

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Woodring's stories were a big hit when he opened the exhibition with Teddy Roosevelt reprints on Joe Wiegand on Jan. 23.

### **Ralph Woodring Story Hour brings exhibition to a close**

As the two-month Woodring Home 100th Anniversary Exhibition nears its end on March 25 in the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Visitor & Education Center Auditorium, native islander Ralph Woodring will present a story hour at the exhibition starting at 1 p.m. the day prior, Sunday, March 24. Attendees will be able to ask the storyteller questions about his life on Woodring Point and his long family history.

The exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Woodring home, now encompassed within refuge boundaries.

"We encourage anyone who hasn't seen the exhibition to come in during its final days Sunday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibition is closed due to our lecture series on Fridays," said Birgie Miller, executive director of the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), which hosts the exhibition. "And if you have already seen it, you won't want to miss Ralph's funny, poignant tales about pioneering Sanibel Island."

Snacks and lemonade will be available during the story hour. Visitors can purchase exhibition keepsakes -- a book and notecards by the late historic photographer, Charlie McCullough, who chronicled the Woodring home and family -- available in the Refuge Nature Store. Profits from Nature Store sales benefit refuge education and research projects.

McCullough's black-and-white images, along with artifacts from the Woodring home and Sanibel Historical Museum and Village and interpretive signage, comprise the exhibition.

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 the 20/20 program. The refuge manages the Woodring Point property as part of the “Ding” Darling complex. A similar partnership is currently underway to raise \$3 million toward the purchase of the 68 acres of Wulfert Bayous.

“We have been so thrilled to host this temporary exhibit, which demonstrates the deep history represented by the Woodring Point property and the strength of partnerships in preserving island history and wildlife habitat,” said Miller.

The following sponsors are responsible for making the Woodring 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition possible:  
CENTENNIAL LEVEL: Shell Point Retirement Community; GOLD LEVEL: Mike & Terry Baldwin, Mark & Gretchen Banks, Jim & Patty Sprankle, Ralph & Jean Woodring, Bailey’s General Store;  
SILVER LEVEL: Sarah Ashton Realtor RE/MAX of the Islands, The McCullough Family, Mitchell’s SandCastles, Pfeifer Realty Group, Sanibel Historical Museum and 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](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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