

## Marilyn Kloosterman Education Fund



Upon Marilyn’s death in 2019, her friends established a permanent endowed fund to recognize her kind and giving spirit, in recognition of how much she loved inspiring the next generation of conservation stewards.

Marilyn often said that growing up she always loved nature and birds – among the reasons why she and her husband, Win, moved to the Sanibel Island. Having moved from Michigan to Sanibel in 1986, Marilyn began to volunteer at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge soon after. She took the volunteer training course and was hooked. She quickly became known by many as “Mom.” Her generosity and good cheer carried through in everything she did professionally, personally, and during her volunteer years.

Marilyn put her skills and passion as a high school teacher to work as a volunteer at the Refuge. Her steady, calm influence was vital while serving on the board of the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society–Friends of the Refuge, where she and other board members helped guide the organization from a small start-up to the strongest non-profit refuge friends groups in the nation. After her tenure on the board expired, Marilyn was asked to remain as an active emeritus member, continuing to serve on various committees from the education/scholarship committee to the planning committee for what became the award-winning America’s best restroom. The Refuge proclaimed Marilyn “queen of the throne” for her vision and help in making this project a reality.

Marilyn volunteered at the Refuge as a rover, at the front desk, in the Nature Store, as a serving and emeritus board member, on the education and scholarship committee and for other activities for more than 30 years, up until a few weeks before her death at the age of 95.

*Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the Marilyn Kloosterman Education Fund can visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://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.*