



FALL 2018

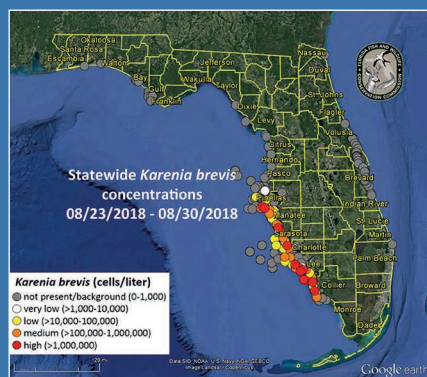
Society Pages

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.

Water Quality Catastrophe: Summer of Sorrow



By all accounts, July and August ranked as the worst months Southwest Florida and "Ding" Darling have ever suffered as a result of polluted and algae-riddled water. The nation was outraged, and "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society believes it is important to keep that outrage fueled to continue to protest and demand reforms until the catastrophes stop and our wildlife habitats are

continued on page 2

'DING' DARLING DAYS



Friday features a free birding tram to Bunche Beach.



Celebrity duck stamp artist winner Bob Hautman will make a Conservation Art Day appearance.

A Jam-packed Weekend



Face-painting and other indoor activities take place Sunday in the Kidz Kool Zone.

This year's "Ding" Darling Days celebrates 30 years of bringing together the community and visitors for opportunities to enjoy the Refuge and learn more about conservation, wildlife, and habitat. It began as a one-day Family Fun Day event, grew to a weeklong string of activities, and this year hits middle ground with one fun weekend that runs from Friday, October 12, through Sunday, October 14.

"Because of increasing budget cuts and staff reductions, we have had to simplify this year's eco-festival from one week to three weekend days," reports Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "But, boy have we packed a lot of getting outdoors and getting wildlife-wise into those three days!"

Sunday Family Fun Day remains the event's high-point, winding up "Ding" Days on October 14 with all-

continued on page 2

Sneak Preview: 2019 Lecture Series

The 2019 “Ding” Darling Friday Lecture Series, which runs January 25 through April 12, features a line-up of celebrities in the world of birds, butterflies, and conservation. From birds of the Arctic and North American owls to monarch butterflies and Burmese pythons, the season promises to be one of the Refuge’s best yet.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors the free 12-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society.

One highlight of the season brings together Dusty “Wildman” Crum, a python hunter who has appeared on a number of national TV shows, with fellow python hunters and Sanibel bankers Geoff and Robbie Roepstorff, and Mike Kirkland, invasive animal biologist for the South Florida Water Management District and manager of the Python Elimination Program, on March 22.

Richard Crossley — an internationally acclaimed birder,

photographer, and award-winning author of “The Crossley ID Guide” series — makes a first-time appearance for the series, and ornithologist Dr. Jerry Lorenz will return to talk about American Flamingos and Roseate Spoonbills.

The free lectures will be held twice each Friday (except on February 8), at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Visit dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series for the full schedule.

Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save their seat and one extra with personal items and then can explore the Visitor & Educa-

tion Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time or they will be given to the next people waiting in line.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the free Visitor & Education Center, Indigo Trail, Bailey Tract, and Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.



Dusty “Wildman” Crum with a Burmese python he captured in the Everglades. Photo by Joey Waves.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of Refuge and DDWS management, staff, and Board of Directors.

‘DING’ DAYS 2018



continued from page 1

free refuge tours, live wildlife presentations, archery clinics, hot dogs, live music, a butterfly house, and kids’ nature crafts.

New for this year, Kidz Kool Zone will provide activities in the Visitor & Education Center, so families can come in to cool off. It will include puppet shows, story and crafts, DIY nature crafts, face-painting, and a selfie photo station. The Refuge also welcomes live music from the Americana Community Music Association throughout the day.

Let’s Get Outside Day kicks off the 30th annual celebration on Friday, October 12, with free admission to Wildlife Drive for cyclists and hikers and various free and discounted tours and eco-activities. Highlights include a free beach walk at Perry Tract and a free hike and story time at Wildlife Education Boardwalk.

Conservation Art Day follows on Saturday, October 13, with visits from Federal Duck Stamp and Junior



Older kids learn archery skills on Family Fun Day.

‘Ding’ Days Sponsors

Deep gratitude goes to our 2018 sponsors, who make it possible to offer this educational event free to the public. Please show your support of the businesses that support us — especially now as water issues have meant up to 50% drops in revenue for island merchants and here at the Refuge as far as visitations and Nature Store sales.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL SPONSORS: Doc’s Ford Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille; **GREAT EGRET SPONSORS:** Wayne & Linda Boyd, Jim & Patty Sprankle; **GREAT BLUE HERON SPONSORS:** Bailey’s General Store, Mike & Terry Baldwin, Bank of the Islands, Island Sun, Sanibel Captiva Beach Resorts, Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sanibel Moorings, Sunny Day Guide; **REDDISH EGRET SPONSORS:** Sarah Ashton - Realtor, RE/MAX of the Islands, Casa Ybel Resort, Chicago Midwest Claims, Inc., Jerry Edelman & Maryanne Daly, The Gresham Family, Jensen’s on the Gulf and Marina & Cottages, Tiffani Kaliko and John Silvia, Mitchell’s

Duck Stamp winners and nature art workshops. The Refuge has added Nature Sketching at the Wildlife Education Boardwalk and meet-and-greet with the Blue Goose mascot for a chance at prizes.

The 30th annual “Ding” Darling Days celebrates the birthday of the Refuge’s namesake, father of the Federal Duck Stamp program and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Jay N. “Ding” Darling.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, and Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s recreation concession, cosponsor “Ding” Darling Days with generous support from the local community and businesses.



Doc Ford’s Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille sponsors “Ding” Days at the top Roseate Spoonbill level.

Sand Castles, Palm Printing, Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, George & Wendy Schnapp, Winston & Barbara Spurgeon; **SNOWY EGRET SPONSORS:** Ambu Yoga, Anisa Stewart Jewelry, Colony Inn, Bob & Kemba DeGroot, Dave Horton, Island Therapy Center, Panther Printing, Jim & Anne Scott, Nancy Tome.

WATER QUALITY

continued from page 1

restored. See page 5 to learn more about how the red tide-blue green algae double whammy affected the Refuge. For information on water quality advocacy, watch our “Ding” on the Wing e-newsletters or call the DDWS office at 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

2019 Film Series Highlights

The 2019 Biweekly Film Series runs on every other Wednesday from January 9 through April 3 at 1 p.m. Admission is free. Among the seven featured nature-related documentaries slated, staff picks include *Jane* and *A Plastic Ocean*.

Sanibel-Captiva
BEACH RESORTS

TWENTY
WATERS
INN

BEACHVIEW

CASTAWAYS

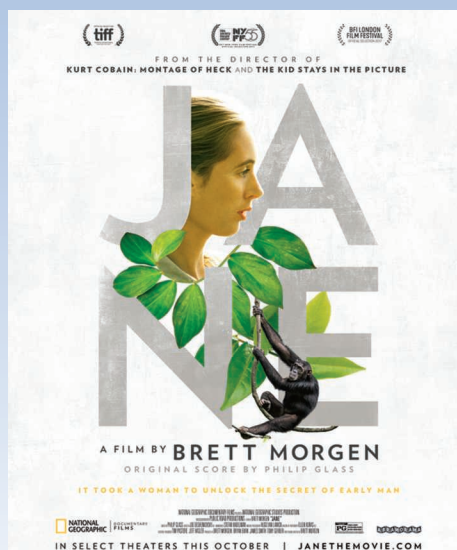
THE BEACH

Jane draws from more than 100 hours of *National Geographic*-archived footage never before seen. It tells the story of Jane Goodall and her extraordinary work in the then male-dominated field of chimpanzee research.

A Plastic Ocean documents the science that proves how plastics, once they enter the oceans, break up into small particulates that enter the food chain, where they attract toxins like a magnet. These toxins are stored in seafood's fatty tissues, eventually consumed by us.

"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.



Woodring 100th

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Woodring Home, now part of the Refuge, "Ding" Darling partners with the Woodring family for a special month-long exhibition in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium. The exhibition's public unveiling will take place at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, January 23. It tentatively will feature historic black-and-white images by the late Charlie McCullough, who lived next door to the home, and

artifacts from the home that chronicle the landmark and the family's life on Sanibel Island. Teddy Roosevelt repressor Joe Wiegand will make a special guest appearance.

The Refuge acquired the 6.56-acre Woodring Point property in 2013 with funds raised by a DDWS capital campaign and contributed through Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program.



The Woodring Home, shot by Charlie McCullough in 1949. www.charliemcculloughphotography.com



On August 24, Refuge staff planted about 9,500 plugs of native marsh cordgrass (*Spartina*) in preparation for the reopening.

Bailey Tract Reopens

Contractors finished work on the Bailey Tract Restoration Project on September 1 for a checkdate reopening. Because of the Tract's popularity, the Refuge opted to do the work during the slower summer months, but has now reopened it for full public use. The project included hydrologic enhancements that benefit all wildlife that inhabits the Tract. Species such as secretive marsh birds and others dependent on *Spartina* marsh habitats will thrive as a result. It partially restored the historic hydrology of the Bailey Tract and ultimately restored its original marsh habitat. The 100-acre Bailey Tract is open free for hiking, biking, wildlife watching, and photography daily sunrise to sunset.

Boy Scout Merit Badge University



On November 17, the Refuge and "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society will host their first Merit Badge University for registered Boy Scouts of America. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn up to two out of six badges offered that day. Cost is \$20 for two classes, lunch, goodies, snacks, badge workbooks, and materials. Each class is limited to 15 scouts on a first-signup basis. To register, call 239-472-1100 ext. 237.

FOLLOW AND LIKE US

DDWS is currently active on three social media platforms. Please "LIKE" us on **Facebook** (join our 12,000 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, where our numbers top 7,000 followers. Also visit our YouTube channel by searching "ding darling wildlifesociety."



STAFF NEWS

Farewell Sarah

Associate Director Sarah Lathrop bid us farewell on August 28 as she takes a new position as development associate with Hanover College in Indiana. The good news is she will be working in her new fundraising position by telecommute, and so will remain on Sanibel Island. She promises to continue her love and work for the Refuge in a volunteering capacity.

"Sarah is a true member of our 'wild' family here at 'Ding,' and a part of her will always be with us," said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. "While this decision is indeed bittersweet, we are thrilled for her and what this means for strengthening the skills she already has in development, community outreach, and making a real difference toward a mission in which she believes."

Sarah started with DDWS five years ago as an intern. Her take-charge attitude eventually saw her promotion to an administrative level.



The staff threw Sarah Lathrop a "pickle bar" send-off to honor her five years of service and love of dills.

field station. She graduated in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the College at Brockport, State University of New York, where she did her field study on terrestrial ecology.

"My favorite part of Sanibel and the Refuge is the manatee sightings," Andrea said. "I have never seen them before, so I am very excited every time they show up to the surface."

Michelle comes to the Refuge from South Texas, where she conducted small mammal trapping and avian point counts for Texas A&M University. She graduated in 2016 from Florida State University in Tallahassee with bachelor degrees in neuroscience and animal behavior.

"So far, I have loved the old Florida feel the Refuge allows visitors and staff alike to experience while among the mangroves and tropical hammock," said Michelle, who plans to concentrate her Refuge time on avian behavior.

"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 students and recent graduates an opportunity to learn hands-on about the environment and Refuge operations."

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



Michelle Martin and Andrea Centola

Without this funding, the internships would not be possible. To learn about supporting the intern program contact Birgie Miller, DDWS Executive Director, at 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

Staff Year Awards

Congratulations to two Refuge staff members who just celebrated landmarks in their careers with the federal government. Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik recently awarded Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland her 20-Year Award and Lead Biologist Jeremy Conrad his 10-Year Award.

Toni joined the staff of "Ding" Darling in 2002 as Environmental Education Specialist. She transferred to the Refuge from a position as environmental educator for the Corps of Engineers at the Lake Okeechobee Waterway, which she began in 1998 as a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with a major in natural resource management, emphasis on environmental education. In 2009, "Ding" Darling administration promoted Toni to her current position.

Jeremy started working at the Refuge in March 2010. Before that, he served as an invasive species biologist at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Boynton Beach, Florida, and earlier spent four years at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

New Biology Interns

Two new biology interns joined the Refuge team effort in July. Andrea Centola and Michelle Martin plan to stay into early summer 2019 as part of the Refuge's internship program supported by the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society.

Andrea, originally from Rochester, New York, most recently lived on Big Island, Hawaii, completing an internship for the U.S. Geological Survey at its Kilauea



Paul Tritaik with Jeremy Conrad and Toni Westland



WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Here, we showcase the best of wildlife shots taken recently at the Refuge by photographers, volunteers, staff, and others. The Mangrove Cuckoo, subject of an ongoing research project that DDWS helps fund, is one of the Refuge's prized sightings by birders and photographers because of its beauty and secretive nature.

If you have a wildlife picture to share, please contact Sierra Hoisington at shois@dingdarlingsociety.org.



Mangrove Cuckoo with caterpillar by Paul Brook.



Mangrove Cuckoo by Janet and Aaron Kirk

Update on Red Tide and its Effects on 'Ding' Darling NWR

by Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik

Red tides are natural events that occur annually and can kill fish, marine mammals, and sea turtles. There is some evidence that increased nutrient levels in discharged water can contribute to elevating red tide concentrations and extending duration.

Red tides primarily occur on Florida's west coast and normally last a few weeks to a few months. The current red tide has lasted from October of last year until now. The concentrations of the red tide algae (*Karenia brevis*) have ranged from background levels (<1,000 cells/liter) to high (>1,000,000 cells/liter). Concentrations in or near the Refuge have ranged as high as 14,000,000 cells/liter, as quoted from Dr. Rick Bartleson, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) research scientist, who collected samples in San Carlos Bay during the height of the red tide bloom and just a day or two before the massive fish kills.

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's 6,400 acres have extensive mangrove forests and seagrass beds, making it prime habitat for fish and wildlife, including critical habitat for West Indian Manatees and Small-toothed Sawfish.

The Refuge has experienced a large fish kill due to red tide. The public has complained about impacts from the red tide. Limited staffing, however, makes large-scale

carcass removal unfeasible. Visitors and volunteers have voiced concerns about respiratory conditions and drops in bird populations. Fewer colonial water birds are roosting and foraging at "Ding" Darling, Pine Island, and Matlacha Pass refuges due to the red tide, with only one cormorant observed on the Tarpon Bay Keys in August. (We don't know where the other cormorants, Anhingas, pelicans, and Ospreys went, but most of them left. Hopefully they will return.)



As of August 21, 2018, *Fish kills within the Refuge, image by Paul Tritaik* the City of Sanibel had removed 408 tons of dead marine life from its shores (including a whale shark but NOT including collections on the bay side and in canals). The total cost for the clean-up (beaches, bay and canals) through August 19 was \$1,117,379.

As of August 10, 1,220 tons of dead marine life were removed from the other beaches and shorelines of Lee County. Officials have documented more than 80 species of marine life dying in this red tide event, which is consistent with Refuge statistics, with the notable exception of a dead bull shark that was discovered here. However, the number of species and volume of fish kills is grossly under-counted because we did not attempt to estimate the many specimens of marine life that floated out to sea or sank to the bottom.

During the event, more than 100 manatees have died as a direct or suspected result of red tide, one at the Refuge dock boat basin on August 27. Manatees are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Florida's sea turtles are protected by the ESA and have also been affected by red tide. Eight dolphin mortalities are also suspected to be related to the red tide. The average for the four years since the last major red tide event in 2013 was 39 manatee mortalities related to red tide.

During the current red tide, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has reported 588 sea turtles stranded in the five Southwest Florida counties that are being affected by the red tide (231 loggerheads, 215 Kemp's ridleys, 129 green turtles, three hawksbills, and 10 unidentified species). Of those, 245 have been documented in Lee County; three times greater than average.

On Sanibel and Captiva, 173 strandings (46 live and 127 dead) have been documented. Of the dead turtles, 86 have been adults or sub-adults (almost reproductive age). For perspective, in a population where one in 1,000 hatchlings survives to reach maturity, we will need 86,000 hatchlings to replace the adults we've lost so far.

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) reported 317 patients known or strongly suspected to have brevetoxicosis (red tide-induced toxicity), including birds (mostly Double-crested Cormorants) and sea turtles. Their caseload is up by about 25% over this same time last year.

The red tide is also having economic effects as demonstrated by reduced tourism. The "Ding" Darling Refuge is seeing a 60% decline in visitation to its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area. Local beaches have experienced an 80% decline.

Some may be able to put an economic value on the effect of these algal blooms on our area, but you can't put a price tag on what the devastating impact to our water quality and the tremendous loss of sea life is having on the multitude of people who depend on a healthy environment for their livelihood and quality of life.



What Man Does To One Of The Most Beautiful Gifts Of Nature — The River

Political cartoonist Jay N. "Ding" Darling was known for his prophetic messages, such as this one, warning about the menace of river pollution. In 1946, he led a campaign to learn the causes of a red tide event that killed "hundreds of millions" of fish during one of his visits to Sanibel and Captiva. "That stretch from Naples as far north as Tampa has pretty well been denuded of food fish and sport fish," "Ding" wrote in a letter. He conjectured even back then that nutrients in the river had fed the plague.

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.

"I first visited "Ding" Darling NWR in 1963 when spending Christmas vacation with family in Naples.



The causeway was new, and facilities at the Refuge were much more basic than today. However, the Wildlife Drive with close-up views of pelicans and wading birds is what I vividly remember more than 50 years later.

I started coming to Sanibel regularly in 2010. The highlight of my visits is bird watching at "Ding." I am on Wildlife Drive most mornings and usually see more than 20 species of birds in a couple of hours. I enjoy nature photography there and at the Bailey Tract and on the beach.

I am setting up an educational endowment so teachers and other educators can help children experience the excitement of exploring "Ding." We need the next generation to learn about the birds, mammals, plants, insects, and marine life so they realize the importance of protecting places like national wildlife refuges. As a clinical child psychologist working in private practice in my hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan, I saw the importance of education at all levels. I want to make a lasting gift to "Ding" that will support education efforts into the future. "

-Elizabeth Bishop, Member of the 45/82 Society

Thank You for your commitment

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.**

Sample Language for Your Plan

If you wish to name the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society in your estate plans or name us as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts or life insurance, please name us 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]."

**Our tax identification number is:
59-2240895**

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.



News from the Mangrove Cuckoo Study

Dr. Kenneth Meyer, Executive Director of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI), which is conducting Mangrove Cuckoo research at "Ding" Darling, reported tagging two more birds on August 13 and 31 at the Refuge. The plan is to tag two more birds next winter, for a total of four new transmitter applications.

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society provides monetary support for the Refuge Mangrove Cuckoo Study to help Refuge managers determine the best way to manage the species, whose numbers have been steadily declining. ARCI uses lightweight, state-of-the-art satellite transmitters to track cuckoos tagged at the Refuge.

Total cost per bird — which includes the transmitter, staff time, and data tracking services — is \$9,000 each, and DDWS continues to raise funds to support the research. Anyone interested in helping DDWS with the purchase of the four new satellite transmitters should



please contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.



SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society Members and Friends:

This is your formal notice of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 1 p.m. to be held in the auditorium of the Visitor & Education Center at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

AGENDA

- I. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of December 6, 2017: Wendy Kindig
- II. Treasurer's Report: Bill Valerian. Questions/comments from the floor.
- III. President's Report: Mike Baldwin. Questions/comments from the floor.
- IV. Board Nominating Committee Report: Mike Baldwin
- V. New Board Members
- VI. Emeritus Board Committee Report: Susan Cassell
- VII. Refuge Manager Remarks: Paul Tritaik
- VIII. Open Discussion of the Business of the Society.
- IX. Adjournment

Please stay and celebrate after the meeting adjourns with light refreshments and good company.

Wendy Kindig, Secretary



Happy Hour Holiday Shopping

Free refreshments, extended hours, and complimentary gift wrapping: Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 27, the date of the Refuge Nature Store's fifth annual Happy Hour Holiday Shopping event

in the Visitor & Education Center. The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society will keep the store open two extra hours after the Center closes, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Refuge Nature Store has stocked special holiday items for the event, and it will have gift consultants ready with suggestions and free gift-wrapping with recycled paper. The store will serve wine, cheese, and

other refreshments for the event. Shoppers who spend more than \$20 receive a free gift. Nature Store Manager Ann-Marie Wildman will also reveal the 2019 Luc Century wildlife ornament, which will go on sale starting that evening.

"All profits from Nature Store purchases go directly to benefiting wildlife and conservation," said Ann-Marie. "This has been a fun way to get everyone into the holiday spirit with an altruistic twist."

The Refuge Nature Store carries a complete line of birding and nature books for adults and kids, wildlife toys and games, local artisan wares, wildlife holiday ornaments, gifts made from recycled materials, nature-themed jewelry and home décor, logo T-shirts and hats, and a wide variety of stocking stuffers and other gifts for men, women, and children.

IN THE REFUGE NATURE STORE

We have asked some of our wonderful volunteers for their favorite Refuge Nature Store picks. Here we share store volunteer Jan Lucree's favorites and her comments about them.

Jan has volunteered at the Refuge for five years. "Jan brings an upbeat and positive energy to the store which



our guests appreciate. Her vast wealth of knowledge about the wide variety of products helps guests every day. We are thrilled to have her on our team," said Store Manager Ann-Marie Wildman.

Bamboo Sterling Silver



Earrings: "I love wearing my manatee earrings — reminds me of my favorite sea creature. We carry lots of creatures — bees, humming birds, turtles, and more, all in a wide range

of jewel tone colors — to choose from in this line of jewelry."

Colorful Tiles by Scott Geib: "I have collected and framed eight of them. They add color and life to my hallway."

Luc Century Bud Vases: "The etched Burrowing Owls on the vase are a beautiful example of a local legend. Luc Century is a gifted artist and creates vases for us featuring a variety of local creatures."

Remember, DDWS members receive a 10% discount at the Nature Store. Profits from all Nature Store sales go directly to the Refuge for educational programs and wildlife research.

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

May 1 – August 31, 2018

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:

Dr. Christina Barkley
Mickey Bowers
David Butts
Holly Caywood
Edith Thatcher De Burlo
Mary Sue Denk
Patricia Dwyer
John Fisher
Martha Hulings Kaemmer
Peggy Kent

James Kowalski
Annaliese Kuehn
Mary Helen Ladner
Louise Plankenhorn
Shelia Rodriguez
Edward Rybeck Sr
Rosemary Shipley
Richard Welch
Steve Williams

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

Delores Bertagni
Bruce Boswell
Howard Buhse, Jr.
Miriam Hursey
Diane McMillen

Birgie Miller
Wayne and Margi Reiman
Bill Swisher
Ruth Thurston



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

Forwarding Service Requested

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

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Mike Baldwin

Vice President Sarah Ashton

Secretary Wendy Kindig

Treasurer Bill Valerian

Members At Large

Mark Banks Brett Gooch Phyllis Gresham

Jim Hall Jen McSorley

Kirstin Sawicki Richard Yanke

Immediate Past President Doris Hardy

SOCIETY STAFF

Executive Director Birgie Miller

Business Office Manager Joann Hinman

Philanthropic Coordinator Sierra Hoisington

Refuge Nature Store Manager

Ann-Marie Wildman

Refuge Nature Store Asst. Manager

Christopher Galloway

Conservation Educator Sara Hallas

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Bill Rankin Vasanta Senerat

Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik

Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland

EMERITUS BOARD

Terry Baldwin Susan Cassell

Millie Ford Marc Giattini Dick Hulit

Joseph Kelley Marilyn Kloosterman Chip Lesch

John McCabe Cindy Pierce Jeanne Rankin

Jim Scott Jim Sprinkle

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor Chelle Koster Walton

Photography Chelle Koster Walton,

Refuge & DDWS Staff

Design and Production Susan Holly,

Lynne Egensteiner

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
5752
Ft. Myers, FL

UPCOMING SEASONAL EVENTS



Better start marking your calendar. We've planned a full slate of events and activities this season. Learn more at dingdarlingsociety.org.

30th Annual "Ding" Darling Days - October 12-14, 2018

Happy Hour Holiday Shopping - November 27, 2018

DDWS Annual Meeting - December 5, 2018

Woodring Homestead 100th Anniversary Exhibit Unveiling - January 23, 2019

Free Winter Programs - January 7-May 5, 2019

2019 Biweekly Film Series - January 9-April 3, 2019

2019 Friday Lecture Series - January 18-April 12, 2019

Volunteer Awards Luncheon - February 8, 2019

Go Wild for "Ding" Fundraiser - February 13, 2019

