

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption for mail: Two-time winner Scot Storm designed the 2019-2022 Federal Duck Stamp featuring live and decoy wood ducks.

Caption for GIRLCHALK: Chalk drawing demonstration and participation is one of the art activities planned for this year's "Ding" Day.

Duck Stamp artists, hands-on nature art part of 'Ding' Day

Two-time Federal Duck Stamp winner Scot Storm will travel from Minnesota to headline the "Ding" Darling Day Duck Stamp Presentation at J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, on Sunday, Oct. 20, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. He will sign stamps following his presentation. Florida Junior Duck Stamp winner Anna Grace Swanson from Titusville will also be on hand to meet and greet.

"This year, we have folded Conservation Art Day together with "Ding" Darling Day Family Fun Day," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "Besides honoring our winning duck stamp artists, we will be offering nature art and photography with the addition of even more programs."

Free art activities will include a guided nature-sketching walk, wildlife origami, chalk drawing, an iPhone photography walk, individual take-home canvas painting, nature art demonstrations, plein air artists on Wildlife Drive, and nature crafts.

The art activities join the "Ding" Day calendar of free live wildlife presentations, archery and paddleboarding clinics, birding and biking tours, hiking, Wildlife Drive admission and tram tours, puppet shows, live music, a butterfly house and touch tank, and hot dogs.

"'Ding' Darling Day celebrates the birthday of our namesake, Pulitzer-winning political cartoonist Jay Norwood Darling, father of the duck stamp," said Westland. "We honor his memory and legacy with programs focused on conservation and duck stamp art."

Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's recreation concession, will be offering a 25 percent discount off paddling and boat tours that day. For a full schedule of activities, tours, and presentations, visit dingdarlingdays.com.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge, and Tarpon Bay Explorers co-host "Ding" Darling Day with support from the following sponsors: **ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS:** Doc's Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Mitchell's Sand Castles, Feather Jim & Patty Sprinkle; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** Bailey's General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Casa Ybel Resort, The Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Island Sun/River Weekly, Just Water, Matzaluna The Italian Kitchen, Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Sanibel Moorings, Sunny Day Guide; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton - Realtor, RE/MAX of the Islands, The Gresham Family, Island Inn, Jensen's on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Tiffani Kaliko and John Silvia, Dick & Emily Muench, Palm Printing, Stewart & Sons Insurance; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership, Colony Inn, Kevin & Diane Husk, Island Therapy Center, Panther Printing, Santiva Chronicle, George & Wendy Schnapp, Winston & Gretchen Spurgeon, Nancy Tome.

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 www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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