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*The President's Corner
by Janet Manchester*

Like many organizations and businesses, the Friends of Bombay Hook (FOBH) is trying to both save money and reduce our carbon footprint. If you have internet access, you can help our organization accomplish these goals by choosing to receive your FOBH newsletter electronically.

Since our Membership Chairperson began offering electronic delivery last fall, only about 40 members (17% of our membership) have chosen this option. We would like to increase this number significantly. This will reduce paper usage and also help our budget (for FY 2010, our printing and postage expenses have exceeded the amount budgeted).

Please consider helping FOBH and the environment by sending an e-mail to fobhmembership@idv.net indicating that you would like electronic delivery of your newsletter. Be sure to provide your name and address so that we can remove you from the "snail mail" list.

We will not inundate you with e-mails and will not share our e-mail list with other organizations.

Reducing our printing and postage costs will make more money available to support the refuge.



IN MEMORIAM
Verna M. Price
1926-2010

Bombay Hook has lost one of its most faithful supporters. On August 21, Verna Price died from complications following a fall at her home. She was a charter member of Friends of Bombay Hook, and in 1991, she was employed as a permanent part-time Outdoor Planning Aide by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a position she held until her death.

Verna began her employment as an ORP Aide at Bombay Hook by assisting in the Environmental Education Program, guiding school groups on refuge tours and conducting habitat studies, but later she took charge of the Refuge Store. She managed inventories, dealt with vendors, and selected, ordered, received, and processed all merchandise sold in the store. The success of the store over the years is, in a large part, a result of her dedication and service. In addition to her part-time job at the refuge, Verna also served as a volunteer in the Visitor Center on weekends.

Verna was born November 15, 1926, in Princeton, West Virginia. She taught science in West Virginia and Virginia before she moved with her late husband, Hugh "Woody" Price, Jr., to Dover in 1965. She was a science teacher at Dover Central Middle School and was honored as Presidential Science Teacher of the Year in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan. She retired from her teaching position in 1991.

Verna loved nature and outdoor activities, and Bombay Hook was one of her favorite places. She will be sorely missed by her many friends and colleagues at the refuge.

Bird Notes
By Frank Rawling

Spring Migration

It was a tough winter and birders were looking forward to Spring Migration. So, here are the sightings at Bombay Hook for this much anticipated spring!

March

A couple of **Eastern Screech Owls** were seen in the first week of March, one in a duck box along Parson Point Trail and one along Finis Pool Road. An **Eastern Bluebird** was seen at the entrance to Bear Swamp Trail on the 7th. The same observer spotted a **North-ern Harrier** over Bear Swamp and another birder up a saw a **Bald Eagle** at Shearness Pool. The following ducks were in residence on the 7th: **Ruddy Ducks, Common Mergansers, Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Buffleheads, and Hooded Mergansers**. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was spotted along the Boardwalk Trail. On the 9th about a dozen **American Pipits** were seen as well as 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and an **American Phoebe**. **Hooded Mergansers** were observed in Finis Pool on the 14th. The same day a **Black-crowned Night Heron** was seen at the usual spot in the NW corner of Bear Swamp. A couple of **Tree Swallows** and a **Pied-billed Grebe** were also seen at Bear Swamp. On the 16th there were a half dozen **Common Mergansers** at Shearness, both **Yellowlegs** in the flooded field opposite Big Woods Pond and a **Killdeer** at Bear Swamp. Two **Tree Sparrows** were at the main entrance to the Refuge on the 18th. The next day a **Peregrine Falcon** was hanging out at Bear Swamp. Later that morning a couple of **Wood Ducks** were seen at Finis as well as a **Common Loon** on the bayside of Shearness and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** along Raymond Trail. A flock of 17 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen in the flooded field along the road to the Allee House on the 21st as well as a couple of **Rusty Blackbirds** along the exit road from Bear Swamp. On the 2nd both **Western and Semi-palmated Sandpipers** were seen at Shearness and an **American Woodcock** was heard at Finis Pool. Two immature and an adult **White-**

crowned Sparrow were observed at the Visitor Center feeders on the 22nd. Also that day 3 **Wild Turkeys** were seen near the entrance and a **Barred Owl** along Finis Pool Road. The next day 3 **Wilson's Snipe** were seen at Bear Swamp and a pair of **Blue-winged Teal** were on the bay side of Shearness. A female **Eurasian Wigeon** was spotted on a flooded area along Whitehall Neck Road on the 23rd. A dozen **American Coot** were at Shearness on the 27th. That same day a **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Shearness Pool and a female **Long-tailed Duck** at Raymond. On the 28th there were 8 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Bear Swamp. The month closed with the sighting of 4 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Shearness and one at Bear Swamp.

April

The **Eurasian Wigeon** was on the bayside of Shearness on the 2nd. Also seen on the 2nd were the first **Purple Martins** of the season. An **Eastern Bluebird** was at the intersection of the Allee Road and Finis Pool Road on the 3rd. The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** were nesting on the 3rd. A **Brown Thrasher** was seen on the 4th as well as a **Ruff** at Bear Swamp and a **Long-tailed Duck** at Raymond Pool. The first **Black-necked Stilt** was also reported that day. On the 5th both **Long-**



American Avocet

billed Dowitchers and **Least Sandpipers** were seen. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen on the 5th as well as a **Pileated Woodpecker** seen near Finis Pool. The first **Osprey** reported was seen on the 4th. On the 10th a pair of **Black-necked Stilts** were seen at Bear Swamp and a count of 22 **American Avocets** were at Shearness. A **Cattle Egret** was seen near the Visitor Center on the 10th. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed in the woods opposite the Boardwalk Tail and 2

Ring-necked Ducks at Raymond Pool. In addition to 4 **Buffleheads** seen on the 10th, a **Great-horned Owl** was also observed. The **Cattle Egret** had moved to Sheariness on the 11th. Other birds seen on the 11th were an **American Bittern**, some 15 **Black-crowned Night Herons** and a **Little Blue Heron**. There were 10 **Glossy Ibis** in Sheariness Pool on the 12th. A female **American Kestrel** was seen hunting that day Raymond Pool. Shorebirds seen were **Black-bellied Plover**, **Dunlin**, **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** and both **Yellowlegs**. A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Bear Swamp on the 15th. An estimated 250 **Black-bellied Plovers** were at Raymond Pool on the 18th. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Bear Swamp on the 18th and a few **American Golden Plovers** were seen at Sheariness. The first **Wood Thrush** was reported on the 21st at Sheariness and a **Virginia Rail** was noticed on the bayside of Sheariness. On the 24th a black **Ruff** was observed at Raymond Pool. The next day a **Bobwhite** was seen hightailing it across the road from Sheariness to the Allee House. Also at the Refuge that day was a dozen **American Avocets** at the north end of Raymond Pool and a **Golden Eagle** flying near Sheariness. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen at Bear Swamp on the 25th as well as **Blue-headed Vireos** in the same area. On the 28th an **American Golden Plover** was seen at Raymond Pool. A **Common Yellowthroat** was also seen that day. A **Black-and-white Warbler** showed up on the 29th. Also seen was a **Marsh Wren**. Warblers seen on the 30th were **Common Yellowthroat**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Hooded** and **Black-and-white**.

May

The month opened with the sighting of 2 **Upland Sandpipers** in the fields along Whitehall Neck Road. Also on the 1st, on the Refuge proper, **Barred Owl**, **Prothonotary Warbler** and **Golden Plover** were found. In addition, along the trail to Raymond Tower, a **Warbling Vireo** was observed. A **Blue Grosbeak** was also seen close to the Boardwalk Trail. Twenty eight **Black-crowned Night Herons** were counted at the usual spot in the NE corner of Bear Swamp Pool on the 2nd. Other birds spotted on that day were

a **Blue Grosbeak** and an **Orchard Oriole** at the Allee House, a **Tricolored Heron** at Sheariness Pool and a couple of **Common Yellowthroats** at Bear Swamp. **White-crowned Sparrows** were at the Visitor Center on the 3rd. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen along the trail to Raymond Tower on the 6th and one was also seen on the 7th at Sheariness Tower. Three **Wilson's Phalaropes** (2 females and one male) were at the north end of Raymond Pool on the 7th. The same day 8 **Glossy Ibis** were at Raymond Pool. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen along Bear Swamp Trail on the 8th. A **Scarlet Tanager** was along the Parson Point Trail on the 10th. Also both **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were seen. On the 11th **Spotted**



Scarlet Tanager

Sandpiper and **Willet** were noticed as well as a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Raymond. A **Merlin** flew over Raymond Pool on the 15th. On the same day a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was on the mudflats opposite Sheariness

Pool. Warblers seen that day were **American Redstart**, **Magnolia** and **Canada**. **Cedar Waxwings** were seen on the 16th as well as a **Northern Waterthrush**. On the 19th a **Least Bittern** was seen at Sheariness Pool. Warblers seen on the 20th were **Blackburnian**, **Hooded**, **Canada**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Prothonotary**, **Ovenbird**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **American Redstarts**, and **Common Yellowthroats**. Also seen were **Northern Parula**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, and **Scarlet Tanager**. Two **Bobwhites** were seen along the Bear Swamp road on the 22nd and two **Wild Turkeys** in a field by the Allee House. On the 23rd there was a **Willow Flycatcher** along the Boardwalk Trail and two **Common Moorhens** at Sheariness. By the 30th the **American Avocet** population has increased to 40 in Raymond Pool.

Cheers and Good Birding!

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

Check website for changes and additions: bombayhook.fws.gov

Bombay Hook Visitor Center is open **Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** year round.

The Visitor Center will reopen on the weekends starting September 4th.

The Allee House is closed for repairs until further notice.

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 ***Garden Keepers*** 9:30 am - 11:30 am Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium. The sessions are free and open to everyone but reservations are suggested since many activities are limited, **contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.** September's program is '***Garden Planning and Wildflower Program.***' Gardeners will learn how to perform a site analysis and prepare a scaled plan for a garden. Afterwards, there will be a presentation on native plants which can provide year round interest and thrive in almost any growing conditions. Following the workshop, participants will perform seasonal maintenance on the landscape around the Visitor Center. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

National Public Lands Day **Free Entrance Fee to the refuge.**

Highway Clean up 9:00 am till noon Celebrate National Public Lands Day by cleaning up the roads leading to the Refuge. Bring your gloves and wear shoes that can get wet. Refreshments will be served after the clean up.

Native Trees for Delaware Gardens - A Symposium 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Presented by The Delaware Native Plants Society in Cooperation with The Bombay Hook Garden Keepers

In recent years, many housing projects have been developed in former farm fields devoid of trees. This Symposium will introduce registrants to the rich palette of trees native to Delaware which will enrich not only a home landscape but also the quality of life in the community. Actually, native tree make beautiful, functional and environmentally smart additions to any type of garden, since native plants are a critical element in the region's web of life. By selecting the right native plants, buying healthy ones and planting them properly, homeowners help to preserve the native plants that are disappearing from our natural areas as well as create small oases for the wild-life in Delaware's urban areas. When planted in the proper situation, native plants require minimal maintenance and enhance the market value of the home.

This symposium is the sixth in a series and is sponsored jointly by the Delaware Native Plant Society and the Bombay Hook Garden Keepers. Lunch is included at no cost and plans are being made for a specialty nursery to have plants available for purchase. The symposium is **free and open to the public** but registration is required and space is limited. **To register, contact Quentin Schlieder by phone at (302) 653-6449 or by e-mail at gcsjr@comcast.net.** The program includes:

10:00 am - *Registration and Refreshments*

10:15 am - *Trees in their Delaware Native Habitats* - Bill McAvoy Noted botanist Bill McAvoy will present a program on native Delaware trees in their native habitats. A lot can be learned about their culture and adaptability to cultivation from where they grow in nature. McAvoy is the Botanist with the Delaware Natural Heritage Program where he takes primary responsibility for planning, coordinating, and conducting inventories for rare plant species in Delaware. He specializes in coastal plain flora and has served both as Vice President and President of the Delaware Native Plant Society.

11:15 am - *Break/Plant Sales*

11:30 am - *Native Trees in Delaware Gardens* - Lenny Wilson Lenny Wilson will profile great native trees which adapt well to the home landscape in Delaware. Wilson joined the staff at the Delaware Center for Horticulture, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Delaware's diverse communities through horticulture in 1999 and is currently the Assistant Director of Horticulture and Facilities. In that role, Wilson's responsibilities include the design, consultation and development of Center's public landscape plantings in traffic medians, parks and roadsides and the management of the Center's gardens. Wilson lives in north Wilmington where he enjoys a naturalized landscape around his home featuring a storm water swale and gravel garden.

12:30 pm - *Lunch/Plant Sales*

1:00 pm - *Field trip*

Saturday, October 2, 2010 ***Environmental Education Workshop - Exploring the Refuge*** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm The workshop is for teachers, volunteers, scout leaders, and interested visitors. It will introduce educators to the National Wildlife Refuge System and provide an understanding of how Bombay Hook NWR can be used as an

(Continued on page 6)

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 5)

outdoor classroom for environmental education programs. Participants will tour the Refuge; learn about bird migration and bird identification; explore the brackish water, fresh water, and forest habitats; and develop an understanding of how the Refuge is managed for wildlife and habitat conservation. Lesson plans and general information about the Refuge are provided. **To register, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-6872.**

Sunday, October 17, 2010 *Bombay Hook NWR's Open House* 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Bring the family to Bombay Hook and explore the great outdoors. Bus and walking tours will introduce visitors to the history and natural habitats of the refuge and to wildlife that use the refuge year round or as a migratory resting area. **Check back for details.**

Saturday, October 30, 2010 *Waterfowl Birding Tour with Joel Citron* 9:15am - 12 noon Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy identifying ducks and geese in the impoundments and tidal salt marsh. Meet Joel at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 7, 2010 *Waterfowl Birding Tour with John and Becky Hargrove* 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy identifying ducks and geese in the impoundments and tidal salt marsh. Meet the Hargroves at the Visitor Center.

Thursday, November 11, 2010 *Veterans Day* - **Free Entrance Fee to the refuge.**

Saturday, November 13, 2010 *Bringing Nature Home - How to Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants Presentation and Book Signing* 3:00 pm - 5 pm Dr. Doug Tallamy is a Professor & Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His research interest include; behavioral ecology of insects, sexual selection, conservation of biodiversity, impact of alien plants on native ecosystems, plant-insect interactions, and insect parental care. He is a noted author and lecturer and will present this incredible research-based presentation enhanced with engaging personal stories. He offers inspirational native design ideas with a focus on creating balanced landscapes and increasing biodiversity. Tallamy's book is an essential guide for anyone interested in increasing biodiversity in the garden. This is a life changing program you won't want to miss!

Sunday, November 14, 2010

Bird Identification Station 11:00 am - Sunset Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Check in at the Visitor Center for the exact location.

Sunset Tour of the Refuge 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm The tour will start in the afternoon. We will walk over the salt marsh and ride through the Refuge sighting birds, exploring habitats and finding out how the area is managed for wildlife. The tour will end shortly after sunset which brings waterfowl into the impoundments looking for an evening resting place and also awakens deer and other mammals.

Saturday, November 20, 2010 *National Family Volunteer Day* 10:00 am Family work projects include trimming plants, weeding the landscaping around the building, and clearing trails. Meet at the Visitor Center. Refreshments will be served after the work projects.

Sunday, November 21, 2010

Bird Identification Station 11:00 am - Sunset Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by.

Bike Ride on the Refuge 9:30am - 11:30 am Join Tina Watson for an eight mile bike tour of the Refuge. The group will make several stops for bird identification to discuss wildlife management techniques. Bicycles should have hybrid tires. Don't forget your helmet and check the air in your tires! Meet at the Visitor Center.

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.



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:

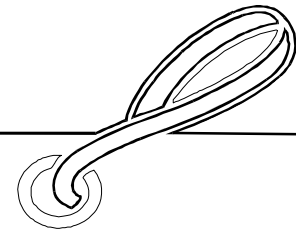
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To Our Readers:

Due to the death of Verna Price (see page 2 for her obituary) we will not be running *The Refuge Store* column in this issue of the newsletter.

We will resume the column in a future issue.

Thank You

Bombay Hook NWR has presented well-received programs ranging from Environmental Education to Shorebirds. For example, we recently received an e-mail from Terry Kirk with regards to our recent Shorebird ID program. We are printing this in our newsletter to show how much these programs are enjoyed by people who attend them while learning about our refuge and its habitats.

Friends,

I attended the Shorebird ID program sponsored by BHNWR on August 7th. I wanted to extend my thanks to you for offering such a quality program at no cost. (We did leave a donation on the way out).

I am new to birding and also the many beautiful refuges and parks that protect our wildlife and enhance our knowledge. The presenters were amazing and helpful to all from novice to expert. Your representatives were welcoming and helpful especially Tina. This was my second time to Bombay Hook and I was enthralled with it. Thank you again for the opportunity to enjoy 2 beautiful days there.

-Terri Kirk

Friends to Raise Funds for Allee House Restoration

(from the Friends of Bombay Hook website)

The Allee House, which is located on refuge property just east of the Dutch Neck Road/Route 9 intersection, is the refuge's historic treasure. It was built in the mid-1750's by Abraham Allee, the son of a French Huguenot (followers of Calvinism who were persecuted in France for their religious beliefs), and is considered to be among the finest examples of an early Delaware farmhouse.

The house remained in the Allee family for several generations before it was sold in 1828 to pay off a legal debt. It was owned by several prominent Delaware families before being sold to the United States government in 1962. In 1971, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The original dwelling consisted of the two-story rectangle, which measures forty-two by twenty-two feet. The one-story kitchen addition on the east end of the house was built sometime before 1790. A granary, corn crib, log kitchen and two stables were built nearby; nothing remains of these buildings, which are identified in a 1795 inventory. The outbuildings surrounding the house today—the barn, the ice house, and the smokehouse—were built in the early nineteenth century. The house was modernized in the mid-twentieth century— electrical service and indoor plumbing were added, a heating system was installed, the kitchen was modernized and a bathroom was constructed upstairs— to accommodate the 'caretaker' families who lived there.

For many years, refuge volunteers and members of Friends opened the Allee House for tours on spring and fall weekends. The tours, which were open to the general public, were conducted by a docent clad in a period costume who discussed the architecture of the house and the history of its occupants. Other special events were held in the house from time to time.

Following decades of neglect, the house has fallen into disrepair. Except for some minor cosmetic restorations made by the state of Delaware in the 1960's, nothing has been done to repair the structural damage or address its causes. The public tours were discontinued several years ago when the house was deemed to be unsafe for occupancy due to sagging floors and chimney damage.

An architectural and structural assessment commissioned by the USFWS found that the house remains in remarkably good condition, but needs immediate remediation to save it from settling further into the marsh. Without remediation, the foundation will continue to settle until the house collapses. In addition, much else needs to be done inside and outside to restore the house. Needless to say, all this work will cost a great deal of money; the estimate for remediation and restoration of the Allee House and the ice house is about \$1.1 million.

The Friends of Bombay Hook believe that the Allee House is part of our historical and cultural heritage and should be saved for future generations, and so on we have embarked on a fund-raising and public awareness campaign to make it happen. Our first goal is to raise enough money to pay for the remediation, which will save the house from collapse; and, ultimately, we hope to raise the money necessary to complete its restoration.

Please consider making a donation to our remediation and restoration fund. It's easy to do online through our PayPal account (featured on the sidebar at <http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/alleehouse.html>). The transaction is secure and your donation is tax-deductible. If you would rather send a personal check, please do so; make the check payable to 'Friends of Bombay Hook' and mail it to **Friends of Bombay Hook, Attention: Allee House Fund, 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977.**

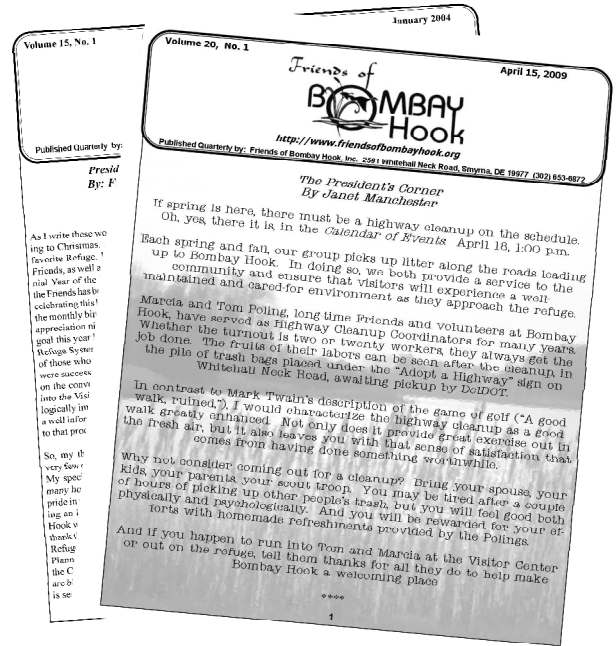
The Friends of Bombay Hook continues taking steps to save trees!!!

In our Friends of Bombay Hook newsletter (Vol. 20, No. 3) dated October 31st, 2009, we enclosed a questionnaire on whether or not you prefer the Friends of Bombay Hook newsletter to be sent electronically or continue to receive a printed copy. Currently, we received at least over 40 responses with nearly 25 respondents requesting electronic. We thank the ones who did respond to our questionnaire.

However, we definitely like to see more people respond to our questionnaire so that Friends will be able to do what many organizations are now doing to save the cost of printing, postage and returned newsletters simply by going electronic.

To receive your copy of the newsletter by mail or online, please respond to this mailing with your current contact information.

For notification of all upcoming Bombay Hook events, please visit our website at www.friendsofbombayhook.org.



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A Reminder...

As a member of the Friends of Bombay Hook you are eligible to join the Dover Federal Credit Union. The credit union has branch offices and ATMs not only in Dover but also in New Castle, Smyrna, and Milford. To find out the exact branch locations and the services that the Dover FCU has to offer, visit their website at www.doverfcu.com, or pick up a brochure the next time you are In the Bombay Hook Visitor Center.