



WINTER 2018

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.

Tarpon Tournament 2018

The seventh annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament will take place May 11, 2018, with a field of 50 boats. Last year, tournament sponsorships and silent auction raised \$80,000 to benefit wildlife and conservation at the Refuge.



continued on page 2



The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau visited Family Fun Day with its popular Shell Love Bug.



Week-long, the Santiva Chronicle provided an electronic photo booth for impromptu pictures and social media sharing.



The traveling WaterVenture Florida's Learning Lab excited young and old.



Ranger Monica Scroggins paints faces at Conservation Art Day.

'DING' DAYS 2017



*Fun with Nature
October 15-21*



"Ding" Darling "rolled out" its cool new Learning Lavatories (#LearningLav) on Family Fun Day to an appreciative crowd. See more pictures on page 4.)



Family Fun Day kicked off a week of engaging activities, tours, speakers, and programs.

TARPON TOURNEY

continued from page 1

To date the event has raised nearly \$300,000. Visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/tarpon-tournament-1 for more information or to become a sponsor. Tournament sponsors for 2018 include:

Title Sponsor



Champion Sponsor: Nimrod, Raiser’s Edge
Premier Sponsors: Mark & Gretchen Banks, Diversified Yacht Services
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Silver Sponsors: Anisa Stewart Jewelry, Florida Weekly, Gresham Family, Island Inn, Tarpon Bay Explorers



Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland and Doc Ford’s co-owner Marty Harrity at the 2017 tournament: Doc Ford’s has title-sponsored the tarpon tournament since its inception in 2011.

Brush of Excellence Award

At the “Ding” Darling Days finale on Conservation Art Day, October 21, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society presented island wildlife sculptor and former DDWS board president Jim Sprankle with its Brush of Excellence Award.

In February 2015, Sam Koltinsky, filmmaker for *America’s Darling* documentary about the life of Jay Darling, presented DDWS and the Refuge with a framed and mounted paintbrush once used by artist and political cartoonist Darling — paint smudges, fingerprints, and all.

He also presented awards to SCCF and the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and charged recipients with the responsibility to similarly honor individuals or organizations that have demonstrated significant impact on conservation. Jim was the first to receive the “Ding” Darling Brush of Excellence Award.

“Jim has proven himself a true renaissance man with his talent and his generosity,” said Doris Hardy, DDWS President at the time, who made the award presentation. “He is one of the most kindhearted men you will ever know.”

Jim spoke about the privilege of volunteering for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society 20 years and thanked the Refuge and DDWS for honoring him with the first award.

“His art is everywhere in this Visitor Center,” said Su-



Recipient Jim Sprankle embraces DDWS President Doris Hardy as she presents the award.

pervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland, who also spoke at the presentation. “And he doesn’t ever stop giving. I know ‘Ding’ Darling would greatly approve of giving Jim this award.”

“Ding” was a political cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register*. He won two Pulitzer Prizes for this work. The artist began visiting Sanibel and Captiva islands in the 1930s and is responsible for the creation of the wildlife refuge here. As the first head of the U.S. Biological Survey, the forerunner to today’s U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, “Ding” created the Federal Duck Stamp Program and designed the first duck stamp.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS AND LOYAL ‘DING’ DARLING DAYS SPONSORS

We couldn’t have made the 29th annual “Ding” Darling Days the success it was without our loyal and generous sponsors. Please thank and support them:

ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS: Doc Ford’s Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Blue Giraffe Island Dining, Wayne & Linda Boyd, Gardner Families, Jim & Patty Sprankle; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** 97.7 Latino & Juan Radio, Andrew Thompson Company, Bailey’s General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Cape Coral Kiwanis Club, Island Condo Maintenance, Island Sun, Panther Printing, Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sanibel Moorings, Santiva Chronicle, Sunny Day Guide; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, Blu Site Solutions, Casa Ybel Resort, Art & Susan Cassell, Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, Sally & Rich Ennis, Florida Weekly, Phyllis Gresham, Grounds by Green Ways, In Memory of Roger Bell, Intech Printing & Direct Mail, Island Inn, Jensen’s on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Mitchell’s Sand Castles, Muench Families & Periwinkle Park, Painting With a Twist, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, Roberta and Realtor David Schuldenfrei, Stewart and Sons Insurance, Inc., TopBirdingTours.com; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Ambu Yoga, Barefoot Charley’s Painting Co., Big Red Q Quickprint, John Brennan, The Butterfly Estates, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP), Colony Inn, Henderson Franklin Attorneys at Law, Island Therapy Center, Marina Customer Service Training, Sanibel Art & Frame, Sanibel School Steel Drumming Band, George & Wendy Schnapp, Jim & Anne Scott, Seashells.com, Vasanta Senerat, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon, Tents and Events, Chelle Koster Walton.

Annual Meeting Held December 6

Board Elections

At the annual DDWS membership meeting, attendees voted to elect one new member to the Board of Directors, Ann-Marie Wildman, who has served on various committees at the Refuge, such as the #LearningLav Creative Team and Upcycle! Art Fest. She moved to Sanibel about nine years ago when she married the late Don Wildman, a former board member.

Ann-Marie had previously lived in The Whistler Ski Resort in British Columbia, Canada, where she owned a fine art gallery for 16 years. Prior to that, she lived in Honolulu for 20 years working for a large art gallery, where she represented such well-known artists as Tony Curtis, Anthony Quinn, and Red Skeleton.

“Don’s love for ‘Ding’ Darling was evident, and he introduced me to this wonderful new world of conservation and preservation,” said Ann-Marie. “Today, I volunteer in the Refuge Nature Store, working with many talented and passionate people.”

Board members reelected for another term include Mark Banks, Wendy Kindig, Jen McSorley, Kirstin Sawicki, and Richard Yanke.

New Emeritus Members

Members also elected two new Emeritus Board Members at the annual meeting: Marc Giattini and John McCabe.



Marc Giattini



John McCabe

John served on the Board for nine years, starting in 2006. Two of those years he served as vice president before becoming president, a post he served for three years. He then served another three years on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President.

During his Board tenure, John has shown outstanding leadership, first in the field of advocacy and later in land acquisitions. He was responsible for creating the Guest Contribution Program, to partner with island accommodations, and San-Cap Solar Connect, to bring affordable solar power to island residents and businesses. John was also instrumental in driving successful campaigns to purchase the Woodring Point and Wulfert Point properties for the Refuge.

Marc served on the Board from 2003 to 2006. During that time, he served as vice president and provided pro bono legal assistance to the Board. After his retirement, he continued to support DDWS as an advisor to the Board.

Marc’s pro bono legal work for DDWS has been exceptional. He helped update the by-laws and spent several years reviewing, updating, and fine-tuning the complicated Friends Partnership Agreement between DDWS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He did substantial legal work for both the Woodring and Wulfert land acquisitions. His work on all of these projects demonstrated his professionalism, attention to detail, creative thinking, and good-natured attitude. During the 14 years of his association with DDWS, Marc has always made himself available for Board assistance.

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 and have made an outstanding contribution to DDWS,” said DDWS Emeritus Committee Chair Susan Cassell. “I think we can all agree that John and Marc rightly meet those criteria.”

Society Founder Awards

For the first time, DDWS presented Founder Awards to individuals who have made a vital contribution to the success of the Society within the first 10 years of its foundation. First recipients this year include Millie



Marilyn Kloosterman and Millie Ford

Ford, Marilyn Kloosterman, Bill Rankin, and Jeanne Rankin.

Those selected as a Society Founder are recognized with their name on a wall plaque specifically designed for this purpose and displayed in the Society’s offices.

2018 Board Officers

Newly elected Board of Directors officers for the coming year include President Mike Baldwin, Vice President Sarah Ashton, Secretary Wendy Kindig, and Treasurer Bill Valerian. Former president Doris Hardy takes on the post as immediate past president.



Sarah Ashton, Mike Baldwin, and Wendy Kindig

Special Guest Speaker Dinner

Noted bird activist Dr. Stephen W. Kress makes an appearance at the Refuge on February 22 for a dinner in his honor. He will speak about his work restoring tern and puffin populations in Maine and his latest book, *Puffin Project: An Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Sea Bird Back to Egg Rock*.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society hosts the exclusive Dinner with Stephen Kress starting at 5:30 p.m. Only 75 tickets are available at \$100 each. Please contact Sarah Lathrop at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or sarah@

dingdarlingsociety.org to purchase tickets. Or register online at tinyurl.com/kressatding.



Dr. Stephen Kress

Dr. Kress began Project Puffin in 1973 and remains its director. He also manages National Audubon’s Maine Coastal Island Sanctuaries and directs the National Audubon Society’s Seabird Restoration Program and the Audubon Camp on Maine’s Hog Island.

FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please “LIKE” us on **Facebook** (join our 11,000 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.”



#LearningLav Makes a Splash

The first of its kind among the 550-plus refuges in the National Refuge System, the new Learning Lavatories (#LearningLav) exhibit at the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center educates visitors about wildlife, mangroves, and responsible citizenship through artistic murals.

Funded by a \$125,000 grant from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) and contributions from Schrank Harkey Fund and private donors, Project #LearningLav has created educational imagery inside the center’s lavatories and on the outdoor wall leading to them. The outdoor mural immerses visitors in a virtual underwater experience, where they come eye-to-eye with 3D manatees and look up to see an alligator and other wildlife sculptures swimming overhead.

Inside, the lavatories were renovated to green standards and continue the interpretive underwater motif, featuring photo-tile mangrove murals and more wildlife sculptures. Stunning bird photographs wrap stall doors with educational factoids about each species. The Refuge will also add educational messaging and an activity sheet to accompany the exhibit.

The #LearningLav project showcases the work of two artists. Local artist Andrew Corke fashioned a mother and baby manatee out of recycled bike tires, while North Carolina artist David Williams sculpted other creatures out of foam and fiberglass. David painted the lifelike sculptures and two-dimensional aspects of the murals.

“We are proud to say we now have the coolest bathrooms in Florida and in the entire national wildlife refuge system,” said Birgie Miller, Executive Director of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, which facilitated the grant and project. For more information, pictures, and videos about #LearningLav, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/project-bathroom.



The outdoor mural and ceiling tableau, image courtesy of David Williams

Go Wild for ‘Ding’

In keeping with the February 14 date of our 2018 Go Wild for “Ding” fundraiser, we are featuring “In the Nest” as this season’s theme.

See opposite page for a sneak peek of auction items you can bid on that night. Stay tuned to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/go-wild-for-ding for updates. To become a sponsor, call Sarah Lathrop at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or email sarah@dingdarling-society.org.



Close-up bird portraits wrap the bathroom stall doors.



Mounted osprey sculptures are highlights of the men’s and women’s restroom.

GO WILD FOR "DING" IN THE NEST
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Thank you to our sponsors:

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JIM & PATTY SPRANKLE

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Interested in becoming a sponsor? Call Sarah Lathrop at 239.472.1100 ext. 4

GO WILD FOR "DING" IN THE NEST

Spend your Valentine's Day with “Ding” Darling! Our annual fundraiser supports Refuge education, research, and programs. For more information visit dingdarlingsociety.org/events/go-wild-for-ding

Wednesday, February 14, 2018
5:30 - 8:30 P.M. Sanibel Community House

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS
SPECIAL PRESENTATION
ISLAND RESTAURANT BUFFET

Just some of the many exciting auction items you can bid on at the event:



Patty Sprankle hand-painted porcelain egg



Gary Eigenstein wood carving



Ikki Matsumoto prints



Private tour of Wildlife Drive



One-of-a-kind Jim Sprankle wooden feather pin - winner gains entry to exclusive Sprankle Feather Club



Can't make it to the event but still want to support the Refuge? Visit dingdarlingsociety.org/donation to make a donation. Also look for auction items to bid on online before the event.

45/82 Society



Together, through planned giving, we can continue the education and conservation efforts at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

Continue Your Impact

Many of our members help shape the future of the Refuge by designating the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society as a beneficiary in their estate plans. They become members of the **45/82 Society** (signifying the year of the Refuge’s establishment in 1945 and the year of the Society’s founding in 1982). A combination of large and small planned gifts received throughout the years has enabled the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society to continue its support of the Refuge in areas of land acquisition, education, research, and other important conservation efforts.

Supporting these efforts through your estate is easier than you may think.

“Nature and the outdoors have been a part of our lives growing up and continued into our lives as adults.”



Dying is inevitable. Rather than have the government decide how our estate would be divided, we sat down with each other and then our advisors to devise an estate plan that considered the people, places, and organizations important to us. We want our legacy to include protecting nature and wildlife and

inspiring the young generation to take action in preserving it into the future. It costs us nothing now to include the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society in our will, and it gives us a sense of peace knowing that a portion of our estate will continue to support something that is very important to us.”

-Ken & Jane Petrie, Members of the 45/82 Society

Thank You
for your
commitment to
conservation.

By creating a personal legacy, you also create a lasting legacy for the Refuge. Your gift through your estate plan, large or small, is critical to the Refuge’s future survival. We would like to recognize you as a member the 45/82 Society, unless you prefer anonymity. **If you have already remembered the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and make a plan to fulfill your wishes at the time the gift is realized.**

For more information on how to leave a lasting gift for conservation, please contact Executive Director Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org, or visit our website at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/leave-a-legacy.



Second Place winner: Paul Brooke's "Mangrove Cuckoo with iO Moth Caterpillar"



Third Place: Linda Kruleski's "Hawk with Snake"

‘Ding’ Days Photo Contest

On October 21, DDWS announced the winners of its annual “Ding” Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest at a special Conservation Art Day presentation, part of the weeklong “Ding” Darling Days celebration.

Earlier, on September 17, judges had selected three winners and 10 honorable mentions out of 90 entries from 19 states and one foreign country. All photograph entries were shot at “Ding” Darling.

First place went to Ben Vanos of Traverse City, Michigan, for his green heron portrait titled “Green Heron Raising its Crest.” Contest judge Janet Kirk, a local professional photographer, commented: “It’s not an unusual

bird, but they have such personalities. I love how it’s perched on that stump. And the focal point is perfect.”

Paul Brooke from Ames, Iowa, took second place with his photo of a mangrove cuckoo munching a worm. Judge David Moore, a “Ding” Darling law enforcement officer, liked “the colors, the lighting, just the intimacy of the shot. Obviously it was a difficult shot to get.”

In third place was Linda Kruleski from Beverly Hills, Florida, with her hawk and snake shot. “The timing was perfect!” said Millie Ford, the third judge and a DDWS emeritus board member. “If it were shot a second earlier or later, he’s not going to get that snake.”

“We always choose three judges for the contest,” said Terry Baldwin, contest coordinator. “A Refuge staff member, a professional photographer, and a member of the Sanibel community.”

The three winners received cash awards from DDWS at the presentation on Saturday — \$200 for first place, \$150 for second, and \$100 for third. 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 top-ranking entries online, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/photo-contests.



Above: Project manager Sarah Lathrop, DDWS Associate Director, shows off the new kiosk on unveiling day. Right: A detail of the exhibit: hands-on replicas of beach-comber finds



NEW Perry Tract Kiosk

On October 6, the Refuge unveiled new interpretive signage and exhibits at the complex’s only gulf beachside property. The 4-plus acre Perry Tract lies adjacent to Gulfside City Park on Sanibel Island. It is named for ophthalmologist and malacologist Dr. Louise Perry, who passed away in 1962. She donated her winter home property to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to maintain as a safe haven for wildlife.

**THE BEACHES OF
FORT MYERS
AND SANIBEL**
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

In partnership with the City of Sanibel, and with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society and a grant from the Lee County Tourist Development Council, an interpretive kiosk pays homage to Dr. Perry and identifies wildlife, shorebirds, and seashells found on the beach and around the property’s pond, which is closed to the public. Shell castings and a replicated sea turtle nest add hands-on elements to the exhibit, located adjacent to the beach’s picnic shelter.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Interns

Thanks to funding from DDWS, four new interns joined the staffs of the Refuge and “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society this fall to help the Refuge with manpower shortages this season. To support the internship program, please call 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or email sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Amanda Brooks is serving as a DDWS shared-use intern. She graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, in May 2017 with majors in environmental studies and English and minors in art and art history. The Westford, Massachusetts, native worked last summer as a research technician on a plant biology experiment at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve in Minnesota.

“My grandmother used to live on Sanibel, so I’ve actually been visiting the island for as long as I can remember,” said Amanda. “It’s one of my favorite places in the world, and the ‘Ding’ Darling National Wildlife Refuge has always been the coolest place on the island for me, as I love searching for wildlife on the drive.”



Amanda Brooks



Tayelor Gosselin



John Murray



Olivia Rose

New biology intern Tayelor Gosselin graduated from the University of Maine in May 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in wildlife ecology and a concentration in wildlife management. The Greene, Maine, native worked during the summer under a master’s student program conducting a bat acoustic survey across Nebraska.

“So far I really enjoy the beaches with a multitude of shells, as well as short walks to my car where several lizards will scurry away,” said Tayelor. “The baby alligators on the Indigo Trail are also a bonus.”

One of two new education interns, John Murray graduated cum laude from Rowan University in New Jersey in spring 2017. He earned two bachelor’s degrees in environmental studies and geography with a concentration in geoscience. The Brick, New Jersey, native worked at the Palmyra Cove Nature Center in New Jersey before arriving to Sanibel Island. At “Ding” Darling, he will be helping Sara Hallas, the Refuge’s Conservation Educator, with program development and delivery to local students and visitors through May 2018.

“I’ve always loved Sanibel,” said John. “I came here throughout most of my childhood up until I was about 12. After a decade, I came back at 22 years old. But now, instead

of vacationing, I have a job! Funny how things work out.”

Olivia Rose, the other new education intern, graduated from Michigan State University in December 2016 with a bachelor’s degree in social relations and policy and a minor in science, technology, the environment, and public policy. The Hastings, Michigan, native wrapped up a 10-month service term with Huron Pines AmeriCorps in Michigan before arriving to Sanibel Island. She served with the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative as education coordinator, focused on protecting the Great Lakes watershed through hands-on, place-based stewardship education efforts.

“I feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to live in such a warm and beautiful place and share my love for the outdoors with youth and others,” said Olivia.

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

“Our interns bring youthful energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to the refuge team,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. “At the same time, the program gives recent graduates an opportunity to learn hands-on about the environment and Refuge operations.”

Refuge Water Quality: 2017 in Review
by Mike Baldwin, DDWS President

This year has been one of the wettest on record in South and Central Florida and, as a result, significant releases of contaminated water from Lake Okeechobee continue to have a dramatically negative impact on water quality in both the Caloosahatchee River and Refuge watersheds.

Nevertheless, 2017 has also been a year in which significant progress was made towards finally resolving the problem. Although the ultimate solution is still a number of years away, some vital steps have now been taken to assure progress. The Florida Legislature ap-



proved construction of a reservoir south of the lake to allow more water to flow towards the Everglades and lessen the load on the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers. And work is well underway on the C-43 reservoir designed to better manage water flows in the Caloosahatchee during both the wet and dry seasons.

In addition to actively advocating for these projects with our elected officials, DDWS also partners with both the Refuge and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory to support ongoing testing and accurate assessment of water quality in and around the Refuge watershed.

In the upcoming months, we’ll be asking for your continued support with our elected officials to ensure that they deliver on the above water quality projects, considered vital in ensuring the long-term health and viability of the “Ding” Darling Refuge.

Farewell to a Dear Friend



On October 12, “Ding” Darling lost a good friend, former DDWS Board President Mike Cusaden. He volunteered at the Refuge for 18 years in the Nature Store and at the front desk. His strong and loyal leadership will be missed.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| David Billings | Patti Mink |
| Ann L. Bingham | Jeanne Neideck |
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| Rosemary Lotzer | Jane and Clem Werner |
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| Gail Meier | |

We received gifts in HONOR of the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Laura DeBruce and Jeff Blackman | Joyce Jacobs |
| Ralph and Audra Clarkson | Catherine Loye |
| Jeff Combs | Kathryn Morlet |
| Mark Croft | Jim Sprankle |
| Frank Derosa | Adina and Ricky Straka |
| Foozle | Mr. and Mrs. Philip Weyman |
| | John and Martha Wolf |



WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

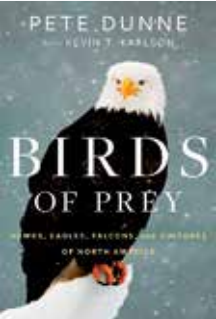
Here we showcase the best of wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, and others. This fall, birders at the Refuge were thrilled to find a rare visitor, the American Avocet. Thanks to Janet Kirk for sending us this lovely portrait taken October 30 along Wildlife Drive.

If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sarah Lathrop at sarah@dingdarlingsociety.org.

2018 Lecture Series Schedule

The 2018 Friday Lecture Series runs January 19 through April 13. HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management again sponsors the 12-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society.

The season’s schedule of free lectures is listed below. Lectures begin at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. each day listed. *Starred lectures indicate book signing to follow. For more information on the lecturers, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.



- *January 19 — Author Noah Strycker, *Birding Without Borders: An Obsession, a Quest, and the Biggest Year in the World* (extra lecture at 2:30 p.m.)
- *January 26 — Author Jack Davis, *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*
- *February 2 — Author James McClintock, *Lost Antarctica: Adventures in a Disappearing Land*
- February 9 — NO LECTURE
- February 16 — Impersonator Joe Weigand, “Theodore Roosevelt Speaks out on Conservation”



- *February 23 — Author Stephen Kress, *Puffin Project: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Sea Bird Back to Egg Rock*
- *March 2 — Author Larry Nielsen, *Nature’s Allies: Eight Conservationists Who Changed Our World*
- *March 9 — Author Kevin Karlson, *Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, and Vultures of North America*
- *March 16 — Author Tom Butler, *Wildlands Philanthropy: The Great American Tradition*
- *March 23 — Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*
- *March 30 — Artist and author Dawn and Blair Witherington, *Florida’s Living Beaches: A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber*
- April 6 — Mote Marine Researcher Dr. Erinn Muller, “Coral Restoration”
- April 13 — Avian researcher Dr. Kenneth Meyer, “Swallow-tailed Kites: 10,000 Miles to Survival”

Lecture Seating Policy

Seating for the free lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one extra seat each and then may explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time.

IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

2018 Luc Century Ornament

At our Happy Hour Holiday Shopping event on November 29, we revealed the species of wildlife featured on this year’s Luc Century ornament. Drum roll, please! A Sanderling graces the 2018 ornament, which went on sale at Happy Hour. Stop in and pick up your ornaments today. Or contact Store Manager



All proceeds from Nature Store sales go directly to Refuge education and wildlife research projects.

2018 Film Series Schedule



“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 are the season’s scheduled films. All films begin at 1 p.m. except the January 24 film, which airs at 10 a.m. For full descriptions of the films, please visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

- January 10 — *Wings of Life*
- January 24 — *Tapped*
- February 7 — *From the Ashes*
- February 21 — *Chasing Coral*
- March 7 — *The Forgotten Coast: Return to Wild Florida*
- March 21 — *Mission Blue*
- April 4 — *STRAWS*

Free Winter Programs

The seasonal calendar of free programs begins on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, and runs through April 8. For a full calendar of programs and tours and descriptions, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs. Free educational programs are made possible through support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society and donors like you.



Refuge staff leads free Indigo Trail Walks every Friday at 11 a.m.



One Wildlife Drive
P.O. Box 565
Sanibel, FL 33957

Forwarding Service Requested

239-472-1100, ext. 4
dingdarlingsociety.org
office@dingdarlingsociety.org

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Photo Contest Winners 2017



This year's "Ding" Darling Days Amateur Nature Photography Contest winners, announced during "Ding" Darling Days, included Ben Vanos' "Green Heron Raising its Crest" portrait. It placed number 1 out of 90 entries. See page 9 for second and third place winning photos and other details.

