



<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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*The President's Corner*  
*By Janet Manchester*

If spring is here, there must be a highway cleanup on the schedule. Oh, yes, there it is, in the *Calendar of Events*: April 18, 1:00 p.m.

Each spring and fall, our group picks up litter along the roads leading up to Bombay Hook. In doing so, we both provide a service to the community and ensure that visitors will experience a well-maintained and cared-for environment as they approach the refuge.

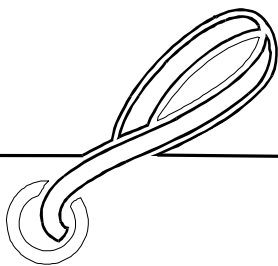
Marcia and Tom Poling, long-time Friends and volunteers at Bombay Hook, have served as Highway Cleanup Coordinators for many years. Whether the turnout is two or twenty workers, they always get the job done. The fruits of their labors can be seen after the cleanup, in the pile of trash bags placed under the "Adopt a Highway" sign on Whitehall Neck Road, awaiting pickup by DelDOT.

In contrast to Mark Twain's description of the game of golf ("A good walk, ruined,"), I would characterize the highway cleanup as a good walk greatly enhanced. Not only does it provide great exercise out in the fresh air, but it also leaves you with that sense of satisfaction that comes from having done something worthwhile.

Why not consider coming out for a cleanup? Bring your spouse, your kids, your parents, your scout troop. You may be tired after a couple of hours of picking up other people's trash, but you will feel good both physically and psychologically. And you will be rewarded for your efforts with homemade refreshments provided by the Polings.

And if you happen to run into Tom and Marcia at the Visitor Center or out on the refuge, tell them thanks for all they do to help make Bombay Hook a welcoming place

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***The Refuge Store  
By Verna Price***

**While you are touring the refuge, don't forget to stop and visit the store. We have a lot of nice shirts for Spring and Summer.**

**This year we have added some especially for the ladies; some with shorter (cap) sleeves and some with 3/4 sleeves. There are also some nice new colors. One of your favorites from a couple of years ago is back — beautiful shorebirds on a sand-colored shirt.**

**We look forward to seeing you!!!**

***Bird Notes  
By Frank Rawling***

**Fall Migration**

Spring is finally here at the refuge and the birds are returning from their wintering grounds. Let's see what birds were at the refuge last fall before heading south.....

**September**

The month began with the sighting of an **Osprey** over Sheariness. **Eastern King Birds** were also seen and there was a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen in the Finis Pool area. On the 2nd **Bobolinks** and **American Avocets** were seen at Sheariness. **Savannah Sparrows** were seen along Sheariness Dike on the 4th and on the 5th a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was seen at Sheariness. Both a **King Rail** and a **Clapper Rail** were seen in the Bear Swamp/Sheariness area on the 5th. A

**Peregrine Falcon** was observed at the southern end of Bear Swamp on the 7th. On the 8th there were **White-rumped Sandpipers** and **Black-bellied** and **Semi-palmated Sand-**



*Peregrine Falcon*

**pipers** at Bear Swamp. **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black** and **White Warbler** and **American Redstarts** were seen at Finis as well as several **White-eyed Vireos**. Along the Boardwalk Trail a **Baltimore Oriole** was seen. The first sighting of **Snow Geese** was reported on the 11th with a flyover

near the Boardwalk Trail. Bear Swamp that day held some 20 **Green-winged Teal**. Two **Black Terns** were seen at Sheariness on the 14th and an **American Golden Plover** was seen at Sheariness on the 19th. Sheariness seems to have been the place for seeing shorebirds this month for on the 20th **White-rumped Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Semi-palmated Sandpipers**, **Western Sandpipers** and **Semi-palmated Plovers** were seen there. A **Veery** was seen on the trail to Raymond Tower on the 20th and a dozen **Bobwhite Quail** were seen along the road to Finis Pool at the ditch. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at the edge of **Finis Pool** on the 23rd. There were two **Peregrine Falcons** seen on the 26th, one at Raymond Pool and one at Bear Swamp. Two **Eastern Phoebes** were seen at Sheariness on the 28th. On the 29th a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at the north end of Raymond Pool.

**October**

A **Great Horned Owl** was seen on the 4th at Bear Swamp Pool. **Wilson's Plovers** were noted on the 4th. On the Boardwalk Trail that day a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Ruby-**

crowned Kinglet and two Black-throated Blue Warblers were observed. A Hairy Woodpecker, a species not often seen on the refuge, was observed along the Boardwalk Trail that day. An Ovenbird was seen along the Parson Point Trail on the 5th. At Sheariness on the 11th and Eastern Meadowlark was observed and a Broad-winged Hawk was seen flying over. Several species of Sandpipers were seen on the 12th at Raymond Pool. On the 15th an Osprey was seen near Sheariness and two Wilson's Plovers were also seen. On the 17th an American Golden Plover was noticed at Raymond and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Sheariness. Along Sheariness

Dike on the 17th the first sighting of Snow Buntings was recorded. In the native plant garden area on the 19th Swamp Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, a single Fox Sparrow and three Ruby-crowned Kinglets



*Broad-winged Hawk*

were reported. There was a flock of Short-billed Dowitchers seen at Sheariness on the 20th. On the 22nd along the trail to Raymond Tower a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Palm Warbler were seen. On the 24th there was a huge flock of Dunlin on the mud-flats at Sheariness bayside. A red-phase Eastern Screech Owl was seen in a wood duck box. Tundra Swans were seen at Sheariness on the 29th and a Marbled Godwit was noticed at Raymond. The month finished with the sighting of a Merlin at Sheariness Dike on the 31st.

November

Tundra Swans, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Pintails, and a lone Northern Shov-

eler began the month, all at Sheariness. In addition there were reports of Killdeer and Green-winged Teal on the 1st. On the 2nd a Ross's Goose and 2 Cackling Geese were seen. A Marbled Godwit was seen on both the 2nd and the 3rd. A small flock of Ameri-



*Wood Duck*

can Pipits was seen on the 7th in one of the fields along the road to Raymond Tower. White-crowned Sparrows were seen once again in the garden area on the 7th. A Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Raymond Pool on the 8th. The same day three Pectoral Sandpipers and a Stilt Sandpiper were seen at Raymond Pool. The next day a Short-eared Owl was seen at Raymond Pool. The American Avocet flock at Raymond Pool had risen to a total of approximately 200 by the 14th. Along the entrance road on the 15th a flock of some 27 Pine Siskins was observed. On the 15th four Wood Ducks were seen on the refuge. Five Goldeneyes were seen at Raymond on the 16th as well as five Buffleheads. Two Blue-winged Teal were seen on the 16th at Sheariness Pool. Twenty Bobwhites were seen near the Allee House on the 25th. On the 27th there were still some Tree Swallows at Sheariness. An American Bittern was sighted at Sheariness on the 28th. On the 29th large flocks of American Pipits were seen in the fields near Raymond Pool.

That's all for now.

*Cheers and Good Birding!!!*

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Our readers are encouraged to share comments, provide articles for publication and/or suggestions regarding the refuge as well as notifying us of address changes .

Please direct communications to:

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<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

## Bombay Hook NWR



### Connecting People With Nature

**VISION:** To provide people enjoyable and meaningful experiences in the out-of-doors so they will develop strong life-long connections with the natural world.

**Family Explorer Kit** – Check out the kit and your family is ready for an afternoon of exploring nature. There are wildflower, tree, bird, amphibian and reptile, insect, and mammal guides (26 different ones!) to help you identify what you see on the 12-mile wildlife drive and 5 walking trails. Binoculars will help you get a close-up view of birds and magnification lenses will help to view the smaller specimens. A small backpack is provided if you want to carry a couple of field guides on the walking trails. A dip net is provided to explore the **brackish pond on Boardwalk Trail** and the **freshwater pond at Finis**. Instructions are included on ethical exploration methods and where and how to use the equipment. The kit is available at the Visitor Center.

### *Refuge Supporter Sponsors Photo Contest*

Barbara's Bakery, a long-time supporter of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is conducting a contest geared toward getting people on refuges to discover and experience the remarkable diversity of wildlife and habitats that they protect.

The "Families Gone Wild" sweepstakes encourages people to submit photos and videos from refuges, along with a brief write-up on their experience. The winners, which will be drawn on or about September 18, 2009, will receive an all-expense paid trip to Alaska, where they will visit the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

You can see a press release from Barbara's Bakery at this website: [http://www.refugeassociation.org/new-pdf-files/Press%20Releases/Shredded\\_Alaska\\_Sweeps.pdf](http://www.refugeassociation.org/new-pdf-files/Press%20Releases/Shredded_Alaska_Sweeps.pdf)

To enter the contest, visit: <http://www.barbarasbakery.us/alaska/>.

## **Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events**

### **Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**10:00 am**     ***Forest Loss and Fragmentation – Implications for Rare Birds and Amphibians***     Rick McCorkle will give the presentation, he is a Fish & Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Delaware Bay Estuary Project office. Through his master's thesis and work on a 10-year project modeling and mapping wildlife habitat in Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey, Rick had developed a strong understanding of the impacts of forest fragmentation on forest-dependent wildlife, and expertise in modeling the habitat requirements of many of these species. Rick will describe the forest area requirements for many of these species, the impacts associated with forest fragmentation, and what we can do to address this problem. The program will be held in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

**1:00 pm**     ***Highway Clean Up***     Meet at the Visitor Center to participate in the highway clean up. Wear shoes that can get wet and bring work gloves. Refreshments will be served after the clean up.

**Sunday, April 19, 2009**     **1:00 pm**     ***Kevin Fleming Presentation, Exhibit and Book Signing***     Kevin Fleming has covered the world as a photographer for *National Geographic* and has recently been recognized America's Best Observer by Readers Digest. His assignments have taken him into war and famine in Somalia, to the Mediterranean for a re-creation of the voyage of Ulysses and put him on a dogsled crossing the Canadian arctic. Kevin has worked in 26 countries photographing subjects as diverse as the sub-atomic world of high-energy physics and New Zealand sheep ranchers.

A Delaware native, Kevin began his career as a newspaper photographer after attending Wesley College. He then spent a decade as a *National Geographic* photographer and most recently has concentrated on creating books. His photography has won many national and international awards.

On September 11, 2001, when the second airplane crash into the World Trade Center, Kevin instantly realized that America, and the world were changed forever. That day, he changed too, a sense of urgency compelled him to get back on the road and finish his book on the people and places in America and to begin a new book on the wildlife of Delaware.

Kevin will share some experiences of his year-long journey to capture wildlife in Delaware, such as, "Looking back over the past year of photographing Wild Delaware one sunrise at Gordon's Pond stands out as the most beautiful combination of great light and great wildlife. The sky was clear overhead but there was a thin blanket of fog hanging over the pond filtering early light. Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets and an assortment of gulls crowded into the shallows of the pond having a fishing frenzy. They were so focused on fishing I was able to get very close to the action." Come and enjoy Kevin's photography and experiences.

### **Saturday, April 25, 2009**

**9:00 am – 11:30 am**     ***Horseshoe Crab Survey Training***     The training will begin in Bombay Hook's auditorium and will end with a trip to Pickering Beach's survey location. If you would like to help conduct horseshoe crab surveys at Pickering Beach training is required. Tina Watson will provide training on horseshoe crab anatomy, spawning requirements, and survey protocol. **Call to register.**

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**     ***Bird Watching 101***     Bird Watching is fun but how to get started can be daunting. Linda Osiecki will give the workshop for beginning bird watchers and will go through some of the fundamentals of bird watching, such as: How to Identify Birds, What a field guide is and how to use it, Other Useful Bird References, Where and When to Go Bird Watching, How to Attract Birds to Your Yard, Recording Bird Observations, Using Binoculars and Spotting Scopes. Registration is not required but will be helpful in knowing the amount of supplies needed. **Call to register at 302-653-6872** and let them know whether or not you have internet access.

### **Sunday, April 26, 2009**

**12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m**     ***Bird Identification Station***     Get a close look at the birds in the impoundments. A bird identification station will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes and binoculars to help you identify the different bird species. Check at the Visitor Center for the exact location.



**1:30 pm – 3:00pm**     ***Tour of the Refuge***     Join volunteer, Ray Cullom, for a tour of the Refuge. Find out how the Refuge is managed for wildlife, visit different habitats, and walk a trail over the salt marsh. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**     ***Bicycle Tour on the Refuge***     Meet at the Visitor Center. Join Tina Watson for a guided bicycle tour. We will stop to discuss habitats, wildlife management techniques, and to identify birds. The guided trip will be approximately 6 miles. Riders may continue their bicycle tour on their own through the 8 miles of Refuge roads. Roads are packed dirt and a bicycle with hybrid tires is suggested. Bring your helmet and check the air in your tires!

*(Continued on next page)*

**Bombay Hook NWR  
Calendar of Events  
(Continued from page 5)**

**Saturday, May 2, 2009**



**11:00 am – 1:00 pm** *Exploring the Salt Marsh and Brackish Water* Bring your family to learn about the salt marsh and to see what animals live in the brackish water. **Stop by the Boardwalk Trail anytime between 11 am and 1 pm.** Someone will be on the trail with dip nets and information about the salt marsh.

**Saturday, May 9, 2009**

**7:00 am – 11:30 am** *Spring Bird Count* Celebrate the Migratory Bird Day by participating in Bombay Hook's annual bird count. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

**9:30 am – 11:30 am** *Garden Keepers* If you would like to learn about native plants join the Garden Keepers. The group helps maintain the Refuge's education garden and landscaping and develops educational native plant programs. Short meeting and garden work. Meet at the Visitor Center Auditorium.

**Saturday, May 16, 2009**

**ALL DAY** *Free Entrance to Delawareans* Bombay Hook will participate in the state-wide 'Free to the First State' day. If you are a Delawarean, you will have free entrance to Bombay Hook; and if you come in and show us your Delaware state drivers license or proof of residence, you will get a Delaware State lapel pin.



**11:00 am – 1:00 pm** *Exploring the Salt Marsh and Brackish Water* Bring your family to learn about the salt marsh and to see what animals live in the brackish water. **Stop by the Boardwalk Trail anytime between 11 am and 1 pm.** Someone will be on the trail with dip nets and information about the salt marsh.

**Thursday, May 21, 2009**

**8:00 am – 10:30 am** *Salt Marsh Boat Ride* **Call to register.** Meet at the Visitor Center. The salt marsh grasses will be 'greening up' for summer. Shorebirds will be looking for mudflats to probe for aquatic insects, and you may see or hear a rail or two. Dress for the weather and possibly a wet spray from the water. Limit 8.

**Saturday, May 23, 2009**



**9:00 am – 11:30 am** *Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Presentation* Greg Breese, Project Manager for the Delaware Bay Estuary Project, will start the program with a presentation on shorebirds, their amazing migration journey, and horseshoe crabs on the Delaware Bay. The group will then go to Pickering Beach to see the shorebirds and the horseshoe crabs that come up onto the Bay beach to spawn. Meet at the Refuge's auditorium.

**Sunday, May 24, 2009**

**1:30 pm – 3:00pm** *Tour of the Refuge* Join volunteer, Ray Cullom, for a tour of the Refuge. Find out how the Refuge is managed for wildlife, visit different habitats, and walk a trail over the salt marsh. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Saturday, August 1, 2009**  
***the Next Level!***

**8:00 am – 2:30 pm** *Kevin Karlson's Program - Taking Shorebird Identification to* This seminar combines an impression-based field approach with detailed field mark analysis to take shorebird ID to new heights of understanding. While Kevin shared his concept of *Birding by Impression* with participants over the last several years, it is time to explain a more complete approach to shorebird ID. Specific examples of historic shorebird ID problems, including dowitchers, peeps, willets and plovers, will be covered in detail, along with photographic examples of how both field ID disciplines combine to form a more complete ID conclusion. Some photos from Kevin's popular book *The Shorebird Guide* will be used in the presentation. This seminar covers some topics that are advanced in nature, but beginners will also find a great deal of helpful information for their shorebird identification pursuits. The program will start with an outdoor field study from 8:00 am – 12 noon. After a lunch break, the program will wind up with an indoor program from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. **Call to register at 302-653-6872**

**Sunday, August 2, 2009**

***Shorebird ID Workshop*** at Bombay Hook NWR Learn to ID shorebirds based on size, structure, habits, and plumage. Half day trip includes both classroom and field work. Andy Urquhart & Eric Braun. **Reservations required. Call Andy at 302-239-2471 before July 31.**

**Important Reminder to Refuge Visitors**

To protect wildlife and their habitat and to provide the best opportunities in wildlife observation and photography, it is important not to disturb, injure, or damage plants and animals of the refuge. In fact, it is a prohibited act as stated in 50 CFR27.51. This disturbance includes flushing birds and other wildlife or using electronic calls (taping) to lure birds closer for observation or photography. Please remember to take only memories and photographs and leave only footprints.

## ***The Refuge Corner By Mike Stroeh***

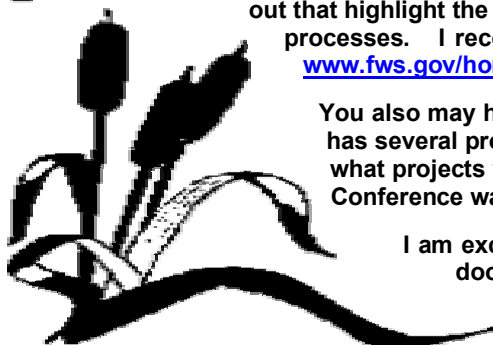
First off, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I received when I arrived in Delaware. I am originally from Luverne, Minnesota. It is in the SW corner and is the only county in Minnesota that does not have a lake. From there, I moved on to Stevens Point, Wisconsin and received my B.S. in Wildlife Biology. I started my career in 1987 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. I decided it was too cold in the Dakotas so I headed south in 1991. I ended up in Monroe, LA working at Northeast LA Wildlife Refuge Complex (D'Arbonne and Upper Ouachita NWRs). Boy that was culture shock for this northern boy. However, I enjoyed every minute of it. In 1998, I got the itch again, so I moved to the West Tennessee Refuge Complex as the Deputy Project Leader. The Complex consisted of five refuges, Reelfoot, Lake Isom, Chickasaw, Lower Hatchie and Hatchie NWRs.

The Bombay Hook staff is currently in the beginning stages of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan. This process will evaluate all aspects of refuge management and provide goals and objectives for the next 15 years. In April the refuge will host a visitor services review which will provide some valuable comments and suggestions on our program. Within the next year the refuge will be hosting public meetings to solicit the public's comments and suggestions. This is a major undertaking for the staff but it will provide the management guidance for the refuge for the next 15 years.

Another item that you will be hearing a lot about is climate change and sea level rise. Two reports are out that highlight the changes to come. Climate change and sea level rise will dominate our budgets processes. I recommend everyone read the material posted on the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/home/climatechange/>.

You also may have heard something about Stimulus and Omnibus spending bills. The refuge has several projects under consideration for funding. However, at this time we don't yet know what projects will get funded. I guess that will be a topic for the next newsletter. The Friends Conference was a huge success and our many thanks to all your hard work.

I am excited about the challenges we face. I look forward to meeting each of you. My door is always open so please feel free to stop by and chat. I look forward to working with you in the coming months/years.



### ***Roger Masse's Internship – 300 Hours goes fast when you are having fun!***

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge was pleased to welcome Roger Masse, a graduate student from Delaware State University, for a short-term internship through the Student Conservation Association beginning in early December of 2008. Since December, Roger has had many responsibilities ranging from updating the Accidental/Rare Bird Sightings List to designing an educational exhibit focusing on bird nests for the Visitors Center.

A few times per week, Roger could be found surveying the refuge for winter and resident birds to report activity to the DE-Birds Listserv. In addition, Roger has represented the refuge at four 'What in the World' school programs in Kent County, introducing more than 450 middle school children to the refuge and possible job opportunities in the National Wildlife Refuge System. He also represented the refuge at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual 'I ♥ the Smyrna School District Day' where over 5,000 community members attended. Along with leading several birding tours around the refuge, Roger also provided public programs and workshops focusing on owling, sparrow identification, and bird migration. Participants for some of these events came from as far away as southeastern Pennsylvania and Washington D.C.



*Roger Masse*

Finally, Roger spent a morning at the Dover Public Library reading books about birds and wildlife to toddlers, designed an informational sign focusing on eagle nests and highlighting the active nest on the refuge, and assisted with the learning and operation of traffic counting technology on the refuge.

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge has been very thrilled with all of Roger's contributions and wishes him luck in the future. Thanks, Roger!!



2591 Whitehall Neck Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977

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***ANNUAL MEETING TO BE  
HELD JUNE 6***

The Friends' all-member annual meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2009, from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda will include the election of officers, an update on activities and accomplishments through the year, and a presentation on a topic of interest to our group. Members will receive more details in early May.