

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Images available upon request

Caption:

Iconic bird, environmentalist topics of Pulitzer-winning historian

One of Jack E. Davis' most landmark books deals with the life and accomplishments of Florida conservationist Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, while another, soon to be released, focuses on bald eagles in a historical context. The popular author and lecturer will combine his knowledge of both in his "Eagles & Florida Eco-Topics" presentations at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island on Friday, March 27, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., part of the 2020 "Ding" Darling Friday Lecture series.

Historian Davis will share knowledge and images from his forthcoming *Bird of Paradox: How the Bald Eagle Saved the Soul of America* and talk about the remarkable life of Douglas, who was best known for her tireless work saving the Florida Everglades, which he explores in *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*.

A professor of history at the University of Florida, Davis won a Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for his book *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*. His book about Douglas received a gold medal from the Florida Book Awards.

Davis has racked up a number of other honors for his books and teaching stints at schools from the University of Birmingham to the University of Jordan in Amman. He has written for the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Orion*, and other publications.

Bird of Paradox is a natural and cultural history of the bald eagle from pre-European settlement to the present. It will look at the historical relationship between Americans and the bald eagle as national symbol and natural species.

An Everglades Providence hails the remarkable life of an American writer, women's activist, and, ultimately, environmentalist.

Davis will sign copies of his books, available in the Refuge Nature Store, following the two lectures. Profits from Nature Store sales directly benefit refuge education and research.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management and Sanibel Carts co-sponsor the free 12-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

Seating 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. DDWS will be filming Davis’ lectures and broadcasting them on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/dingdarling.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the Visitor & Education Center, Indigo Trail, Bailey Tract, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s official recreation concession located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

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

The season’s remaining schedule is listed below. Book signings follow both lectures. For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

*March 27 – Author Jack Davis, “All About Eagles and Other Florida Eco-Topics”

*April 3 – Jeri Magg, *Remarkable Women of Sanibel & Captiva*

*starred lecture indicates book signing to follow

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 dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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