

Jane Werner Environmental Scholarship



This scholarship was the first-ever permanent endowed scholarship established at “Ding” Darling. Jane Werner was a volunteer with the Refuge for 25 years and a true believer in protecting our wildlife and its habitat. The moment they learned about “Ding” she and her husband Clem took the volunteer training. Jane later sat on the Board of Directors for the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society – Friends of the Refuge.

Jane, who was active in sports and the outdoors all her life, said her love of nature grew gradually from fishing in Canada, traveling, bicycling, and hiking. She relished her duties as a volunteer Refuge Rover, where she could be out looking for birds and educating visitors about them and the importance of their protection. Jane furthered her family's interest in education with this annual scholarship to encourage environmental studies, recognizing the need for such scholarships as there were few available around the country.

Before their passing, Jane and her husband Clem funded five scholarships in their hometown of Davenport, Iowa, since the mid-1990s, and at their alma maters -- Smith and Northwestern, respectively. She chose to establish the first permanently endowed scholarship through the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, with the hope of making a direct impact on students in Southwest Florida and further their interest in becoming our next environmental stewards.

Jane passed away in 2012, and her three children and their families and friends continue to support the Refuge and this scholarship fund.

Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the Jane Werner Environmental Scholarship Fund can visit dingdarlingsociety.org and click the donate button.

To learn more about establishing your own permanent endowed fund, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4. Donors can establish an endowment with a gift of \$10,000 or more. Proceeds earned by the investment go towards supporting the Refuge mission.