



## *Marvo Entertainment Group LLC*

*Mahr Park, 1801 Forefar Lane    2758 Fountain View Circle  
Madisonville, Kentucky 42431    Naples, Florida 34109*

*"We Bring Extraordinary Stories To Life"*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### ***The Brush of Excellence Ceremony***

NAPLES, FL– February 23, 2015 – After many months of planning, a wonderful Captiva Island afternoon filled with sunshine and a bit of ocean wave nostalgia was the perfect setting for Marvo Entertainment Group LLC's Owner, Samuel Koltinsky, to award "The Brush of Excellence" for extraordinary stewardship of the land and the wise use of natural resources to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, and the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

Koltinsky opened the ceremony by reading a passage from David L. Lendt's biography, *Ding, The Life of Jay Norwood Darling*. "Darling's chronicle of traveling to Florida in one of those "new-fangled" house trailers proved to be quite an experience, one which resulted in a small, entertaining book, *The Cruise of the Bouncing Betsy*. The journey ended when the Darling's trailer and automobile made the ferryboat trip from Punta Rassa, twenty miles from Fort Myers, Florida, to Sanibel Island off Florida's west coast. Finally, Darling drove over a one-way bridge and down a winding shell road to 'Tween Waters Inn' on Captiva Island, which was probably his favorite spot on earth."

For many years after that first visit, Darling had a winter home in Florida on Captiva Island. Standing in front of Darling's Fish House fireplace with its famous sea horse designs, Koltinsky shared the history of the artist's brushes that were to be presented. He stated, "Christopher 'Kip' Koss was my best friend and mentor, and I miss him immensely. One summer afternoon Kip graciously presented me with several of Jay N. 'Ding' Darling's brushes. I pondered for a number of months on how to make the best use of Darling's brushes, and then I woke up one morning at 3:00 a.m. with the perfect solution —The Brush of Excellence!"

The "Brush of Excellence" is to be used as an incentive to gain financial support for an educational project relating to land stewardship, art and conservation, or initiatives related to an organization's mission. The Brush is not to be sold or

auctioned. The receiving organization will have the responsibility to decide on its best use, and the Brush must be passed on with its Certificate of Authenticity.

As the three recipient organizations were introduced, Koltinsky praised their passion for stewardship of the land. "Your endeavors through your missions warrant your receiving 'The Brush of Excellence'." The first recipient was the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society whose mission supports environmental education, services, and land conservation at the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Accepting the award were Doris D. Hardy, President, and Paul Tritaik, Project Leader. The next organization recognized was the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. Dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed, the Foundation's President, Linda Uhler, and Executive Director, Erick Lindblad, received the framed Brush. The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, represented by Rauschenberg Residency Director Ann Brady and Facilities Supervisor, Matt Hall, graciously accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation that fosters the legacy of Rauschenberg's life, work, and philosophy that art can change the world and that creates philanthropic initiatives that connect art, culture, and creativity with important issues such as education and climate change.

Offering her congratulations to the recipients was Andrea Koss, family legacy representative and wife of Christopher "Kip" Koss who was Darling's grandson. Smiling she said, "The use of these Darling brushes in this manner is a stroke of genius in itself. I imagine Darling himself would be applauding you, and Kip would be so pleased to know that this Brush of Excellence award has been given to you for all the protecting and preserving you have done here, which is Ding's favorite place in the world."

To view some of the highlights of The Brush of Excellence Ceremony, please visit <http://www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com/brush-of-excellence>.

Previous recipients of "The Brush of Excellence" are Friends of Lake Darling State Park, Brighton, Iowa. The Friends have in turn presented a brush to Jerry B. Robinson, former resident of the Rubio/Richland, Iowa area, who immediately gifted his brush to Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Iowa. A second brush from The Friends was awarded to Federation Bank, Iowa. Thus far, the two brushes have been used as a funding incentive totaling \$375,000. Over the next year, Koltinsky plans to present four more brushes to deserving organizations while at the same time looking for "those who may be a bit in need of a voice and could use some help."

Championing Darling's legacy through a network of local, regional and national organizations whose many doors were opened by Kip Koss has enabled Koltinsky to research, learn, and value the extraordinary accomplishments of a modern-day renaissance man, Jay Norwood Darling. Koltinsky has been

“bringing extraordinary stories to life” for over twenty years. He is the Executive Producer of the award-winning *America's Darling: The Story of Jay N. "Ding" Darling*. The upcoming *Darling is Back!* documentary is an Iowa Public Television co-production--with another documentary in preproduction. His work with the *Des Moines Register* led to the creation of *The Extraordinary Project*. He is the creator and co-curator, with a network of growing support, of the traveling exhibit, *The Hidden Works of Jay N. "Ding" Darling*. Koltinsky and his team are honoring Darling's legacy by partnering with organizations and individuals who hold Darling's principles in esteem. Their stewardship and production talents are being shared in the development and documentation of the 265-acre Mahr Park at Hidden Hills Farm in Madisonville, Kentucky, and with supporting the Friends of the Naples Preserve in Naples, Florida.

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