free Day Oct. 9, 2016
 27th Annual "Ding" Darling Days Oct. 16-22, 2016
 Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit Oct. 28-Dec. 7, 2016
 Wildlife Drive Fee-Free Days Nov. 12-13, 2016
 Kids Fishing Derby Nov. 26, 2016
 Happy Hour Holiday Shopping Nov. 30, 2016
 DDWS Annual Meeting - Dec. 7, 2016
 Biweekly Wednesday Film Series - Jan. 4-Apr. 2, 2017
 - sponsored by Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts
 Friday Lecture Series Jan. 20-Apr. 14, 2017 - sponsored by HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management
 Go Wild for "Ding" - Give a Hoot Feb. 8, 2017
 FILLED Stokes Birding Tours Feb. 10, 2017
 Sixth Annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament Weekend of May 20, 2017

Nature Explorers Summer Camp

This summer's six weeks of summer day camp at the Refuge created another wave of new conservation stewards. The majority of attendees received full scholarships to attend.

"This year's second annual summer camp was another great success!" said Ranger Leigh Gay, who head-



ed up this year's operation (pictured in the hiking photo). "This year we made some changes, extending our outdoor activities, while reducing the amount of time students spent inside. This decision created a more immersive atmosphere and allowed the students to learn how to have a

fun and safe time outside. Many of our campers came from underserved communities and would normally never get to visit Sanibel to see its incredibly valuable natural resources. Campers went home with the messages of conservation, environmental stewardship, and outdoor recreation fresh in their minds."

Fishing, nature biking, and a touch tank experience are all part of the summer day camp program.



History of 'Ding' Days

By Susan Cassell, Emeritus Board Member

Before the first "Ding" Darling Days in 1989, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) and "Ding" Darling Refuge held an annual joint event in March during National Wildlife Week. The first festival honoring political cartoonist Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling was held October 20-21, 1989. The public was invited to the old Visitor Center (located in the current Administration Building) to learn about Darling's legacy in the founding of the Refuge in 1945 and in the creation of the first duck stamp in 1934. There was an exhibit of duck stamps; Darling's grandson Kip Koss and winning duck stamp artist Neal Anderson gave a series of talks.

The "Ding" Darling Birthday Celebration continued as a one-day event for several years. Activities were expanded to include photography contests, duck-carving exhibitions, children's tram tours, and local conservation groups.

In 1995, the "Ding" Darling Celebration stretched to three days to commemorate the Refuge's 50th anniversary. Dignitaries from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Representative Porter Goss, and Kip Koss participated in the Refuge's rededication.

Another special celebration was added to "Ding" Darling Day in 1999 when the newly constructed Education Center opened. The opening featured a display of paintings by award-winning duck stamp artists Bob, Jim, and Joe Hautman. Sanibel School students delighted in a parade of the Orlando Peabody ducks.

In 2003, "Ding" Darling Days went to a full week and celebrated the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Special activities included eco-tours; book signings; and live reptile, bat and raptor presentations.

The Refuge was selected in 2007 to host the 75th Federal Duck Stamp Competition, the first time this event was held at a Refuge. The competition occurred as part of the biggest "Ding" Days on record. The public watched as Joe Hautman won the contest for the third time. On hand were the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the USFWS, and many previous duck stamp winners, including the three Hautman brothers. A gala art auction raised \$100,000 to benefit the Refuge.

In 2008, "Ding" Darling Days adopted its current format — seven days of activities bracketed by Family Fun Day on Sunday and Conservation Art Day on the following Saturday. Each year adds new activities such as, in recent years, the Discover Ding app and archery instruction. This year promises to offer even more as it pays homage to the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial.

SAVE THE DATE



February 8, 2017, marks the date for this season's biggest Refuge fundraiser. You have probably figured out that the featured wildlife species will be owls. We will highlight the five species of native Florida owls: Barn, Barred, Burrowing, Eastern Screech, and Great Horned.

This season's event again takes place in the Sanibel Community House and features an island restaurants buffet, and live and silent auction. Jim Sprinkle has promised us an owl feather pin for live auction; the winner becomes a member of the prestigious Sprinkle Feather Club, which flocks together once a year for a special event.

Stay tuned to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/go-wild-for-ding for updates on auction items and sponsors. To become a sponsor, call Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or email director@dingdarlingsociety.org.



Helping Wildlife & Conservation with a Tax-Deductible Year-End Donation

This is the season of giving: Gifts, time, parties and celebrations, and donations to non-profit charities. Nationwide, more than 40% of all individual charitable donations are made in December by people wanting to make a difference. It is also an opportunity, through giving, to generate income tax deductions that may help reduce your tax bill for 2016. Now's the time — up to December 31 — to make a deductible gift.

As 2016 draws to a close, please consider the value of donating to the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society to support the conservation and education efforts at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

Your tax-deductible gift helps support the Refuge in areas such as conservation education, water quality and wildlife research, internships, walkways and trails, interpretive exhibits, land acquisition and so many other ways to preserve and protect this vital land and educate future conservation stewards. With so many wonderful charities around the world doing work that makes a difference, please know how much we appreciate that you choose to support the work taking place here at the Refuge.

Your gift, regardless of its size, will be appreciated and put to good use. Only with the help of people like you, who have compassion for our wildlife and its protection, can we truly make a difference.

Ways to Support Conservation Through the Society:

Online with Credit Card

On our new website (dingdarlingsociety.org), it's even easier to make a secure, online, year-end gift to the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. Options include Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover. Tax-deductible gifts for 2016 can be made any time before 11:59 p.m. (Central Standard) on December 31, 2016.

Phoned-in Credit Card Gifts

If you don't like making gifts online or do not have access to the internet, the DDWS

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WAYS TO SUPPORT

continued from previous page

office is always be happy to accept your credit card information over the phone. Call 239-472-1100 ext. 233, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Checks

Gifts can be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service. Those wishing to receive a year-end tax credit need to have a postmark and check date on or before December 31, 2016. Gifts can be mailed to: "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society; PO Box 565; Sanibel, FL 33957.

Securities/Gifts of Appreciated Stocks

Donating appreciated stock (if owned for more than one year) may help you gain a deduction of the fair market value and avoid a capital gains tax that might be due if sold outright. Stock transfers initiated and received on or before the close of the market on December 31, 2016, will be credited for 2016. To ensure appropriate gift credit, it is important that you contact the DDWS office when you are ready to make your stock gift transfer. Call or email the DDWS office to receive transfer instructions at 239-472-1100 ext. 233 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org. With all gifts, but in particular stocks, please check with your financial advisor or attorney to see if this type of gift makes sense for you and your family.

IRA Charitable Rollovers

Congress recently passed a tax bill that permanently extends the Qualified Charitable Distribution provision, which allows people over age 70 ½ to transfer money from their Traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) assets to qualified charitable organizations and have it count as their required minimum distribution without increasing their adjusted gross income.

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can request your financial advisor to make a direct transfer from your IRA in any amount up to \$100,000 to a charity without reporting it as taxable income. It is simple to make a transfer. Contact your account administrator to request a check be made out and addressed to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society and delivered to the address below. If want a year-end tax deduction, envelopes must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.

As with any charitable gift, we encourage you to check with your professional advisors to see if this type of giving makes sense for you as you consider gifts to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society and other organizations important to you.



"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, Inc.

Tax Identification # 59-2240895

Attn: Birgit Miller, Executive Director

PO Box 565

Sanibel, FL 33957



TERRY BALDWIN

Planned Gifts/Gifts Through Your Will

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS) is proud to have been mentioned in many of our departed benefactors' Last Wills and Testaments. It's quite simple to do.

You may name the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society 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 the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, Inc., 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. Thank you for considering a true legacy gift.

DDWS recommends that you consult with estate planning, legal, and accounting professionals to determine the proper gift vehicle that best fits your tax and financial interests.

Questions? Please call the Society at 239-472-1100 ext. 233 or through email at director@dingdarlingsociety.org.



Conservation Teacher Grants

The “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society and “Ding” Darling Refuge have announced their 11th annual teacher grants. Up to \$10,000 in grant awards are available to teachers in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry counties this school year for conservation education-related projects.

Teachers in the five-county area may apply for grants up to \$1,000 each to purchase teaching aids, books, and classroom materials; fund new classroom science projects; take field trips; or conduct work projects in the community.

All schools are invited to submit conservation education-related unit proposals by October 31, 2016. The approved proposals will be awarded in November 2016 for projects to be completed by May 2017.

“With environmental education funding being cut throughout the school district, teachers and students are grateful to receive our grants to fund special projects,” said Wendy Kindig, DDWS Environmental Edu-



Lehigh Middle School students working on their 2015-2016 grant project “Life in a Dystopian Society.”

cation Committee Chair. “It’s an important part of the Society’s mission to educate and create future conservation stewards from our young students of today.”

In the past 10 years, we have granted more than \$63,000 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.

For further information and an application, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/teacher-grants, or contact Sarah Lathrop at 472-1100 ext. 233 or sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org.



Junior Refuge Manager

Did you know that “Ding” Darling has a program where kids can earn their Junior Refuge Manager Badge? Just come to the Refuge Visitor & Education Center and ask for details at the front desk. Here, Ethan Todd from Ringwood, Oklahoma, works on his badge inside the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center.

FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please “LIKE” us on **Facebook** (join our 10,000+ fans!) by searching for “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. (You can also “LIKE” the Refuge by searching for its “Official” page.) **Instagram** users can find us at @dingdarlingwildlifesociety. Also visit our YouTube channel by searching “ding darling wildlife society.”



New Web Site Unveiling

Whether you are viewing it from a full desktop screen, tablet, or smart phone, the new web site for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society will react to your device with imagery that pops and navigation that gets you immediately to the information you need. Many months in the making, the new site, designed by Sanibel Island’s own Brightstreet Group, debuted with a soft opening in August.

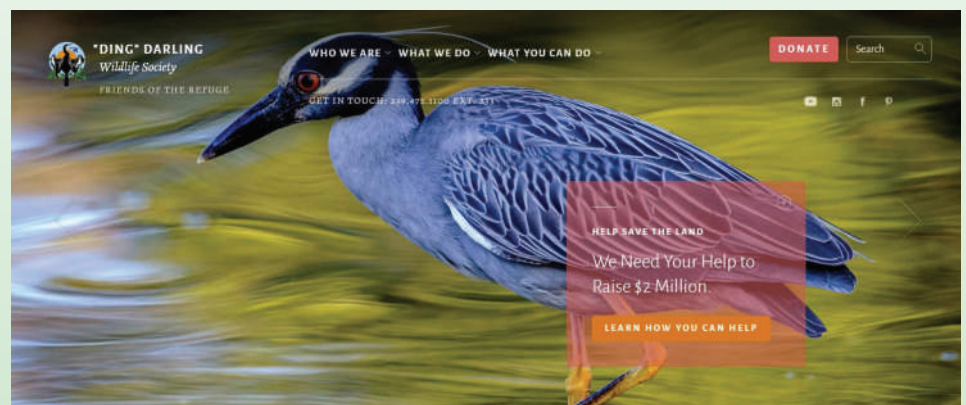
“We’ve given it a test spin and let our board, staff, and other friends try it out before we made the formal announcement,” said DDWS Associate Director Sarah Lathrop, who, along with DDWS Media and Web Site Specialist Chelle Koster Walton, curated and created content for the site.

“The feedback has been great,” said Chelle. “Everyone

especially loves our new Recent Sightings feature, which provides professional-quality images for all the species listed in the most recent volunteer survey. A big thanks to volunteer Ed Combs for his ongoing help with that and to all of our talented contributing photographers.”

The site streams feed from the live camera at the observation tower on Wildlife Drive, thanks to donations by the Gardner families. An easy-to-use calendar keeps visitors up to date on all the latest happenings. The new site also makes it easy and entirely secure to make donations online.

In months to come, we will be adding an e-commerce feature for “Ding” Darling Nature Store purchases online. Visit the new site today at dingdarling-society.org.



The new “Ding” site showcases vivid wildlife imagery.

Taking Action on Water Issues

Your "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society has been working in your behalf for the benefit of the Refuge, its water, and its wildlife. We have helped fund water research equipment in Tarpon Bay. Board Vice President Mike Baldwin heads up the Advocacy Committee with fervor and passion. His dedication has earned him the position of Everglades Coalition state co-chair.

The Board has reached out to members of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, state leaders, and other players in the water quality issue to make sure your concerns are heard loud and clear. We urge Refuge advocates to join their voices and to sign the Now or Neverglades Declaration at <http://glades-declaration.org>.



Members of the DDWS board met at the Refuge with State Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (above) and State Representative Heather Fitzenbagen to illustrate the need for water quality reform.



Clear Your Gear

Thanks to the Refuge's Monofilament Busters team and the City of Sanibel for the installation of "Clear Your Gear" disposal stations and signs at popular fishing spots on the island. Stations are also strategically placed at the Refuge along Wildlife Drive. Monofilament Busters will officially kick off its Clear Your Gear campaign during "Ding" Darling Days on October 18, with a 2:30 p.m. ceremony at Wildlife Drive's launch #2. The public is invited to attend.



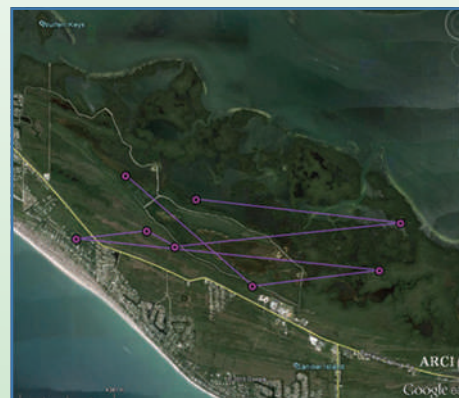
New Orientation Film in Progress



Thanks to a generous grant from a private foundation, "Ding" Darling will debut a new orientation film as part of this year's "Ding" Darling Days celebration on Sunday, October 16. Here, videographer Mark Meyers records some of our Refuge staff's kids. The new film will replace a dated video that plays throughout the day in the Refuge Visitor & Education Center to introduce visitors to what they can do on a visit and inspire them to learn more and become good conservation stewards.

Mangrove Cuckoo Studies Resume

The smallest-ever satellite transmitter is the new key to tracking the seasonal movements of the elusive Mangrove Cuckoo at "Ding" Darling. Thanks to \$8,000 in funding from DDWS, the Avian and Conservation Institute (ARCI) of Gainesville, Florida, will be tracking three individuals tagged at the Refuge, using the same technology deployed for an ongoing Reddish Egret tracking study based here. Stay tuned for exciting findings and to following the trackings online.



Mangrove cuckoos are among the species whose habitat the Wulfert Road property acquisition will benefit.

Help Save the Island

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society continues its campaign to acquire 8.15 acres on Sanibel Island's Wulfert Road as a crucial wildlife corridor for the "Ding" Darling Refuge. We must raise \$2 million in private funds to purchase the parcel, which lies between SCCF land and the Refuge. Donors have already committed more than \$600,000 of needed funds, so the goal is to raise the remaining amount by February 2017.

DDWS board members and Immediate Past President John McCabe are also working with Lee County 20/20 to partner on the purchase, much like the partnership of 2013 to purchase the Woodring Point property. For information about donating toward the acquisition, contact DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or by email at director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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 7, 2016 at 1 p.m. and to be held in the auditorium of the Visitor & Education Center at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

AGENDA

- I Minutes of the Annual Meeting of December 2, 2015: Jim Scott
- II Treasurer's Report: Vasanta Senerat. Questions/comments from the floor.
- III President's Report: Doris Hardy. Questions/comments from the floor.
- IV Board Nominating Committee Report: Mike Baldwin
- V Open Discussion of the Business of the Society
- VI Adjournment

Your attendance at and participation are encouraged.

Jim Scott, Secretary

SMITHSONIAN

continued from page 1



"Ding" Darling is one of only six locations selected for Water/Ways.

Here is a calendar of highlights. For more details, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/waterways.

October 28 - December 7

- Water/Ways is open to the public.
- The Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild presents **Engulfed** art exhibit.
- Nature Photographer Mac Stone displays stunning Florida water-related photography.
- "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society presents an exhibit examining local water issues and a historic Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling political cartoon display.
- LCEC sponsors a Wednesday Film Series.
- Tarpon Bay Explorers offers 10% discount on Saturday Nature & Sea Life Cruises (excluding November 26).
- Weekly Saturday family programs at the Visitor & Education Center include hands-on "Go with the Flow" interactive water experience.
- "Soaking-It-In" guest speaker series features nationally acclaimed speakers sponsored by LCEC.



October 28: Author Dr. Ellen Prager presents "Ocean Trivia."

November 4: Author Cynthia Barnett presents "Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America."

November 18: Nature photographer Mac Stone presents "Under Water in the Everglades."

November 26: Free Kids Fishing Derby on the Sanibel Causeway (see page 9)

December 2: "Water: Have We Missed the Boat?" audience-interactive panel discussion with local experts: Mitch Hutchcraft, Southwest Florida Water Management District; Cara Capp, Everglades Restoration Program; Rae Ann Wessel, SCCF; Jerry Lorenz, Audubon Florida; and moderator Mike Baldwin, DDWS board member and state co-chair of the Everglades Coalition.



WaterVentures Florida's Learning Lab makes a one-day stop on December 3.

New Store Management

Jeanne Walsh first visited "Ding" Darling 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 in June was promoted to store manager.



Formerly a part-time resident of North Captiva Island, Jeanne moved to Sanibel last fall with her husband, David, a retired reinsurance executive. A native of New York City, she 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, Jeanne 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.

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

Joining Jeanne at the Nature Store helm, Joann Hinman thought she was ready to retire when she left the Zion Natural History Association (ZNHA) in Utah's Zion National Park nearly three years ago. "But in reality I was ready to move to Florida," she said. "I missed working with a nonprofit that supports our public lands." In her new position as part-time assistant for the Nature Store, Joann can apply more than 20 years of nonprofit experience and satisfy her desire to remain in the field.

**Fall Interns Arriving**

Two of our fall interns have arrived and we welcome them warmly! DDWS provides living stipends and other benefits for about a dozen interns each year. The Refuge supports interns and resident volunteers with free housing.

Monica Scroggin, who graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in December 2015 with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a minor in biology, serves as a part-time Visitor Services Intern. A South Miami native, she worked previously as an intern for an oyster monitoring research project at FGCU's Coastal Watershed Institute. She currently serves as project manager.



At "Ding" Darling, Monica's duties will include collecting photographs and wildlife information for the installment of new signage at the Bailey Tract. Her love of "Ding" Darling stems from a longtime relationship since childhood with Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling's grandson, the late Kip Koss, and his wife Andrea.

STAFF NEWS

"Kip and my grandpa became really good friends when they were pilots for Pan Am," Monica explains. "After my grandparents passed, I looked up to the Kosses more as grandparents than family friends."

She remembers attending "Ding" Darling Days with Kip as a child. "I have always loved visiting Sanibel and 'Ding' Darling because of the way it incorporates nature into its neighborhoods," said Monica. "All the conserved land is so special because I know it will be there for future generations to enjoy and that means a lot."

Sierra Hoisington from Tega Cay, South Carolina, joins the staff of the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society for her internship. A graduate of Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries biology, she recently finished a position with Clemson University as a Wildlife Technician working on a bat research project in the Nantahala National Forest. Last summer, she served as a National Wildlife Refuge Association intern at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.



"My favorite thing about Sanibel and the Refuge so far is that you can bike just about anywhere," said Sierra. "It makes me feel good that I won't be using as much gas here and contributing CO2 pollution into our atmosphere. I'm also a BIG fan of wading birds, and so the fact that I get to see them all the time is just icing on the cake."

Sierra will be helping with upcoming special events and annual lecture and film series, plus community outreach, and social media efforts. "I'm very excited to be here and work on a variety of different projects," she said.

Intern Promotion

Congratulations to Carrie Alexander, our very competent shared-use intern for the past year. Recently, the Board of Directors approved her appointment as fulltime Development Coordinator for the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. Carrie graduated in May 2015 from Hanover College in Indiana with a major geology and environmental science.

**New Deputy Manager**

Nate Caswell joins the "Ding" Darling team in November 2016 as Deputy Refuge Manager, a position vacated by Joyce Palmer this summer. A veteran of the Fish and Wildlife Service for more than 14 years, Nate has worked in two different Regions of the Service in multiple roles and programs. The past four years he has served as the Refuge Manager for Imperial National Wildlife Refuge in Yuma, Arizona. Welcome to the team, Nate!



Nate on the Colorado River at Imperial NWR



HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management again sponsors this year's series.

Lecture Series Sneak Peek

The 2017 Friday Lecture Series kicks off with two consecutive photographic presentations: Mark Renz on January 20, 2017, and Clyde Butcher on January 27. Sponsored by HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management, the series presents 12 free lectures by noted authors, photographers, and other experts in nature-related fields.

Some highlights include John Marzluff, author of *Welcome to Subirdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*; photographer and nature sound recordist Gerritt Vyn; Will Stolzenburg, author of *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat's Walk Across America*; and Julie Zickefoose, author of *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest*.

Each lecture runs at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure seating. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time or risk reassigning.

For a full schedule of lectures, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

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.**

IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

Holiday Buys

Deck the halls with sealife this year. These gorgeous, hand-painted glass ornaments bring the sea theme to your tree at \$18 each — perfect for stocking stuffers.

This year we have added a touch of whimsy to our photographic wildlife holiday greeting cards. Everyone on your mailing list will get a smile from our "Wildlife Chorus," "Florida Snowmen," "Twelve Warblers Warbling," and more. Each set of 15, priced at \$14.99, includes three each of five different designs. View all five designs at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/holiday-cards. To pre-order, email naturestore@dingdarlingsociety.org or call 239-472-1100 ext. 241.

Remember, all proceeds from Nature Store sales go directly to Refuge education and wildlife research projects.



Kids who are able to hold their own fishing pole may participate in the free fifth annual "Ding" Darling Kids Fishing Derby to be held at the Sanibel Causeway Islands Park (Island B, closest to mainland) on Saturday, November 26, 2016, as part of this year's Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at the Refuge, October 28-December 7.

For more information or to volunteer for Kids Fishing Derby, contact Ranger Becky Larkins at Rebecca_Larkins@fws.gov or 239-472-1100 ext. 236.

Happy Hour Holiday Shopping

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 30, the date of the Refuge Nature Store's fourth annual Happy Hour Holiday Shopping event in the Visitor & Education Center. DDWS will keep the store open two extra hours after the Center closes, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Refuge Nature Store has stocked special holiday gift items for the event, and it will have gift consultants ready with suggestions and free recycled paper gift-wrapping. Local artisans will also be on hand for meet-and-greet. The store will serve wine and cheese for the event. Shoppers who spend more than \$20 receive a free gift.

"All proceeds from Nature Store purchases go directly to benefiting wildlife and conservation," said Store Manager Jeanne Walsh. "So we thought it would be a fun way to get everyone in the holiday spirit with an altruistic twist."

For more information on the Refuge Happy Hour Shopping, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241.

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

June 1 – August 31, 2016

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:

John and Kathy Allen	Elizabeth Hoag
Dale E. Armstrong	Elaine Jacobson
Vernon and Clara Baltus	Rose Koch
Ted Bates Sr.	Theodore Kucera
Jacqueline Anne Camp	Gail Meier
Karen Combs	Jess Prewitt Mendes
Dr. Howard Randall Deming	Tim Ring
Helen Dix	Robert Rizzardi
Mary Dow	Donald Roessler
John E. Ebert	Harry Saviers
Joan and Ernest Eynon	Ed Stanek
Frank Frantz	Roy Sweeney
Glen Gresham	Dorothy DuPuey Taggart
Mr. William Hamilton	Dorothy Whitehouse
Madonna Hawkins	

We received gifts in **HONOR** of the following:

David and Judy Antzis	Ed Feraca and Colleen Kirwen
Tom and Carolyn Bachman	Sarah Lathrop
Howard Buhse, Jr.	John McCabe
Ken and Marjie Giffin	Norman and Beth Miller
Bob and Gale Hummel	



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ADVOCACY: MAKE YOUR VOTES COUNT

Vote Yes for 20/20

If you are a Lee County voter, we encourage you to vote YES for 20/20 on November 8, 2016. It is an opportunity for citizens to help safeguard Lee County's long-term economic and environmental sustainability and quality of life through continuing to protect the County's exceptional natural resources. Visit www.yesconservation2020.org for more information.



Vote No in November to Support Solar

Amendment 1 in the November election is almost fully funded by the utilities, who have raised an incredible \$16 million to place it on the ballot and reach voters. Amendment 1 is a deceptively worded amendment that creates barriers to future competition and slows solar use for the future. A diverse army of citizen groups strongly opposes the amendment. Read more about the deceptive ballot at www.flsolarchoice.org. Vote NO in NOvember!

