

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption

Author speaks on islands of Pine Island Sound at ‘Ding’ Darling lecture

On April 12, two lectures titled “Five Islands Never Flooded” by Denege Patterson is based on the author’s book *A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound, Florida: Their Geology, Archaeology, and History*. The programs take place at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at J.N. “Ding’ Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island as part of the 2019 “Ding” Darling Friday Lecture series.

Patterson will introduce how the highest landforms became the first islands during the flooding of Pine Island Sound about six thousand years ago; how each island developed a unique ecosystem based on its differing elevations newly surrounded by water; how the indigenous people could thrive on variety and abundance based on elevation; and how these islands might have served as partial barrier islands against the Gulf of Mexico until today’s barrier islands formed hundreds of years later.

The high-five islands “never flooded” islands include Cabbage Key, Useppa Island, Mondongo Island, Patricio Island, and Burgess/Little Bokeelia Island.

Patterson serves as a tour guide and educator at the Randell Research Center at Pineland, Fla., an archaeological and ecological preserve of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. She has a master’s degree from Syracuse University, is a certified Florida Master Naturalist, and is a member of the Florida Writers Association.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors the 11-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

Lectures take place in the admission-free “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save their seat and one extra with personal items and then can explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail

before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time or they risk being reassigned.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the Visitor & Education Center, Indigo Trail, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of refuge and DDWS management, staff, and board of directors.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

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 dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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