



www.dingdarlingsociety.org

WINTER 2017

Society Pages

News from Friends of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the nonprofit Friends of the Refuge organization, supports environmental education, services, and conservation at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Education and conservation efforts may extend beyond the complex's borders. We partner in these efforts where possible with like-minded conservation organizations.



Five-time Federal Duck Stamp winner Joe Hautman spoke at Conservation Art Day.



Mia Martinez (left) and Ava Binkowski work on a Water/Ways scavenger hunt questionnaire.



More than 50 artists from the Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild displayed nature-related pieces in the "Engulfed" Water/Ways exhibition.



Below, a live American Kestrel starred in a Family Fun Day presentation.



FEBRUARY 8, 2017, MARKS THE DATE

for this season's biggest Refuge fundraiser. The year's featured wildlife species will be owls. We will highlight the five species of native Florida owls: Barn, Barred, Burrowing, Eastern Screech, and Great Horned.

The 2017 event takes place in the Sanibel Community House and features an island restaurants buffet and live and silent auctions. Jim Sprinkle has promised an owl feather pin for live auction; the winner becomes a member of the prestigious Sprinkle Feather Club, which flocks together once a year for a special event. He is also carving an owl slider/brooch. The high bidder for it becomes the head of the Feather Club for the coming year.

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A Fall to Remember

First came a magnificent "Ding" Darling Days celebrating #BIRDEYE with all living things a-flight, October 16-22. On its tail-feathers flushed in our special Smithsonian exhibit Water/Ways, with six weeks of speakers, films, and art and photography exhibitions through December 7.

The two events brought visitors to the Refuge in flocks and gave us extensive opportunity to educate the public about the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial, bird



Families played the Bird Migration Game at Family Fun Day.

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GIVE A HOOT

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Another gem on the live auction block, a 9-foot-long aluminum alligator-and-heron sculpture by artist Michael Mistler has been valued at \$22,000. Lightweight and life-sized, it is designed to withstand any outdoor environment. Interested bidders can do so by phone or by live auction. Call Birgie Miller for details at 239-292-0566.

For information on the event and becoming a sponsor, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/go-wild or call Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or email her at director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Thanks to our sponsors who have already shown that they give a HOOT: **Champion Level:** Mark & Gretchen Banks, Wayne & Linda Boyd, Jim & Patty Sprinkle. **Guardian Level:** George and Wendy's Seafood Grille, Island Inn. **Protector Level:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Amanda Cross, Sanibel Catering Company. **Defender Level:** Barrier Island Title Service, Doug & Sherry Gentry, Greenwood Consulting Group, Phyllis Gresham, Tree West LLC..



Michael Mistler's alligator sculpture (left) goes on the live auction block along with Jim Sprinkle's owl feather pin (below left), a work now in progress. Eastern Screech Owl (below right) by Sarah Lathrap.



Thanks to Our 'Ding' Days Sponsors

ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS: Doc's Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** George & Wendy's Seafood Grille; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Andrew Thompson Company, Bailey's General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Wayne & Linda Boyd, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Island Sun, Jerry's Foods of Sanibel, John & Beth Newland, Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sanibel Moorings, Santiva Chronicle, Spotlight Graphics, Jim & Patty Sprinkle; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Karen Bell, Big Red Q Quickprint, Casa Ybel Resort, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Sally & Rich Ennis, Florida Weekly, Phyllis Gresham, Island Inn, Jensen's on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Mitchell's Sand Castles & Forty/Fifteen Resorts, Painting With a Twist, Ed & Lynn Riddlehoover, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Stewart and Sons Insurance, Inc., Suncatchers' Dream, West Wind Inn, Don & Ann-Marie Wildman; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Barefoot Charley's Painting Co., John Brennan, The Butterfly Estates, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP), Colony Inn, Grounds by Green Ways, Intech Printing, Island Cinema, Island Management, Island Therapy Center, Marina Customer Service Training, Over Easy Café, Panther Printing, Sanibel Art & Frame, George & Wendy Schnapp, Select Vacation Properties, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Tents 'n' Events.



Mike Baldwin



Brett Gooch



Phyllis Gresham



Bill Valerian

DDWS Elects 3 New Board Members, 2 Emeritus Members

At its annual meeting on December 7, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society elected four members to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Board of Directors. Incumbent member Mike Baldwin was re-elected for another term, and three new members will join the Board: Brett Gooch, Phyllis Gresham, and Bill Valerian.

Membership elected two new members to the Emeritus Board. DDWS bylaws allow for the election of up to two Emeritus Board members each year. "To be an Emeritus, a candidate has to have served on the Board for at least six years and have made an outstanding contribution to DDWS," said DDWS President Doris Hardy. This year's additions — Jim Scott and Don Wildman — have been invaluable past board members."

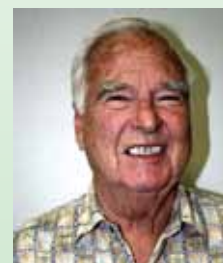
During his nine years on the board, Jim Scott has demonstrated leadership and dedication in a wide range of Society activities and executive positions including service as Board secretary, vice president, and president. A front desk volunteer for more than a dozen years, Jim has also served on Nominating, Emeritus, By-Laws, Executive, "Ding" Darling Days, and Human

Resources committees.

Don Wildman has actively served on the Board for six years. His major contribution to the Society has been as chair of the Stewardship Committee. He has led the annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament since its inception. Don has collected all of the winning federal duck stamp artwork of the Hautman brothers and has generously lent them for display at the Refuge during "Ding" Darling Days. He also chaired the Nature Store Advisory Committee.



Jim Scott



Don Wildman

FALL TO REMEMBER

continued from page 1

behaviors, duck stamp programs, and water quality and scarcity issues. School groups, Girl Scout troops, and adults alike got interactive with the Water/Ways exhibit through hands-on activities, special Saturday H-2-GO activities, and an Aqua Ranger Scavenger Hunt.

Mark your calendars for next year's "Ding" Darling Days festivities, October 15-21, 2017. In the meantime, enjoy this pictorial flashback. See page 2 for a list of this year's generous, much-appreciated sponsors.



Family Fun Day archery clinics



BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

DDWS Board of Directors officers for 2017 include (clockwise from lower left): President Doris Hardy, Vice President Mike Baldwin, and Secretary Wendy Kindig. Not pictured: Treasurer Sarah Ashton.



Take a guided bike along Indigo Trail every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m.

FREE Winter Programs

From birding and biking the Refuge to learning about manatees and venomous wildlife, the seasonal calendar of free programs and tours at "Ding" Darling Refuge begins on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, and runs through April 23 (see insert for calendar).

Daily programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and include such diverse topics as Nature Photography, Beach Walk, Birds of Prey in Southwest Florida, and Indigo Trail Walk.

"We have something for visitors of all ages," said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "The free Refuge programs and tours last anywhere from a half hour to two hours."

For a full calendar of programs and tours and descriptions, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs or www.fws.gov/refuge/jn_ding_darling. Free educational programs are made possible through support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society.

2017 Film Series



The fifth annual "Ding" Darling Wednesday Film Series kicks off its bi-weekly showings this winter with a schedule of eight films that explores natural facets from ocean noise pollution to the Federal Duck Stamp program.

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society hosts the free film showings in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center with sponsorship from Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis.

Below is the season's scheduled films. All films begin

at 1 p.m. For full descriptions of the films, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.



Jan. 4 – *Mullet: A Tale of Two Fish*
Jan. 18 – *The Million Dollar Duck*
Feb. 1 – *Racing Extinction*
Feb. 15 – *Before the Flood*



WGCU's *Mullet: A Tale of Two Fish* and a biologist's presentation of *Sonic Sea* are among the highlights of this year's series.

March 1 – *Sonic Sea*
March 15 – *Why Just One?*
March 29 – *Seed: The Untold Story*
April 12 – *The Future of Energy*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars, and join us! Visit dingdarlingsociety.org for details.

Free Winter Programs – January 3-April 23, 2017
Biweekly Wednesday Film Series – January 4-April 2, 2017 – sponsored by Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts
Friday Lecture Series – January 20-April 14, 2017 – sponsored by HighTower/Thomas and Swartz Wealth Management

Go Wild for "Ding" – Give a Hoot – February 8, 2017
FILLED Stokes Birding Tours – February 10, 2017
Sixth Annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament – May 19, 2017
29th Annual "Ding" Darling Days – October 15-21, 2017

Conservation Teacher Grants

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society recently awarded \$10,000 in grants to conservation education-related projects at 11 different schools in Lee and Collier counties. Teachers submitted 19 grant applications to the DDWS Environmental Education Committee by October 31, 2016. The committee chose awards based on need and relevance to conservation.

"This is the 11th year the Society has awarded these conservation teacher grants. The past three years we opened eligibility to a five-county area," says Wendy Kindig, Education Committee Chair. "To date, we have awarded nearly \$68,000 in teacher grants. We were so impressed by the great projects our teachers and their students imagined this year. The Society is pleased to help the future of conservation stewards in this important way."

Grant recipients report back on their projects to the Society and Refuge, sending pictures and often thank-you notes from the students, upon completion in June 2017.



The DDWS Education Committee with awarded teachers

Next school year, DDWS will again be awarding up to \$10,000 in teacher conservation grants for schools in Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hendry, and Lee counties. The grants are funded by monies received from the DDWS Conservation Education Endowment Fund earmarked specifically for education by the late Kip Koss, "Ding" Darling's grandson.

For information on next year's grants, contact Ranger Becky Larkins at 239-472-1100 ext. 237 or Wendy Kendig at wendykindig@aol.com, or visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/teacher-grants. Anyone interested in supporting conservation education at "Ding" Darling should visit dingdarlingsociety.org.

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS September 1 – November 30, 2016

Memorial gifts and gifts made in honor of special occasions are a wonderful way to pay tribute to family and friends who are important to us. Throughout the year, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society has received gifts in memory and in honor of loved ones. Thank you to everyone who supported the Refuge in this thoughtful and meaningful way.

We recently received gifts in **MEMORY** of the following:

John and Kathy Allen	Susie Marks
Nancy Bacon	Max Mason
Dr. Christina Barkley	Diane Norfray and Jennifer Norfray
Iver Brook	Herbert and Phyllis Pincus
Ted Carstenn	Dorothy Putnam
Jeff Case	Robert Rizzardi
Dort Fauntleroy	Susan Raber Satterfield
Tim Gardner	Paul Smart
Gerald Holman	Paul Smart
George Howe	Gene Steele
Norma Irene Johnson	Eva Stevens
Art and Molly Krival	Dot Whitehouse
Joel and Wanda Lauchner	
Herb Lieberman	

We received gifts in **HONOR** of the following:

Bill and Karen Aarons	David and Tammy McQuade
Is Cloak	Birgie Miller
Ann Deming	Helen Minkes
Harold and Shirley Hunsinger	Herbert and Phyllis Pincus
Ed Feraca and Colleen Kirwen	

DDWS Philanthropic Coordinator Carrie Alexander shows off some of our new eco-friendly serving ware.

One More Green Step



Plastic is the scourge of Mother Earth. We kicked the plastic bottle right out of the Refuge several years ago. Recently "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society took another major step toward "green" by converting to Eco Products brand plates, drinking ware, napkins, and utensils. Made from completely

renewable resources — corn, sugarcane, and plant starch — all of the products break down in fewer than 180 days in a composting facility. Plastic products, on the other hand, never truly break down. To make a donation toward our anti-plastic efforts, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org.

Leave a Legacy and Support 'Ding' Darling in Your Estate Plans

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society (DDWS) is proud to be mentioned in many of our departed benefactors' Last Wills and Testaments and as beneficiaries of retirement and other estate plans. It's quite simple to do.

You may name DDWS in your will as follows: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP] give, devise, and bequeath to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation located on Sanibel Island, Florida" [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for [designate the purpose, if desired, or leave blank for gifts to be used to address the greatest need]."

The IRS has granted DDWS tax-exempt status and any gift to our organization is tax-deductible and will help offset inheritance taxes your family or friends might otherwise be obligated to pay. **For more information, visit our Web site at www.dingdarlingsociety.org/bequest.**



Registration for Tarpon Tournery Filled

Registration filled in the first week for the Friday, May 19, "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament, thanks to a bigger purse than ever. This year, sponsors receive first priority on registration.

For information on sponsoring or being entered on a waiting list for the sixth annual event, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/tarpon-tournament-1 or call event organizer Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566.

Tournament sponsors who have already committed for 2017 include:



Title Sponsor: Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille; **Premier Sponsors:** Diversified Yacht Services, Nimrod, Raiser's Edge; **Gold Sponsors:** Bella Signs & Designs, Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Captiva Diva, Fort Myers Marine, The Historic Bait Box, Island Inn, Jensen's Marina, Law Office of Janet Strickland PA, On Island, Organized Chaos, Trophy Case of Fort Myers, Whitney's Bait & Tackle. **Silver Sponsors:** Anisa Jewelry Designs, Lighthouse Recovery Institute, Misty Wells' "Let's Take It Outside," Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank.



Last year Team Chasin' Poon hooked the first tarpon on tournament day in 2016, and took home a check for \$12,037.50. Because of high winds, only two teams caught fish last year, meaning more than \$8,000 will roll into this year's 100% purse.



Photo Contest Winners

As part of "Ding" Darling Days in October, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society announced the winners of this year's "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest at a special Conservation Art Day presentation. Judges had selected three winners and 12 honorable mentions out of 122 entries from 17 states and five countries — nearly twice as many entries as in 2015. All photographs judged were shot at the Refuge.

First place went to Tom Korbitt of Bluffton, South Carolina, for his River Otter portrait titled "My Sandy Look." Bill Fischer from Hindsdale, Illinois, took second place with "The Great Chase," a photo of two Double-crested Cormorants battling for a Needlefish. Cathi Bodine from Hillsboro, North Carolina, placed third for her Florida Manatee shot "See You Later!"

The three winners received cash awards from DDWS — \$100 for first place, \$75 for second, and \$50 for third.



Top photo: Second place winner "The Great Chase" by Bill Fischer. Bottom photo: Third place winner "See You Later!" by Cathi Bodine

Each honorable mention winner received a \$25 award, which reflects a refund of the contest entry fee. The winning photographs and honorable mention award entries will be on display in the Refuge Education Center throughout the year. To view the other top-ranking entries and to learn how to enter the 2017 contest, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/photo-contests.

DIRECTORATE VISITS "DING"

In mid-December "Ding" Darling hosted the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (FWS) Directorate for its quarterly review. Directors from all over the country, as well as FWS Director Dan Ashe (kneeling center front and pictured with Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik) and staff gathered on Sanibel for a week of meetings and "Ding" activities.





Boat Ramp Closed Temporarily

The Refuge has closed the Tarpon Bay Recreation Area boat launch due to limited parking space during construction of the new onsite Marine Lab. The Refuge is funding the construction and providing access to Tarpon Bay in partnership with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), which will outfit the lab and collaborate with its research to help alleviate “Ding” biology staff cuts. (We are now down to one full-time biologist.)

The ramp will remain closed until further notice, after Marine Lab construction is finished, which is slated for fall 2017. Recreation concession **Tarpon Bay Explorers** will remain open as usual during the construction, offering naturalist-guided tours, cruises, charters, gift shopping, and canoe, kayak, boat, and bike rentals.



Ben Vinos

STAFF NEWS

Season Interns

The full roll of interns is in place for the season, bringing the toll to six full-time and one part-time interns supported by “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society. The latest arrivals include:

Shared-use intern **Emily Koval** joined the DDWS-Refuge team in October. She graduated from Indiana University in May 2015 with a degree in marketing and public relations.

“I grew up with Sanibel,” says Emily, from Carmel, Indiana. “My family has been coming here since I was a kid — my parents honeymooned here — so I have always had a great appreciation for Sanibel’s wildlife. One of my favorite parts of the island is the fact that I get to experience such a unique and diverse wildlife population. Also, being five minutes away from a beach isn’t too shabby. The people at the Refuge are also amazing. Everyone has been so welcoming.”

Anne Mauro and **Matt Grassi** have joined the Refuge biology team. Anne, from Whitehouse, Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University in December 2015 with a degree in forestry and wildlife management. She last worked as a biological science technician with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Lake Oahe in South Dakota, monitoring least tern and piping plover nests. She hopes to study the nesting success of wading birds at “Ding” Darling.

“I like the rich diversity of birds and all the unique, rare birds that Sanibel attracts from time to time, such as the Great White Pelican and American Flamingo,” said Anne.

Matt, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native, came to “Ding” Darling from Florida Panther/Ten Thousand



Emily Koval



Anne Mauro



Matt Grassi

Islands National Wildlife Refuge east of Naples, where he served as a biological science aid. He earned his degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May 2013.

“The staff has been great! And the birds have been plentiful, so it’s all good,” says Matt, who is considering a human dimension study for his biology research project.

Jackii Laurenzano and **Laura La Beur** joined the environmental education staff in November. Jackii graduated from the University of Delaware in May 2015 with a double major in wildlife ecology conservation, and agriculture and natural resources with a minor in animal science. The Queens, New York, native most recently finished an extended natural science internship at the Maria Mitchell Association on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, in October.

“I like that all of the staff and volunteers at the Refuge are so friendly and welcoming and also all of the awesome wildlife I have seen so far,” Jackii reports.

Laura, from Sebastian, Florida, graduated from Florida Atlantic University in May 2015 with a degree in biological science and a minor in environmental science. She last worked as a full-time field inspector for Mosquito Control in Key Largo, Florida, as part of Zika surveillance.

Jackii and Laura will be assisting education specialist Ranger Becky Larkins with educational programming for the next six months.

“I really love getting to interact with the school groups,” said Laura. “Seeing their excitement while learning makes me more passionate about environmental education.”

DDWS provides living stipends and other benefits for about a dozen interns each year. The Refuge supports interns and resident volunteers with free housing.



Jackii Laurenzano



Laura La Beur



Scott Beque

Here we showcase the best of wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, and others. These Snowy Egret and Yellow-crowned Night Heron mug shots both received honorable mention in this year’s “Ding” Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest. The Refuge’s Bowman’s Beach Trail cam — purchased by DDWS donors — captured the Coyote mid-November. If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sarah Lathrop at sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Friday Lecture Series



Welcome to *Subirdia*, *Heart of a Lion*, and *A Naturalist Goes Fishing*: The book titles featured in the 2017 "Ding" Darling Friday Lecture Series are as intriguing as varied. The series takes place in the Refuge Visitor & Education Center starting Friday, January 20, and winding up April 14.

Jan. 20 — Author-photographer Mark Renz, *Naturally Twisted: A Look at the Wild*

Jan. 27 — Photographer Clyde Butcher, *Big Cypress Swamp: The Western Everglades*

Feb. 3 — Author Dr. James McClintock, *A Naturalist Goes Fishing: Casting in Fragile Waters from the Gulf of Mexico to New Zealand's South Island*

Feb. 10 — NO LECTURE

Feb. 17 — Author Dr. John Marzluff, *Welcome to Subirdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife*

Feb. 24 — Author Will Harlan, *Untamed: The Biography of Carol Ruckdeschel*

Sponsored by HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management with support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the series features noted authors, photographers, and experts in nature-related fields.

The free lectures will be held twice each Friday (except February 10), at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The season's complete schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all except the one starred (*) lecture.

Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure seating. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail



March 3 — Author Dr. Laurel Neme, *Animal Investigators: How the World's First Forensic Lab Is Solving Crimes & Saving Endangered Species*

***March 10** — Researchers Dr. Jennifer McCabe & Dr. Brian Olsen, "Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World"

March 17 — Author-artist Julie Zickefoose, *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*

March 24 — Author Denege Patterson, *A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound: A Geological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspective*

March 31 — Author Will Stolzenburg, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat's Walk Across America*

April 7 — Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Liv-*

before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the free Visitor & Education Center, Indigo Trail, 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.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

ing Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature

April 14 — Author Charles Sobczak, *Alligators, Sharks, & Panthers: Deadly Encounters with Florida's Top Predator — Man*

*starred lecture indicates no book-signing to follow



Kids Fishing Derby

As part of the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit programming, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society and Refuge hosted the free fifth annual "Ding" Darling Kids Fishing Derby at the Sanibel Causeway Islands Park on Saturday, November 26. A whopping 100 kids up to age 15 participated — a record number. Kids won prizes in drawings and for most inches of fish caught and released.

Lee County Parks & Recreation, Sanibel Island Fishing Club, The Historic Bait Box, and Trophy Case of Fort Myers also supported the event.



IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

New Gift Card Available

Now, for the easiest possible "Ding" gift-giving, we present the Refuge Nature Store gift card. Purchase one in any amount from \$25 up.

To order items by mail, email naturestore@ding-darlingsociety.org or call 239-472-1100 ext. 241.



Remember, all proceeds from Nature Store sales go directly to Refuge education and wildlife research projects.

'Ding' Water Quality Research Sees Results

Thanks to research conclusions from monitoring equipment funded by "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society in 2014, a Sanibel water quality partnership has installed a one-way flow gate that will prevent freshwater outflow into Refuge bay waters. The City of Sanibel, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), and the Dunes Golf & Tennis Club worked cooperatively to stem flow of water in and out of the Dunes' community lakes.

Thanks to the monitoring equipment, biologists were able to assess a heavy outflow of freshwater into Tarpon Bay that could cause algal bloom. The one-way gate, installed this October, promises to alleviate the problem and improve Refuge water quality.



SCCF staff testing monitoring equipment funded by DDWS in 2014

FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please "LIKE" us on **Facebook** (join our 10,000+ fans!) by searching for "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society." (You can also "LIKE" the Refuge by searching for its "Official" page.) **Instagram** users can find us at @dingdarlingwildlifesociety. Also visit our YouTube channel by searching "ding darling wildlife society."





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This year's "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest named Tom Korbitt's "My Sandy Look" portrait of a River Otter number 1 out of 122 entries in October. See page 5 for second and third place winning photos and other details.

