Membership donations and annual gifts are essential for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society to continue its support of conservation and education efforts at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Below are just a few unique giving opportunities on our wish list this year to enhance the impact of support at the Refuge. To see the scope of the Society’s impact and for more ideas and opportunities for giving, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org.

All gifts are tax deductible.

Honor Gift: Any Amount
An gift in their honor of a loved one to the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society is a wonderful way to tell friends and family that you love them. Send a general gift or designate it to a specific area. For a gift of $10,000 or more, a permanently endowed fund can be established.

Vortex Diamondback Binoculars: $190 per binocular or $5,700 for a class set of 30
More than 250 classes from around the area come to the Refuge each year. Many of these kids are missing the link between the natural world and what they are taught in school. Help us encourage the next generation of passionate birders.

Everyday Education Supplies: $50 per class or $12,500 per year
From owl pellets to nature journals to pencils, countless classroom supplies are in demand by our educators to support the 5,000 children who come to the Refuge annually. With an ever-decreasing federal education budget, we hope that you will choose to support our educators, who tirelessly educate and inspire our next generation of conservation stewards.

Wall-mounted White Board: $200
Our education team prepares many in-class lessons and discussions for the days kids need an escape from the Florida rain and heat. A wall-mounted white board would make for more room in the classroom for more interactive activities.

Support an Intern Stipend: $200 per week or $10,400 per year
Throughout the year, we have several interns from across the country come to the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge to gain experience and help fill in gaps with staffing cutbacks in the fields of non-profit management, education, biology, and visitor services. These interns, usually recent college graduates, provide invaluable support to the Refuge while gaining hands-on, practical experience as they enter their career field.

Update Water Quality Research Equipment: $9,000
Water quality is the most pressing concern of the refuge. Water management from Lake O and the Caloosahatchee is the largest impact to the refuge and it needs continuous monitoring to better understand how lake releases impacts water quality within the Refuge. To support research equipment, Refuge biologists measure dissolved oxygen, salinity, dissolved organic material, water column, chlorophyll, PH and turbidity, and water depth. This information provides the refuge with real time water quality data. In order to continue the collection of this important data, the logger systems of these research systems need to be updated.

This year, we hope that you choose to support the many conservation and education efforts at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Best wishes in this new year from our “Ding” family to yours.

For more information about making a gift to support an item on the Refuge’s 2020 Wish List, please contact the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society at 239.472.1100 ext. 4.