

Sanibel Stoop February 17

When Hallie “Granny” Matthews hosted a shell show in her Sanibel Island hotel lobby starting in the late 1920s, little did she know that the event would celebrate its 75th year in 2012 with a record-breaking shell treasure hunt on Friday, February 17 that will hopefully land it in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

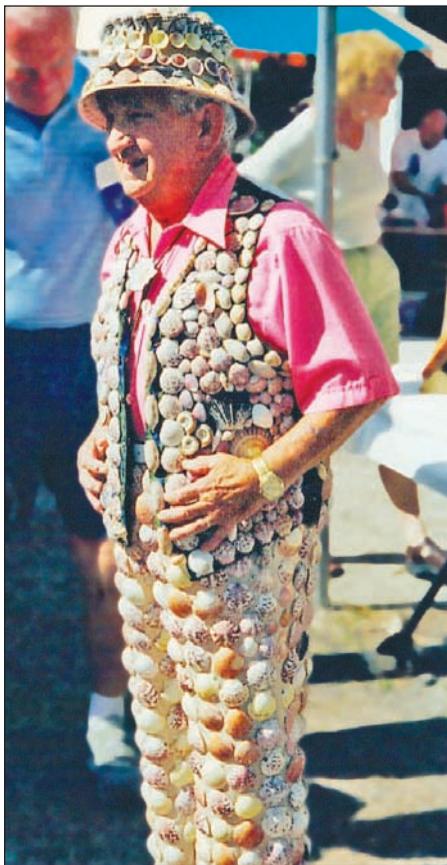
Shellabration! 2012, from February 26 to March 4, not only “shellbrates” the 75th anniversary of the Sanibel Shell Fair & Show, but also the islands’ shell-bent predilection. The festivities kick off with a mass Sanibel Stoop beginning at 10 a.m. on February 17 on Bowman’s Beach,

The organizers want to break a Guinness Book World Record in the largest Treasure Hunt category. Islanders and visitors are urged to show up for an aerial photo and to sign their names to be sent to Guinness to prove the island has broken the 208-person record.

They have a name for it on Sanibel Island, that shell-bent thing. They call it the Sanibel Stoop. So intertwined have the island and its shells become, that Sanibel’s identity is totally invested in seashells -- known as one of the top shelling destinations in the world.

Beginning in the early 1900s, the procession of shellers up and down the island’s beaches sparked a friendly competition

continued on page 6B **Shell-studded shell fair attendee**



Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky, seated right, prepares to interview Kip Koss for the documentary, *America’s Darling*. Also pictured is videographer Jay McCain.

Final Touches Being Put On *America’s Darling* Documentary

by Jeff Lysiak

One of the founding members of America’s conservation movement and longtime island resident, Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling, is about to have his life’s story preserved forever on film.

After extensive travel and research over the several years, conducting interviews and scouring through archived treasures and special collections, Marvo Entertainment Group LLC is preparing to release a 60-minute documentary – entitled *America’s Darling* – this fall, just in time for the “Ding” Darling Days celebration at the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel.

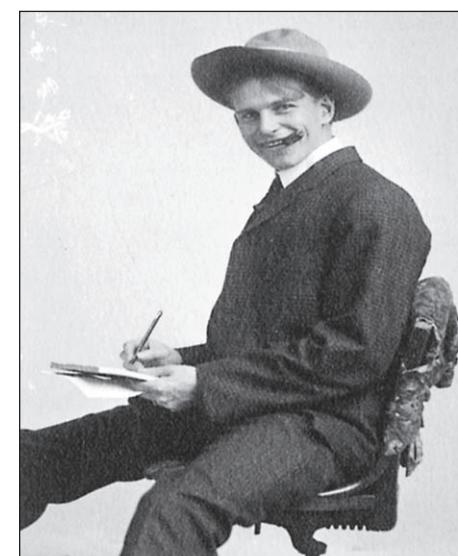
Samuel Koltinsky, executive producer of *America’s Darling*, reported last week that he is fully immersed in the project, which he conceived more than five years ago. “We have made headway with underwriting, the bulk of the background research is completed... and do we have some discoveries!”

“The film is still in production, which means interviews are being scheduled around the country, graphics are being developed, original scores are being composed and editing will be completed when we enter the post-production stage in several months,” said Koltinsky.

America’s Darling will share the incredible history of “Ding” Darling (1876-1962), the *Des Moines Register* editorial cartoonist who influenced readers through his syndicated cartoons, creating awareness of urgent environmental issues and the need to preserve America’s natural landscapes. Last October, Koltinsky debuted a five-minute sneak preview clip of the film at “Ding” Darling Days, which featured an interview with Darling’s grandson, Christopher “Kip” Koss, as well as never-before-seen archival footage of Darling himself.

“I had been contacted by several producers over the years who wanted to tell my grandfather’s story, but all of them were really just looking for financing for their films from the Darling Foundation,” said Koss. “Sam (Koltinsky) called me, but he wasn’t looking for money. He was looking for access to my grandfather’s documents. I said I’d

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A young Jay Darling, working for the *Sioux City Journal* in 1904

Sanibel City Championship Results

The 2012 Sanibel City Championship, sponsored by Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille, was held at Beachview Golf Club on Sunday, January 29. Seventy golfers hit the course in hopes of taking home the honors of being a champion.

Golfers competed in six flights; five flights for the men and one flight for the women. The men were flighted by their handicaps before play, then used their gross score to determine the winner. The women had one flight and used their handicap to determine a net winner. After battling it out on the course, the players had lunch at The Bistro at Beachview. Lunch was followed by the trophy presentations. Scott Hatto and Gene Taylor, golf professionals at Beachview, awarded trophies to the top three golfers in each flight.

The results of the flights are:

	First	Second	Third
Championship Flight	Gene Taylor	Bill Hensel	Tom Hensel
A Flight	Carl Podlasek	Jim Yoder	Bob Stock
B Flight	Skipp Tutor	Gene Carrafielo	Jason Heidig
C Flight	Andy Willis	Matt Hall	Murray Flood
D Flight	Brian Podlasek	Rene Lohser	Randy Faber
Women’s Flight	Jennifer Kuersten	Cecilia Olsson	Pam Terry



Tony Lapi, president and CEO of 'Tween Waters Inn, and LuAnne Cervelli of Marvo Entertainment admire Darling's work, *The Big Parade*, hanging at the inn's dining room

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America's Darling

be happy to help. Working on the film has been quite labor intensive, but I've been very impressed with how professional (Koltinsky) has been every step of the way."

During the production of the film, Koltinsky and some of his team members have travelled across the country – from Florida to West Virginia to Washington, DC to Iowa – gathering valuable biographical information and poring through documents, cartoons and other archived Darling relics.

"We have discovered so many treasures, it is difficult to say which are most interesting," explained Koltinsky. "In addition to finding never-before-seen film footage of Darling, we have discovered a number of original sketches and even some travel sketchbooks. These items put a new light on Darling's development as an artist, and we are developing an exhibit based on these artifacts to accompany the

film."

When Koltinsky shared a sneak preview of *America's Darling* at "Ding" Darling Days, he brought with him several artifacts uncovered during research for the film, including some of Darling's original paint brushes and woodcarvings. The documentary itself, he promises, will share even more remarkable finds.

Paul Tritaik, refuge manager at the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, is eager to see the completed movie this fall.

"*America's Darling* is appropriately named because it celebrates a man who brought people of different interests together for a common purpose – saving America's wildlife," said Tritaik. "'Ding' Darling was not only a man ahead of his time. He was a man for all times. In this sense, he truly was America's Darling."

Koss, too, hopes the documentary will enlighten even more people about the remarkable environmental effort that his grandfather started many years ago.

"Any time a conservationist opens his or her mouth, people call them



Jay Darling with his grandson, Christopher "Kip" Koss, photographed in 1939

'tree-huggers.' My grandfather wasn't a tree-hugger. He supported America using its natural resources... but to use them wisely," said Koss. "He pointed out that, historically, all of the world's greatest civilizations fell apart when they used up all of their natural resources and wound up fighting over them."

According to Koltinsky, much of the credit in assembling materials – both visual and audible – for *America's Darling* has to be shared with his Marvo Entertainment team for this production which includes Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Tom Neff, accomplished titles and branding artists Allen Hemberger and Sarah Wilson, musicians Jamie Wigginton and Seth Johnson, research and development supervisor LuAnne Cervelli along with Koltinsky's long time assistant, Patricia



Marvo Entertainment research and development supervisor LuAnne Cervelli scans one of the archival treasures uncovered during the making of the documentary *Fralick*.

With 2012 marking the 50th anniversary of the passing of the conservation icon and former Captiva resident, *America's Darling* may be just what America needs now: an opportunity to reflect on Darling's past in order that we may move forward. After all, Darling was a man very much ahead of his time.

"We believe island residents and visitors will feel a real sense of pride in *America's Darling*," added Koltinsky. "We hope that viewers, especially children and young people, will be personally inspired by Darling's amazing accomplishments and want to connect with nature and participate in stewardship of the planet."

For more information, visit www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com or e-mail sam@marvoentertainmentgroup.com. ✨



Tour Stop #1

1316 Eagle Run Drive - 9am to 9:30am



Tour Stop #4

1520 Angel Drive - 10:45am to 11am

Karen's Tuesday Tour of Homes

Tuesday, February 7th 2012



Tour Stop #2

1360 Eagle Run Drive - 9:45am to 10am

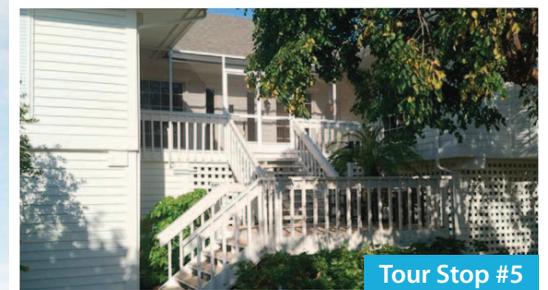
THE TUESDAY TOUR OF HOMES is a quick and easy way to preview several homes in a couple of hours without any pressure or hassle. It is a great way to get an overview of what homes and features are available within your price range.

The tour starts at 1316 Eagle Run Dr. where you're invited to have coffee and pastries from 9am to 9:30. Your welcome to join a tour in progress anywhere in the schedule, times are exact so that you can schedule your day.



Tour Stop #3

303 Periwinkle Way, Snug Harbor D - 10:15am to 10:30am



Tour Stop #5

4996 Joewood Drive - 11:15am to 11:30am

If you have any questions or would like your home to be on the tour, call Karen today.



Karen Aulino, Realtor | Pfeifer Realty Group

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