

# in flight

Save Our Seabirds, Inc.  
Sarasota Project  
Newsletter

Fostering An Attitude Of Respect For Wildlife & Our Environment

Volume 4, Issue 3 • Fall 2010

## Save Our Seabirds Celebrates Its Two-Year Birthday In Sarasota

Ann B Anderson

Save our Seabirds (SOS) celebrated its two-year birthday on November 13, 2010, with a party "Just Desserts". We opened to the public in November 2008 and have been open 365 days/year since that time.

Besides desserts and bake sale items brought by our volunteers, there were clowns, jugglers, face painters and unicyclists. Music by Jim Morris and Sunny Jim White was sponsored by the Sarasota Bay Parrot Head Club, a major supporter of SOS.

SOS houses about 250 permanent residents, birds that would be unable to survive on their own in the wild because of their injuries, mostly broken wings and legs. The birds who are permanent residents are great teaching tools for the public who can see the disastrous results of

careless actions by humans.

We also have about 30 temporary residents at any one time - birds with less severe injuries who will eventually be released. These birds are "behind the scenes", housed in the pens with canvas covers. During their rehabilitation, their exposure to humans is limited to prevent imprinting as this would be a deterrent to survival in the wild. About 85% of the birds brought to SOS are eventually released.

The worst enemy of our beautiful coastal birds is micro filament fishing lines which they get caught in,



▲ Lee Fox accepting a donation from members of the Sarasota Parrot Head Club at the SOS Birthday Party. Pictured in photo left to right: Al Palumbo, President SBPHC; Sheree & Jerry Cade, Environmental Board Members; Lee Fox, SOS.



MaryLouJohnsonPhotography.com

▶ Lee holding an abandoned baby screech owl who is blind in its right eye.

wrapping itself around their legs, wings or beak. Errant golf balls or collisions with cars also cause a large number of injuries.

During baby bird season, we have observed surrogate parenting by birds of the same or other species. Some of the permanently injured adults teach young birds, story continued on page 2

## Leadership Sarasota Offers Professional Support To SOS

Camillia Mankovich



Leadership Sarasota volunteers pictured in photo ▶ left to right: Nick Feather, John Ireland, Russ Bobbit, Brett Raymaker (top), Mike Beitzinger, Dan Harris.

Leadership Sarasota is part of a nationwide network of programs developed to encourage continuing stewardship and oversight of the community. Leadership Sarasota's program includes both community immersion and training, educating participants in "how things work" in our community and our county. Participants learn about the roles that business, government, the

arts and not-for-profit institutions play in making Sarasota County a great place to live and work - and participants have ongoing opportunities to make an impact in the

story continued on page 2



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

1708 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
www.saveourseabirds.org  
email: saveourseabirds@gmail  
941-388-3010

Photo by Jay Johnson

## Birthday *continued*:

who are not their own, to hunt and capture food. For example,



A juvenile eagle that had been shot in the wing with a pellet gun, who was rehabbed and released.

our great horned owl taught babies from three separate nests how to swoop down on prey. Sand hill cranes, red-shouldered hawks, and kestrels all have been observed participating in these activities.

## Leadership Sarasota Support *continued*:

community themselves by learning where and how to get involved in current issues.

Save our Seabirds has been selected as Leadership Sarasota's 2011 class project. Under the leadership of Ryan Chapdelain, five committees of volunteers have been organized to help make a visit to SOS a pleasant and informative adventure. The class will be refurbishing and rebuilding

We are greatly needed as a refuge where people can bring or report the many injured birds in Sarasota and on the nearby keys. We have dedicated volunteers who work with the birds, keep the grounds tidy and the pens clean. We are trying to get the word of our accomplishments out to the community, as we still have a great need for money to buy food and medical care for our feathered friends.

The birds are totally dependent on your generosity, so I hope you will include them in your year end giving.

Thank you so very much from the birds.

parts of the Save Our Seabirds sanctuary and exhibit as well as planning and executing a campaign that will help create awareness and attract visitors to the facility. Some of the tasks include the design and placement of new signage on the property, rebuilding the interior boardwalk, creating a new marketing plan, and weeding and landscaping several areas within the exhibit.

## Special Events At Save Our Seabirds

Nancy Curtis

On October 30, Spencer, a very special young man, celebrated his 8th birthday at SOS with 30 friends. Spencer's mother came prepared with a variety of activities beginning with painting small wooden bird houses. The bird tour was next and watching Rocky, the Moluccan cockatoo utter 'pretty bird' or 'I love you' made the kids squeal in delight. Another highlight was watching the

pelicans being fed their tempting fish morsels. Spencer's celebration was a joyful experience for all the youngsters fortunate enough to be included in his birthday bash.

Would you like to hold a special event at SOS? We welcome birthday celebrations. Docent tours can be arranged. Call 941-388-3010 or e-mail [saveourseabirds@gmail.com](mailto:saveourseabirds@gmail.com)

Double-crested Cormorant



## Director's Corner

Because things have quieted down since the

oil spill in April, let us not forget there are issues that will continue to pop up now and then. As you may know, Save Our Seabirds was prepared to respond and lend a hand at the spill site in Louisiana but we were told to hold off so there would be capable people ready to respond if oil hit the Florida coast. When it did hit Florida in the Panhandle, we were then told to wait just in case it hit the lower coast line of Florida.

In the mean time, Save Our Seabirds trained 145 volunteers and 35 of them were given 40 hours of hazwoper training which was required if you were going to handle any oiled wildlife. Our Oiled Wildlife Response Mobile unit was made ready with supplies to jump start our response for at least 2 days till more supplies could be ordered. A box truck was filled with supplies of towels, sheets, 75 pet carriers of all sizes and many incidentals to help facilitate an immediate rescue and triage. Needless to say, we were extremely disappointed when we were never asked to help. As I found out later, no wildlife rehabilitators or their rescue teams were asked to help rescue or even help triage or wash any of the thousands of birds that were affected by oil.

For more details and comments from other organizations, please go to Craig Pittman's article in the St Petersburg Times of September 3, 2010.

Save Our Seabirds would like to thank all of you that helped us get ready for this tragedy. You all proved to us that you are committed to helping wildlife and our environment through your donations and words of encouragement. Thank You.

Sincerely,  
Lee Fox  
Executive Director/Founder

For in-depth story on the spill and information on what happened please go to:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wildlife/bird-rescue-experts-kept-on-sideline-after-gulf-oil-spill/1119315>

### Save Our Seabirds Board Of Directors:

Lee Fox, Executive Director, Founder  
Ann B. Anderson, Co-Founder, Benefactor  
Lorraine Rubis-Franckle, Secretary  
Heidi Lovett

David Bosselmann  
Lynn Zablo  
Nancy Curtis  
Donald Bird



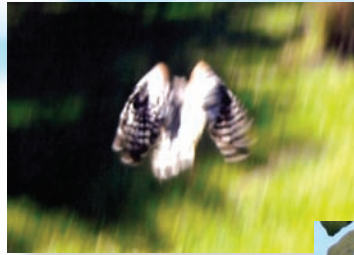


# Maggie Flies Free

Lorraine Franckle

In the late afternoon of October 18th, a red-shouldered hawk was perched on a street-light pole, watching the area below in search of her dinner. In an instant she spotted movement in the grass next to the road and down she went. She did not see the car coming from behind heading towards the spot where the trajectories of their two paths were to cross. Bam! The car's hood hit the bird, knocking it to the side of the road, luckily out of the flow of traffic. The bird lay along the shoulder of the road, not moving. Stunned or dead? The driver, aware of the impact, hurriedly drove away.

Within a minute, the bird began lifting her head and trying to move her wings, but was unable to right herself. The whole scenario had been observed by a nice fellow who was eating dinner in a restaurant overlooking the road. He was acquainted with Save our Seabirds and looked up the facility's number on his smartphone. "Hello, this is Save our Seabirds. How can I help you?" asked Cassie Masters, the operations manager at SOS. "I have an injured bird, I think it's still alive. I don't think it can fly," he said. "Can you bring it to us?" she asked. "I don't know how I would get it to you," he said. "Wrap the bird in a towel and bring it to our emergency



A fast-moving action photo taken at the moment of Maggie's release.

A beautiful, healthy red-shouldered hawk.

entrance. Someone will be here waiting for you since we close at 5 PM."

An hour later when the bird and the rescuer arrived, the bird was still alive, but barely. She was examined. No fractured wings or legs were found, but she was very weak and in shock. The hospital team gave her fluids and medications to reduce swelling and internal bleeding. She was placed in a cage on heat in the intensive care unit and allowed to rest overnight. When re-triaged by Lee Fox, SOS's executive director, she found open wounds on her back and underbelly from road rash, maggots were found in several small pockets. For the next 60 minutes, Lee and Martha Massfeller, a hospital worker, cleaned the maggots from the area of the abrasion. Several times through the cleaning process she appeared to have lost the fight and given up, however, she continued to breathe. Three further cleaning sessions



Marylou Johnson Photography

were required to remove the maggots and clean her wound.

For the next week, the bird required personalized care – hand feedings in small portions, fluids, and more hand feeding was necessary several times a day to get her through the first three days. To the amazement of all, she began to recover. She even became feisty. The hospital workers named her Maggie. Two weeks later she was placed outside in the pen with the other hawks. She demonstrated an ability to fly and feed and did not appear to have any permanent injuries.

Maggie was ready to be released. Since she was rescued in an urban area where the risk of further injury was high, it was thought best to release her in a rural area of the county.

Charlie Brodsky had the exciting experience of releasing Maggie, 29 days after her injury. She released her in woodlands near water in rural Sarasota county. Immediately on her release, Maggie starting loudly calling out Kee-ah, Kee-ah, as if to say, "Where is everyone?" Her call flushed out three other red-shouldered hawks that were as vocal as she was. "As they all soared off together, it was truly a breathtaking experience," said Charlie.



## Consider Gifts To SOS In Your Will Or Through Beneficiary Designations

David Bosselmann

If you are charitably inclined to leave some portion of your estate to charity and if you support the work of SOS to protect wildlife and our environment, we encourage you to consider leaving a portion of your estate to SOS. This may be done through a bequest in your will or by making SOS the beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA or other retirement plan.

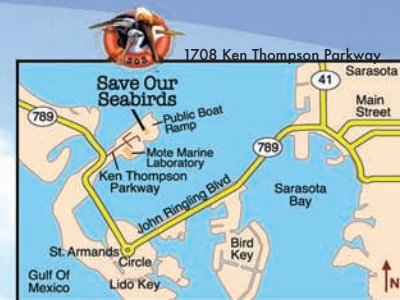
Both these means of charitable gifting offer possible estate and/or

income tax advantages that can be very significant. Charitable bequests in your will provide a deduction from federal estate taxes Charitable gifts of IRA or other retirement plan accounts offer the additional benefit of TOTAL AVOIDANCE OF INCOME TAXES. Under current law, all distributions from IRA and other retirement accounts are income taxable to the recipient at their income tax bracket. These distributions are taxed as income

whether to the participant during his or her lifetime or to a recipient who inherits the benefit. This added tax benefit makes IRA accounts an ideal vehicle for charitable gifting. And you can determine the percentage of the account gifted to one or more charities or split between charities and family members.

To make charitable gifts by will or retirement plan beneficiary designation, consult your estate or financial planning advisor.

- Open to the public 7 days a week 10 AM – 5:00 PM
- Guided tours on Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 2 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.

Now is the time to  
make your end-of-year  
tax-deductible donation



On your next  
visit to SOS, stop  
by our gift shop,  
**The Bird's Nest**

We have several SOS mono-grammed items including T-shirts, tank tops, polo shirts, and bumper stickers plus a large selection of books and stuffed animals. On-line ordering will be available on our new website which is currently under construction.

**Gift Shop volunteers  
are needed for Fridays  
and Sundays. For more  
information call Cassie  
at 941-388-3010.**



Save our Seabirds is supported by your donations. This makes you a very important part of our organization.

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