

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

‘Ding’ lecture follows a naturalist’s fishing excursions

A Naturalist Goes Fishing: Casting in Fragile Waters from the Gulf of Mexico to New Zealand’s South Island, released in November 2015, combines fishing adventures with polar and marine biologist James B. McClintock’s overview of pressing needs for freshwater and marine conservation. On Friday, Feb. 3, he will be presenting two free programs at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., part of the 2017 “Ding” Darling Lecture Series at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

In the tradition of fishing classics, *A Naturalist Goes Fishing* contains elements of the triumph between fisher and fish, humor and wit, and a passionate concern for the natural environment. McClintock will sign copies of his book, available in the Refuge Nature Store, following the two lectures. Proceeds from Nature Store sales directly benefit refuge wildlife, education, and research.

McClintock, an endowed professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has been featured in media from *Scientific American Magazine* to NPR and CNN. He takes readers to some of the most breathtaking waters in the world while capturing the drama and serendipity in the beloved sport of fishing.

In *A Naturalist Goes Fishing*, the author fishes off the marshy barrier islands of Louisiana, teeming with life but also ravaged by recent disasters like the Deepwater Horizon spill. He travels to the remote waters of New Zealand's Stewart Island, where the commercial fishing industry is fast disappearing; fishes for gigantic Antarctic toothfish through a drilled ice hole at McMurdo Station; and scouts for spotted bass on Alabama's Cahaba River, which has the highest diversity of freshwater fish in North America.

As McClintock takes readers on a global journey, they learn how sea level rise, erosion, pollution, water acidification, and overfishing cause damage. He will sign copies of his book, available in the Refuge Nature Store, following the two lectures. Proceeds from Nature Store sales directly benefit refuge wildlife, education, and research.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors the free 12-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). The season’s complete schedule is listed below.

Seating for the lectures in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure a place to sit. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the center, Indigo Trail, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s official recreation concession located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of refuge and DDWS management, staff, and board of directors.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

Feb. 3 – Author Dr. James McClintock, *A Naturalist Goes Fishing: Casting in Fragile Waters from the Gulf of Mexico to New Zealand’s South Island*

Feb. 10 - NO LECTURE

Feb. 17 – Author Dr. John Marzluff, *Welcome to Suburdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*

Feb. 24 – Author Will Harlan, *Untamed: The Biography of Carol Ruckdeschel*

March 3 – Author Dr. Laurel Neme, *Animal Investigators: How the World’s First Forensic Lab Is Solving Crimes & Saving Endangered Species*

*March 10 – Researchers Dr. Jennifer McCabe & Dr. Brian Olsen, “Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World”

March 17 – Author-artist Julie Zickefoose, *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*

March 24 – Author Denege Patterson, *A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound: A Geological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspective*

March 31 – Author Will Stolzenburg, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat’s Walk Across America*

April 7 – Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*

April 14 – Author Charles Sobczak, *Alligators, Sharks, & Panthers: Deadly Encounters with Florida’s Top Predator — Man*

*starred lecture indicates no book-signing to follow

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, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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