

Virginia Osprey Foundation



Annual Report June 2023-June 2024



www.virginiaOspreyfoundation.org

EIN 93-1437787

Mission, History, Purpose

The Virginia Osprey Foundation was founded in June of 2023 by a group of individuals with a passion for our environment and more specifically, the Osprey. The Virginia Osprey Foundation is dedicated to the protection of Osprey and their habitats. Through science, education, advocacy and community engagement, our mission is to foster a sustainable environment where Osprey thrive.

The Colonial Beach Osprey Festival was launched in 2019 and was the brainchild of Joyce Reimherr, then a member of Downtown Colonial Beach. It began as a fundraiser for that organization. By 2022, the Osprey Festival had grown significantly and in 2023 it was rebranded to the Virginia Osprey Festival in Colonial Beach. It was Co-hosted by two nonprofits, Downtown Colonial Beach and Colonial Beach Greenspace. The festival had doubled its size. At that time the Virginia Osprey Foundation formed and became a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, and it was agreed upon by both organizations that the Foundation would take on the Osprey Festival. The Osprey Festival is the Foundation's largest annual educational event of each year. The attendance in 2024 was approximately 1500 people.

Our mission has evolved as our board has begun to work on goals and projects that will be beneficial to our Ospreys and wildlife in Colonial Beach and in other parts of Virginia.

Board of Directors

Joanie Millward, President Jenny Grimes, Secretary

Donna Ryan, Treasurer Pam Narney, Member at Large

Cindy Ligon, Member at Large

Advisors

Michael Academia, Science; Deb Newman, Web Design

Accomplishments

- Installed Live Nest Camera on Fire Department Osprey nesting platform
- Celebrated Migratory Bird Day At Cooper Library with visiting children
- Lead an “Osprey Walk” at Cooper Library, sharing fun facts with children and their parents while taking a walk to a nearby Osprey nesting platform.
- Partnered with the Beach Art Music and Mentoring (BAMM) and provided Osprey education to the children in Colonial Beach Elementary School’s after school enrichment program.
- Premiered documentary, “The Biggest Little Fish You’ve Never Seen”
- Premiered documentary, “Growing up Osprey”
- Organized the banding of five Osprey chicks in three nests in 2023 with five volunteers assisting.
- Organized the banding of 25 Osprey chicks in 2024 with twelve plus volunteers assisting.
- Collaborated with Dominion Energy, replacing three Osprey Platforms
- Collaborated with Colonial Beach High School including students as volunteers at the Osprey Festival
- Collaborated with Colonial Beach Elementary School to include children’s choir at opening the opening ceremony of the Osprey Festival
- Authored the brochure, “Ospreys in Colonial Beach which is distributed free through local businesses.

- Answered numerous inquiries from the public referring them to proper authorities based on subject matter
- Transported injured Ospreys to rehabilitator in 2023
- Hosted the Virginia Osprey Festival in April of 2024
- Supplied data to the Center for Conservation Biology through Osprey Watch
- President spoke at Colonial Beach Community “Newcomer’s Meet-up” to acquaint public with the Virginia Osprey Foundation
- Participated in Earth Day Clean up and Chesapeake Bay Clean up day
- Produces a monthly newsletter available on our website
- Heather Shank – Rehabilitator, Ambassador Turkey Vulture at Festival- Made donation to help support her mission.
- TREE – Wildlife Rehabilitator, Participant at Festival – made donation to help support her mission.
- **The Virginia Osprey Festival in Colonial Beach**, as previously mentioned, is the Foundation’s largest annual educational event. The festival is an annual celebration that highlights the beauty and importance of Ospreys and their natural habitats. Held in the Town of Colonial Beach, located along the Potomac River, the festival brings together wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists, and the local community for a day of education, outdoor activities, and family-friendly fun. Attendees can enjoy Osprey-themed exhibits, live demonstrations, nature walks, and informative talks by experts on local wildlife and conservation efforts. The festival also offers opportunities for visitors to learn about the vital role Ospreys play in the ecosystem and how they are being protected through ongoing conservation initiatives.
In 2024, the festival offered a variety of exhibitors including the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Center for Conservation Biology, George Washington Birthplace Monument, James

Monroe's Birthplace, Northern Neck Master Naturalists, and So. MD Audubon, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, and Potomac Riverkeepers to name a few. In total there were 70 exhibitors and vendors onsite. Educational Opportunities included four lectures by experts in their fields, Trolley and golf cart Osprey nest tours, four wildlife rehabilitators with animal ambassadors, and adult and children's bird walks.

The festival was made possible by approximately 75 dedicated volunteers that assisted the nearly 1500 attendees throughout the day.

On Sunday after the festival, the Virginia Master Naturalists led bird walks in one of our nearby parks.

Sponsors

Department of Wildlife Resources

Dominion Energy

TS & T

The Wayt Studio

Westmoreland Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center

The International Osprey foundation

Dodson Companies

Eric Nelson

Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce

4Imprint

Riverview Inn

Moving Forward

The Virginia Osprey Festival has experienced tremendous growth over the past year, bringing together nature enthusiasts, conservationists, and families to celebrate the resilience and beauty of the Osprey. Our commitment to protecting local wildlife habitats and promoting environmental stewardship has never been stronger. Through expanded partnerships, increased community engagement, and enhanced educational programs, we're making significant strides in raising awareness and advocating for sustainable practices to support the Osprey and our cherished ecosystems. Together, we are building a legacy of conservation for future generations.

Financial Information

June 2023 Beginning Balance	0.00
Donations	859.16
Festival funds Transfer from CB Greenspace/DCB	9,336.34
Nest Camera Fund	4,742.31
Net Festival/Fundraising Proceeds	6,017.77
June 2024 Ending Balance	\$20,955.58