

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Event Logo

CAPTION:

Sanibel Catering Company by Bailey's becomes Go Wild for 'Ding' Champion Sponsor

The sixth annual fundraiser for the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, will this year entirely feature the talents of the Sanibel Catering Company by Bailey's, which has offered top-level sponsorship of Go Wild for "Ding."

This year's Go Wild for "Ding" – In the Nest theme continues a series of bird-themed events to benefit the birds, other wildlife, and conservation and education efforts at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

"We are so grateful to Bailey's, who is making the gourmet buffet dinner quotient of our fundraiser consistent, uncomplicated, and delicious," said Birgie Miller, DDWS executive director. "Co-owner Richard Johnson has been such a huge part of our annual fundraiser as our capable and entertaining auctioneer, it is gratifying to take this relationship a step further."

"I look forward to this event every year because it's so much fun, and I love the folks at the refuge," said Johnson. "It's a great cause that's important to our island, and we are happy to be a part of Go Wild."

The evening's activities feature silent and live auctions including one-of-a-kind works of nature art and exclusive outdoor and travel outings. This year's artists include Jim Sprankle, Patty Sprankle, Gary Eigenberg, and the late Ikki Matsumoto.

Event sponsorships are still available. To become a sponsor or make an auction donation, contact Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

“Seating is limited and we once again anticipate a sold-out crowd,” said event committee member and DDWS president Mike Baldwin. “We encourage people to reserve early.”

Attendance to the Feb. 14 event is by reservation only. Registration is now open. Tickets to the Go Wild at “Ding” party are \$125 each. To register online, visit tinyurl.com/gowild2018. Or call 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or email sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org to make reservations. For more information, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/go-wild-for-ding.

Go Wild for “Ding” sponsors for 2018 include: **Champion Level:** Mark & Gretchen Banks, Wayne & Linda Boyd, John & Kathy McCabe, Sanibel Catering Company by Bailey’s Jim & Patty Sprankle; **Protector Level:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Barefoot Charley’s Painting Company, Peter & Paula Bentinck-Smith, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Island Paws & Over Easy Café, Hank & Linda Spire, Times of the Islands; **Defender Level:** 50% Off Framing, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Greenwood Consulting, Island Inn, Phyllis Gresham, Mitchell’s Sandcastles, John & Kay Morse, Sanibel Moorings, Superior Title Services.

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 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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