

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Every Tuesday from January 3 through April 23, Calusa Shell Mound Trail guided tours run continuously from noon to 2 p.m.

### **Free refuge programs begin Jan. 3**

From birding and biking the refuge, to learning about manatees and venomous wildlife, the seasonal calendar of free programs and tours at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge begins on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, and runs through April 23.

Daily programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and include such diverse topics as Nature Photography, Beach Walk, Birds of Prey in Southwest Florida, and Indigo Trail Walk.

“We have something for visitors of all ages,” said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “The free refuge programs and tours last anywhere from a half hour to two hours.”

For a full calendar of programs and tours and descriptions, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs). Free educational programs are made possible through support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

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

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