

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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GATOR Caption: Live animals and kids nature crafts are part of the free activities during "Ding" Darling Family Fun Day on Oct. 17.

Save the date for 21st annual “Ding” Darling Days

Mark your calendars for this year’s “Ding” Darling Days birding and eco-festival at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida, the week of Oct. 17-23, 2010.

Family Fun Day kicks off the week with free fun on Sunday, Oct. 17. It features all-free refuge tram tours, live wildlife presentations, hot dogs, a touch tank and butterfly house, and kids nature crafts.

Conservation Through Art Day winds up the celebration on Saturday, Oct. 23, with visits from Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp winners and nature art workshops.

Free and discounted birding, biking, kayaking, and sea life boat tours and nature photography will fill the week between the two events.

The 21st Annual “Ding” Darling Days celebrates the birthday of the refuge’s namesake, father of the Duck Stamp program and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Jay N. “Ding” Darling.

“This year, we’re giving families what they’ve asked for – more live animal presentations,” said Wendy Schnapp, “Ding” Days committee co-chair for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). “Plus we’re bringing back Conservation Through Art Day, which debuted last year, to honor our Duck Stamp sinners and get everyone involved in appreciating nature through artistic expression.”

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, DDWS, and Tarpon Bay Explorers co-sponsor “Ding” Darling Days with generous support from the local community and businesses. Visit www.dingdarlingdays.com for updates on events and to sign up for weekly bulletins. Or call the refuge at 239-472-1100.

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