

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-699-4754

ChelleTrav@aol.com

Caption: Historic photographs by Charlie McCullough chronicle the Woodring home and family on Sanibel Island. Credit: www.charliemcculloughphotography.com

‘Ding’ Darling to celebrate Woodring 100th anniversary

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Woodring home, now encompassed within J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge boundaries, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will partner with the Woodring family for a special two-month-long free exhibition in the admission-free Visitor & Education Center Auditorium.

The exhibition’s free public unveiling will take place at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23. At 10 a.m., as part of a seated program, nationally renowned Teddy Roosevelt repressor Joe Wiegand will make a special guest appearance, and Ralph Woodring will recount stories about growing up in the home and on the island. Another presentation will take place at 3 p.m., with a free showing of the WGPU film *Untold Stories: Sanibel I* at 1 p.m.

Through March 25, the exhibition will be open Saturday through Thursday (closed Fridays) and will feature historic black-and-white images by the late Charlie McCullough, a professional photographer and neighbor to the Woodrings. Also on display will be artifacts from the Woodring home and the Sanibel Historical Museum & Village that chronicle the landmark and the family’s life on Sanibel Island. Costumed museum docents will be on hand to interpret exhibits on the morning of Jan. 23.

During the exhibition, the Refuge Nature Store will be selling copies of McCullough’s book *Sanibel Memories* and sets of note cards featuring his historic photographs starting in the 1930s. Profits from Nature Store sales benefit refuge education and research projects.

The “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society and Lee County Conservation 20/20 collaborated in acquiring the 6.56-acre Woodring Point property in 2013 with funds raised by a DDWS capital campaign and through

funds from the 20/20 program. The refuge manages the Woodring Point property as part of the “Ding” Darling complex.

“We are thrilled to host this temporary exhibit, which will demonstrate the deep history represented by the Woodring Point property and the strength of partnerships in preserving island history and wildlife habitat,” said DDWS executive director Birgie Miller.

The following sponsors are making the Woodring 100th Anniversary Exhibition possible: GOLD LEVEL: Mike & Terry Baldwin, Mark & Gretchen Banks, Jim & Patty Sprankle, Ralph & Jean Woodring, Bailey’s General Store; SILVER LEVEL: The McCullough Family, Mitchell’s SandCastles, Pfeifer Realty Group, Sanibel Historical Museum & Village, Tarpon Bay Explorers.

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 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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