



Marvo Entertainment Group, LLC
101 East Main Street
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"We Bring Extraordinary Stories To Life"

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"America's Darling" Executive Producer Visits Iowa

PRINCETON, KY—July 18, 2011—Production continues to move forward on Marvo Entertainment Group LLC's national television project, *America's Darling*, as Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky visited Iowa earlier this month. *America's Darling* is the true story of Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling (1876-1962), the Des Moines *Register* cartoonist who influenced Americans through his syndicated cartoons, creating awareness of urgent environmental issues and the need to preserve America's natural landscapes. Senior advisor to the project is Darling's grandson, Kip Koss.

The award-winning documentary filmmaker traveled to see Darling's home state firsthand, conduct archival research and meet face-to-face with Iowans who knew Darling personally, and those who are experts on his work. During his visit, Koltinsky consulted with librarians, archivists, and curators at the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, and University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections. At both institutions he discovered an exciting array of photos, letters and memorabilia he described as a "producer's dream" of materials for use in the project.

Koltinsky also met with the presidents of two Des Moines service organizations with strong links to Darling: Ronald Heggen, President of the Des Moines Chapter of Men's Garden Clubs of America, which Darling founded, and Steve Roe, President of the Des Moines chapter of the Izaak Walton League, of which Darling was an active member.

While In Des Moines, Koltinsky toured Darling's home, purchased directly from Darling by Carolyn and Edwin "Ed" Hunter. The house appears much as it did in the 1930s and contains many articles of furniture and personal items which once belonged to Darling. Many of the home's fixtures, including its distinctive fireplace, were designed by Darling himself, allowing Koltinsky to experience another, different side of Darling—that of designer.

Koltinsky also met Des Moines artist Maynard Reece, who was mentored by Darling. Reece knew Darling well and shared many memories of their relationship.

Mark Ackelson, President of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), also met with Koltinsky during his visit. INHF continues Darling's achievements in conservation education with its Ding Darling Conservation Education Fund, helping to ensure the development of "new" 'Ding' Darlings.

William Friedrichs, author of *Covering Iowa: The History of the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company, 1849-1985*, and director of the Iowa History Center at Simpson College, also met with Koltinsky to discuss the project and possible internships.

In response to the warm welcome he received in the state, Koltinsky said, "My trip to Iowa was as heartwarming as its landscape and people. It is no coincidence that a visionary like Darling came from this part of the country. Researching his story in his home state has been more than inspirational, it is captivating! I am very appreciative that Mr. Koss has opened so many wonderful doors of discovery here in Iowa for our documentary."

Marvo is also pleased to announce its latest partner in underwriting *America's Darling*, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) of Sanibel, Florida. Executive Director, Erick Lindblad, is excited about SCCF's involvement. "SCCF is proud to be part of a project to inspire Americans through portrayal of the life of Jay Darling, particularly in his leadership as a conservationist," he said.

A Kentucky native, Koltinsky's work is inspired by a passion for stories, history, preservation, and the environment. Over the past 19 years, he has produced numerous documentaries in Europe and the United States and has worked with PBS, the History Channel and the Documentary Channel. He may be contacted by phone at (270)625-6815 or email at sam@marvoentertainmentgroup.com.

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