



## CONCIERGE

**B**ooks that specialize in the environment, natural history, or history of Southwest Florida's unique barrier islands are available at area libraries and bookstores, of course. But plenty of residents, not to mention visitors, are surprised to find that the following local nonprofit organizations sell such books. Many of their inventories include publications not offered by the mainstream press and a few have books found nowhere else. Be sure to call first to check for opening times. Happy browsing!

**The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village** offers a wonderful opportunity to learn about Sanibel's past, and people interested in reading about it can buy related books at the Historical Museum. These include a paperback version of Elinore Dormer's well-known book, *The Sea Shell Islands*. Longtime volunteer Jody Brown says an agreement with Dormer's son gives the proceeds to the Historical Museum. Brown notes, "We also sell two other great books. They are *Sanibel's Story: Voices and Images from Calusa to Incorporation* by Betty Anholt, and *Sanybel Light: An Historical Autobiography* by Charles LeBuff." Anholt's hardback volume has hundreds of photographs. LeBuff's paperback is "a Comprehensive History of Sanibel Island, Its Lighthouse, and the National Wildlife Refuge."

Children's books and old-fashioned postcards can also be purchased at the museum, which is run by the City of Sanibel, and one of the more popular items is an 1833 map of Sanibel. *The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village*, 850 Dunlop Road Sanibel, 239/472-4648. *City of Sanibel Recreation Administrative Office*, Library Way, Sanibel, 239/472-6477.

## Looking for Books? Shop the Nonprofits



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BLASE

**Twelve-year-old Corey Whitlock and his nine-year-old brother, Josh, of Canton, Georgia, check out the books in J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's Education Center shop.**

Amateur “shell addicts” and professional malacologists alike find a wealth of selections at **The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum** store. Offerings range from plastic books for children to look at in the tub to luxurious coffee table volumes filled with brilliantly colored photographs of seashells found throughout the world. A long-awaited book, *Bahamian Seashells* by Colin Redfern, a native of the Bahamas, is available only from the author or from the museum. Store manager Patricia Jones notes, “We’ve been told by visitors they’re delighted to find books here that they’ve been seeking high and low everywhere else. People also say we have the best choices of children’s books.”

Anne Morrow Lindbergh’s *Gift from the Sea* is a perennial top seller and is available in a large-print edition or on tape. Store employees and volunteers often recommend *Privileged Hands*, the autobiography of Dr. Geerat Vermeij, who lost his sight as a child and went on to become an evolutionary biologist and paleomalacologist at the University of California at Davis. His book, *A Natural History of Shells*, is also popular. *The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum*, 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel; 239/395-2233 or 888/679-6450; [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org).

The large variety of books at the **Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation** store appeals to patrons whether they have a green thumb or not. Just a few unusual titles include *Florida Plants for Wildlife* by Craig N. Huegel, *Your Florida Garden* by Watkins and Wolfe, *The Ferns of Florida* by Gil Nelson, and *Mangroves—Trees in the Sea* by Jerry, Idaz, and Michael Greenberg. In addition to general conservation books, the SCCF store has many volumes on Florida wildlife and on natural and cultural history. All ages might want to take a look at *Mac’s Field Guide to Bad Garden Bugs of the Southeast*. Children will like the *Alphabet Board Book*, or maybe *The Icky Bug* by Jerry Pallotta.

Foundation volunteer book-buyer Martha Siders says, “One of the nicest books I have is *Old Songs, New Words*, which is about the Calusa. After people buy it, they love it! It’s a small book that’s often found with the children’s books. It’s a really wonderful description



ILLUSTRATION BY KELLY MADDEN

of how the Calusa lived in our part of the country. The Sibley series of bird guides are also very popular.” *The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation*, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, 239/472-2329; [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org)

The new Visitor Center at the **J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge** accommodates large numbers of people, which is helpful because many make a beeline for its well-stocked bookstore. “We have lots of kids’ and adults’ books, with separate sections for each,” explains Lise Bryant, bookstore manager. “All the general bird guides do well. *The Ultimate Guide to Sanibel and Captiva Birds* is a top seller. It’s a sand-proof and waterproof folding guide. Another big seller is Donald and Lillian Stokes’ *Beginner’s Guide to Shorebirds*. We really sell a lot of all the Stokeses’ guides when they are living here on Sanibel during the winter.” Bryant adds that books about the seashore are big hits with children. “We also have quite a few books on butterflies and on native plants.” She notes that J.N. ‘Ding’ Darling’s book of wildlife and conservation cartoons is being reprinted. Visitors will also be pleased to find that even though the bookstore isn’t a café,

it does sell packets of “certified organically and shade-grown coffee” from Thanksgiving Coffee Co. It’s a California-based company that buys only from small farm collectives or cooperatives. *J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge*, 1 Wildlife Drive, Sanibel, 239/472-1100; [www.dingdarling-society.org](http://www.dingdarling-society.org) or [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

A library doesn’t come to mind as a place to buy reading material, but **Captiva Memorial Library** offers two local books, funded by the Captiva Memorial Library Board, “whose members wish to preserve the history of Captiva and its people.” Sale proceeds benefit the library, which is a branch of the Lee County Library System. *Voices from the Past: Tales of Old Captiva* tells fun and fascinating stories and is now in its third edition. *Homes of Old Captiva: A Photographic Record 1900-1940* was compiled by Louise Carr Tuttle. Library associate Naomi Pastor says Tuttle’s book “does quite well and the periodic programs she gives about the impetus behind the book are very popular.” *Captiva Memorial Library*, 11560 Chapin Lane, Captiva; 239/472-2133 or TDD 239/472-8608; [www.lee-county.com/library](http://www.lee-county.com/library). 🐾

– Libby Grimm