PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.
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Caption: Larry Brophy from Fort Myers, Fla., took third place last year with a photo of an American alligator titled "Keep Your Distance" – appropriate in these times.

'Ding' Day photo contest deadline extended

Because "Ding" Darling Day and its contest winner announcement has moved to December, the deadline for the 28th annual "Ding" Darling Day Amateur Nature Photography Contest has been extended one month to Oct. 15, 2020. All entries must be submitted electronically.

Cash award prizes in honor of the refuge's 75th anniversary celebration this year are $300 for first place, $225 for second, and $175 for third. The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) hosts the annual contest.

Complete contest rules are listed below. For an entry form and other contest information, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/photo-contests. DDWS will announce winners and award prizes at "Ding" Darling Day, Dec. 1, 2020.

Entries must be delivered by email to ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com by Oct. 15, 2020. For assistance, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or email shois@dingdarlingsociety.org. Entrants can pay by sending a check made out to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society (P.O. Box 565, Sanibel FL 33957) with a memo "for photo contest" or online at tinyurl.com/dingcontestfees.

Note that entries must be submitted electronically. In an effort to maintain its commitment to the environment, DDWS will no longer be accepting photo contest entries by mail.

- There is a $25 per person entry fee that provides you with a membership to DDWS and is used to defray the cost of the contest. ONE FEE COVERS TWO ENTRIES PER PERSON.
- Only AMATEUR (all ages) photographers are eligible to enter (may not possess a professional photographer tax identification number for the sale of photographs).
- Photos must be taken at J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR and have been taken within two years

of entry date.

- Each person may enter up to two photos but is eligible to win only one award. ONE $25 FEE COVERS TWO ENTRIES PER PERSON.
- Photos must be submitted electronically via email to ddamateurphotocontest@gmail.com. Each photo must be a JPEG file of at least 3000 x 2400 or 4 megabytes (MB). Panoramic photos are not allowed.
- Photos that have won awards in previous "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society photo contests may not be resubmitted.
- Judging will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or anything that will identify you on your photograph.
- Judging criteria:

    1) Technical excellence (sharpness, lighting, composition, exposure)

    338185408)   Originality/creativity

    338185456)   Interest

    338185504)   Ability to be reproduced for publication

- Only limited image modifications are permitted. Minor manipulation should be used only to produce a more natural looking photograph. Cropping is allowed but adding any elements not existing in the original scene will not be accepted. Judges, at their discretion, will disqualify any photos that appear to be manipulated beyond these guidelines.
- All photo files will become the property of DDWS. Photos may be used by DDWS in any way with appropriate credit to the photographer.
- First, second, and third place winners and honorable mentions will be formally announced during the "Ding" Darling Day's celebration held in December 2020. Cash prizes will be awarded: first place $300, second place $225, third place $175, honorable mentions $25.
- There are three judges: A refuge staff person, a professional photographer, and a member of the Sanibel community.

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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