

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Ann-Marie Wildman

Caption: Jeanne Walsh

### **Refuge Nature Store names new manager**

Ann-Marie Wildman, who has served on the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) Board of Directors since election in December 2017, recently accepted the position of manager for the Refuge Nature Store in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center on Sanibel Island.

Wildman moved to Sanibel more than nine years ago when she married the late Don Wildman, a former DDWS board member. She had previously lived in The Whistler Ski Resort in British Columbia, Canada, where she owned a fine art gallery for 16 years. Prior to that, she worked in Honolulu for 20 years for a large art gallery, where she represented such well-known artists as Tony Curtis, Anthony Quinn, and Red Skeleton.

“Ann-Marie is an entrepreneur bringing more than 34 years of customer service experience and 29 years of direct retail experience,” said Birgie Miller, DDWS executive director. “With an amazing set of skills in management, sales, negotiations, marketing, and communications, she also understands the mission of the DDWS and the work of the refuge. Her abilities in working with people of all ages, including volunteers and donors right here on the island and at ‘Ding’ Darling have been and continue to be very effective.”

Since moving to the island, Wildman has been involved at “Ding” Darling as a Refuge Nature Store volunteer and on such committees as the Learning Lavatories and Upcycle Festival. As a board member, she served as liaison to the Nature Store. She steps into the position being vacated by former store manager Jeanne Walsh, who will be moving to Maine next month.

“Jeanne worked so effectively with the entire DDWS team and volunteers and brought the Nature Store to a new level of quality and increased sales, and it is with much sadness that we say farewell,” said Miller. “But it is her success that Ann-Marie will carry forward working with the rest of the DDWS team, refuge team, and loyal volunteers.”

DDWS operates the Refuge Nature Store, proceeds from which benefit wildlife, habitat conservation, education, and research projects.

#### 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](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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