

**SPRING 2019**

# Society Pages

News from Friends of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the non-profit Friends of the Refuge organization, supports the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex through the generation of independent funds to undertake student education, internships, research projects, informational literature, advocacy, land acquisition and facility enhancements. Efforts may extend beyond the Complex's borders and involve partnerships with like-minded conservation organizations.

## Go Wild Raises More Than \$500K

**Bid-to-Give Auction Contributes \$410K+ to Acquisition Coffers**



Acquisitions Committee Chair John McCabe and auctioneer Richard Johnson "work the crowd" for donations to Wulfert Bayous' preservation.

In addition to \$75,000 raised by auction proceeds at the seventh annual Go Wild fundraiser for Refuge support, a special Bid-to-Give auction contributed another  
*continued on page 2*

## 68-acre Preservation Campaign Underway



On February 13, at its annual Go Wild fundraiser, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society went public with its project to raise \$3 million in private donations to complete the \$9.5 million acquisition of Wulfert Bayous — the last large parcel (68 acres!) of unprotected and undeveloped land on Sanibel Island. To date, DDWS has raised more than \$2.5 million of that \$3 million and is seeking county, state, and grant funding for the additional \$6.5 million. Time is running short to raise the private funds needed to qualify for the additional funding, so please make or pledge your donation today to save this important wildlife corridor between the Refuge and other conservation lands.

"The 68-acre parcel will complete a wildlife corridor connecting surrounding conservation lands while stemming development and water quality degradation via natural filtration," said John McCabe, DDWS Land Acquisition Committee Chair. "As the largest parcel of unprotected undeveloped land on Sanibel, it's the vital piece of the puzzle that will ensure Sanibel's future as the protected, pristine

natural treasure we all love."

To read more about the project and to make contributions or pledges, visit [www.savewulfertland.org](http://www.savewulfertland.org) or contact DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

View our short and inspiring campaign video at [tinyurl.com/wulfertvideo](http://tinyurl.com/wulfertvideo).





## IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE



### Staff Picks

Anyone who has visited the Refuge Nature Store recognizes this friendly face of our longtime Assistant Manager Chris Galloway. Born and raised in Florida, Chris loves to work with the public and share his vast product information. From our high-quality Vortex binoculars to our wide variety of men's and women's apparel, Chris knows our merchandise well. Some of Chris' favorite items in the Nature Store include the bright and colorful glass cutting boards hand-crafted by husband-and-wife team Scott and Ann Geib in their Maryland art studio. Beautiful and functional, they make a wonderful gift. Another favorite, Bees Wrap,

hails from Vermont and is designed to replace plastic wrap for food storage. This organic cloth, which uses beeswax, tree resin, and jojoba oil, can be washed and reused numerous times. Chris also loves the many varieties of **local honey** you see behind him, produced at Walker Farms in North Fort Myers. From orange blossom to black mangrove, these flavors of honey capture the essence of Florida. Stop by soon and say hi to Chris, who will be happy to help you.

*Remember, DDWS members receive a 10% discount at the Nature Store. Profits from all Nature Store sales go directly to the Refuge for educational programs and wildlife research.*



*Family Beach Walk combines sand, water, and learning during both the winter and summer season programs.*

## Free Refuge Programs

The Refuge's free winter programs continue through April 28 this year. For information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 237 or visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs).

From June 5 through August 3, the schedule of free summer programs runs. Wildlife Wonders talks, weekly walks, and nature crafts highlight the programming, made possible by support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. No pre-registration is necessary.

## GO WILD

*continued from page 1*

**\$410,000-plus** to the Wulfert Bayous Preservation Campaign. Along with ticket and sponsorship proceeds, the more than **\$500,000** total solidly broke the previous Go Wild record of **\$130,000** (in 2018) for funds raised in a single night.

The festive event, this year themed around "The Call of the Osprey," debuted multi-station food service from Sanibel Catering by Bailey's. It featured dancing by costumed juvenile ospreys and passionate giving to a deserving cause.

Thanks to all of our loyal supporters, auction donors, and particularly those who sponsored Go Wild for "Ding" – Call of the Osprey. You can find sponsors and donors listed on the center insert.

**Save the Date:** Mark your calendar for the eighth annual Go Wild for "Ding" on February 12, 2020.





# Tarpon Tournament 2019



The tourney field of 55 boats filled quickly for this year.

## Nearly \$450K raised in seven years

The eighth annual “Ding” Darling & Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament on Friday, May 3, 2019, once again brings catch, care, and release fishing action to local waters. Doc Ford’s — with locations on Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, and Fort Myers Beach — title sponsors the tournament, along with the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. Proceeds will benefit wildlife, water quality research, and conservation education at the Refuge.

The tournament pays out 100 percent of the entry fees, which could amount to \$25,000 or more this year, as awards to the top five teams. The 55 spots in the tournament filled within a few days of opening registration online in December. Interested parties can contact DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org) to add their names to a waiting list.

Team captains also win a coveted “tarpon jacket,” a pink sports jacket swimming with tarpon. “It’s kind of like the green Masters tournament jacket in golf,” said Marty Harrity, Doc Ford’s co-owner, who introduced the tradition in 2017.

“Doc Ford’s has been a faithful supporter of our efforts at ‘Ding’ Darling, helping greatly to bolster Refuge programs and research to balance federal budget shortfalls,” said Birgie. “Last year we raised a record \$120,000 for the Refuge as a result of sponsorships, donations, and auction proceeds. In its seven years of existence, the tourney has raised nearly \$450,000. We’re so grateful to Doc



2018 winning captain Josh Constantine sporting the pink “tarpon jacket” with Doc Ford’s Marty Harrity. Left: Thanks to the crew at Doc Ford’s for making this tourney possible.

Ford’s for this huge effort in our behalf.”

For more information on the tournament, visit [www.dingdarlingtarpontourney.org](http://www.dingdarlingtarpontourney.org). Anyone interested in becoming a tournament sponsor should contact Birgie at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

Sponsorship are still needed. Anyone interested in becoming a tournament sponsor should contact Dot Vorhees at 239-472-1100 ext. 239 or [dot@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:dot@dingdarlingsociety.org).

A whopping thanks to those who have committed to sponsorship already for 2019; please see insert for listing.

## Solar-Powered at the Refuge

Work has completed on installing and connecting solar panels on the roof of the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center, the final phase of the Refuge’s solar installation. DDWS has plans to create interactive solar components and exhibits inside and outside the Center as part of the project, which was made possible by our 2015 San-Cap Solar Connect program and donations from Fred and Alice Stanback. San-Cap Solar Connect brought affordable solar conversion to island residents and businesses through cooperative buying.







A gathering of your 2019 Board of Directors and Emeritus Board Members at our 2018 America's Best Restroom® following February's monthly meeting



The Refuge celebrated National Wildlife Day on Friday, February 22, with nature crafts, an Indigo Trail bike, and other wildlife-related activities.

## Season Photo Album



Board of Director Officers for 2019 include (counter-clockwise from top left) President Mike Baldwin, Vice President Sarah Ashton, Secretary Wendy Kindig, and Treasurer Bill Valerian.



Crews are at work clearing wildlife-viewing "windows" along Wildlife Drive and Indigo Trail and at Bailey Tract, funded by DDWS to assist the Refuge maintenance crew with its backlog of work due to budget shortfalls.



"Ding" Darling Conservation Educator Sara Hallas shoots a selfie with students from Gulf Elementary School in Cape Coral. The Refuge hosts more than 8,000 Lee County students each year, supported by DDWS. To make a donation to conservation education efforts at the Refuge, visit [www.ding-darlingsociety.org/donation](http://www.ding-darlingsociety.org/donation).



The Sanibel-Captiva Optimists Club presented the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society with a check for \$4,000, proceeds from its 2018 Sanibel Blues & Jazz Fest.



2018-2019



# Go Wild for "Ding" SOARED this year.



Nearly \$500,000 raised to support land preservation and acquisition from a sold out event. Thank you to everyone who made this event soar!



Special thanks to our sponsors & auction donors.



## Call of the Wild



## Champion Level



## Guardian Level

**Sarah Ashton**  
Realtor  
RE/MAX of the Islands



## Protector Level



## Defender Level

Cast About Charters  
Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly  
Greenwood Consulting Group  
Gresham Family  
William & Barbara Millar  
Mitchell's Sand Castles  
John & Kay Morse  
R.S. Walsh Landscaping  
Sanibel Moorings  
Stewart & Sons Insurance Inc.  
Stroemer & Company, LLC.

**We would also like to thank all of those who donated to our auction!**

50% Off Framing, BB Man, Mark & Gretchen Banks, Jim Bennight, Ben Biery, Billy's Bikes & Rentals, Broadway Palm, Clyde Butcher, Jerry Edelman, Kate Fitmier, Elizabeth Gardner, Heather O'Keefe, Dick & Pat Levinson, John MacLennan, Kathy McCabe, Birgie Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Mary Rice, Jim Sprankle, Patty Sprankle, Bill & Diane Valerian, Cal & Jill Werner





Make a **decision today**  
to create a **better tomorrow.**



Many of our members help shape the future of the Refuge by designating the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society as a beneficiary in their estate plans. They become members of the **45/82 Society**. A combination of large and small planned gifts received throughout the years has enabled the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society to continue its support of the Refuge in areas of land acquisition, education, research, and other important conservation efforts.

**Supporting these efforts through your estate is easier than you may think.**

*If you already remembered the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and make a plan to fulfill your wishes at the time the gift is realized.*

If you wish to name the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society in your estate plans or name us as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts or life insurance, please name us as follows:

“I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP] give, devise, and bequeath to the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation located on Sanibel Island, Florida [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property].”

**Our tax identification number is: 59-2240895**



For more information on how to leave a lasting gift for conservation, please contact the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society at 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or visit our website at [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/leave-a-legacy](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/leave-a-legacy).



## Thanks to our 2019 Tarpon Tournament Sponsors:

### Title



### Starting Position



### Champion



### Premiere



Mark & Gretchen Banks

### Presenting



### Platinum



### Gold

Fort Myers Marine  
Gulf Star Marina  
Jensen's Twin Palm  
Cottages and Marina  
Law Office of Janet M. Strickland P.A.  
Lee County Sports Development  
Nautical Mile Magazine On Island  
R.S. Walsh Landscaping  
Sanibel Captiva Community Bank  
The Historic Bait Box  
Whitney's Bait and Tackle

### Silver

Anisa Stewart Jewelry  
Bailey's General Store  
Florida Weekly  
Freedom Boat Club  
Ft. Myers Brewing Co.  
Island Sand Paper  
Island Inn  
Island Sun & River Weekly News  
Trophy Case of Fort Myers





## STAFF NEWS

### Welcome Visitor Services Intern

Visitor services intern Elizabeth Preciado arrived recently to help the Refuge with staffing shortages this season, thanks to funding from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. Elizabeth, a senior at the California State University of Sacramento, will graduate in May degreed in recreational parks, tourism, and administration with a concentration in management and certifications in natural resources and outdoor experience.



*Elizabeth Preciado*

She is assisting Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland in overseeing programs and amenities for the more than one million annual visitors to the Refuge. Elizabeth looks forward to learning more about daily operations, managing the Visitor & Education Center, special fundraisers, and educational programs that help visitors to understand and support the Refuge’s mission, she said.

“What I love about Sanibel so far is the environment,” added the Whittier, California, native. “I am not only amazed by its wildlife here on the Refuge but also by the community. Everyone has been so welcoming and kind.”

“We embrace Elizabeth’s energy and enthusiasm as a positive addition to the team,” said Toni. “We thank our Friends group for making her internship possible. With our shrinking staff, due to federal budget cuts, this sort of partnership is crucial in keeping the Refuge running.”

For more information about the Refuge’s internship programs, contact Toni at 239-472-1100 ext. 237. To learn about supporting the Refuge intern program, contact Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director, at 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

### New Education Intern

The Conservation Education team welcomed new intern Justin Gole this winter, thanks to funding from DDWS. Justin graduated from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, in 2015 with a degree in accounting. He worked briefly at “Ding” Darling last December as a visitor survey intern with the American Conservation Experience. Between March 2018 and January 2019, the program had him working at 15 different wildlife refuges.



*Justin Gole*

“And I’m lucky enough to come back and work at my favorite refuge,” said the Grand Rapids, Michigan, native. “It’s hard to pick just one thing I love about Sanibel and the Refuge. I would narrow it down to the sunlight, the seashells, and the birding.”

Justin is assisting Conservation Educator Sara Hal-las through the end of May. In June he heads out for an environmental education position with the Peace Corps in Guyana.

DDWS provides living stipends and other benefits for about a dozen interns each year. The Refuge supports interns and resident volunteers with free housing.

## Impact of Government Shutdown

Although Wildlife Drive and Tarpon Bay Explorers remained fully operational, the partial government shutdown from December 22 to January 10 had a drastic impact on the Refuge and its staff. Furloughed and essential employees alike went without salaries for weeks. On January 10, “Ding” Darling was among the select refuges across the nation allowed to open its visitor services with a skeleton staff.

This meant the re-opening of the Visitor & Education Center, the resumption of winter programs, and the re-opening of the Refuge Nature Store, which had lost more than \$30,000 in revenue and support for the Refuge. The shutdown also severely affected the ability of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society to raise funding and curtailed all education efforts. It also incurred added expenses, such as the necessity of renting space to host events scheduled for the Visitor & Education Center.

Although interns were unable to work for the Refuge, DDWS continued to support them during the shutdown. The hardship was real in so many ways, but the team pulled together, as always, to get the Refuge back to full-swing season operational mode during record-breaking visitations.



## WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Here, we showcase the best of wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, and others. This season we had surprise visits from two rare-to-the-Refuge birds. For one morning, a Great White Pelican (on the left below), a native of Africa, flew in once again. We had a visit from one two years ago. Thanks to Terry Baldwin for this comparison of it and our more common seasonal American White Pelican.

Earlier in the season, several birders and photographers welcomed the sight of a Smooth-billed Ani at Bailey Tract, whose marsh is named for the bird that visited more regularly before the tract’s hydrological changes. With the recent restoration project, that original marsh hydrology has been restored. Thanks to Janet Kirk for her photograph.

If you have a wildlife picture to share, contact Sierra Hoisington at [shois@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:shois@dingdarlingsociety.org).



*Smooth-billed Ani*  
by Janet Kirk



*Great White Pelican*  
by Terry Baldwin



## MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

December 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019

**M**emorial gifts and gifts made in honor of special occasions are a wonderful way to pay tribute to family and friends who are important to us. Throughout the year, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society has received gifts in memory and in honor of loved ones. Thank you to everyone who supported the Refuge in this thoughtful and meaningful way.

We recently received gifts in **MEMORY** of the following:

Lee Alexander	Mary Cramer	Robert Grabek	Kathryn & Wayne Overholser
John and Kathy Allen	Theodore Cross	Howard Hendricks	Dave Powell
Linda Almira	Diane Gibson Cushman	George Howe	Colleen A. Prohammer
Carl Kenneth Aylward	James C. Daly	Bobby Kean	Donald Roessler
Richard Bailey	Dr. Howard Randall Deming	Catherine & Charles Kearney	Bud & Martha Ryckman
Vernon & Clara Baltus	Sue Denk	Max Koletzke	Harry Sabiers
Derek Barter	Suzanne Dubuc	Charlotte Kowitch	Lisa Schill
Judy Storey Bohrofen	Scott Duvin	Ted Kucera	Stanley LaVere Smith
Mary Bonneville	Betty Eertmoed	Maureen Lindgren	Margery Spear
Frank and Jane Bopp	P. Michael Fairweather	Roger A. Lipster	Ed Stanek
Claire Marie Bouchard	Wilfred E. Gardner Jr.	Barry Litofsky	McKayla Ann Wall
Cyn Bouchard	Mike Gieryc	Edward F. Martelle	Margery Milbrook Wilder
Elizabeth Bruce	Christine Glancy	Cal Mathews	Jean & Ralph Woodring
Raymond Carlson	Bob Gonser	Mary Merrill	
Sydney Chayes, Jr.	Arthur & Constance Goodman	Jim Ott	

We recently received gifts in **HONOR** of the following:

Greg Anderson & Dr. Sue Kressly	Mary Guillette	Joe and Ginne Lehman	James and Nancy Poole
Patricia Barrett	Elaine & Gary Gustavson	Anne Magoun & Bruce Borchardt	Rick and Jane Ranieri
Michael Blankscher	Doris D. Hardy	Grandma Anne & Grandpa Dick Millham	Jim & Ann Scott
Brinker Family	Keith Harwell	Birgie Miller	The Smith Family
Jeffrey & Rebecca Clemens	Mary J. Kelly	E. Kimball Milling & Joyce Barney	Joe Stack & Jenna Sullivan
Kathleen Coughlin & James Salzman	Marilyn Kloosterman	Riley Nelson	Kim and Gary Sweat
Frank Derosa	Paul, Nancy & Matthew Kwiatkowski	Ashley Norton	Gary Swick
Jane Desforges	Lambiase Family	Kathryn Norton	Grandpa and Grandma Thorpe
Dr. Gerald Early	Tiffany Lan	Pam & Bob Norton	George & Linda Toft
Vicki Eber	Janet Lancaster	Mick & Kathleen O’Beirne	Bill and Diane Valerian
Michael Sean Finley	Carol & Alan Landholt	Taylor Osborne	Tom and Judy Ware
Lenore Garrison	Donn Larson		John and Martha Wolf
	Jim & Mary LaVelle		

## Free Earth Day at the Refuge Expanded

**B**ecause Earth Day 2019 falls on the Monday following Easter, a day off for Lee County Schools students, we have expanded the free event to include a full day of tours, crafts, films, and programs on April 22.

The Refuge will celebrate the 49th anniversary of Earth Day in partnership with the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. Take part in recycled Earth crafts from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the free-admission Visitor & Education Center, where you can meet Bagzilla, a “bag monster” dressed in the average person’s annual plastic bag consumption.

Bike or hike Wildlife Drive for free from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ride your own bike and stop at Tarpon Bay Explorers, our official recreation concessionaire, for a free gift.



For an Earth Day 2019 flyer listing the schedule of activities, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events).

**Text DING  
to  
50555  
to  
donate \$10  
to the  
Refuge**



## 2 Easy Ways to Give

**1** Text DING to 50555 to make a quick \$10 donation. Our Text To Give program was made possible by a grant from Charitable Foundation of the Islands (Sanibel).

**2** Visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/dingdarling/](http://www.facebook.com/dingdarling/)) and click on the DONATE button to make a contribution in any amount. Or start your own Facebook fundraiser to benefit the Refuge.

Thanks to Marge Keller, Charlie Ball, and Chris Gutierrez for their recent Facebook fundraising efforts on our behalf.

## FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please “LIKE” us on **Facebook** (join our 12,200 fans!) by searching for “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society.” (You can also “LIKE” the Refuge by searching for its “Official” page.) **Instagram** users can find us at @dingdarlingwildlifesociety, where our numbers top 7,400 followers. On Twitter search @DingDarlingWS. Also visit our YouTube channel by searching “ding darling wildlife society.”







One of the Reddish Egrets tagged for ARCI's study. Photo courtesy of Jim Bennight

## Water and Bird Studies

**A**vian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville, with funding from DDWS, continues its studies on Reddish Egrets and Mangrove Cuckoos at the Refuge and the impact water contaminants are having on their populations. Tidbits from a recent report from Executive Director Ken Meyer:

**Mangrove Cuckoos:** "This is big news, indicating that the 'Ding' population may be largely (maybe entirely) resident, i.e. non-migratory."

**Water Quality/Fish Sampling:** "We found very interesting differences between the Wildlife Drive versus Bunche Beach prey and the egrets' foraging behaviors." "We'll be starting the spring sampling in April..."

**Reddish Egrets:** "The movement patterns we've discovered are very interesting relative to conservation and management, but not completely consistent among the 5 birds. One made post-nesting trips for a few weeks each year to a distant area in FL's Big Bend region, which as best we can tell, is well occupied year-round but with no apparent nesting (north of the northernmost breeding records). What's going on up there?"

All research above was made possible through gifts to DDWS. To donate additional research support through DDWS, gifts can be so designated at [www.dingdarlingsociety.org/donation](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/donation).

### TARPON BAY EXPLORERS SCHEDULE

([tarponbayexplorers.com](http://tarponbayexplorers.com); call ahead to 239-472-8900 to confirm schedule and make reservations)

**Tram Tours of Wildlife Drive:** April: Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm hourly; Sat-Sun 10am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm, and 4pm; May and June: Mon-Thurs 10am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm, and 4pm; Sat-Sun 10am, 1pm, and 4pm

**Kayak Trail Tour:** April: Mon-Thurs 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am, 1pm; Sat-Sun 10am, 1pm; May and June: Daily 8:30am or 10am, plus Mon-Fri 1pm

**Sunset Rookery Paddle:** Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat or Sun. All 2 hours prior to sunset.

**Breakfast Cruise:** Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am

**Standup Paddleboard Tour:** Tues, Thurs, Sat. All 9am

**Nature and Sea Life Cruise:** Daily at 11am and 1:30pm

**Evening Cruise:** Daily: All 2 hours prior to sunset.

**Aquarium & Touch Tank:** Daily at 3pm

**Rentals and fishing charters:** Daily 8am-6pm

## Deck Talks Resume

**A**fter a two-year hiatus, free Deck Talks have returned to Tarpon Bay Recreation Area, hosted by Tarpon Bay Explorers. Due to construction, the talks were temporarily discontinued. They consist of a 20- to 30-minute, in-depth presentations on topics including Dolphins, Sharks, Sea Turtles, Alligators, and Calusa Indians. Deck Talks take place Monday through Friday at 12:45 p.m. on the deck located next to the dock. No reservations are required.

## Woodring 100th Anniversary Exhibition

**P**resident Teddy Roosevelt and native islander Ralph Woodring entertained the crowd for the kickoff of the Woodring 100th Anniversary Exhibition on January 23. Displayed in the Refuge Visitor & Education Center Auditorium through March 25, it captivated visitors with nostalgic memories of one of the island's first homesteading families and their impact on island heritage and wildlife preservation.

As is happening today with the Wulfert Bayous acquisition, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society and Lee County Conservation 20/20 collaborated in acquiring the 656-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 properties as part of the Refuge complex, which is one reason Lee County finds the partnership attractive.

Thanks to all of the individual donors and other partners who made the 2013 Woodring Point acquisition possible to preserve history and protect the opening to the Refuge's Tarpon Bay holdings.

*Right: Ralph Woodring with Teddy Roosevelt repressor Joe Wiegand regale history among mementos and photos from Sanibel's early days.*







One Wildlife Drive  
P.O. Box 565  
Sanibel, FL 33957

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**239-472-1100, ext. 233**  
**dingdarlingsociety.org**

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**Editor** Chelle Koster Walton

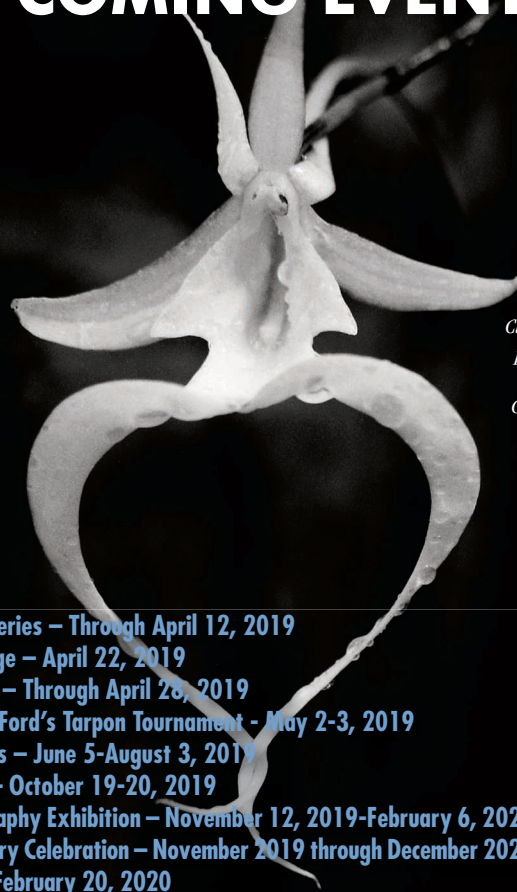
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**Design and Production** Susan Holly,  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS



A special exhibition of  
Clyde Butcher's nature art  
photography kicks off the  
75th Refuge Anniversary  
Celebration in November.

Ghost Orchid by  
Clyde Butcher



**2019 Friday Lecture Series – Through April 12, 2019**

**Earth Day at the Refuge – April 22, 2019**

**Free Winter Programs – Through April 28, 2019**

**"Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament - May 2-3, 2019**

**Free Summer Programs – June 5-August 3, 2019**

**"Ding" Darling Days – October 19-20, 2019**

**Clyde Butcher Photography Exhibition – November 12, 2019-February 6, 2020**

**Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration – November 2019 through December 2020**

**Go Wild for "Ding" – February 20, 2020**

