

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption

‘Ding’ awards \$11K in school conservation education grants

(Sanibel Island, FL, November 2018) “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) on Nov. 28 awarded more than \$11,000 in grants to conservation education-related projects at nine different schools in Lee, Charlotte, and Collier counties for the 2018-2019 school year.

Teachers submitted grant applications to the DDWS Environmental Education Committee by Oct. 31. The committee chose awards based on need and relevance to conservation.

Schools to which DDWS awarded grants this year include Cape Coral High for its “Bees & Butterflies Sanctuary” project, Neil Armstrong Elementary in Port Charlotte for its “Our Community Garden” project, Gulf Middle School in Cape Coral for its “Urban Gardening” project, Lee County district-wide environmental education for a “Breakout of the Box” learning tool, Royal Palm Exceptional School Center in Fort Myers for its “Enviro-Art” project, Cypress Lakes Middle School in Fort Myers for its “Inform, Educate & Inspire” project, Edison Park Creative & Expressive Arts School in Fort Myers for its “Creating Environmental Stewards in Kindergarten” project, Patriot Elementary School in Cape Coral for its “The Insect-Plant Connection” project, and Lehigh Acres Middle School for its “The Importance of Bees” project.

“This is the 13th year the society has awarded these conservation teacher grants,” said Wendy Kindig, education committee chair. “To date, we have awarded more than \$86,000 in teacher grants. We were impressed by the wide variety of projects our teachers and their students

imagined this year. The society is pleased to help the future of conservation stewards in this important way.”

Grant recipients report back on their projects to the society and refuge, sending pictures and often thank-you notes from the students, upon project completion in June 2019.

In 2019, DDWS will again be awarding up to \$10,000 in grant awards to districts, schools, and individual teachers in Lee, Charlotte, and Collier counties. The grants are funded by monies received from the DDWS Conservation Education Endowment Fund earmarked specifically for education by the late Kip Koss, grandson of Jay N. “Ding” Darling.

For information on next year’s grants, contact Conservation Educator Sara Hallas at 239-472-1100 ext. 236 or Kindig at wendykindig@aol.com, or visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/teacher-grants.

Anyone interested in supporting conservation education at “Ding” Darling can visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at director@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 profits.

To join DDWS and support the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org. ###