

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: images available upon request

Biking, hiking, programs on tap for Earth Day at the Refuge

Bike or hike Wildlife Drive for free, watch a free film, and take advantage of free upcycle projects at this year's Earth Day at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

The refuge will celebrate the 48th anniversary of Earth Day in partnership with Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) and Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession.

The morning's highlights include earth-friendly, upcycled crafts to take home and a ranger-led bike tour. Throughout the day, guests can meet Bagzilla, a "bag monster" dressed in the average person's annual plastic bag consumption, and take advantage of free bike rentals from Tarpon Bay Explorers, located 2 miles south of the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center.

In the afternoon, watch the award-winning film *STRAWS*, a 30-minute documentary about plastic straw litter and how we can make a sea of change - one straw at a time. Below is the full schedule for earth-friendly and free fun throughout the day:

7 a.m.-4 p.m. Wildlife Drive is open free to bikers and hikers only (\$5 fee per vehicle).

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. FREE BIKE rentals provided by Tarpon Bay Explorers

Note: Renters must pick up bikes at Tarpon Bay Explorers, 2 miles from the Visitor & Education Center.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Ongoing earth-friendly crafts in the Visitor & Education Center
Make and take UP-cycled crafts home.

9:30 a.m. Bike the Refuge Tour (4 miles)

Bike enthusiasts, bring your bicycle or pick up one from Tarpon Bay and join a ranger on the Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail loop to learn about the refuge's wildlife and ecology.

1 p.m. Film *STRAWS* free showing; take home a free paper straw.

Throughout the day: Meet Bagzilla, an incarnate reminder of our plastic addiction.

For more information on Earth Day at the Refuge, call 239-472-1100 or visit dingdarlingsociety.org.

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.

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