

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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DVD cover shot and logos attached

'Ding' film revisits BP Deepwater Horizon disaster

As part of its Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit, Oct. 28 to Dec. 7, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) continues its free weekly Wednesday film festival, sponsored by LCEC, on Nov. 23 with *Can the Gulf Survive?*. The film will show at 10 a.m. in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center on Sanibel Island.

Having exclusive access to BP's clean-up operations after the Deepwater Horizon explosion in April 2010, National Geographic investigates what happened to the 4.9 million barrels of oil that poured from the sea floor in one of the worst environmental disasters in history.

With startling imagery and intimate accounts, *Can the Gulf Survive?* chronicles the activities of a number of individuals taking part in the first response, whose work and expertise were especially critical in stopping the spill at the well head and cleaning up its effects in the weeks and months that follow.

From the front lines of the cleanup efforts, the 50-minute film follows the first two months after the spill, tracking disaster recovery as experts seek to learn the ongoing effects and BP battles the spill and the public outcry.

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.

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. 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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