

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Virtual Endangered Species Week is part of the refuge's #DingatHome initiative during coronavirus stay-at-home directives.

Caption: Sea turtles are one species the refuge's virtual event spotlights.

Refuge celebrates Endangered Species Day with weeklong virtual activities

The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge honors Endangered Species Day on May 15 with a week's worth of virtual activities broadcast through the refuge's official Facebook page starting Monday, May 11.

In keeping with the weekly #DingatHome series of learning exercises for those staying safer at home, Endangered Species Week introduces a daily themed activity based on one of Florida's endangered species. Each day's activity posts at 10 a.m. through Friday, May 15. See the schedule of activities below.

May 11 – Movement Monday: Florida Panther. Learn to run, stretch, and leap like this lithe creature.

May 12 – Tale Tuesday: Key Deer: Why is this diminutive creature found nowhere else in the world?

May 13 – Wildlife Wednesday: Smalltooth Sawfish. Learn: Is it a fish or a shark?

May 14 – Trail Thursday: Sea Turtles. Track sea turtle nests on Sanibel beaches along with education staff on a virtual scavenger hunt.

May 15 – Fun-Time Friday: Schaus Swallowtail Butterfly: Create endangered species art from this crafty DIY video.

The week's videos will be linked on the #DingatHome web page, dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/ding-at-home to access that day and beyond. Watch the broadcasts for news of specials and discounts on the Refuge Nature Store's e-commerce site, ShopDingDarling.com.

“We are excited to turn our viewers and friends onto the plight of our endangered animals in this fun, new way,” said “Ding” Conservation Educator Sara Soderholm. “Thanks to my interns and ‘Ding’ Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS) for making this happen.”

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.

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