



Friends of Deerfield Island Park

February 2021 Newsletter

Save the Date: Our next Board/Members Zoom Meeting
will be on Friday, February 12 10:00 am

Save this link:

Topic: FoDIP Feb 2021 Meeting

Time: Feb 12, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82223301070?pwd=SHJvQzM0a1NWMkE2NXg1VGhLMEtLQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2330 1070

Passcode: 046086

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 822 2330 1070

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From the President

I know many of you are anxious to know when the park will open, when we can get back to our projects and ambassadorships.

As you know, the Parks department has been very busy with Covid testing, vaccinations and food distribution. Kudos for all that.

Staff is still maintaining the island and some projects are moving forward slowly. Hopefully, I will have updates at our next Zoom meeting. Hope to actually see many of you there.

Meanwhile, while kayaking around the island, Ira and I have seen more birds than ever before. We have at least 2 resident ospreys that are always around to greet us when we paddle by. We thought that a little info on Ospreys would be appropriate.

Helene



Ospreys of Deerfield Island

Deerfield Island is home to several resident ospreys. During our kayaking forays around the island we have identified at least 2 (maybe 3) different ospreys. We have not been able to actually see a nest which is usually in an open area and often built on snags, treetops, or crotches

between large branches and trunks; on cliffs or human-built platforms. Usually the male finds the site before the female arrives. They emit a fairly loud and distinctive "cheep" which can be heard from a distance.

Here is some of what you may want to know about these birds.



One of our resident ospreys on his perch.



Ospreys in their nest - courtesy : Mass Audubon

Unique among North American raptors for its diet of live fish and ability to dive into water to catch them, Ospreys are common sights soaring over shorelines, patrolling waterways, and standing on their huge stick nests, white heads gleaming. These large, rangy hawks do well around humans and have rebounded in numbers following the ban on the pesticide DDT. Hunting Ospreys are a picture of concentration, diving with feet outstretched and yellow eyes sighting straight along their talons.

Ospreys are very large, distinctively shaped hawks. Despite their size, their bodies are slender, with long, narrow wings and long legs. Ospreys fly with a marked kink in their wings, making an M-shape when seen from below. They are smaller than bald eagles. They are brown above and white below, and overall, they are whiter than most raptors. From below, the wings are mostly white with a prominent dark patch at the wrists. The head is white with a broad brown stripe through the eye. Juveniles have white spots on the back and buffy shading on the breast. Ospreys search for fish by flying on steady wingbeats and bowed wings or circling high in the sky over relatively shallow water. They often hover briefly before diving, feet first, to grab a fish. You can often clearly see an Osprey's catch in its talons as the bird carries it back to a

nest or perch.



Osprey's Bowed wing (m-shape) in flight



An Osprey with its catch

Primarily solitary birds, they usually roost alone or in small winter flocks of six to ten. Nesting Ospreys defend only the immediate area around their nest rather than a larger territory; they vigorously chase other Ospreys that encroach on their nesting areas. In breeding season, males perform an aerial "sky-dance," sometimes called "fish-flight." With dangling legs, often clasping a fish or nesting material in his talons, the male alternates periods of hovering with slow, shallow swoops as high as 600 feet or more above the nest site. Sustaining this display for 10 minutes or more, he utters repeated screaming calls while gradually descending in an undulating fashion to the nest. Pairs are generally monogamous and mate for life. Ospreys have a high nest-site fidelity and return to previously existing nest structures each year, so our resident ospreys have probably been here for a long time.



Did You Know?

Today is World Wetlands Day.

Florida is home to the largest wetlands system in the world - The Everglades.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, in the heart of the Western Everglades, is just a small part of this larger ecosystem and provides many services including aquifer recharge, flood storage, carbon storage, and water quality improvement to neighboring communities. It also provides a crucial habitat for many threatened and endangered species.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is one of the U.S.-designated Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and one of more than 2,300 Ramsar sites worldwide. The Sanctuary is recognized, in part, because of its role as the home of the largest remaining stand of virgin bald cypress trees in the world and the habitat it provides for the nearly 200 species of birds and other animals. (The Ramsar Convention's mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. More than 170 countries, including the United States, are Party to the Convention. Under the Convention, governments commit to work towards the wise use of all their wetlands, designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance and ensure their effective management, and cooperate

internationally to foster wetland conservation.)

HAPPY WORLD WETLANDS DAY !!!!!



Friends of Deerfield Island Park (FODIP)

Formed in March 2015

We are dedicated to preserving and protecting our unique green island as a natural habitat for native plants and for the island's animal inhabitants. We have been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for this purpose.

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