



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

SANDY NECK NEWSLETTER



April 2025

From the Staff,

Its finally spring time on Cape Cod! Possibly the most beautiful time of year as the flowers again bloom with vibrancy and the migratory birds return to spend the spring and summer with us once more. One of these birds making their return is *Pandion haliaetus*, better known as the Osprey. These magnificent raptor have a wing span of up to 72 inches (6 feet) and are piscivorous, with 99% of their diet being fish. Sharp talons, incredible eyesight and backward-facing scales on there talons acting as barbs to help hold its catch make it an incredible angler.

Fun Fact: Osprey are a monogamous animal, having the same mates for life. Males will court females by catching a fish or collecting nesting material and dancing in mid flight to impress their hopeful mate. If the female accepts the males gift, they will bond for life.

Conservation: Osprey have made an incredible rebound from nearly going extinct in the 60's and 70's. With their numbers improving so drastically over the years, they now face different challenges. Often you will find them nesting on things they shouldn't, like utility poles. Although an ideal vantage point, they risk losing their nests, eggs and themselves to electrical fires. Barnstable natural resources, Massachusetts Audubon and Eversource work every year on installing Osprey poles in ideal areas to limit the risk of losing nests to electrical fires.



Upcoming
Events

Spring Beach Clean-up
Saturday, April 12, 9 am – noon

Signs of Spring on Sandy Neck
Thursday, April 24, 10 am – noon

Call the Sandy Neck Gatehouse for more info!

ORV Permit Application Here



Important!

NO campfires allowed until **May 1st**. ORV Beach hours are 8:00am to 4:00pm until **May 1st**. Gatehouse opens April 1st from 9am–3pm daily. The gatehouse can be reached at **(508)362-8300**.