

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption for Clyde in swamp: Butcher shoots with large-format cameras. Photo by Woody Walters.

Caption for CONSERVATION5: Clyde Butcher has extensively photographed his surroundings in the Florida Everglades. Photo by Clyde Butcher

75th logo attached

[images available upon request]

Admire the nature photography of Clyde Butcher at special ‘Ding’ exhibition

Often tagged “the Ansel Adams of Florida,” photographer Clyde Butcher has made for himself a big reputation based on big black-and-white nature images taken with big cameras. Starting on Nov. 13, 2019, at the J.N. “Ding’ Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will be hosting and mounting a special Clyde Butcher exhibition as part of the refuge’s 75th anniversary celebration.

The award-winning artist captures the Florida Everglades, coastal islands, and other unspoiled areas with stunning majesty. “Wilderness, to me, is a spiritual necessity,” says Butcher.

As the refuge approaches its 75th anniversary on Dec. 1, 2020, staff and DDWS are gearing up to celebrate now through the milestone year.

Political cartoonist and conservationist Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling saw to the opening of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge in 1945.

“He became aware of the proposal by the state of Florida to sell over 2,000 acres of state-owned lands to developers here on Sanibel,” said Paul Tritaik, refuge manager of today’s J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, renamed after the death of its creator. “And he convinced the governor, Spessard Holland at that time, to postpone the sales and eventually convinced the state to create a state wildlife sanctuary. And following that he was able to eventually convince the Truman administration to establish this area as a national wildlife refuge.”

“Jay Darling would surely be proud of how far the refuge has come since its inception,” said Doris Hardy, chair of the 75th Anniversary Committee. “It has added significant acreage to the complex, built a Visitor & Education Center, educated hundreds of millions, and, most importantly, given wildlife a safe haven. We feel we have every right and responsibility to celebrate the occasion in a big way!”

The Clyde Butcher Photography 75th Anniversary Celebration will run through Feb. 5, 2020, and will include 35 of his renowned images from the Everglades collection, said Ann-Marie Wildman, exhibition coordinator.

“The underlying message to this important exhibition is the value of preserving the fragile Everglades habitat and the quality of our waterways,” said DDWS executive director Birgie Miller. “We are seeking sponsors to help support the exhibition and its mission.”

To become an exhibition sponsor, contact Dot Voorhees at dot@dingdarlingsociety.org or 239-472-1100 ext. 239. For more information on the exhibition and 75th anniversary calendar of events, visit Ding75.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 support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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