

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-699-4754

ChelleTrav@aol.com

Caption: Sign up to bike the trails of Bailey Tract on a ranger-guided tour Jan. 18.
w/logo

Tarpon Bay Explorers offers specials to celebrate ‘Ding’ Darling’s 75th

As the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge approaches its 75th anniversary in December 2020, Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s official recreation concession, begins offering free and discounted activities on Sanibel Island.

Starting on Nov. 9, it discounts all boat and kayak tours -- which include a Nature & Sealife Tour, Evening Boat Tour, and guided kayak tours throughout the day -- by 25 percent on select Saturdays through 2020. All boat tours include a touch tank presentation and a narrated cruise into Tarpon Bay. Kayak tours include instruction and explore the bay and Commodore Creek Trail. Call ahead to 239-472-8900 for reservations.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, and May 16, 2020, visitors can take advantage of free stand-up paddleboard (SUP) clinics in the bay from 9 a.m. to noon. No reservations are required for this activity, but participants must be age 13 or older.

Join a refuge ranger for a free guided bike tour of the Bailey Tract trails on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020. Tarpon Bay Explorers will be providing the free use of bicycles and helmets to a limited number of 20 participants ages 10 and older. Reserve in advance at 239-472-8900, and meet at TBE by 9 a.m.

See below for a complete calendar of TBE 75th anniversary activities.

“We are so happy to include Tarpon Bay Explorers on our schedule of exciting events from November 2019 through December 2020,” said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “They are awesome partners, and we look forward to celebrating 75 years with them and our entire community of residents and visitors.”

Other highlights of the anniversary season will include a Clyde Butcher photography exhibition Nov. 13, 2019, through Feb. 5, 2020; an art exhibition by Ed Anderson, the refuge's official 75th anniversary "resident artist," from Feb. 25 through March 31; an ongoing exhibit of Jay N. "Ding" Darling cartoons and historic artifacts; Project Refuge: A Couture Fashion Show Using Trash on March 10; special lectures; and a public celebration on Dec. 1, 2020.

For more information about "Ding" Darling's 75th celebration, visit ding75.org.

TARPON BAY EXPLORERS CALENDAR OF 75TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

Visit tarponbayexplorers.com for more tour information.

Nov. 9, 2019 - Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25% off boat and kayak tours)

Nov. 23, 2019 - Free SUP Clinic

Jan. 11, 2020 - Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25% off boat and kayak tours)

Jan. 18, 2020 - Guided Bailey Tract Tour with free bike use

May 9, 2020 - Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25% off boat and kayak tours)

May 16, 2020 - Free SUP Clinic

September 12, 2020 - Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25% off boat and kayak tours)

Nov. 14, 2020 - Tarpon Bay Explorers Saturday (25% off boat and kayak tours)

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.

###