

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Film cover shot and logos attached

‘Ding’ Water/Ways film follows Florida sea turtle’s 25-year journey

As part of its Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit, Oct. 28 to Dec. 7, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) kicks off a free weekly Wednesday film festival, sponsored by LCEC, on Nov. 2 with *Turtle: The Incredible Journey*. The film will show at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center on Sanibel Island.

Turtle follows a loggerhead sea turtle’s spectacular journey from a young hatchling emerging from her nest in the sand to a 25-year-old adult returning to the same beach to nest her own young. The award-winning film tells the remarkable story of a harrowing trek around the globe and takes a look at what threatens the protected species.

Born on a beach in Florida, the sea turtle rides the Gulf Stream up towards the Arctic and ultimately swims around the entire North Atlantic across to Africa and back to Florida in an odyssey 200 million years old. But the odds are stacked against her; just one in 10,000 survive the journey. She faces many hazards. First, her siblings get lost in the doldrums of the Sargasso Sea. She comes face-to-face with menacing creatures of the deep and nearly dies at the hands of fishermen. Dangerously cold waters further threaten the turtle’s survival.

Admission is free to the 81-minute film. Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. Before and after the film, visitors are invited to experience the hands-on, first-of-its-kind Water/Ways and accompanying exhibits. They include a photographic Everglades exhibit by Mac Stone and the juried “Engulfed” art exhibit by the Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild. For more information on Water/Ways programming and a complete calendar, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/waterways.

Following is the schedule of Wednesday Water Film Fest documentaries. All showings are free at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Nov. 2 - *Turtle: The Incredible Journey*

Nov. 9 - *Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch*

Nov. 16 - *End of the Line: Where Have All the Fish Gone?*

Nov. 23 - *Can the Gulf Survive?*

Nov. 30 - *Chasing Ice*

Dec. 7 - *Sharkwater*

ABOUT WATER/WAYS

Through a highly competitive bidding process, 'Ding' Darling was chosen as one of only six Florida locations to host the new Water/Ways. The exhibit, part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program, examines water as an environmental necessity and important cultural element. Water covers more than 71 percent of Earth's surface, having an impact on climate, health, economics, politics, agriculture, transportation, and industry. Water/Ways explores the endless motion of water on Earth's surface, below ground, and in the atmosphere, and it illustrates its effect on landscape, settlement, migration, and even spirituality. For information about the exhibit, visit www.sites.si.edu.

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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