

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

FALL 2019

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.

Wildlife on Wheels (WoW) Challenge Grant



An artist rendering of WoW's design

The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society recently received an anonymous challenge grant to help raise support to bring the "Ding" Darling Refuge's Wildlife on Wheels (WoW)

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On August 20, the Lee County Board of Commissioners voted in favor of supporting the acquisition of the 68-acre Wulfert Bayous parcel on Sanibel. The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society and the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge worked with the county on the collaboration for more than a year to make the acquisition a reality.

Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program will fund \$6.5 million of the total \$9.5 million cost to purchase the property. DDWS has raised the additional \$3 million

through private donations. The Refuge, for its part in the collaboration, will manage the property as an addition to its complex.

The city of Sanibel had already approved development of the land with up to 28 new homes. To preserve the tract from development, DDWS, in February 2019, kicked off its public campaign to preserve the acreage.

The "Ding" gang celebrates victory on the steps of the old courthouse downtown Fort Myers following the county commissioners' unanimous vote in favor of supporting Wulfert Bayous.

Located along Wulfert Road and Sanibel-Captiva Road and adjacent to Refuge boundaries, the property is home to a number of species that would be seriously threatened by development of the habitat. The pre-

served acreage will also help protect water quality as a natural filter.

In addition to 16 acres of existing mangroves, Wulfert Bayous contains 15 acres of wetlands that can be restored and enhanced to create a wading bird colony of Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, White Ibis, and continued on next page

INSIDE: 'DING' DARLING DAY • CLYDE BUTCHER EXHIBITION • UPCYCLE FASHION SHOW

We couldn't do it without your generous support!

ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSOR: Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille: GREAT EGRET SPONSORS: Mitchell's Sand Castles, Feather Jim & Patty Sprankle; **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, 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, Ambu Yoga, Big Red Q Quickprint, John Brennan, Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership, Colony Inn, Kevin and Diane Husk, Island Therapy Center, Panther Printing, Santiva Chronicle, George & Wendy Schnapp, Winston & Gretchen Spurgeon, Nancy Tome.

Thanks to Our 'Ding' Day Sponsors



Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille once again supports the eco-festival at the Roseate Spoonbill level

WoW GRANT

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project to fabrication. The grant will match all donations made by December 31, 2019, dollar for dollar up to \$50,000.

"If the challenge is met, and we raise the additional \$100,000, we will have nearly reached our goal of \$255,000 for making WoW a reality and bringing it into underserved communities in the five-county area," said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. "For children of all ages, as well as adults, this 'traveling refuge' will travel to distant schools, libraries, after-school programs, and so many other places to teach and inspire about saving and protecting our land, water, and the wildlife that needs that habitat to survive. We are seeking donations and pledges of any size."

The educational WoW project began with an anonymous \$100,000 family grant this spring; since then, donations have brought the total raised to \$125,000.

"Both of these major donor foundations believe in education as the key component to making a difference in protecting what is left in our world for the wildlife and the people who depend on it," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "We are always looking for new and creative ways to engage people of all ages in conservation. We are so excited about the possibilities of teaching and inspiring in hard-to-reach communities through WoW."

Currently in the research and planning stage, WoW is anticipated to debut in March 2020, if the money can be raised by the end of December. DDWS hopes to hire a bilingual educator, who, along with volunteers and interns, will staff the museum-quality, hands-on exhibits inside and outside of WoW.

Donations will fund learning stations that interpret mangrove ecosystems, water quality, water conservation, pollution and plastic, animal scat and tracks, Florida's native animals, wildlife sounds, and other topics that meet the Refuge's mission. Refuge staff, Lee County teachers, and a team of volunteers will draw on knowledge gained in the classroom to design interpretative exhibits and programs that complement Florida educational requirements.

"The Refuge will continue bringing schools here by bus — nearly 5,000 students annually," said Toni. "But our WoW mobile educational outreach rig will allow Refuge staff to reach thousands of more kids and their families who are otherwise unable to experience the Refuge."

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation that will double its impact in support of the WoW project can contact Birgie at 239-472-1100 ext. 232 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

DONE DEAL

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other egrets and herons.

"We were simply overjoyed to hear the commissioners' decision," said John McCabe, who led the Wulfert Bayous acquisition effort for DDWS. "Having partnered with the 20/20 program back in 2013 with the purchase of the Woodring Point property on Sanibel and again in 2017 for the 8.15-acre Wulfert parcel, we know what a win-win proposition this turns out to be for all parties concerned."

Other members of the Wulfert Bayous Committee include Marc Giattini, Doris Hardy, David Jeffrey, Dick Levinson, Jim Sprankle, and Bill Valerian. Thanks to all of them for their hard work and to our wonderful donors who helped make this happen. For more information on the acquisition, visit www.savewulfertland.org.

To donate or pledge funds to restore the Wulfert Bayous' 68 acres, contact DDWS Executive Director Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 232 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org. Or visit dingdarlingsociety.org/donation.

DID YOU KNOW?



The bald-headed Wood Stork stands just over 3 feet tall, towering above almost all other wetland birds. Photo by Rebecca S. Clemens



October 20: 'Ding' Darling Day

Here's what is new (and FREE!) this year at "Ding" Darling Day, Sunday, October 20, at the Refuge.

- As the Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration kicks in, we have concentrated all the best traditions of "Ding" Darling Days into one fun-filled day with more activities for the family and outdoor fans.
- The day starts early this year with birding, hiking, and biking tours hourly beginning at 8 a.m.
- The 10 a.m. Nature Hike on Indigo Trail will be conducted in Spanish.
- In addition to our live wildlife presentations under the main tent, we have invited Burmese Python hunting and science experts to talk about the havoc the species is wreaking on the Everglades. (There will be no live snakes at this presentation in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium.)
- Tarpon Bay Explorers, the Refuge's recreation concession, will be conducting free stand-up paddleboarding clinics from 9 a.m. to noon at Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.
- Touch Tank presentations at Tarpon Bay Explorers are back!

- Activities previously held on Saturday Conservation
 Art Day will be folded into Sunday's calendar. This
 year's Federal and State Duck Stamp Winners will be
 presenting that day and signing duck stamps.
- New interactive programs include Wildlife Origami, Chalk Drawing, Canvas Painting, and Nature Sketching.

For a full calendar of the day's activities, visit dingdarlingdays.com.



New this year: Celebrity python hunter Dusty "Wildman" Crum talks with Python Elimination Program Director Mike Kirkland about the invasive species crisis.



Live animal presentations are always a big bit.

DID YOU KNOW?

Burmese Pythons average 8 to 10 feet and 16 pounds in the Everglades. The longest python captured by the South Florida Water Management District's python elimination team measured a little over 17 feet; the heaviest weighed 140 pounds.



SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Members and Friends:

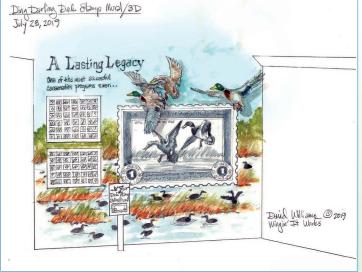
This is your formal notice of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 1 p.m. to be held in the auditorium of the Visitor & Educaton Center at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

AGENDA

- I. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of December 5, 2018: Wendy Kindig
- II. Treasurer's Report: Bill Valerian. Questions/comments from the floor.
- III. President's Report: Mike Baldwin. Questions/comments from the floor.
- IV. Board Nominating Committee Report: Mike Baldwin V. New Board Members
- VI. Emeritus Board Committee Report: Susan Cassell VII. Refuge Manager Remarks
- VIII. Open Discussion of the Business of the Society.

Please stay and celebrate after the meeting adjourns with light refreshments and good company.

Wendy Kindig, Secretary



A 3D mural will honor Darling's contributions to conservation through the Federal Duck Stamp Program he created. DDWS has hired Artist David Williams of Wingin' It Works in North Carolina, who created our America's Best Restroom wildlife mural, to design and craft the mural.

Work Begins on New 'Ding' Studio Exhibit

In September, construction began on a remastered exhibit in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center devoted to Pulitzer-winning political cartoonist Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling. The new exhibit will upgrade the existing re-creation of the artist's studio at the *Des Moines Register*, where he penned thousands of cartoons that ran in the daily newspaper and were syndicated across the U.S.

New exhibit highlights include a hands-on feature where visitors can draw at his re-created desk and a new 127' x 98' mural centered around a blowup of the first 1935 Duck Stamp, drawn by Darling, with 3D ducks flying out from it. Since its inception, the Duck Stamp Program has raised funds to preserve more than 5.7 million acres of wildlife habitat.

Special Award-Winning Author Lecture

THE

SWAMP

THE EVERGLADES, FLORIDA

AND THE POLITICS OF PARADISE

MICHAEL GRUNWALD

With our coastline under siege from red tides, algae, and rising seas, Michael Grunwald's awardwinning book about the Florida Everglades' backstory

has never been more relevant or urgent. On March 20, 2020, the author will make a special appearance at The Community House on Sanibel Island, hosted by DDWS to benefit waterquality research and education at the Refuge.

The bestselling Florida author will be doing book-signings for two separate events that Friday. An exclusive cocktail-and-nosh reception with an author meet-and-greet starts at 5:30 p.m. for a limited number of ticket-holders. At \$125 each, reception tickets also include reserved VIP

seating at his 7 p.m. lecture that will follow. Tickets for the lecture-only are \$30. All tickets will go on sale November 1, 2019. Visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/the-swamp-presentations for more details.

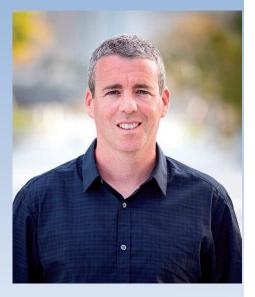
The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise, which informed the 2018 PBS documentary The Swamp being shown at the Refuge on

March 18, 2020 (see below), tells the story of the manmade destruction and attempted resurrection of the Florida Everglades, the riveting history of humanity's relentless war against nature in Florida, and its belated efforts to make peace.

Reviewers from the *Washington*Post declared *The Swamp*" brilliant."

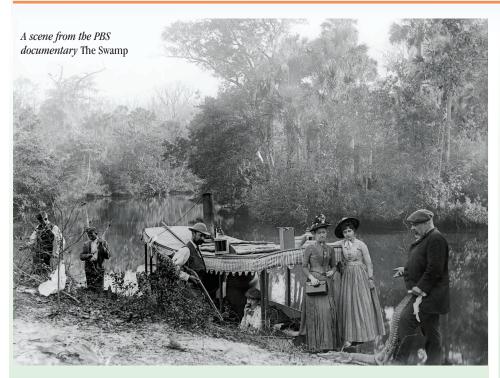
The Boston Globe called Grunwald "a superbly lucid and masterful stylist, blending exhaustive research and superlative prose into a book as valuable as a week in Fort Lauderdale at one-hundredth the price."

Michael Grunwald, a senior writer for *POLITICO Magazine*, has won the George Polk Award for national reporting, the Worth Bingham Prize for investigative reporting, and many other honors in his 25-year jour-



Michael Grunwald wrote the definitive book on the bistory of Florida Everglades development and restoration.

nalism career. *The Swamp* won him the gold medal for non-fiction at the Florida Book Awards. The author is currently working on a new book about food and climate change.



Sneak Peek: 75th Anniversary Film Series

One highlight of the 2020 Refuge Film Series, *The Swamp* first aired in 2018. It is based on the book by the same name by Michael

Grunwald, whom DDWS is bringing in for a special lecture on March 20 (see story above).

The documentary will be part of the eighth annual film



series that runs every other Wednesday from January 8 to April 1, sponsored by Sanibel Captiva Beach Resorts. The seven-film series

is among a full calendar of events to celebrate the Refuge's 75th anniversary on December 1, 2020. Stay tuned at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

New Water-Quality Research Equipment

The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society currently is replacing and updating Refuge water-quality research equipment for ongoing studies at the Refuge. In-water instruments known as sondes measure various factors that help biologists determine the health of the water via logger systems. The current logger systems have become obsolete and will no longer be supported by the Refuge's current server at the end of this year. DDWS is supporting updating the loggers, which will connect to a 4G network and send data to a new, cloud-based application that Refuge staff can all access in real time.

"We then report that data to the Army Corp of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District with a weekly report that is written in collaboration with the city of Sanibel, Lee County, SCCF, and Fort Myers Beach," said Senior Refuge Biologist Jeremy Conrad.

The water quality variables the Refuge measures include dissolved oxygen, salinity, dissolved organic material in the water column, chlorophyll, PH, turbidity, and water depth.

"Water management from Lake O and the Caloosahatchee is the largest impact to the Refuge and it requires monitoring to better understand how lake releases impact water quality within the Refuge boundaries," said Jeremy. "The sondes are located in Refuge waters and measure water quality parameters continuously via the logger system and transmit that data to a server stationed at the Refuge."

REFUGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

Please join us for our special celebration. For more information, visit ding75.com.

DATE EVENT

October 20, 2019

November 9, 2019

November 13, 2019-February 5, 2020

November 21, 2019

December 1, 2019

December 2, 2019

December 3, 2019

January 8 - April 1, 2020

January 11, 2020

January 17-April 3, 2020

January 18, 2020

February 12, 2020

February 18-March 18, 2020

March 10, 2020

March 20, 2020

May 9, 2020

May 16, 2020

May 22, 2020

July 4, 2020

August 19, 2020

September 12, 2020

November 14, 2020

November 21, 2020

December 1, 2020

"Ding" Darling Day

*Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday

Clyde Butcher Photography 75th Anniversary Exhibition

Free Tarpon Bay Explorers SUP Clinic

Museum Sunday

New "Ding" Darling Studio Exhibit Unveiling

75th Anniversary Holiday Shopping Night

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Film Series

*Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Lecture Series

Free Bike Rentals and Guided Bailey Tract Tour

Go Wild for "Ding" - Lovin' Spoonbills Fundraising Event

Artist "in Residence" Exhibition

Project Refuge: A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash

Author Mike Grunwald Special Presentations

*Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday

Free Tarpon Bay Explorers SUP Clinic

"Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament

"Ding" grand marshal in island parade

Water Exhibit Unveiling

*Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday

*Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday

*Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday

Official 75th Anniversary Celebration

45/82 Society

Together, through planned giving, we can continue the education and conservation efforts at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.



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 (signifying the year of the Refuge's establishment in 1945 and the year of the Society's founding in 1982). 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.

"After living in busy Miami for 14 years, moving to Sanibel

in 1981 was a very positive step for my husband and me and our two sons.

I was the art teacher at the Sanibel School for 22 years until retirement in 2004. How lucky to have a job right next to a wildlife refuge. Everything out there leaped, swam, climbed, pounced, slithered or flew by. How fortunate the students were to be living with all the "wild things." Over the years, we took nature walks, painted

murals, and made wildlife drawings and posters for the Refuge.

Then in the 1989-1990 school year, the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge asked for some "serious" art, in which duck stamps were designed by my third-grade artists. That was the beginning of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition. By the third year, it became a nationwide competition. Sometimes we had as many as 40,000 entries from every state and two territories. Today, wherever and whenever we travel, visiting refuges and wild places is our favorite thing to do. We love seeing wildlife living free.

Sample Language for Your Plan

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

It is with great love and appreciation that we are wanting to provide for "Ding" Darling through our estate. We have seen firsthand the importance of educating our future conservation stewards, as well as the importance of land acquisition. Bill and I have watched Fort Myers turn from a tiny little town into what it is today, construction and all. We want the wild on Sanibel Island to stay wild, and we want it there for generations to see.



-Jaye Boswell & family, Member of the 45/82 Society

By creating a personal legacy, you also create a lasting legacy for the Refuge. Your gift through your estate plan, large or small, is critical to the Refuge's future survival. We would like to recognize you as a member the 45/82 Society, unless you prefer anonymity. If you have 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.

For more information on how to leave a lasting gift for conservation, please contact Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org, or visit our website at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/leave-a-legacy.

75th Anniversary Lecture Series

The 16th annual "Ding" Darling Friday Lecture Series, which runs January 17 through April 3, 2020, features a line-up of authors and experts in the world of birds, nature photography, and conservation. From woodpeckers and panthers to rain and hurricanes, the season promises to be one of the best yet as the Refuge celebrates its 75th anniversary. HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management and Sanibel Carts co-sponsor the free 12-lecture series with support from DDWS.

One highlight of the season will be world-renowned nature photographer Clyde Butcher, whose Everglades exhibition kicks off November's anniversary events, running November 13 through February 5 and sponsored by Mark and Gretchen Banks.

The free lectures will be held twice each Friday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The season's complete schedule is listed at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save their seat and one extra with personal items and then can explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time or risk being reassigned. This year, **DDWS will be filming most lectures and broadcasting them on Face-book Live** at www.facebook.com/dingdarling.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of Refuge and DDWS management, staff, and board of directors.



Sanibel Carts joins HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management as co-sponsors of the 2020 series

IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

New Items to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

This first-of-its-kind plush Roseate Spoonbill has splashed down at The Na-

ture Store to celebrate the Refuge's 75th Anniversary. A completely custom plush designed in partnership with Wildlife Artists, it is part of the Conservation Collection, which supports environmental and conservation efforts



around the
world. This pink
beauty showcases
the vivid colors and
unique bill shape of
the beloved Roseate
Spoonbill, which the
Refuge has selected
as its official signature anniversary



bird. Watch our "Ding" on the Wing bulletin for more special 75th logo items and collectibles now through 2020.

Stop in today to pick up your soft and cuddly Roseate Spoonbills. Or email naturestore@dingdarlingsociety.org or call 239-472-1100 ext. 214 for information on mail-ordering store products.

Coming Soon

Shop for our most popular gifts and logo items at ShopDingDarling.com. Sign up on the web page now to receive notice when the e-commerce site goes live.

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.



PROJECT REFUGE

A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash

Mark your calendar for this exciting inaugural event's "Twist Tie Optional Lunch" and runway show starting at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at The Sanctuary Clubhouse on Sanibel Island, part of the Refuge 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Tickets for Project Refuge will go on sale November 1 for \$100 each and include the show and luncheon. Visit projectrefugeding.com to purchase tickets and learn more about the event.

"We are excited to debut this fun and creative event to celebrate the Refuge's 75th and raise awareness



A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash

about recycling and the threat of trash to our wildlife," said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director. "All profits will directly benefit the Refuge's education and water-quality research programs."

"We are seeking volunteers and sponsors for the event," said Project Refuge co-chairs Toni Ory and Kimberly Powers. "Sponsorships are key to raising support from the event, and this highly publicized show will be a real win-win for both the Refuge and the sponsors."

Please contact Dot Voorhees at 239-472-1100 ext. 239 for information about sponsoring or volunteering for the event.



At a special after-hours gathering at the Refuge on June 11, DDWS awarded \$21,700 in conservation education scholarships to 16 students from the surrounding five-county area. During its 13-year history, the DDWS Environmental Scholarship Program has awarded a total of \$126,400.

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

March 1 - August 31, 2019

Memorial 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:

Aunt Lorraine and her brothers and sisters Raymond Amato Avis Anderson Kenneth Aylward Dr. Christina Barkley Randy Alan Barrett Judy Storey Bohroffen Helen Booker Frank and Jane Bopp John Butler Janice Lee Carstenn Jana Cope Rosalie Courter Donald L Cross James Dalv Dr. Howard Randall Deming Jimmy Dorsch Dr. David Drachman

Hal V. Driver Suzanne Dubuc Louis E. Falkner Frank Fallert Robert Foster Richard J. Frueh Mike Gieryic Christine Glancy Katarina Marie Armstrong Goitz Robert Grabek H. Frank Hicks William Holleran Richard Hulit lack Ilten Bob Ingraham Ronald L. Johnson Jason King James Kowalski

Suzanne Mae Kubit Theodore Kucera Manette Barbara Lazear lanice Lee David Lewin Maureen Lindgren Roger A. Lipster Barry Litofsky James "Jav" Nelson McCormick Jovce McFarland Dr. Robert G Meeker Mary & Michael Mercurio Marianne Meyer Nan C. Morrison George O'Connor James T Ory Jim & Betty Lou Osborne Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry

Jack Eugene Rahmes Sheila Stevens Saldeen Darryl Ann Schilli Veronica Senyk Orlene Shimberg Rosemary Shipley Ann Simms Stanley LaVere Smith Peter Haldor Sneve Judy Steger Jack and Margaret Stuckemeyer Jack Tyrer Janice M. Ursillo Gordon Webb Marie Wehrle Mark Westall Ernie Wetschka

We recently received gifts in HONOR of the following:

Arthur & Corinne Addie
Elaine Bachelder
Harold and Debby Bixby
Nana Booker and David Lowe
Alice Bowden
Jack and Cil Braun
Howard Buhse, Jr.
Kelton and Kathy Burbank
Kathleen Coughlin and
James Salzman
Louise B Crumpacker
Phyllis Gresham

Jane Hanks
Peter Hawrylyshyn
Margaret Keller
Wendy Kindig
Joel & Wandrea Lauchner
Barbara S. Lee
Dan Little
Rob and Pam Lucci
John McCabe
Eileen McCutchen
Diane McMillen

Peter Meekin
Abigail Mercado
Craig Meyer
Birgie Miller
Ashley Norton, Taylor
Osborne, Kathryn Norton
Cathryn Peel
Ken Poulson
Allan and Bernette Rashba
Nancy Selzer and Family
Patricia Sisamis

Edythe C Stokes
Ty Symroski
Robert and Susan Thoresen
Ellie Threlkel
Robert Tracy
Midge VanEtten
Barbara Webb
Gordon Wells
Joe Wiegand
Donna Yetsko
Steve Yetsko

2019 Scholarship Awards

The 16 named scholarships included "Ding" Darling Conservation Scholarship, two Richard Bailey Scholarships, Mike and Terry Baldwin Scholarship, Dr. Andrew and Laura Dahlem Scholarship, Dr. H. Randall Deming Endowed Scholarship for Conservation & Environmental Studies, two Leslie & Hans Fleischner Scholarships, Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship, Barry and Francine Litofsky Scholarship, five Tarpon Bay Explorers Scholarships, and Jane Werner Endowed Environmental Scholarship.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a named scholarship should contact DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller at 23-472-1100 ext. 4. For more information, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/student-scholarships

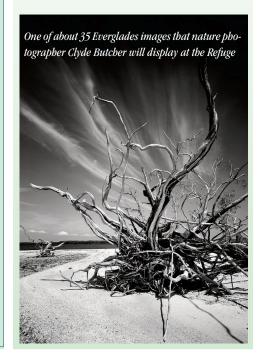
Clyde Butcher Photo Exhibit

Often called "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. From November 13, 2019, through February 5, 2020, "Ding" Darling will be hosting a special Clyde Butcher exhibition as part of the Refuge's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

The Clyde Butcher 75th Anniversary Photographic Exhibition will display renowned images from his Everglades collection.

"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 thank Mark and Gretchen Banks for their generous sponsorship of the exhibition."

See the insert in this newsletter for a list of official 75th Anniversary Celebration happenings.



WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Here, we showcase the best of wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, interns, and others. Fall means migration time, when the Refuge sees new species joining the year-rounders. This summer also meant the migration of DDWS Intern Chris Gutierrez, an avid nature photographer, to New York. Before we bid him a fond farewell, he left us with these pictures of his favorite fall sightings during his stint at the Refuge.

If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sierra Hoisington at shois@dingdarlingsociety.org.





female may evict the first female, lay her own eggs



Teacher Conservation Grants

DWS and the Refuge announce their 14th annual round of Teacher Conservation Grants. Up to \$10,000 in grant awards are available to districts, schools, and individual teachers in Lee, Charlotte, and Collier counties this school year for conservation education-related projects.

Teachers may apply for grants up to \$1,000 each to fund new classroom science projects, promote stewardship, purchase teaching aids, acquire classroom materials, and conduct work projects in their community or beyond. Again this year, two grants up to \$3,000 are also available to school- and district-wide projects.

Applicants are invited to submit conservation-related proposals by October 31, 2019. The approved proposals will be awarded by December 2019 for projects to be completed by May 2020.

In the past 12 years, DDWS has granted more than \$80,300 to local schools for environmental projects. The teacher grants are funded by monies received from the

DDWS Conservation Education Endowment Fund established by Jay "Ding" Darling's grandson, the late Kip Koss.

For more information, applications, and guidelines, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/teacher-grants. To support the teacher's grant program, please go to dingdarlingsociety.org/donation.



DDWS Education Committee Chair Wendy Kindig (right) reviews Royal Palm Exceptional School Center's "Enviro-Art" project in Fort Myers.

Go Wild for 'Ding'— Lovin' Spoonbills

Make plans now to attend the eighth annual fundraiser for DDWS on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at the Sanibel Community House. This year's Go Wild for "Ding" — Lovin' Spoonbills theme continues a series of bird-centric events to benefit the birds, other wildlife, conservation, and education efforts at the Refuge.

"Roseate Spoonbills are 'Ding' Darling's most iconic birds, so we saw it fitting to make them the official totem for the Refuge's 75th anniversary celebration,



which runs through December 1, 2020," said Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director. "We are also 'showing them the love' as this year's species for our Go Wild, the biggest fundraiser of the year to benefit the Refuge."

"Seating is limited and we once again anticipate a soldout crowd," said event committee member and DDWS President Mike Baldwin. "We encourage people to reserve early."

Attendance to the February 12 event is by reservation only. Tickets to the Go Wild at "Ding" party are \$150 each and will go on sale November 1, 2019. For more information, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/go-wild-for-ding. Event sponsorships are available; for details contact Dot Voorhees at 239-472-1100 ext. 239 or dot@dingdarlingsociety.org.

TARPON BAY EXPLORERS SCHEDULE

(tarponbayexplorers.com; call ahead to 239-472-8900 to confirm schedule and make reservations)

Tram Tours of Wildlife Drive*: October Sat-Thurs 10am, 12:30pm, and 3pm; Nov and Dec Mon-Thurs 10am, 11:30am, 1, 2 and 3pm; Sat-Sun 10am, 12:30pm, and 3pm

Kayak Trail Tour or Low Tide Paddle*: Daily 8:30am or 10am and 1pm Mon-Fri

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. 9am

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

Evening Cruise: Daily 2 hours prior to sunset

Aquarium & Touch Tank: Daily at 3pm

Rentals including new Hobie fishing kayaks! and fishing charters: Daily 8am-5pm

*Additional times available December 21-31



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UPCOMING EVENTS

See insert in this newsletter for a full listing of Refuge 75th Anniversary happenings or visit ding75.org.

- "Ding" Darling World Animal Day October 4, 2019
- Christmas in October at the Community House October 12, 2019
- "Ding" Darling Day October 20, 2019
- Boy Scout Badge University October 26, 2019
- Clyde Butcher 75th Anniversary Photographic Exhibition – November 13, 2019-February 5, 2020
- 75th Anniversary Project Refuge: A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash – March 10, 2020
- Museum Shopping Sunday December 1, 2019
- Unveiling of "Ding" Studio Exhibit & Duck Stamp Mural – December 2, 2019
- 75th Anniversary Holiday Shopping December 3, 2019
- DDWS Annual Meeting December 4, 2019
- "Ding" Hosts Everglades Coalition Conference at South Seas Resort – January 9-12, 2020
- 75th Anniversary Film Series January 8-April 1, 2020
- 75th Anniversary Lecture Series January 17-April 3, 2020
- 75th Anniversary Go Wild for "Ding" Lovin' Spoonbills – February 12, 2020
- 75th Anniversary Artist 'in Residence' Exhibition February 18-March 18, 2020
- The Swamp Author Michael Grunwald Event March 20, 2020
- Endangered Species Day at the Refuge May 15, 2020
- 75th Anniversary "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament May 22, 2020
- Official 75th Anniversary Celebration December 1, 2020



DID YOU KNOW?

The Roseate Spoonbill is the official 75th Anniversary bird. The proper name for a Roseate Spoonbill flock is a "bowl." Why? Spoons always go into bowls.