

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-699-4754

ChelleTrav@aol.com

ANNMARIE caption: Ann-Marie Wildman

FOUNDERS caption: Founder Award recipients Marilyn Kloosterman and Millie Ford. Not pictured: Bill and Jeanne Rankin

OFFICERS caption: DDWS 2018 officers (clockwise): president Mike Baldwin, secretary Wendy Kindig, and vice president Sarah Ashton. Not pictured: treasurer Bill Valerian.

‘Ding’ Darling elects new member, emeritus members, officers

At the annual meeting of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society–Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) on Dec. 6 at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, the general membership elected one new member to the board of directors and re-elected five.

Newly elected Ann-Marie Wildman has served on various committees at the refuge, including the #LearningLav Creative Team and Upcycle! Art Fest committee. She moved to Sanibel about nine years ago when she married the late Don Wildman, a former board member.

Board members re-elected for another term include Mark Banks, Wendy Kindig, Jen McSorley, Kirstin Sawicki, and Richard Yanke.

Two new emeritus board members joined the ranks as a result of a vote at the annual meeting: past board members Marc Giattini and John McCabe. As part of the meeting’s business, an award went to departing president Doris Hardy, who was elected to remain on the executive committee as immediate past present.

For the first-time ever, the membership also presented Founder Awards to four members who have made vital contributions to the success of the Society within the first 10 years of its foundation in 1982.

Recipients included Millie Ford, Marilyn Kloosterman, and Bill and Jeanne Rankin.

At a short meeting following the annual meeting, board members elected officers for the 2018 year: president Mike Baldwin, vice president Sarah Ashton, secretary Wendy Kindig, and treasurer Bill Valerian.

To view the 2016-2017 DDWS annual report, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/about-us.

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 or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

###