

# in flight

Save Our Seabirds, Inc.  
Sarasota Project  
Newsletter

Fostering An Attitude Of Respect For Wildlife & Our Environment

Volume 4, Issue 4 • Spring 2011

## Leadership Sarasota Celebrates Completion Of Class Project 2011

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce Leadership Sarasota Class of 2011, comprised of 35 professionals working in Sarasota, completed their class project on April 14th with a reception and ribbon cutting ceremony on the grounds of Save our Seabirds (SOS). After five months of planning, soliciting materials, and manual labor, the fruits of their labors were visible for the 130 guests and Sarasota Chamber of Commerce members who attended. Ryan Chapdelain, chair of the class project, cut the ribbon, along with Lee Fox,



Ryan Chapdelain, Candice McElyea and Jennifer Compton of Leadership Sarasota present at the celebration.

group, Leadership Sarasota Loop, a wooden boardwalk meanders through the grounds of Save our Seabirds, with a side path leading to a platform, beautifully surrounded by lush tropical vegetation – the perfect location for a special ceremony or celebration. A new directional sign at the turnoff to the facility from Ken Thompson Parkway, a beautiful photographic enlargement of a shoreline with shore birds over the entrance to the facility (Mary Lou Johnson Photography), and an 8'x16' entrance sign are also the results of their efforts.

The group members spent over 100 hours of labor, sprucing up the landscaping with new plantings (donated by Florida Native Plants Nursery) and mulch. Nineteen large trees, donated by Tree Watch, were planted. A newly designed brochure for visitors made its debut at the reception. Thirty bird mosaics created by Oak Park School students were provided to

SOS to add a decorative touch to our walkways.

Other behind-the-scenes project initiatives included monetary donations from Iberia Bank and Sun Trust Bank. The Schimberg Group, a Sarasota architectural firm, helped SOS develop on paper their dream for a new hospital and education center. Marketing of the facility in the community was advanced by securing several speaking engagements for the executive director at Rotary Clubs and other organizational functions in the area.

Thanks go out to all the members of the Leadership Sarasota Class of 2011, and to the committee heads Lori Denny, Rudy Philippus, Ted Cava, Stephanie Grosskreutz, Camilla Mankovich, Jennifer Compton, Candice McElyea, Mike Beitzinger, Jenn McAlister, Brett Raymaker, Jane Buckman, Mike Hamilton, Bob Gaglio

and Mark Lindsay. Your efforts have helped beautify the grounds and provide ongoing momentum for our organization. Thank you all.



▲ Ryan Chapdelain & Lee Fox cut the ribbon unveiling the restored boardwalk.



▲ New boardwalk sign.

executive director of Save our Seabirds, opening the newly restored boardwalk, aptly named Leadership Sarasota Loop. One of the many projects undertaken by the



▲ New turnoff sign.



▲ New entrance sign.



Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release, Educate,  
Oiled Wildlife Response & Training

1708 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
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941-388-3010

# Welcome Our New Office Manager



Cynthia Montorio

If you call SOS, you may hear the cheerful voice of Cynthia Montorio, who has recently joined our staff as Office Manager.

She was an

environmental major in college and spent her internship studying migratory birds. She spent years working in the pharmaceutical industry and later in real estate. She herself migrated to the west coast of Florida from New Jersey about seven years ago and now lives in the Myakka area with her significant other and an assortment of dogs, cats, a couple of horses and cows and a macaw. She is happy to be back working in the area of her first love: protecting injured coastal birds. We are happy to have her.

## Website Update

We are proud of our new website, developed with the help of Webtivity Design Solutions, [Webtivitydesigns.com](http://Webtivitydesigns.com). It contains news of scheduled events, volunteer opportunities, educational material, photos, copies of previous newsletters, recent activities at the center and more photos. There are links to Facebook and Twitter. If you would like your organization linked to our website, send us an e-mail at [saveourseabirds@gmail.com](mailto:saveourseabirds@gmail.com).

Visit our new website:  
[www.SaveourSeabirds.com](http://www.SaveourSeabirds.com)

Save Our Seabirds  
Board Of Directors:

Lee Fox, *Executive Director, Founder*  
Ann B. Anderson, *President, Benefactor*  
Lorraine Franckle, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Nancy Curtis, *Docents*  
Donald Bird, *Gift Shop*  
Lynn Zablo



Blueberry, a gannet, was brought to us during the last migration. He was very ill and not eating. After regaining his health, he had missed the migration, so he will be a resident until his buddies pass this way again.

Double-crested Cormorant



## Director's Corner

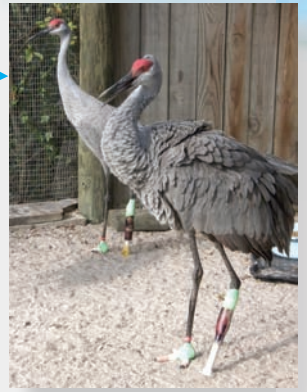
### The Sandhill Crane Project

Injured sandhill cranes brought to Save our Seabirds have increased in number over the past two years, with almost 100 treated in 2010. The large majority are injured either by being struck by a golf ball or by a car. Leg fractures from golf ball impact frequently render the leg useless and the bird unable to walk, resulting in an amputation.

SOS has recruited assistance from Kevin Carroll, world-renowned Prosthetic Designer, to help with their original design of a prosthetic leg for a more comfortable fitted one for our six sand-hills cranes. Kevin has a wide range of experience in this area, having designed specialized prosthetics for our vets coming home from Iraq with amputations and for children in Ethiopia who have lost limbs from bomb blasts. He is also well-known in the animal world for a prosthetic tail he designed for Winter, the baby dolphin at Clearwater Marine Science Center in Florida. Thank you Kevin. With the help of Lynn Zablo, and Kevin Carroll we have developed a prosthetic leg from PVC pipe attached to a sink stopper that has enabled several cranes to walk again. This has required time, training and perseverance to assist the cranes in learning to stand and walk. We have six cranes walking with prostheses that we use in our educational programs.

Because they are not an endangered species, there have been no in-depth studies of Florida sandhill cranes distinguishing them

Prosthetic legs on sandhill cranes



from migrating sandhills. There is a year-round population of 4000-6000 with many more coming from northern climates to winter in Florida. Questions arise such as:

- Are the behaviors that lead to injury more prevalent in the year-round or migratory birds?
- Do they react differently to living in captivity?
- Are the two populations interbreeding or remaining as distinct populations?

Because there are no physical characteristics distinguishing the two populations of cranes, SOS, in conjunction with Cornell University, is undertaking a study to determine the region of origin of the cranes by the chemical composition of their feathers which reflects their dietary intake of minerals that can be traced to specific areas of the country.

Donations for this project are now being accepted. Please indicate on your donation that this is for the sandhill crane project. We appreciate your support.



Sincerely,  
Lee Fox  
Executive Director/  
Founder

Baby sandhills climbing a curb

### Did you know?

- Sandhill cranes grow to be 3-4' high and weight 7-10 lbs.
- They mate for life and each parent helps care for the young "colts."
- The red crown on the crane's head is bare skin, not feathers.
- They may live as long as 20-25 years in the wild.
- Their native habitat is rapidly being lost to development - condos, golf courses, apartments and office complexes.



# The Bird's Nest

Ann Anderson

Martha Luciani was a very special early volunteer at Save our Seabirds. She brought our Gift Shop into being. This included ordering inventory, performing the paperwork involved, arranging merchandise attractively in the shop and even naming it 'The Bird's Nest.' She recruited and trained the volunteers to work in it. She did all this after receiving the devastating diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. A few days after the diagnosis, she approached her friend, Mary Lou Johnson, to say she had heard that



Martha's plaque

SOS was looking for someone to open and oversee a gift shop. She was frank about her medical condition but offered to do all she could for as long as she could. Between chemo treatments and some difficult days, she worked tirelessly and devotedly. She was crucial in bringing the SOS gift shop into existence. A plaque, dedicated to Martha, hangs on The Bird's Nest's wall. She is greatly missed.

# Our Wedding At SOS

Judith Kazen

Ivan and I have been volunteers at Save our Seabirds (SOS) since the first year the facility opened in Sarasota. (2008) This also was the first year that we migrated to Sarasota for our "snowbird" time. Responding to an ad in the local paper for volunteers, we were hooked as soon as we arrive. This is now our third season wintering on Longboat Key. Each year we welcome, and are welcomed back, as we return to SOS.



Judith and Ivan Kazen

This year was unique for us. After being together for 23 years, Ivan and I were getting married! Wanting the event to be small and special, we decided to host it in Sarasota, our winter habitat. We thought it would be a great opportunity to show our close family and friends the paradise we have come to enjoy on Florida's lovely west coast. Why not get married at SOS? Coincidentally, two outdoor restoration projects helped

enhance the lovely setting – a new section of the boardwalk, and several tropical plantings. With the help of staff and fellow volunteers, our March 16th wedding day was the perfect setting for us and our 40 guests. We were thrilled and our guests were totally enchanted. Our caterer, Simply Gourmet, provided light refreshments. The guests toured the facility following the ceremony, with Lee Fox, Executive Director, leading small groups. Martha Massfeller, SOS staff and professional photographer, obtained many great photos of the happy event.

We feel honored to be the first couple to hold our wedding at SOS. Our thanks to Lee for her vision, enthusiasm and focus in preparing for the wedding and to the volunteers and staff who worked to make this our perfect day.

# Volunteer Opportunities At SOS

A women's group from Christ Church of Longboat Key recently toured our facility and made the following observations: "I was surprised the black vultures were so friendly," "We'll tell our friends to visit," "SOS deserves more support from the community," "Everything is so clean." Another tour group, fourteen energetic preschool children from a Head Start program in Sarasota, had very enthusiastic comments: "I liked the different colored birds," "I love the parrots," "I saw a bird with a broken leg and one with a missing wing." We are always happy and inspired to learn

about observations and to hear positive comments.

If you would like to join in our uplifting educational atmosphere, there are many fulfilling VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: GIFT SHOP, DOCENTS, FEEDING BABY BIRDS, and RESCUING INJURED BIRDS. Training will be provided in all areas. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Cynthia at 941-388-3010 or by e-mail at: [saveourseabirds@gmail.com](mailto:saveourseabirds@gmail.com)



Mirald Cake's mural at SOS

# Artwork At SOS

Ringling College of Art and Design graduate, Mirald Cake, volunteered his time and talent to paint a beautiful 10' x 20' mural of Florida flora and fauna. Stop and enjoy it on your next visit. For more of his work, visit his site at: <http://miraldcake.blogspot.com/>.

- Open to the public 7 days a week 10 AM - 5:00 PM
- Visit SOS online: [www.saveourseabirds.org](http://www.saveourseabirds.org) to see our WISH LIST & Donate Page & to check for the latest news and events



**Save Our Seabirds**

1708 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34236



## Members, Donors & Volunteers Keep Us In Business

Become An SOS Supporter Today!

Help us continue our work to protect our wildlife and our environment. Over 95% of your donations support our operations.

**Save Our Seabirds Memberships, sponsorships & major donor levels:**

### Annual Memberships:

Individual . . . . .	\$ 35
Senior . . . . .	\$ 25
Family . . . . .	\$ 50
Sustaining . . . . .	\$ 250

- Mailings or e-mail of In Flight newsletter.
- 10% discount on all SOS merchandise.
- The pleasure of supporting an organization dedicated to protecting our wildlife.

### Memorial Bricks . . . . . \$ 100

### Annual Sponsorships:

Bird Sponsor . . . . .	\$ 100
Habitat Sponsor . . . . .	\$ 250-\$1,000

- Entitled to basic membership benefits plus plaque attached to bird habitat.
- Entitled to basic membership benefits plus plaque engraved as you wish & attached to chosen habitat.

### Major Donors:

Patron . . . . .	\$ 1,000+
Partner . . . . .	\$ 5,000+
Benefactor . . . . .	\$ 10,000+

- Major Donors receive annual recognition on our Donor Board prominently displayed in our Courtyard unless anonymity is requested.

Habitat Sponsors at the \$500 level and above and Major Donors are entitled to additional benefits. See our website for details.

**Sign up today online at [SaveOurSeabirds.org](http://SaveOurSeabirds.org) or call us between 9 AM and 4:30 PM at 941-388-3010.**

**Fundraiser**  
To Benefit  
**Save Our Seabirds**

**Delicious Fish Fry**  
Saturday, July 23rd  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
at Save Our Seabirds  
\$10 per adult, \$5 per child  
Sponsored by  
**The Old Salty Dog Restaurant**

Hold your event at SOS. We can host birthday parties for both children and adults, cocktail parties, organizational meetings and even weddings. Call Cynthia at 941-388-3010 for your reservations.