



**CHESAPEAKE
WILDLIFE
HERITAGE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Osprey Platforms Donated in Centreville

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage (CWH) donated two Osprey Platforms to the Town of Centreville. The Osprey Platforms were installed by CWH near the Centreville Wharf on March 21, 2019 to provide a nesting site for two pairs of Osprey near the Corsica River.

CWH partnered with the Town of Centreville Parks Board to install the platforms. There was growing concern from local citizens around the Centreville area for the welfare of the Osprey pair that nested on an old, heavily leaning platform near the Wharf and Corsica Neck Road. When the first Osprey of the season was spotted on Monday, March 11th plans were put into action.

Andi Pupke, CWH's Education and Outreach Director, said: "Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage is happy to help the nesting Osprey in the Centreville area and to please the bird lovers in the neighborhood. Humans have a major impact on wildlife and this is one way that we can make that impact be positive."

Osprey are important indicator species. Due to being on top of the food chain, the Osprey will reflect changes in the quality of its environment. This proved to be a harmful position in the 1950's through 1970's when organochlorine pesticides such as (DDT) adversely affected their reproductive success leading to a population decline. DDT builds up in the Osprey, causing the shell of the eggs to be too thin to stand up during incubation causing an unsuccessful nesting. Osprey would get DDT poisoning by eating fish that had eaten contaminated insects. The banning of some pesticides, including DDT, enabled Chesapeake Bay Ospreys to increase to an estimated 2,000 pairs by the 1980's. The Osprey population continues to face threats.

Osprey breed in North America, but return to South America each winter. Young Osprey stay in South America for three to four years reaching breeding age before returning north. Many South American countries still use pesticides that are harmful to the birds. Many of the pesticides that are banned from use in the U.S. are manufactured here then exported to countries where many of

our migrants spend their winters. If pesticide use on their wintering grounds can be regulated perhaps the Osprey population grows even greater. Breeding habitat must be protected from development pressures and bad water quality.

Ospreys readily use man-made structure like utility poles, nesting platforms, duck blinds, and buoys. It may take a few years for a new pair of Osprey to nest successfully on the new platform but given time, we hope for a successful nesting season.

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage is a private non-profit membership supported organization dedicated to restoring, protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. CWH has placed hundreds of Osprey platforms in the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay for over 25 years. Founded in 1980, CWH owns farms in Queenstown, Kent Island and Talbot County. In addition to nesting structures, CWH has restored 1,526 acres of wetlands, created 6,181 acres of warm season meadows and planted 874 acres of trees. This work increases habitat for wildlife and improves water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. For more information please visit www.cheswildlife.org

