



## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## **CLEAR YOUR GEAR FACT SHEET: COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS**

- **The City of Sanibel** was incorporated in 1974 as a municipality of Lee County, Florida. The Act establishing the City commits it to: “...*planning for the orderly future development of an Island community known far and wide for its unique atmosphere and unusual natural environment and to ensure compliance with such planning so that these unique and natural characteristics of the Island shall be preserved...*” In addition to the development goals of the City, the Natural Resources Department coordinates, manages, and implements special conservation and environmental tasks as directed by City Council to ensure that the City’s native vegetation and wildlife habitat protection standards are adhered to. [www.MySanibel.com](http://www.MySanibel.com)
- **The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife** is a teaching hospital and visitor center dedicated to saving wildlife through state-of-the-art veterinary care, research, education, and conservation medicine. Established in 1968, CROW strives to be a leader in the One World, One Health mission through innovative and proactive work in wildlife health. Caring for over 3,500 animals annually, CROW operates a modern veterinary hospital, student dormitory, education center, and gift shop on its 12-acre Sanibel Island campus. [www.CrowClinic.org](http://www.CrowClinic.org)
- **The "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge** is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. Located on Sanibel Island in the Gulf of Mexico and named for the cartoonist Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, the refuge was established in 1945 and protects more than 6,400 acres of one of the country's largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystems. Known for its unique migratory bird populations, the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Complex consists of the Darling Refuge itself, along with the nearby Caloosahatchee, Island Bay, Matlacha Pass, and Pine Island National Wildlife Refuges. [www.fws.gov/refuge/jn\\_ding\\_darling/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/jn_ding_darling/)

- **The "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society** is the non-profit Friends of the Refuge organization, which supports environmental education, services, and land conservation at the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex. DDWS partners in these efforts where possible with like-minded conservation organizations. [www.DingDarlingSociety.org](http://www.DingDarlingSociety.org)
- **Monofilament Busters** is a volunteer-based group that organizes the removal of discarded monofilament line and other fishing gear within the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and other refuge-owned areas. Founded in 2009 by Doris Hardy, a volunteer and board member for the J.N. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, it is now a year-round program. [www.facebook.com/monofilamentbusters](http://www.facebook.com/monofilamentbusters)
- **The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation** is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed. Since incorporating in 1967, SCCF has acquired and preserved over 2,100 acres of environmentally sensitive land on and around the islands. Without protection, many of these areas would have been lost to residential and commercial development, either directly or by fragmentation of habitat. Six priority program areas forward its mission: Marine Research, Natural Resource Policy, Wildlife Habitat Management (including snowy plover and sea turtle conservation), Environmental Education, Land Acquisition, and Landscaping for Wildlife. [www.SCCF.org](http://www.SCCF.org)
- **Sanibel Sea School** is a 501c3 nonprofit marine conservation organization whose mission is to improve the ocean's future, one person at a time. By providing vibrant, field-based ocean learning experiences, the school's programs foster an intimate connection with the sea and instill in students a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. [www.SanibelSeaSchool.org](http://www.SanibelSeaSchool.org)