



<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Published Quarterly by: Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 (302) 653-6872

Terry Villanueva Retires
By Oscar Reed Jr.
Refuge Manager

On June 12, we officially celebrated the retirement of Terry Villanueva. Terry served as the Wildlife Refuge Manager at Bombay Hook NWR, from 2000 to 2008. In June 2007, her duties expanded to include Prime Hook NWR as Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager for the newly formed Coastal Delaware National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Terry was a great leader who genuinely cared for the staff she supervised. She supported a strong wildlife conservation program and was committed to providing opportunities for the public to enjoy wildlife in a natural setting. She garnered community support for the Refuge and built partnerships with communities, groups, corporations, and individuals to achieve mutual goals. She worked with partners to promote Bombay Hook whenever possible. She will be sorely missed as Complex Manager but we will continue to benefit from her skills and experience as she has become a Refuge Volunteer.



Terry with Prime Hook Refuge Manager Michael Stroeh

Terry retired from her career of federal service in January of 2008. She served for nearly 29 years in land management of which 23 years were with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and 6 years with the U.S. Forest Service. Terry made a few stops before coming to Bombay Hook in 2000:

Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont

- ◆ 1985 - 1987: Assistant Refuge Manager at Dismal Swamp NWR, Virginia
- ◆ 1987 - 1990: Assistant Refuge Manager at Blackwater NWR, Maryland
- ◆ 1990 - 1996: Deputy Refuge Manager at Great Swamp NWR, New Jersey



Terry Villanueva enjoying her retirement dinner with friends from Bombay Hook, Bob and Mary Mayer (left) ...

...and husband Gid Honsinger (right)



From 1996 to 1999, Terry worked in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System Headquarters Office in Arlington, VA. She coordinated the first ever NWRS Conference in Keystone, CO and the teams for *Fulfilling the Promise: The NWRS, Visions for Wildlife, Habitat, People and Leadership*, a vision document for the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System, also serving on the team that developed the Leadership goals for Refuges. She coordinated initial implementation of *Fulfilling the Promise*, which continues to be a guiding document for the Refuge System today.

- ◆ 1979 - 1985: Wildlife Biologist on the 1
- ◆ During 1999 to 2000, Terry served as the Divi-

sion Chief for the Division of Refuges, South-west Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We would like to thank Terry for her outstanding service!

The Refuge Store
By Verna Price

Thanks to all of you loyal supporters, we had a very busy Spring. Sales for the three months are:

March - \$1,744.19

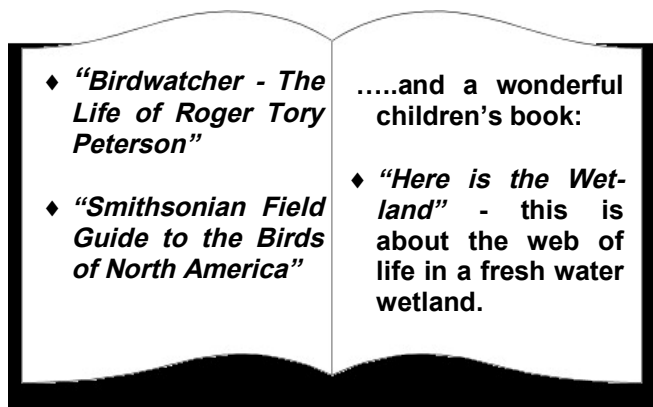
April - \$2,601.07

May - \$5,702.48

New items in stock:



Also available are three new books.....



We look forward to seeing you in the store!!!

Bird Notes
By Frank Rawling

The Winter Season

Here we are...it's Summer and school is finally out. But before we experience the heat and humidity of summer, let's recap what was seen in the winter season.....

December

The season began with the sighting of 20 **American Pipits** and some **Eastern Meadowlarks** in a field near Raymond Pool. Also a couple of **Snow Buntings** were seen along Sheariness Dike. A couple of days later the first **Ross's Goose** of the month was observed. On the 4th **Marbled Godwits** were sighted mingling with the **American Avocet** flock.



American Pipit

A nice find along the trail to Raymond Tower was an **Ipswich Sparrow**. A **Common Goldeneye** was spotted at Sheariness on the 9th and a **Merlin** was monitoring Sheariness on the 15th. The **Pipits** and **Avocets** were still around on the 20th. Another nice find, this one in the Finis Pool area, was a **Hairy Woodpecker** observed on the 21st. The next day a female **Hooded Merganser** was observed on the bay side of Raymond Pool. That same day a **Short-eared Owl** was seen on the bay side of Raymond and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen over the maintenance sheds. On the 23rd Sheariness Pool held an **American Wigeon** and a couple of **Pied-billed Grebes**. Also on the 23rd both a **Ross's Goose** and a **Cackling Goose** were seen at Bear Swamp. There was still a **Short-eared Owl** on the Refuge on the 27th, this time seen at Bear Swamp. A flock of **Savannah Sparrows** was seen on the 28th. And the next day **Hooded, Red-breasted, and Common Mergansers** were

seen on the bay side of Sheariness.

January

Eastern Meadowlarks and **Hooded Mergansers** were still around in early January. On the 1st **Tree Sparrows**, an **American Bittern** and **Common Mergansers** were seen. In addition, in the Sheariness area there were **American Pipits** and a lone **Common Goldeneye**. On the 4th a dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Bear Swamp and in the same area there were 2 **Palm Warblers**. There was a single **White-crowned Sparrow** seen at the Visitor Center on the 5th. The same observer saw **Horned Larks** in a field near the same location. An unusual find was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** near the Allee House on the 5th. A **Great-horned Owl** was seen along the trail to Sheariness Tower on the 6th. A **Ruddy Shelduck** was seen by an experienced observer in Sheariness on the 7th. This was obviously an escapee. The **Short-eared Owl** was still in the vicinity of Raymond and Sheariness on the 12th and **American Tree Sparrows** were being seen at Raymond Tower. On the 13th there were 5 **Buffleheads** at Raymond Pool and flock of about 100 **American Pipits** near Finis Pool. On the 24th, along the entrance road to the refuge, a lone **Lapland Longspur** and a flock of about 50 **Horned Larks** were seen. The ducks were very much in evidence on the 24th with some 7 species observed. The **Short-eared Owl** was still around on the 27th.



Common Merganser

February

The month began with the sighting of the long-staying **Short-eared Owl** in the area of Raymond Pool. This was followed up with sightings of **Tree Swallows**, **Buffleheads**, **Bald Eagles** (5) and an **American Bittern** at

Sheariness and a **Peregrine Falcon** at the Allee House. On the 3rd a **Snow Bunting** was seen near Bear Swamp and some 14 **Common Mergansers** on the bay side of Sheariness. A single **Lapland Longspur** was seen near the Visitor Center on the same day. The **American Bittern** was still at Sheariness on the 8th. On Big Woods Pond, on the road to the Allee House, there was a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** on the 9th. An early **Woodcock** was seen displaying on the 15th near Raymond Pool and a pair of **Brown Thrashers** were seen along the Parson Point Trail that day. Large numbers of **Green-winged Teal** were seen on the 18th. A red-phase **Eastern Screech Owl** was seen in the Wood Duck Box near Sheariness Tower that day. A **Cooper's Hawk** was spotted checking out the Finis Pool area on the 20th and a couple of **Eastern Towhees** were also at Finis. There were 14 **American Wigeons** near the Allee House on the 24th. The month closed with the sighting of an **American Bittern** at Bear Swamp.



Eastern Screech Owl (red-phase)

Cheers and Good Birding!!!!

To all our members....

Bombay Hook is closed on the weekends for the summer and will be reopening in September .

**In the meantime
check the website for
upcoming activities at:
[www.fws.gov/northeast/
bombayhook.](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/bombayhook)**

Protecting Habitat: Your Duck Stamp Dollars at Work

For every dollar you spend on Federal Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents go directly to purchase vital habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) oversees the use of Federal Duck Stamp funds for the purchase and lease of wetland habitat. The MBCC also reviews, but does not approve, the use of Federal Duck Stamp dollars for the purchase of small natural wetlands and their associated uplands for preservation as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) .



75th Anniversary Federal Duck Stamp winner - Joe Hautman

Federal Duck Stamp Wildlife artist Joe Hautman of Plymouth, Minnesota, won the 75th Anniversary Federal Duck Stamp Contest - the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America in Sanibel, Florida with his elegant depiction of a pair of northern pintails.

The 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp can be purchased at Bombay Hook NWR or at your local Post Office.

Spring Highway Clean Up

Thanks to a good turnout and near-perfect weather, the roads leading to the refuge were cleared of trash in record



Bombay Hook Volunteers at the Spring Highway Clean-Up

time. As always, Marcia and Tom Poling coordinated the event and provided much appreciated refreshments after the job

was done. Note the new and improved safety vests provided by DeIDOT.



is published quarterly by "Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. (FOBH)", a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FOBH provides financial and developmental support for environmental education programs at the refuge and in communities throughout the region.

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 .

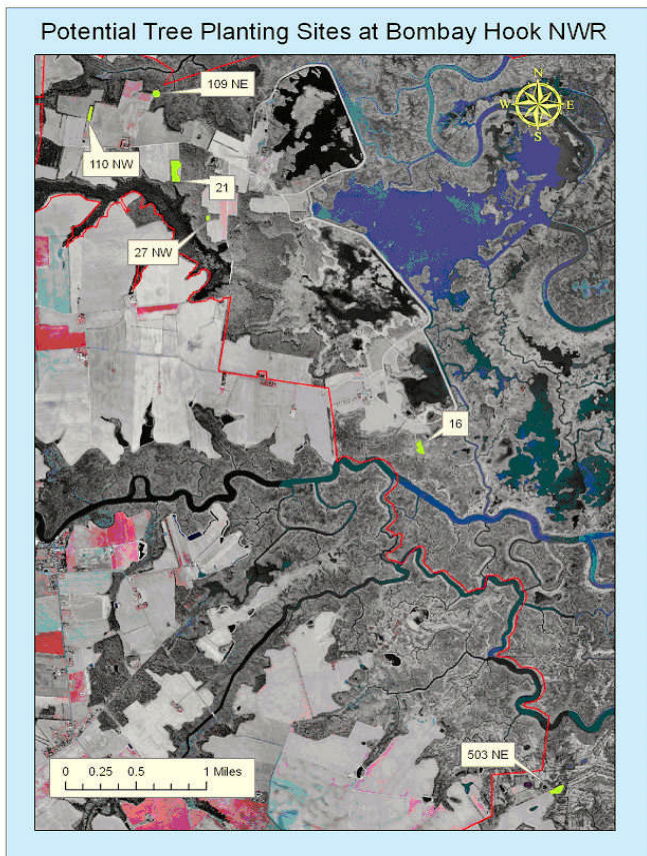
Please direct communications to:

Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
Phone: (302) 653-6872
Fax: (302) 653-0684
email: bombayhook@del.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

**Creating New Habitat on Bombay Hook –
An ongoing project
By Tina Watson**

Currently there is less than 600 acres of woodland on the Refuge, although most of the upland area once was forested. Clearing to create agricultural fields continued as late as World War II. After a review of successful agricultural fields located on the Refuge, six small areas were identified as tree planting sites. The six areas border wooded sites and eventually will create larger forested areas providing valuable habitat for wildlife.



In the summer of 2007, Drew Slik a member of Scout Troop 634, Dover, Delaware contacted the Refuge seeking an Eagle Scout project and he accepted the first phase of the reforestation project as his Leadership Service project. Drew worked with Delaware Bay Estuary Project and Refuge staff and a plan was developed for preparing the site, ordering the plants, and organizing the volunteers for planting day. Funding for the plants was provided by Delaware Bay Estuary Project, Friends of Bombay Hook, and the Refuge and preparation of the field was the responsibility

of the Refuge.

Because of the field's location adjacent to the Big Woods area and Finis Branch, the best use of the site would be as woodland. Forest acreage on the Delmarva Peninsula has been dramatically reduced by human activities and is considered by many experts to be the most imperiled habitat type in the area. The purpose of Field 21 reforestation project was to convert a 6-acre agricultural field to deciduous forest to provide habitat for a number of migratory songbirds. Many songbirds and other wildlife species are dependent on forests, especially large tracts of intact, non-fragmented forest. Migratory birds are not the only species expected to benefit from the project. Elimination of potential agricultural runoff into Finis Branch from this site provides benefits to other groups of animals, including amphibians, freshwater fish and invertebrates.

The first phase of reforestation of Field 21 involved planting hardwood trees and shrubs on the 6-acre field. The site's soils were examined to determine their ability to support the proposed species. A proven approach to reforestation includes a combination of densely-planted "islands" of larger container stock, and bare-root seedlings planted more sparsely, outside of islands. The islands are established in the interior of the field, where they attract fruit-eating birds which use the larger trees and shrubs as singing perches, while depositing seed and facilitating natural succession which radiates outward from the interior islands.

Four islands were established within the interior of Field 21, each approximately 40 feet in diameter, with 25 trees and 25 shrubs per island. *Future plans (upcoming volunteer opportunities) for Field 21 include planting a combination of 100 trees and shrubs in two additional islands and 2000 bare-root seedlings outside the islands.*

On October 20, 2007, Drew Slik and his army of forty volunteers planted over 200 potted trees and shrubs. The species planted included:



Volunteers celebrate the completion of planting phase one of Field 21

Container Stock for Island Plantings

Species

<i>Amelanchier c canadensis</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut hickory
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern red oak
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Southern arrowwood
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw

The field is located on the auto tour route after the Big Woods pond heading towards the Allee House on the left hand side of the road. You may notice the tree tubes used to protect the trees. The Refuge and Friends of Bombay Hook will continue to seek funding opportunities to complete the next two phases of Field 21 and the other 5 areas identified as tree planting sites. Many thanks to all the people that helped get this project started.

August 16, 2008 - Shorebirds by Impression Workshop with Kevin Karlson

Outdoor Session: 10 AM - 2 PM; Leaves promptly at 10.

Book Signing before Indoor session: 2:45 - 3 PM

Indoor Session: 3 PM - 4:30 PM

Book Signing also after Indoor Session: 4:30 - 5 PM

This outdoor/indoor workshop will concentrate on a different approach to field identification, which Kevin calls "Birding by Impression". Using the same approach covered in the popular



Kevin Karlson

new book "*The Shorebird Guide*," by Kevin Karlson, Michael O'Brien and Richard Crossley, Kevin will share tips on how to identify shorebirds using non-changeable impressions of size, shape/structure and body language to form a surprisingly accurate first impression of every bird you see. Then a more complete ID picture is formed by adding details of plumage, aging and feather condition.

Throughout the field observation, comparison to nearby familiar species helps set a basic understanding of the birds we are concentrating on. It would help greatly if you read one or more articles on "*Birding by Impression*" that Kevin has on his website: kevinkarlsonphotography.com (articles link on home page) before you attend the workshop. Kevin recently signed a contract to write a new book called: "*Birding by Impression*," for the Roger Tory Peterson Research Series at Houghton Mifflin Publishers. Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-6872.

Buy Duck Stamps, Save Land!

Duck Stamp Dollars in the Northeast Benefiting Birds, Wetlands, Wildlife and People

Originally created as a federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl, the Federal Duck Stamp has a much larger purpose today.

Since its debut in 1934, nearly 17 million stamps have been sold in the Northeast Region, which extends from Virginia to Maine.

Wetlands

Federal Duck Stamps are a VITAL tool for wetland conservation.

Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat.

Since 1934, more than 5.2 million acres of land have been purchased with Duck Stamp funds.

Wildlife

Federal Duck Stamp money has been used to purchase lands for national wildlife refuges in all 13 states of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northeast Region.

Numerous species of birds, including waterfowl, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians rely on wetland habitats purchased with Duck Stamp money.



Richard Clifton

2006 Federal Duck Stamp Winner

People

Protected wetlands help purify water supplies, store flood water and reduce soil erosion and sediment.

Outdoor enthusiasts have a place to hike, watch birds and visit.

Wetlands provide spawning areas for fish important to sport and commercial fisherman

Hunters have a place to enjoy their hunting heritage

More Land for the National Wildlife Refuge System

Duck Stamp money has benefited at least one national wildlife refuge in each of the thirteen states in the Northeast Regions. Examples of refuges created in part with Federal Duck Stamp funds are:

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge
Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic, active, art and science program designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school.

Revenue generated by the sales of Junior Duck Stamps funds environmental education programs in all 50 states.

Where to buy Duck Stamps

It's easy to do your part; buy a duck stamp! You can purchase a Federal Duck Stamp or Junior Duck Stamp from the U.S. Postal Service, national wildlife refuges, and on the internet at www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

For more information about the Federal Duck Stamp or Junior Duck Stamp programs, visit <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps> or contact the Federal Duck Stamp office at 703.358.2000 or duckstamps@fws.gov.

Northeast Region

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035
413/253 8200
<http://northeast.fws.gov>

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

March 2007





The President's Corner
By Janet Manchester

All land within the National Wildlife Refuge System is managed toward a single goal: conserving and restoring the nation's fish and wildlife habitat.

- Statement contained in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fact Sheet

Ask any Refuge Manager what sets the National Wildlife Refuge System apart from other federal programs, and the response will probably be, "At National Wildlife Refuges, it's all about the wildlife."

The NWRS is the only federally managed land system where the wildlife really does come first. Human activities may be permitted on a refuge, but only to the extent that they do not interfere with the refuge's mission of conserving wildlife and its habitat.

Visitors come to Bombay Hook by the thousands to see the wildlife, but many of them don't really know what a National Wildlife Refuge is. Many aren't aware that Bombay Hook is part of a system of more than 500 refuges nationwide, all created for the purpose of conserving wildlife habitat. If you have ever worked as a volunteer staffing the Visitor Center, you probably have had the experience of being asked by visitors whether their National Parks Pass (or perhaps their State Parks Pass) will gain them entry to the refuge. I always view this as an opportunity to point out how special refuges are and how fortunate we are to have this unique federal system (then, of course, I encourage them to buy a Duck Stamp).

Others who visit Bombay Hook come precisely because it is a National Wildlife Refuge. Some of these are people use their vacation time to visit refuges. Some make it a point to visit refuges whenever they are traveling for other purposes. Some have the good fortune to live close enough to the refuge that they can come here, have a wonderful nature experience, and be home in time for dinner.

Then there are those who not only come to the refuge over and over to observe the wildlife but also volunteer here, working on a wide range of projects, helping the refuge staff to accomplish more than would otherwise be possible.

Why do some people come back to the refuge time after time? What motivates some to donate hours of their time doing volunteer work at the refuge?

The answer is simple. People come here to observe, photograph, learn about, teach others about, and help conserve – you guessed it – wildlife.

Because at a refuge, that's what it's all about.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING FRIENDS???

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK is a cooperating association formed with the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is a private, non-profit corporation which was founded to promote conservation, environmental education, and better understanding of and appreciation for Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge.

Each year more than 3,000 students visit Bombay Hook. They use equipment to study habitats, watch videos about endangered species, and are taught from field guides - all provided by FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!

If you used an Auto Tour Brochure or the Bird or Mammal List, these too have been funded by FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!

Your Membership Dues will make it possible for Friends of Bombay Hook to continue its support of educational and recreational programs at Bombay Hook.

Proceeds from the Refuge Store in the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook also help support the Friends program and activities. Make this your place to buy field guides, books, T-shirts, Posters, and Souvenirs!

OUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 10% Discount on all items sold in the Refuge Store
 - Subscription to the Friends Newsletter (published 4 times a year)
 - Participation in special wildlife education programs and field trips
 - Attendance at the Annual Meeting (held in June)
 - Eligibility in the Dover Federal Credit Union (DFCU)
 - Opportunity to meet others with similar interests in birds, other wildlife, wetlands, and the environment
- And perhaps best of all, the chance to say, "Thank you Bombay Hook, for all the great times I've had here !"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Submit completed application at the Visitor Center
(payment by cash, check or credit card) or Mail (with check) to:

*Friends of Bombay Hook
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977*

Date: _____

Renewal New Member

Name

Membership Plan (Check One) Annual

Address

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18)* | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor*** | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate** | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life*** | \$200.00 |

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Method of Payment

- Cash (payment at Visitor Center only)
- Check (payment by mail or at Visitor Center)
- Visa (payment at Visitor Center only)
- MasterCard (payment at Visitor Center only)

*Junior membership: under age 18.

**Corporate sponsorship: includes link to FOBH website; no voting privileges or store discount.

***Sponsor and Life memberships includes family.



2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977

NON PROFIT ORG.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #159
Dover, DE



**Come join us at the
*Shorebirds by Impres-
sion* workshop with
Kevin Karlson on August
16th. See page 6 for more
details.**