

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Cynthia Barnett

[Attached: Book cover; Water/Ways, Florida Humanities, and Smithsonian logos]

Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit speaker series presents ‘Blue Revolution’

In conjunction with the visiting Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Oct. 28 through Dec. 7, 2016, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will be hosting a free “Soak-It-In Speaker Series” on select Fridays at 1 p.m. The second in the series features award-winning environmental journalist Cynthia Barnett, who will present “Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America” on Friday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m.

Barnett’s presentation is based on her book *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America’s Water Crisis*, which *The Boston Globe* named as one of the top 10 science books of 2011. *The Globe* describes the author as “part journalist, part mom, part historian, and part optimist.” *The Los Angeles Times* writes that she “takes us back to the origins of our water in much the same way, with much the same vividness and compassion as Michael Pollan led us from our kitchens to potato fields and feed lots of modern agribusiness.”

Barnett has written for the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, the *Atlantic*, *Discover* magazine, and a number of other publications. Her numerous journalism awards include a national Sigma Delta Chi prize for investigative magazine reporting and eight Green Eyeshades, which recognize outstanding journalism in 11 southeastern states.

The author teaches environmental journalism and nature and adventure writing at the University of Florida’s College of Journalism and Communications in Gainesville, where she lives with her husband and children. Following her presentation, Barnett will sign copies of her book, which is available for purchase in the Refuge Nature Store, all proceeds benefitting refuge wildlife and conservation and education programs.

Admission to all speaker presentations is free but limited on a first-come basis. The schedule of upcoming speakers is listed below.

Nov. 4 – Author Cynthia Barnett – Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America

Nov. 18 – Nature Photographer John Moran – Our Water, Our Future

Dec. 2 – “Water: Have We Missed the Boat?” interactive panel discussion

Also as a part of Water/Ways programming, DDWS will be showing a water-related film series, sponsored by LCEC, on Wednesdays. The Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild has mounted an artful water and nature exhibition titled “Engulfed” as part of the event, and an exhibit of Mac Stone’s water-related Everglades’ photography is also on display.

Special Saturday family programs, giveaways, interactive water features, and other activities are also scheduled.

“The outstanding, state-of the-art Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit lies at the heart of an exciting, engaging six weeks of programming for kids and adults that we hope will ultimately send the message that we all need to work together to preserve our valuable, vanishing water resources,” said Ranger Westland. "We are honored to be among the select venues hosting the exhibit."

For more information on Water/Ways and a full calendar of events, 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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