

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: World Snake Day kicks off with a free guided tour of Indigo Trail, named for one of Florida's rarest snakes.

Refuge celebrates World Snake Day on July 16

Take a free guided nature walk, watch a free film, and take advantage of free upcycled snake crafts, Refuge Nature Store specials, and hand-outs on World Snake Day at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, on Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Free snake lessons and a showing of the 53-minute film *Invasion of the Giant Pythons* take place throughout the day at the refuge Visitor & Education Center. The morning's ranger-led Indigo Trail walk departs from the flagpole in the parking lot. The first 20 to show up for the walk receive a free gift and a 10 percent discount coupon for the Refuge Nature Store.

"My summer assistants and I decided to celebrate the day by drawing attention to and educating people about these cool, often misunderstood, reptiles," said conservation educator Sara Hallas, whose team is organizing the event.

Below is the full schedule for snake-friendly and free fun throughout the day:

9-10 a.m. – Free guided Indigo Trail walk to the Wildlife Education Boardwalk

11-11:30 a.m. – Free snake lesson in the Visitor & Education Center Classroom

12 noon.-1:30 p.m. - Free showing of the film *Invasion of the Giant Pythons* in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium

12 noon–2 p.m. – Ongoing free make-and-take snake crafts in the Visitor & Education Center Classroom

2:30 p.m. – Free snake lesson in the Visitor & Education Center Classroom

For more information about World Snake Day at the refuge, call 239-472-1100 ext. 236 or visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events.

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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