



# Protect. Educate. Inspire.

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society - Friends of the Refuge

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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SARAH caption: President Sarah Ashton

DAVIDJ caption: Vice President David Jeffrey

WENDYK caption: Secretary Wendy Kindig

BILLV caption: Treasurer Bill Valerian

OLYMPIAN caption: Olympian medal recipient Doris Hardy with supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland

### **Awards, board officers announced at DDWS annual meeting**

The “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge held its virtual annual meeting on Wednesday, December 2, via Zoom. Among the reports and other business items on the agenda, the board of directors voted past president Doris Hardy to the emeritus board of directors and also awarded her its Olympian Award.

Individuals who innovate and champion current and/or past initiatives that result in significant and readily recognizable advancements in fulfilling the Society’s mission may be nominated by members of the society board, staff or the refuge manager for the DDWS Olympian Award.

Hardy is the second recipient of the award, which was started last December with an award to past president John McCabe.

“Doris so deserves this award, for her endless energy and always upbeat smile,” said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “Besides serving as board president for TK years and a refuge volunteer for #

years, we honor her for her role in initiating the ongoing monofilament removal project at the refuge and beyond, and so many other selfless acts to conserve wildlife and further the refuge's mission.”

The membership reelected Wendy Kindig to another term on the board of directors. Officers for 2021 are as follows: President Sarah Ashton, Vice President David Jeffrey, Secretary Kindig, and Treasurer Bill Valerian.

To access the DDWS 2019-2020 annual report, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/about-us](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/about-us).

#### 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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