

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Environmental Education Specialist Toni Westland teaches kids about horseshoe crabs at Family Craft & Story Hour.

### **‘Ding’ Darling introduces new summer family programs**

As part of its ongoing mission to reconnect families with the great outdoors, the J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island has initiated three free education programs during summer vacation, two in partnership with the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.

- ◆ **Mommy & Me** invites preschoolers accompanied by a parent for alternating Friday visits to the museum and hikes along the refuge’s Indigo Trail. (The shell museum program is free; but admission fees do apply for those who wish to tour the museum.) Dates for Mommy & Me Under the Sea at the shell museum are June 6 and 20, July 18, and August 1, 15, and 29; for Mommy & Me Next to the Sea at the refuge, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25, and August 8 and 22. Time is **9 to 10 a.m.**
- ◆ **Family Craft & Story Hour** teaches children about a certain refuge species by first reading about it, then engaging in hands-on activities and crafts. It takes place every Tuesday June through August at **10 a.m.**
- ◆ **Family Beach Walk** meets at Sanibel’s Gulfside Park for a one-hour exploration of the refuge’s gulf-front Perry Tract at 9 a.m. every Monday June through August. A shell expert from Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum will accompany refuge interpreters on the walk. Note: Parking fees at Gulfside Park apply.

For more information on the refuge summer programs, call Ranger Toni Westland at 239-472-1100 ext. 236.

The refuge summer family programs are made possible through funding from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, a non-profit, friends-of-the-refuge organization that supports the Education Center, “Ding” Darling Days, and other educational programs at the refuge.

To join DDWS and become a friend to the refuge, stop in at the Refuge Education Center, call 239-472-1100 ext. 233, or visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org).

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