



TIOF
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Sanibel Island, FL 33957

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The
International
Osprey
Foundation



Osprey
Observer

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May 2019

Jim Griffith June 2, 1935-April 26, 2019



The International Osprey Foundation lost one of its longtime champions on April 26 with the death of Past President Jim Griffith. He was an engineer by profession and a true environmentalist by nature.

Jim was also a volunteer for many causes and on many levels both in Georgia and on Sanibel, including Rotary, Boy Scouts, and Sunday school. On Sanibel, he was president of Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society from 2010-19 and was also involved with CROW (Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife), Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and TIOF, of which he was present from 2013-19.

He diligently worked to repair damaged osprey platforms and also built platforms as needed or requested.

Three New Board Members

TIOF has elected four new board members to help continue its important mission of protecting the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and to further the Foundation's efforts to educate and to offer research grants worldwide on raptor-related projects. They are:



Kathryn Brintnall, Secretary, grew up in Michigan and moved to New Jersey after graduating from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. She volunteered at Animal Alliance, a no-kill shelter for dogs and cats. She moved to Sanibel in 2014 after retiring from her career as an innovative and award winning educator. Her island activities include working at CROW (the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife), volunteering at the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge and occasionally helping out the Weeds and Seeds group under the sponsorship of SCCF. She has been a nest monitor for TIOF since 2017.

Jim Schnell, Treasurer, fell in love with Ospreys during many summer vacations with his wife and daughter on Sanibel and Cape Cod. Following his career in chemicals industry management with Exxon Mobil, he now splits his time between New Jersey and Sanibel, where he monitors Clam Bayou's many Osprey nests by kayak and explores the sky and land with San Cap Audubon and the SCCF Weeds and Seeds Group. Back north he has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate, advocating for the best interests of children in the Child Welfare System for 12 years and leads Adoption Days for Animal Alliance of New Jersey which was the original home of his three rescue dogs.



Carol Smith, Nest Monitoring Coordinator and Grants Chair, became enchanted with ospreys during several trips to the Florida Keys and while visiting Sanibel over the years. She became a Sanibel winter resident in 2012 and is from Shorewood, Ill. Before retirement, Carol was a rehabilitation counselor for the State of Illinois. An attorney, she practiced law in Illinois. Carol retired as an administrator at Joliet Junior College, where she developed and directed a program for students with disabilities. After retirement, she was a butterfly monitor at Midewin Tall Grass Prairie for 10 years. She volunteered at CROW for a year and has completed her second year as an osprey monitor.

Changes Ahead at TIOF

TIOF met on March 18, 2019 and elected three new board members to help continue its important mission of protecting the osprey and to further the Foundation's efforts to educate and offer research grants worldwide on raptor-related projects.

Please welcome Carol, Jim and Kathryn to the board. We would like to thank Anne Mitchell for her service and support through the years as past Vice President. Anne is stepping down from the board after serving as newsletter editor for this current issue. TIOF has been in existence since 1981 and the newsletter has been in continual publication since 1983.

Please note many of the updates are becoming available on our website, www.ospreys.com. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the form on the back page of this newsletter. If you have an osprey platform in need of repair in the Sanibel, Captiva or Fort Myers area, please write us at TIOF, PO Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957. Susan Tucker, Interim President

Susan Tucker, Acting President, TIOF

OSPREY NEST MONITOR FORM

YES I am interested in becoming an osprey nest monitor on Sanibel, Captiva or surrounding areas

Please contact me at:

Name

Email

Phone

YES I am interested in volunteering for TIOF.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of TIOF

Please renew my membership in TIOF

Check Membership Category:

- | | | | |
|--|-------|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Individual | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Donor | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Family | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Life | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Sustaining | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Student | \$8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Supporting | \$50 | <small>(to Under-graduate level)</small> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Contributing | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Corporate: | \$25 or more |

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Country

E-mail

MAIL TO: TIOF, P.O. Box 250, Sanibel, FL 33957, USA



This osprey on Sanibel Island rests before eating the fish it just caught.



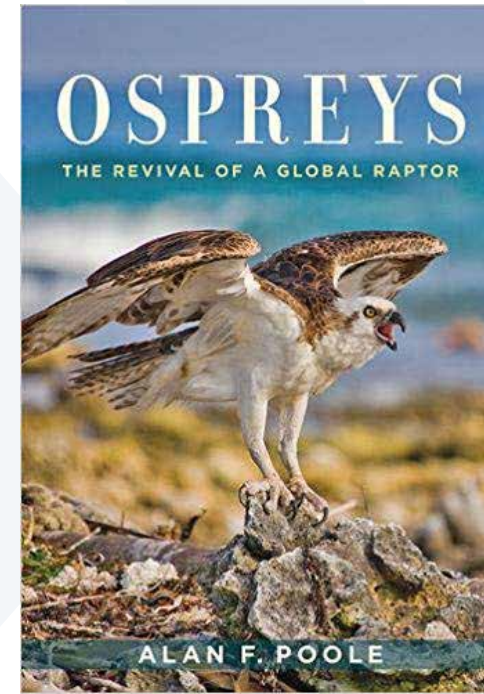
Osprey Foundation Vice President Carol Gestwicki and Acting President Susan Tucker present a \$1,000 check to CROW employees to be spent on osprey education programs. Also pictured are CROW Executive Director Alison Charney Hussey, Medical & Research Director Heather W. Barron, and Staff Veterinarian Robin Bast.



TIOF board members donating \$1,000 to the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society in April for osprey education programs. From left: Lynnae Messina, Director of Development DDWS; Anne Mitchell, TIOF; Susan Tucker, Acting President, TIOF; Sierra Hoisington, DDWS Development Officer; Carol Gestwicki, Vice President, TIOF; Secretary Susan Brintnall; and Jim Schnell, TIOF Treasurer.

New Osprey Book

One of TIOF's grants came to fruition recently with the publication of Ala. Poole's magnificent book, titled *OSPREYS: The Revival of a Global Raptor*. The book updates and expands on his seminal book from the 1980s, *OSPREYS: A Natural and Unnatural History*. It is chock full of history, insights, migration routes, population data and an up close and personal relationship with our favorite birds.



According to Poole, Florida has 5,000 of the 25,000-30,000 nesting pairs globally. Florida has the highest osprey population density in the world, a species that has survived on this planet for 15 million years.

Poole is an associate of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He has been studying ospreys in New England for over 33 years.

TIOF Board

- Susan Tucker**,
Interim President
- Carol Gestwicki**,
Vice President
- Jim Schnell**,
Treasurer
- Kathryn Britnall**,
Secretary &
Membership Chair
- Carol Smith**,
Nestwatch Groups &
Grants Coordinator

Farewell to a Friend

Inge Glissman of Sanibel, a stalwart environmentalist and longtime TIOF board member, died in April, 2018. Inge was our board treasurer and secretary for many



years and, along with her husband Henry, was a longtime nest watcher.

Annual Meeting Set for March

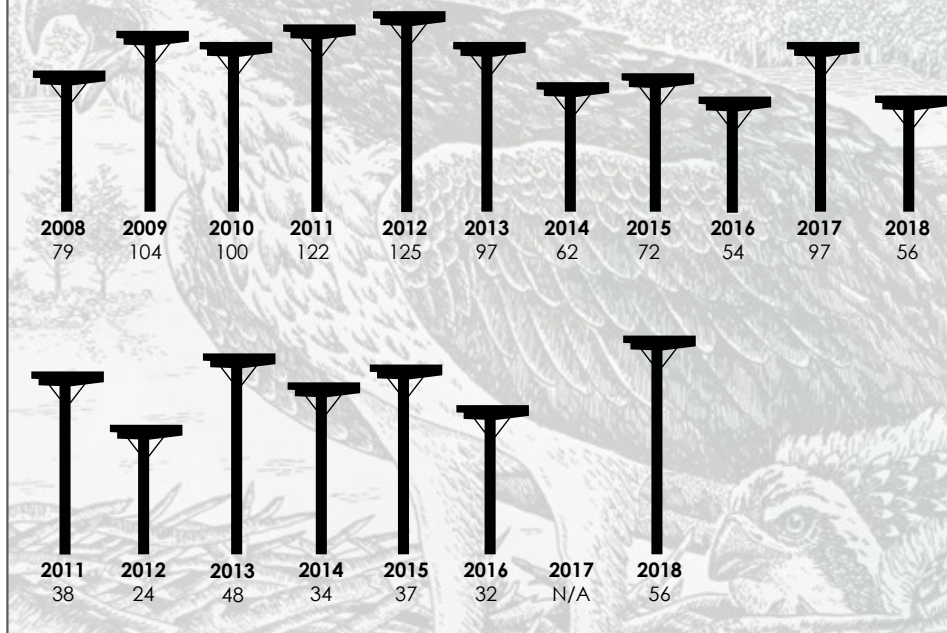
The International Osprey Foundation's 2020 annual meeting will take place March 26, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Sanibel Community House, Periwinkle Way. Speaker to be announced.

If You See Something, Say Something

Protection of ospreys is one of our missions. If you see any activity that threatens ospreys, don't hesitate to contact the authorities.

City of Sanibel Natural Resources Dept. can be reached at 239-472-3700. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Reward Program is accessible at 888-404-FWCC.

2018 Nest Watch Results



Nestwatch groups monitored 38 active nests on Sanibel in 2018 and reported 56 fledged. On Fort Myers Beach, watchers checked 24 active nests and reported 45 chicks fledged.

Osprey and chick in nest, drawing by Allesandro Troisi, Italy

Dismal Nesting Results For Local Osprey

Poor water quality in the past year has taken its toll on the number of osprey chicks produced in the 2019 nesting season that runs January through May.

Of 73 nests reported monitored on Sanibel, only 18 chicks fledged. On Fort Myers Beach, 30 nests produced eight chicks. Many nests were abandoned or inactive.

With some females appearing to be incubating, this data is incomplete. However, as temperatures increase, it's unlikely any chicks will survive into the summer.

This data "shows how important water quality and the environment impact our birds," said Carol Smith, nestwatch coordinator.

"Our ospreys are giving us a loud and clear message re water quality," added James Schnell, board member.

Osprey Coloring Book Now Available

The International Osprey Foundation has donated \$1,149 to publish 10,000 more copies of a children's coloring book featuring the osprey. The book titled, *Look Who's Flying*, is intended as an educational tool in line with the Foundation's mission.

Claudia Burns, an osprey nest monitor for TIOF, gives talks about ospreys at CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife) and gives out the coloring books. They are also available at the J.N. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center on Sanibel.



From left: Rachel Rainbolt, CROW development and education manager; Susan Tucker, interim president, The International Osprey Foundation; Claudia Burns, who gives osprey talks at CROW; and Carol Smith, TIOF's nest watch coordinator.