

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: [images available upon request]

### **Free refuge programs begin Jan. 6**

J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge has announced its calendar of daily free tours and programs for winter 2020. The seasonal calendar begins on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, and runs through Sunday, April 19.

Daily programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and include such diverse activities and topics as “Ding” the Man, Beach Walk, Endangered Species, and Indigo Trail Walk.

New this year, in honor of the Refuge’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the “Ding” the Man program takes place every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Visitor & Education Center to explore the life of Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling through never-before-seen memorabilia and tales of his groundbreaking achievements in the realms of editorial cartooning and conservation.

Long before there was a refuge named “Ding,” the cartoonist won two Pulitzer Prizes, started the Federal Duck Stamp Program and designed the first stamp, and pushed for the creation of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge, which now bears his name.

“We are excited to tell this important story, because so many don’t realize our deep-seated origins,” said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland, who will present the program. “Our full range of programs promises something for all ages.”

For a full look at programs, tours and descriptions, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs). Free educational programs are made possible through support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

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](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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