

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Family Fun Day tops off the weekend of Oct. 12-14 with free activities in and outside of the Visitor & Education Center.

Caption docfords: Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille supports "Ding" Days every year with a sponsorship at the \$5,000 level.

Save the date for 30th annual "Ding" Darling Days

Mark your calendars for this year's "Ding" Darling Days birding and eco-festival at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Fla., the weekend of Oct. 12-14, 2018.

New for this year, Cool Kids Zone on Sunday Family Fun Day will provide activities in the Visitor & Education Center, so families can come in to cool off. It will include puppet shows, story and crafts, DIY nature crafts, face-painting, and a selfie photo station.

Let's Get Outside Day kicks off the 30th annual celebration on Friday, October 12, with free admission to Wildlife Drive for cyclists and hikers and various free and discounted tours and eco-activities.

Conservation Art Day follows on Saturday, Oct. 13, with visits from Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp winners and nature art workshops.

Family Fun Day culminates the weekend with free activities on Sunday, Oct. 14. It features all-free refuge tours, live wildlife presentations, archery clinics, hot dogs, live music, and kids' nature crafts.

“Because of increasing budget cuts and staff reductions, we are shortening this year’s eco-festival from one week to three weekend days,” reports Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland.

The 30th annual “Ding” Darling Days celebrates the birthday of the refuge’s namesake, father of the Federal Duck Stamp program and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Jay N. “Ding” Darling.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), and Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s recreation concession, cosponsor “Ding” Darling Days with generous support from the local community and businesses.

Visit www.dingdarlingdays.com for updates on events, information on sponsoring “Ding” Days, or to sign up for e-mail update bulletins. Contact Sarah Lathrop at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org to become a sponsor.

Sponsors to date for the 2018 “Ding” Darling Days include: **ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS:** Doc’s Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Jim & Patty Sprankle; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** Bailey’s General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Island Sun, Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sunny Day Guide; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Casa Ybel Resort, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, The Gresham Family, Mitchell’s Sand Castles, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** John Brennan.

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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CALENDAR LISTING

Oct. 12-14, 2018
30th Annual “Ding” Darling Days
J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge
1 Wildlife Drive (MM 2 on Sanibel-Captiva Rd.)
Sanibel Island FL

239-472-1100

www.dingdarlingdays.com

“Ding” Darling Days’ Family Fun Day on Sunday, October 14, culminates a weekend of eco-activities with all-free refuge tram tours, live wildlife presentations, hot dogs, kids crafts, and other family activities. Birding, boating, tram, and kayaking activities fill the weekend. The 30th annual celebration begins on Friday, Oct. 12, with Let’s Get Outside Day. On Saturday, Oct. 20, Conservation Art Day features Federal Duck Stamp Winners, other artists, cartooning, and nature art activities during a day devoted to Jay Norwood Darling’s legacy as the first duck stamp artist and Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist.