

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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JIMFOUNDER caption: Jim Sprankle and his Founders Award with DDWS president Mike Baldwin

DAVIDJ: David Jeffrey, along with Dick Levinson, is newly elected to the DDWS Board of Directors.

OFFICERS caption: DDWS 2019 officers (clockwise): president Mike Baldwin, treasurer Bill Valerian secretary Wendy Kindig, and vice president Sarah Ashton

### **New board, award winners, reelected officers announced at DDWS annual meeting**

At the annual meeting of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society–Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) on Dec. 5 at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, the general membership elected two new members to the board of directors, David Jeffrey and Dick Levinson, and re-elected one, Sarah Ashton. The society also presented two awards at the meeting.

Once the vice president of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Jeffrey later served as chairman of David Jeffrey Associates, which provided training programs for international financial institutions; and director of the investment firm, The Jeffrey Company.

Now retired, Jeffrey is emeritus trustee and former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the non-profit educational organization, New Jersey SEEDS. He has been on the boards of trustees of various nonprofit organizations, including Americans for Campaign Reform and Design Art Technology Massachusetts.

Jeffrey and his wife Hope spend summers in South Dartmouth, Mass., and winters on Captiva. An avid bird photographer, he has been visiting “Ding” Darling for many years and recently mounted a photography exhibit there. He was instrumental in the restoration of the Refuge’s Buck Key paddling trail after Hurricane Charley.

Levinson and his wife Pat have been coming to the islands for more than 30 years and now divide their time between North Salem, N.Y., and Captiva.

A former trustee of the North Salem Open Land Foundation, Levinson led several campaigns to acquire ownership or conservation easements on several tracts. He is now working with DDWS past president John McCabe on acquisitions fundraising.

For the past few years, Levinson has been the volunteer steward of the Buck Key path, having led the push for its 2004 restoration. He has had a 40-year career in finance and is currently the senior partner in a New York investment management firm.

DDWS president Mike Baldwin presented a departing award to retiring board member Jim Hall and a Founder Award to emeritus board member Jim Sprankle. The award, in its second year, recognizes DDWS members who have made vital contributions to the success of the society. Past recipients include Millie Ford, Marilyn Kloosterman, and Bill and Jeanne Rankin.

At a short meeting following the annual meeting, board members elected officers for the 2019 year: president Mike Baldwin, vice president Sarah Ashton, secretary Wendy Kindig, and treasurer Bill Valerian.

To view the 2017-2018 DDWS annual report, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/about-us](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/about-us).

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

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