

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Barb Bluedorn

DDWS welcomes new board member

Part-time Sanibel Island resident Barb Bluedorn recently joined the board of directors for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge. She and her husband, Todd, have commuted back and forth from their other home in Dallas for 25 years. Now, as a trained permittee for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) sea turtle patrol program, Barb makes the trip weekly.

Bluedorn says her love for the environment stems from her childhood in a small farming community in southern Indiana.

“I grew up in nature, totally out in the boonies,” she said, adding that her father, who still lives there, five miles from cell reception, instilled an early love of the environment into his children. That passion was fanned when she and her family began visiting Sanibel.

“I finally put my finger on it: It was all the conservation going on in Sanibel,” Bluedorn said. “For the kids, it was like coming to an outdoor laboratory. One of the highlights was biking through the refuge. There was something different to see every time. I feel like ‘Ding’ and SCCF are vital to what represents Sanibel and I am honored to be a very small part of the collective whole.”

Bluedorn, who received her nursing degree from the University of Indianapolis, worked in the areas of cardiac critical care, labor and delivery, home care, and discharge planning before retiring to raise her two daughters, Jessie and Emily. The family lived in Hawaii, Boston, Pittsburgh, Hartford, Syracuse, and Singapore before settling in Dallas and Sanibel.

“We heartily welcome Barb, and her passion for nature, into the fold of the DDWS board,” said board president Mike Baldwin. “Already her enthusiasm has proven an asset to the mission we honor in supporting the conservation, research, education, and land acquisition programs for the J.N. ‘Ding’ Darling National Wildlife Refuge.”

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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