

"How rich will we be when we have converted all our forests, our soil, our water resources, and minerals into cash?"

- Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling

2020 "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Environmental Scholarship Awards

Thank you for joining us today!

Continue to check our website

dingdarlingsociety.org

for information about next year's scholarships.

Follow "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to stay up-to-date with happenings and wildlife sightings at the Refuge.



"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society

1 Wildlife Drive
Sanibel, FL 33957

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge



“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge is committed to educating our youth as conservation stewards of the future. To that end, the Society works with various businesses and individuals to provide annual scholarships to local students engaged in the study of conservation, biology, and the environment.

The 2020 recipients are graduating high school seniors, college and post-graduate students from the five surrounding counties. These students have plans to pursue a career in science with an environmental or natural resources focus, environmental education, wildlife conservation, environmental law or public policy and conservation nonprofit.

The Universities and Colleges that will be gaining these environmental stewards:



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON



Jane Werner Endowed Scholarship

A refuge volunteer for 25 years and a true believer in protecting our wildlife and its habitat, Jane Werner furthered her family's interest in education with this annual scholarship to encourage environmental studies. Before their passing, Jane and her husband Clem funded five scholarships in their hometown of Davenport, Iowa, since the mid-1990s, and at their alma maters -- Smith and Northwestern respectively. She chose to establish the first permanently endowed scholarship through the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, with the hope of making a direct impact on students in Southwest Florida and further their interest in becoming our next environmental stewards. Jane passed away in 2012 and her family continues to support the Refuge and this scholarship fund.

Recipient: Mallory Poff
Elon University

Mallory graduated in the class of 2019 from Barron Collier High School in Naples and is completing her freshman year at Elon University pursuing a degree in Engineering. Mallory is one of 45 freshman Honors Fellows on Elon's campus and one of only two female honors engineers in her class. Mallory is required to complete an Honors Thesis for which she plans to conduct a research project focused on renewable energy sources. She also earned the President's List recognition last fall, one step higher than Dean's List. After completion of her undergraduate engineering degree, Mallory plans to pursue a master's degree focused in Renewable Energy Engineering.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

Dear Friends,

The refuge is named after Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, a political cartoonist who was passionate about conservation and environmental education. He was an early vocal conservationist. The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society is the non-profit organization that supports the refuge with education as one of many areas of our focus. This is the thirteenth year for the environmental scholarships, which we award to college and graduate students thanks to the generosity of our donors. Beginning with funds from Tarpon Bay Explorers, the scholarship funds have expanded to include individual donors, supporting more students with financial awards to help pay for their environmental education.

This year we had a group of highly qualified students applying for our scholarships. Each of you shares a passion to pursue a career related to environmental science, conservation, or wildlife preservation. It is exciting to see such enthusiasm for studying and caring for the environment. Of the many applicants, 10 were selected this year to receive scholarships.

We regret that with the COVID-19 pandemic an in-person award ceremony was not possible. The next best way to celebrate your achievements is our congratulation video and awards brochure with information about the donors and recipients. We look forward to viewing your videos which will be shared with the donors, staff, and board members. We wish you success in completing your education and achieving your career goals. We are confident you will become our future conservation stewards and look forward to hearing of your achievements. Thanks to our donors who make all this possible and thank you to the recipients for pursuing your dreams of preserving our environment and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wendy Kindig

Education Chair of the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society

Richard L. Bailey Environmental Scholarship

Before retiring and moving part time to Fort Myers, Richard Bailey's career was with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a federal agency focused on the condition of the oceans and the atmosphere. Once he retired, he found his place as a volunteer at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge where he always loved to visit, finding true peace and tranquility surrounded by the beauty of wildlife and nature.

Richard passed away several years ago, and his son, Robert Bailey, established this scholarship in loving memory of his father. Many of the long-time volunteers at the Refuge remember Richard as a loyal and committed volunteer to the Refuge and one who would do anything to help. His son knew how much the Refuge and his time as a volunteer meant to him and wanted to do something to honor his memory and commitment to conservation. His son hopes that the recipient of the Richard L. Bailey Environmental Scholarship will be as committed to conservation and devoted to making a difference in our world.

Recipient: Madison Craumer
Florida Gulf Coast University

Madison is a Naples resident and attended Lely High School. Madison's time in nature with the Girl Scouts developed a desire to advocate for its protection. Madison's Girl Scouts Gold Award Service Project developed a team of peer gardeners at her school to help the school become more environmentally friendly. She has been accepted to Florida Gulf Coast University to pursue Environmental Engineering. Madison's interest is in water quality and finding solutions to protecting Southwest Florida's fresh and saltwater resources to help the environment and local economy.

Win & Marilyn Kloosterman Scholarship

Marilyn and Winton Kloosterman were lifelong educators – Marilyn a high school teacher and Win a university professor. In 1986, they sold their home in Michigan and moved to Sanibel to enjoy a lifestyle where they could be outside all year around. With passion for the natural world, they both began volunteering at "Ding", a pursuit that continued for more than 20 years for Win and more than 30 for Marilyn. Both were active in the Ding Darling Wildlife Society, with Marilyn serving as president of the Board of Directors from 1995 to 1997 and later as an emeritus member of the Board. Marilyn was also heavily involved with the Scholarship Committee.

Marilyn and Win loved to travel and toured much of the world on their own and with the Lee County Friendship Force. Every time they returned to Sanibel they were eager to see their friends—both human and avian—at Ding. Knowing that education is key to assuring that the love of nature that they instilled in their children and grandchildren, Marilyn and Win were pleased to establish this scholarship to support students interested in preserving the environment.

Recipient: Dara Craig
University of Oregon

Dara, a Sanibel resident, attended Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts and is completing her undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University in Environmental Science and Policy. She was influenced by her time at the University of Auckland in New Zealand learning about the Maori culture and studying the impacts of an earthquake on seal pups. She also engaged in field work on habitat fragmentation effects on mammals in TN during her years at Vanderbilt. Dara will now pursue graduate studies at the University of Oregon with focus on small-scale fisheries, both the Indigenous and non-native communities' ability to respond to climate change. Her long-term goal is to develop science-based ocean programs respecting nature and culture; stewarding the environment, supporting the many who depend on healthy oceans to sustain life.

Tarpon Bay Explorers Scholarship

Tarpon Bay Explorers has been supporting this scholarship program since its inception fourteen years ago. Tarpon Bay Explorers, the official recreational concession for the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, offers kayak rentals and tours, Wildlife Drive tram tours, nature boating cruises, educational Deck Talks, and other opportunities to learn more about local wildlife and its habitat. "Our Tarpon Bay Explorer naturalists are a team of environmental educators. Many of these talented individuals would not have had the opportunity to complete environmental studies or other related programs if it weren't for grants and scholarships from members of the business community," said co-owner Wendy Schnapp. "Therefore, we understand the value of educating these young people and are glad to contribute. We are fortunate to be able to offer these scholarships."

Recipient: Nehemie Cyriaque
University of Florida

Nehemie is a recent graduate of Golden Gate High School in Naples, Florida and plans to attend the University of Florida where she will major in Political Science with a focus on Environmental Science and Policy. Nehemie is passionate about advocating for those less fortunate but also for environmental issues, finding ways to promote sustainable development and slow the rate of global warming. Nehemie volunteers for the Sunrise Movement and is also an intern for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. She hopes one day to be an environmental lawyer, a career in which she can really work to help people and the planet.

Mike & Terry Baldwin Scholarship

Mike and Terry Baldwin have made Sanibel Island and Fort Myers their year-round home for the last 22 years and are avid supporters of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and its friends group, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS). At a time when so many young people seem to be spending less and less time in the great outdoors, they are delighted to sponsor a DDWS Scholarship for students who are interested in studies that can help protect and foster our ecology and environment.

Terry holds an EdD from the University of Cincinnati and, since moving to Sanibel, has become an avid wildlife photographer. She served on the board of the DDWS for 9 years, 7 years as its secretary, and now acts as a member of its emeritus board. She also chairs the annual DDWS photography contest and teaches a wildlife photography program at the Refuge during "season". Mike holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, retired as Vice-President of Technology for Millennium Chemical in 1999, acted as a safety and environmental consultant to senior management in the energy and chemical sectors until late 2013, and is the current DDWS President.

Recipient: Griffin Alexander
University of Miami

Griffin is a graduate of Naples High School and has completed the second year of studies at the University of Miami majoring in Marine Affairs, Ecosystems Science, Policy & Law. He has been accepted into the accelerated Master's in Professional Science program which has allowed him to take a graduate level course this semester training to become a scientific diver. Griffin is working on coral reef research and restoration projects. He serves on the executive board of the Surfrider Foundation involved in restoration and preservation of beaches nationwide and volunteers with the Ocean Kids outreach program to educate Miami city children about the marine environment. Griffin is focused on obtaining his degree in Marine Affairs and Ecosystem Policy along with a Master's in Professional Science within 4 years.

Dr. Andrew & Laura Dahlem Scholarship

The Dr. Andrew and Laura Dahlem Scholarship was founded in honor of their unwavering passion and service to family, wildlife, community, and science. J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge has been a place for Andrew and Laura to enjoy the wildlife of Sanibel Island for many years. The commitment to ecological preservation that embodies the Refuge, and the island as a whole, played an integral role in their decision to call the island home in 2011 and "Ding" Darling is now only a short bike-ride away. The Dahlem's continue to support wildlife preservation efforts so that future generations may similarly benefit from the beauty that they now enjoy so much.

Originally from Dayton, Ohio, both Andrew and Laura graduated from The Ohio State University and pursued careers in scientific fields. Andrew earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in Toxicology studying the effects of cyanobacteria on the environment. Laura earned a Master's degree in Speech Therapy from The Ohio State University and continues to be passionate about scientific research in her field. Andrew and Laura are now long-time residents of Indianapolis, Indiana. Andrew is an avid animal lover, particularly turtles, and has transformed his suburban yard into a mini wildlife refuge of his own. Laura continues to be a prolific volunteer in all aspects of her community. Andrew and Laura provide love and support for their three children as they pursue dreams of their own.

Recipient: Meguine Duvert *University of Florida*

Meguine graduated from Immokalee High School this spring and will be studying at the University of Florida with a major in Zoology. Growing up in a small rural town, she always enjoyed working with and rescuing animals. Through participating in the SSTRIDE program through Florida State University, Meguine has gained insight into her area of interest and solidified her decision to pursue a career in veterinary medicine with a focus on wildlife.

Barry & Francine Litofsky Scholarship :

The Barry & Francine Litofsky Scholarship was established in memory of a wonderful nature loving couple. Francine was originally from Brooklyn, NY, and her education at Barnard College was in chemistry. But her artistic and environmental drive were always as strong as her scientific nature. She was well known on Sanibel as a nature and landscape black-and-white photographer. Her photographs are in numerous homes on Sanibel as well as in the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge administration building along with a book of her nature photographs that she published. Her love of nature started with shell collecting on Sanibel, but she donated her entire scientifically indexed shell collection to the National Bailey-Mathews Shell Museum to concentrate on birding and photography. Francine loved being an active volunteer at the Refuge and sharing her love of nature with others.

Barry grew up in Brooklyn and has degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from New York University, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania where got his PhD. He lived in New Jersey where he raised his family and worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories for 35 years. Barry and Francine loved Sanibel. They had vacationed on the island in a timeshare for decades and eventually decided to retire on the island. They adored the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, where Barry volunteered as well as worked for Tarpon Bay Explorers.

Recipient: Manouk Hermans *University of Tampa*

Manouk is graduating from Barron Collier High School this spring and will begin studies at the University of Tampa this fall with a major in Environmental Science. She is passionate about working with animals which has been informed by her volunteer time spent at the Humane Society and the Everglades Wonder Garden. She also enjoys nature photography. Manouk plans to pursue these two passions through a focus on conservation of wildlife and their habitat as a park ranger or zoologist.

The Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship

The Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship was established in her fond memory by the Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society. Elaine, a board member and the program chairperson for San-Cap Audubon from 2003 through 2015 and planned and coordinated their very successful yearly lecture series on birds and the environment. As a J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge volunteer for over a decade and a self-taught expert on local Florida flora, she conducted a weekly visitor plant walk and with her husband also led a weekly Refuge visitor bicycle tour. In addition, Elaine volunteered at the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) where she organized and led their native plant education program, Weeds & Seeds.

Elaine passed away in July of 2015 and is sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. She was always enthusiastic about everything that interested her, and her enthusiasm was contagious. A vibrant and lively person who enjoyed life to the fullest while being amazingly giving and loving, Elaine's curiosity and excitement about plants, nature, history, and her passion to explore the world were admired by many.

Recipient: Bailey White
Princeton University

Bailey graduated from Canterbury High School and will be attending Princeton University for a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, an interdisciplinary program. She has been a volunteer monitor for the SCCF sea turtle nesting program and an educator at Mote Marine. She was President of the Science National Honor Society while at Canterbury and participated in the Varsity Science Olympiad. Bailey hopes to pursue scientific research on how the interactions between human populations and the environment affect the ecological balance.

Dr. H. Randall Deming Endowed Scholarship for Conservation & Environmental Studies

This permanent annual scholarship was established in memory of Dr. H. Randall Deming by his family. Randy graduated from Dartmouth College and the University Of Vermont School Of Medicine. He practiced Radiology at the Maine Medical Center for 30 years, which included serving as the Chair of the Department. After retiring in 1995, Randy and his wife Ann divided their time between Maine and Ft. Myers. A lifelong outdoors enthusiast and avid birder, Randy loved spending time at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and would initiate frequent outings to the Refuge with his children and grandchildren.

Affectionately known as "Big Daddy," Randy was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. He is remembered for his crushing hugs, gentle demeanor, big heart and great love for his family. Because he truly appreciated and valued the importance of education and the protection of our natural habitat, this scholarship has been established to provide an opportunity for students interested in the conservation and preservation of our natural environment to pursue their studies.

Recipient: Skylar Fry
University of Arizona

Skylar will graduate in the class of 2020 from Gulf Coast High School in Naples and has been accepted to the University of Arizona. She has a passion for Environmental Science, especially in the fields of sustainable agriculture and food production. Skylar completed a Laureate presentation dedicated to researching, questioning, and evaluating the American meat industry. She plans to pursue a major in either sustainable agriculture sciences or environmental law. Skylar's future goal is to be involved in exploring sustainable and innovative food production methods.

Leslie & Hans Fleischner Scholarship

Sanibel Island, Florida has recently become a place for Hans and Leslie Fleischner to relax, appreciate wildlife from their porch, surround themselves with the natural beauty of the outdoors and make regular trips to the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Part-time residents, their home is in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where they are very involved in the community and believe strongly in supporting education. They support students through the Pittsburgh Chapter of the ARCS Foundation which provides scholarships to the best emerging scientists at Carnegie Mellon University, The University of Pittsburgh and Penn State; at the middle-school Neighborhood Academy and at local Opera company programs developing stars of the future.

Leslie graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology. She raised two boys, owned and operated a very successful needlework shop, then took up photography, including some amazing shots of Sanibel birds, shells and landscapes. Hans graduated from Harvard (BA) and Columbia (MBA) and spent most of his working life with the United States Steel Corporation. Since retiring, Hans and Leslie have traveled to all seven continents including the North Pole, and continue their many activities with local non-profits. As investing in the younger generation is one of their main interests, they are excited to bring this support to Southwest Florida by establishing this scholarship with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society.

Recipient: William Sobczak *University of Florida*

Willy graduated from Barron Collier High School and will be attending the University of Florida for a degree in Environmental Engineering, where he was admitted in a Freshman Honors and Undergraduate Research Scholar program. He was National Ocean Science Bowl President, a Model U.N. member, and plays the viola. His interest in Marine Science led to a Laureate presentation on Red Tide. Willy holds dual citizenship (Belgian and US) and travels with his family each summer to Belgium. His long-term vision is to tackle our environmental challenges with a combination of sound science, innovative engineering, and enlightened leadership.

"Ding" Darling Conservation Scholarship

The "Ding" Darling Conservation Scholarship was funded by an anonymous donor that has a passion for environmental education.

Recipient: Dara Craig *University of Oregon*

Dara, a Sanibel resident, attended Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts and is completing her undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University in Environmental Science and Policy. She was influenced by her time at the University of Auckland in New Zealand learning about the Maori culture and studying the impacts of an earthquake on seal pups. She also engaged in field work on habitat fragmentation effects on mammals in TN during her years at Vanderbilt. Dara will now pursue graduate studies at the University of Oregon with focus on small-scale fisheries, both the Indigenous and non-native communities' ability to respond to climate change. Her long-term goal is to develop science-based ocean programs respecting nature and culture; stewarding the environment, supporting the many who depend on healthy oceans to sustain life.



"Land, water and vegetation are just that dependent on one another. Without these three primary elements in natural balance, we can have neither fish nor game, wild flowers nor trees, labor nor capital, nor sustaining habitat for humans."

— Jay Norwood Darling