

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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DVD cover shot and logos attached

'Ding' film swims with sharks

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

The award-winning *Sharkwater*, wraps up the festival with a true-life adventure involving shark slaughter, pirates, gunboat chases, and corrupt governments. Note: The film contains graphic scenes that may be inappropriate for children.

Arguing that sharks are misunderstood as dangerous creatures, biologist and film director Rob Stewart travels to the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, and other places where the animals can be found. Underwater footage shows him feeding sharks to demonstrate their fundamentally nonviolent nature.

With 90 percent of the shark population destroyed by indiscriminate hunting, Stewart joins forces with conservationist Paul Watson to fight poachers who illegally kill the animals for their fins and sell the meat to the Taiwanese Mafia.

Admission is free to the 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.

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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