

# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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DVD cover shot and logos attached

## **‘Ding’ film takes trip to Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

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. 9 with *Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch*. The film will show at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center on Sanibel Island.

Midway Atoll -- located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, thousands of miles away from civilization -- has become a paradise for plastic known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. This 57-minute documentary, which Al Gore called a “thoughtful new film” on Twitter, divulges the mysterious phenomenon and the insidious long-term effects of our rabid plastic consumption on wildlife and our planet.

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](http://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. 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](http://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](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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