



<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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

The President's Note
By Frank Rawling

The Refuge Loses a Friend

With the passing of Ken Liehr on Nov. 17, 2011 the Refuge lost a former employee and a great friend. For me personally I lost my birding buddy.

Ken, who was 81, joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1957 at the Morton National Wildlife Refuge in South Hampton, NY. In 1962 he was transferred to Killcohook NWR in Pennsville, NJ. He joined the staff at Bombay Hook in 1963 and retired from the Refuge and the Service in December 1985. During his tenure with the USFWS he attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, GA. During the Korean War he served in the U.S. Army as a tank commander along the East/West Borders in Germany.

I first met Ken when I joined the Friends of Bombay Hook in the mid 90's. We struck up a friendship and began birding together. Birding with Ken was always fun. He was full of stories about his years with the Refuge System and places he had been. His stories about Bombay Hook back in the 60's and 70's were fascinating and certainly livened up our time together. Ken had a real passion for birding and was always out on the Refuge. He was one of my major correspondents for sightings that appeared the Birding Notes column, even in the summer when usually not too much appears on the sightings list.

Ken was also a woodworker and especially enjoyed making birdhouses. There are several scattered around the Refuge. In the wooded area behind the maintenance area there are a couple of owl boxes. A couple of others are on the old corncrib along the exit road from Bear Swamp Pool. And, the next time you are down at the Finis turnaround see if you can pick out the Prothonotary Warbler boxes in the discharge area from the water control structure on the Shearneck side of the turnaround. Since Ken installed those boxes the Finis turnaround has become a reliable spot to find this beautiful warbler in the spring and summer.

For several years Ken and I led a Tuesday morning birding walk on the Refuge. They were somewhat laid back and during the course of the trip, when birds were few in number, Ken would start in on the story telling about his early days at the Hook. It was certainly entertaining.

Yes, the Refuge has lost a great friend and he will certainly be missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife of 57 years, Nancy, his two sons Paul and James, and his daughter-in-law Deborah and granddaughter Daphne.

Auf Wiederseh'n my friend.



Newsletter

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: fobhmembership@idv.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

Bird Notes

By Frank Rawling

The Nesting Season

June

The nesting season opened with the sighting of both a lone *Cedar Waxwing* and a *Great Crested Flycatcher* across the road from the Boardwalk Trail. The following day a *Bobwhite* was seen along the road to Raymond Pool, 5 *Bald Eagles* at Sheariness, an *Indigo Bunting* at Sheariness and a *Green Heron* at Finis. *White Pelicans* are seen more often these last few years and one was seen on the 3rd in the area of Finis Pool. The same day a small group of *Black-neck Stilts* was at Sheariness and a female *Wood Duck* with about 12 young trailing behind was also seen at Sheariness. An immature *Black-crowned Night-Heron* was at the usual location at Bear Swamp on the 4th. The *White Pelican* was still in the vicinity of Sheariness on the 4th and a *White-faced Ibis* was at Bear Swamp. The next day a *Wilson's Phala-*

rope was seen at Sheariness and a *Blue Grosbeak* at the Refuge entrance. On the 11th at least 2 *Grasshopper Sparrows* were discovered along Whitehall Neck Road in addition the 2 *Black-billed Cuckoos*. The same observer also picked up 2 *Boat-tailed Grackles* opposite Bear Swamp on the tidal flats.



Cedar Waxwings

Black-neck Stilts have

nested for some years at Bear Swamp and one birder saw 3 nests with a total of 10 chicks in that location on the 16th. A nice find was a *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* on the 20th at Bear Swamp. It was still around on the 26th as was the *White-faced Ibis*. Both a *Gull-billed Tern* and a *Least Bittern* was seen the same day at Raymond Pool. Also on the 26th a *Yellow-breasted Chat* and a *Great-horned Owl* were seen near the Allee House and a *Barred Owl* at Finis Pool. The 27th saw a *Blue-winged Teal* at Raymond Pool and a *Spotted Sandpiper* in the tidal gut opposite Raymond Pool. The month closed out with sightings of the long-staying *White-faced Ibis* and the *Wilson's Phalarope*.

July

A *Yellow-breasted Chat* was found at Raymond Pool on the 3rd. Also on the 3rd a *Reeve* was found at Taylor's Gut (just off the Refuge north along Route 9). On the 6th a *Pectoral Sandpiper* was found at Bear Swamp. Several *Black-necked Stilt* families were seen at Bear Swamp on the 10th. Also on the 10th 5 *Stilt Sandpipers* and a couple of *Long-billed Dowitchers* were observed at Raymond Pool as well as an *American Golden-Plover* at Sheariness. On the 11th there were a dozen *American*

Avocets, a leucistic *Lesser Yellowlegs* and an immature *Little Blue Heron* at Raymond Pool. Just to make things interesting there was also a *Cooper's Hawk*. The next day a *Clapper Rail* and a *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* were seen at Bear Swamp. A nice find on the 14th was a juvenile *Red-shouldered Hawk* at Finis Pool. A *Marsh Wren* was found at Raymond Pool on the 14th. In addition, on the 14th, the following birds were seen about 90 *American Avocets* at Raymond, over 100 *Great Egrets* also at Raymond, both *Dowitcher* species at Raymond, *Orchard Orioles* at several places on the Refuge, an *Ovenbird* at Finis



Great Egret

Pool and a couple of *Willow Flycatchers*. The *White-faced Ibis* was still being seen at Raymond Pool on the 16th. The same day 3 *Eastern Kingbirds* were spotted at Sheariness. On the 23rd a *Least Bittern* was observed at Bear Swamp.

This was followed, on the 26th, by sightings at Finis Pool of a *Black-throated Green Warbler*, *Black-billed Cuckoo*, and *Warbling Vireo*. Four *White-rumped Sandpipers* were at Raymond Pool on the 27th. On the 28th Raymond Pool held a *Marbled Godwit*. Finally, on the 31st, a *Least Flycatcher* and a *Canada Warbler* were seen along the Boardwalk Trail and a *Peregrine Falcon* was seen at Sheariness Pool.

August

An unusual sighting started off the month of August. Four *Baltimore Orioles* were seen in the phragmites at the Sheariness pull-off. On the 2nd 2 *Grasshopper Sparrows* were found at the Allee House. There were 2 *Green Herons* seen at Finis Pool as well as a *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* and a *Yel-*

low Warbler. Some 200 *Snowy Egrets* were scattered across the Refuge. The long-staying *White-faced Ibis* was seen at Raymond Pool which also played host to



Baltimore Oriole

both *Hudsonian* and *Marbled Godwits*. Two *Caspian Terns* were also seen on the Refuge. On the 3rd one birder estimated a total of 4,500 *Least*, *Western*, and *Semipalmated Sandpipers* at Raymond Pool. Also seen at Raymond were large

flocks of *American Avocets* and *Stilt Sandpipers*. An unusual find for the Refuge was that of a *Piping Plover* at Raymond Pool on the 6th. There was a good mix of *Terns* at Sheariness on the 11th. Observed were 3 *Gull-billed*, 8 *Caspian*, and 8 *Royal Terns*. In addition there was a *Tri-colored Heron* and an immature *Little-blue Heron*. The same day a *Red Knot* was seen at Raymond Pool. A *Blue Grosbeak* was seen on the 12th. Also on the 12th a *Great Black-backed Gull* and 5 *Laughing Gulls* were spotted. Parson Point Trail is not often mentioned in the sightings but occasionally it is checked out by a birder. On the 13th a *Black-and-white Warbler* was seen there. Three *Marbled Godwits* were seen on the 20th. Also on the 20th both a single *Northern Pintail* and a lone *Green-winged Teal* were seen from Sheariness Tower. The next day a *Northern Shoveler*, *Blue-winged Teal*, and *Ruddy Duck* were seen. On the 23rd a *Dickcissel* was seen along Whitehall Neck Road. The month closed out with the sighting of 3 *Black Terns* at Sheariness Pool.

Cheers and Good Birding!!

Visitor Center Store

As winter progresses, more items arrive in the store, including fresh versions of traditional favorites and completely new ones.

A special note about books: there are excellent books about trees, wildflowers, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, fishes, insects, etc. Take a look at the pocket-sized books: these are for adults as well as older children. They are excellent resources with good illustrations and fundamental information, and are very affordable.

Birders often compliment the store's range of birding field guides and the books related to birding. The selection is varied, whether you are a brand new birder or a seasoned expert. The laminated folding guides are easy to carry and very popular.

Some books are on sale! Check them out while they last. They are excellent, in-depth reference books at 20% off.

Clothing sale: winter T-shirts and sweat-shirts will go on sale this spring. They sell out quickly.

How about a sturdy walking stick for yourself, or as a gift? Each design is unique with interesting wood grains. The lengths vary from short to tall, and some have built-in compasses. Prices range from \$26 to \$45.

The new nightlights in different bird designs and textures are worth a close look. Due to space limitations, only a few are on the shelves. Please ask at the desk to see the others.

The usual items you have come to expect are in stock now. T-shirts, Marcia Poling's hand painted ornaments, note cards, art prints, baseball caps, Jabebo earrings – and many more.

And snacks! Nature bars and candy bars

are only \$1 each.

10% discount

Friends of Bombay Hook receive a 10% discount off all merchandise, including items on sale. Just show your current membership card to get the discount when you check out.

Volunteers

Would you like to help Bombay Hook? Consider volunteering in the store. It's easy, fun, and you will have good training and other volunteers and staff to help you. Volunteers are needed weekly, biweekly or monthly for four hours at a time. If you would like to learn more about what's involved, please call Tina Watson at Bombay Hook at (302) 653-6872.

Bird Club News

The Friends of Bombay Hook Bird Club held seven outings from late fall into winter and plans more trips in late winter and spring.

In November, the club joined Bombay Hook's two public walks on the Refuge. One of the highlights was a Great Egret with large, bright green tags on its wings. It was learned later that the bird had been tagged in Ontario, Canada.

At the end of November, the Bird Club led its own walk on the Refuge. As usual, about 40 species were noted on a lovely fall day. Highlights were an American bittern partially hidden in the grasses of Shearneck Pool and a lone black-necked stilt at Raymond Pool. (The stilt was still there in mid January.)

December 18th was the Christmas Bird Count at Bombay Hook. The Bird Club was assigned an interesting area that is not usually open to the public.

On January 1st, the Club took its Second Annual New Year's Day outing to Indian River Inlet, Burton's Island, Silver Lake in Rehoboth and other nearby spots. Several species of beautiful waterfowl were spotted. In mid-January, a group headed to Conowingo Dam to see bald eagles and other waterfowl. Spirits were warm despite very cold and windy weather.

By the time this newsletter is done, the Club will have enjoyed a February visit to a member's home in the woods adjoining Blackbird State Forest. Birdfeeders surround the house, so there are excellent views of nature and birds from every window.

Also as of this writing, details are being finalized for the Club's outings in late winter and spring. The preliminary plan includes Prime Hook, Ted Harvey Wildlife Area, Eastern Neck NW Refuge, Ponders Tract near Milton-Ellendale, Bombay Hook and As-

sateague Island. This is subject to additions and changes.

For up-to-date schedules, or to suggest other good birding spots in central Delaware, please contact Hannah McLennan at hmclennan@comcast.net.

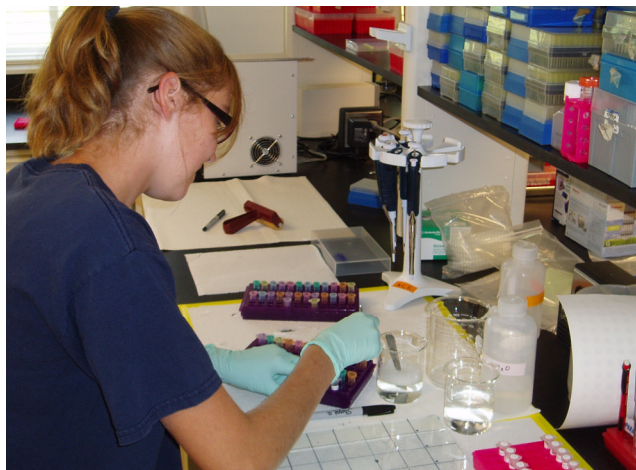
The Friends' Bird Club is open to everyone. There are no dues or fees, no programs, no regular meetings, no officers.....we just go birding! All are welcome, from experts to first-timers. If you can only attend one or two outings a year, that's fine. You are welcome whenever you can.

Coincidentally, two members who are long-time birders recently commented -- separately -- that this is the nicest and friendliest birding group they have ever been with. Please give us a try and see if you agree. And tell your friends about us, too.

Becca Lynch is participating in SCEP (Student Career Experience Program), which is sponsored by the USFWS and is open to students 16 years and older. They assist with various work at refuges which focuses on or supports the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats while preparing them for careers in public service.

In these photos, Becca is working in her "fisheries" capacity for the USFWS.

Becca in the conservation genetics lab prepping samples for DNA extractions



Becca (in the middle) on the Hudson River collecting milt samples from spawning Atlantic sturgeon

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 be **closed** on weekends until **March 3, 2012** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The **Allee House is in need of repairs** and **is closed** until further notice.

The wildlife drive is open from sunrise to sunset everyday of the year weather permitting.

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 - Garden Keepers Program - Native Shade-loving Plants (9:30 a.m.) From small trees and shrubs to perennials and groundcovers, there are many lovely native plants which will thrive in shade and beautify your garden. Join us for this survey of some of the best and plant some from seed to enjoy in your own garden! Following the presentation, the group will discuss improvements to the landscape planting around the Visitor Center. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Saturday, March 3, 2012 - Volunteer Orientation (10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is seeking responsible individuals who have an interest in wildlife conservation, public relations, native plant gardening, and environmental education. The meeting will cover volunteer opportunities and upcoming activities, with the latter part of the session being a tour of the Refuge. Individuals are needed to staff the visitor center and operate The Refuge Store on weekends and weekdays starting in March. Volunteers are also needed to provide environmental education programs for school groups, conduct refuge tours, provide trail and landscaping maintenance, and help with highway cleanups. Volunteers may be called upon for special wildlife projects throughout the year such as spring and winter bird surveys.

Sunday, March 11, 2012 – Bird Identification Tour with Joel Citron (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for songbirds, identifying wading birds and ducks in the impoundments, and watching for eagles. Meet Joel at the Visitor Center.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 - Garden Keepers Program - The Art and Science of Pruning (9:30 a.m.) This is a reprise of our popular program on how to rejuvenate and keep plants looking their best by using best pruning techniques. We'll do some pruning and other seasonal work on the landscape around the Visitor Center before adjourning for light refreshments. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Saturday, March 24, 2012 - Delaware Junior Duck Stamp Competition (1:00 p.m.) Judging will start at 1:00 p.m. The first Delaware Junior Duck Stamp Competition was held in 1994. The Delaware JDS program begins each winter when educators attend training on the curriculum. They implement the program in their classrooms and students then submit their artwork to the contest. They are judged in four groups according to grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV 10-12. Three first, second and third place entries are selected for each group. A **"Best of Show" is selected by a panel of judges from the twelve first-place winners regardless of their grade group. Delaware's Best of Show is then submitted to the Federal Duck Stamp Office and entered into the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest.** To further the interdisciplinary underpinnings of the program, students are now encouraged, but not required, to include a conservation message on their entry form with their art design. The conservation message is judged in Delaware and at the national level for Best of Show winners. The message explains something the student has learned about wetlands habitat, conservation or waterfowl. For more information about the Delaware Junior Duck Stamp Contest contact Dawn Webb on (302) 422-1329 or by email: Dawn.Webb@state.de.us. All of the entries will be on display in Bombay Hook's auditorium until April 7, 2012. **75th Anniversary Event.**

Saturday, March 31, 2012 – Bird Identification Tour with Joel Citron (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for songbirds, identifying ducks in the impoundments, and watching for eagles. Meet Joel at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 1, 2012 - Bird Identification Tour with Becky and John Hargrove (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for early migrating songbirds, identifying waterfowl and herons in the impoundments, and watching for eagles. Meet the Hargroves at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 7, 2012 – Environmental Education Workshop –Exploring the Refuge (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) 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 outdoor classroom for environ-

(Continued on page 7)

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 6)

mental 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.**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 - Garden Keepers Program - Composting 101 (9:30 a.m.) Learn how to compost to naturally improve the soil in your garden. Following the workshop, participants will perform seasonal maintenance on the landscape around the Visitor Center. This is a great opportunity to learn about fertilizers, mulches and other basic garden practices. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 - Highway Cleanup (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Celebrate SPRING and EARTH DAY by cleaning up the roads leading to the Refuge. Bring your gloves and wear shoes that can get wet. Homemade refreshments will be served after the cleanup.

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 - A Visit to Jim McClement's Garden (9:30 a.m.) After tending to the landscaping at the Visitor Center and enjoying light refreshments, we will visit Jim McClement's fascinating shade garden in Dover, Delaware. Jim is an avid collector and noted authority on trilliums, ferns and many other native and exotic woodland plants. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Sunday, May 6, 2012 - Bird Identification Tour with Becky and John Hargrove (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for migrating songbirds, identifying waterfowl and herons in the impoundments, watching for eagles, and looking for shorebirds in the tidal salt marsh. Meet the Hargroves at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 12, 2012 – International Migratory Bird Day, Spring Bird Count (7:00 a.m.) IMBD is celebrated in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation. Citizens can learn about birds and their migratory threats, and can make a contribution by participating in the international spring bird count. Meet at the Visitor Center to participate in Bombay Hook's Spring Bird Count. Teams will be formed and each team will survey a section of the Refuge. The teams tabulate their bird sightings and are usually finished around noon.

Saturday, May 19, 2012 - Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Presentation (8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) 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. **75th Anniversary Event.**

Sunday, June 10, 2012 – Bird Identification Tour with Joel Citron (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for songbirds, identifying wading birds and ducks in the impoundments, and watching for eagles. Meet Joel at the Visitor Center.

Wednesday, June 13, 2012 - National Garden Week Celebration "Naturalistic Gardening with Gregg Tepper" (7:00 p.m.) Gregg Tepper is the Woods Path gardener at Mt. Cuba Center. Gregg has spent the last twenty years growing and studying plants that thrive in the shade. He is particularly interested in ferns, trilliums, lilies, irises, and acid loving plants. Learn how to create a naturalistic garden to delight the senses in your own garden! To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net. **75th Anniversary Event**

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 - Down and Dirty Garden Party (9:30 a.m.) After we perform seasonal maintenance on the landscape at the Visitor Center, we will proceed to a private garden where we will divide and pot plants to take home to enjoy in our own gardens. A complimentary luncheon is included. Space is limited and reservations are required! To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Saturday, July 14, 2012 - Forest Loss and Fragmentation – Implications for Rare Birds (1:00 p.m.) This presentation will be given by Rick McCorkle, Fish & Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Delaware Bay Estuary Project office.

(Continued on page 8)

Bombay Hook NWR Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 7)

Rick has spent many years modeling and mapping wildlife habitat in Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey, and has developed a strong understanding of the impacts of forest fragmentation on forest-dependent birds and other wildlife. Rick will describe the forest area requirements for many of these species, and the impacts associated with forest fragmentation. This is a follow-up to a presentation Rick gave a few years ago, and will include an update on the status of several forest-dependent bird species in Delaware. The program will be held in the Visitor Center Auditorium. **75th Anniversary Event.**

Saturday, August 18, 2012 - Shorebird and Birding by Impression with Kevin Karlson (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

- **Outdoor Field Trip – 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** - Join author and professional field trip leader Kevin Karlson as he shares a simple and more effective approach to shorebird ID highlighted in his bestselling book *The Shorebird Guide*. With an initial focus on basic impressions of size, shape and body motion for all birds seen, a more effective starting point is achieved for your ID pursuit. Appreciation of this different and exciting field approach is best experienced in field conditions, and Kevin has been fine tuning his teaching approach over the last six years. Beginners and expert level tips will be shared, with something for everyone involved.
- **Lunch – 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**
- **Indoor Workshop – 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** - Kevin will have just completed a comprehensive electronic book on shorebird ID, and will highlight the e-book in the afternoon. It will include loads of new photos, and much unpublished information on shorebird ID that is not included in *The Shorebird Guide*. Participants will receive information on how to receive the electronic book. Come and share in this innovative new approach to bird ID, with audience participation encouraged with the digitized photo section. Space limited. Call to register, 302-653-6872. **Sponsored by the Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. 75th Anniversary Event.**

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 - Field Trip Adkins Arboretum (8:30 a.m.) Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve on Maryland's Eastern Shore adjacent to Tuckahoe State Park. It is the only garden in the region that focuses solely on plants native to the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain, there's more than 600 species of native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, grasses and ferns with four miles of paved paths. Space is limited and reservations are required. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Saturday, September 22, 2012 - 8th Annual Native Plant Symposium –Bog Gardening with Native Plants (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) This symposium is sponsored jointly by the Delaware Native Plant Society and the Bombay Hook Garden Keepers. Participants will learn about the types of bog plants, many rare and choice, that grow in our region and how they can be used effectively in the landscape. Guest speakers include Bill McAvoy and bog gardening guru Jason Austin, Manager of Rarefind Plant Nursery in Jackson New Jersey. Bill will discuss Delaware native bog plants and ecology and Jason will discuss how to grow them successfully in the garden. He plans to bring plants for sale. A complimentary lunch is included. Following lunch there will be an optional field trip. The symposium is free 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 after September 1, 2012.

Saturday, October 13, 2012 - Enjoying Amphibians, Reptiles and Other Garden-Worthy Creatures (3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Learn from Jim White of the Delaware Nature Society about the many species of salamanders, frogs, turtles, lizards and yes — even snakes that are found in the mid-Atlantic region, and how to create habitat for some of them in your garden or mini-wildlife area. He will also discuss how to attract other water-loving creatures such as dragonflies and damselflies. Water features, plants, cover and other critter amenities will be discussed. **75th Anniversary Event.**

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.

Photo/Bird Blind to be Placed on Refuge

The next time you take a drive around the refuge, you may notice something new sitting a bit off the auto tour road near the northern end of Sheariness Pool (well, it's actually something old, but in a new location).

An old photo blind, previously in an out-of-the-way spot and unused for many years, will soon be placed at the new location, on a trial basis. The exact date of placement hasn't been set, but it may be there by the time you read this article.

The new site was selected by several members of the Friends' Board of Directors, together with Outdoor Recreation Planner Tina Watson, and approved by Refuge Manager Michael Stroeh. Look for the structure as you head north along Sheariness – it will be on the marsh side of the dike, not far from the northern water control structure.



If you go into the blind and spend some time there observing and/or photographing the wildlife, please fill out the sign-in sheet, including the date of your visit and any comments or suggestions that you might have. The board will use this information to help in deciding whether to construct a more permanent photo/bird blind on the refuge.

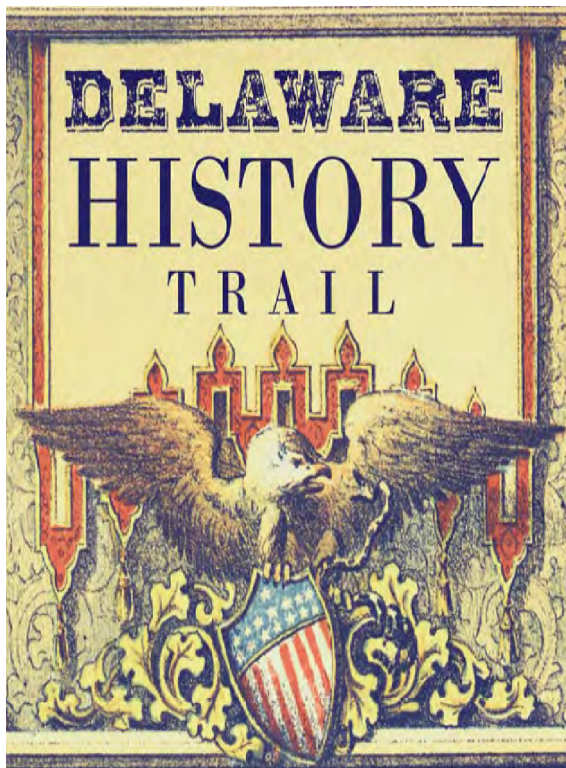
Many thanks to Arthur Straughn for moving the blind (twice) and to Frank Smith for cleaning it up.

125 eagles were counted during the Mid-Winter Eagle Survey - January 2012

Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Biologist, Anthony Gonzon, conducted the survey. The Mid-Winter Eagle Survey is a nation-wide survey of Bald and Golden Eagles during the first week of each New Year. As in past years, the Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted this survey in conjunction with the annual Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey. Aerial surveys were flown on January 4 and 5, 2012 covering New Castle County, Kent County and eastern Sussex County including the Inland Bays.

In total, 84 adult Bald Eagles and 41 immature eagles were observed. This is the highest recorded count of Bald Eagles in Delaware during the Mid-Winter Survey surpassing the previous high count of 120 in January 2010 and nearly double the number of eagles observed on the count in January 2011 (68 eagles). The Delaware Bay coast is supporting the highest number of eagles with 86 birds counted in the coastal areas from Prime Hook to the C & D Canal.

Areas of particular interest included concentrations at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (12 eagles - 9 adults, 3 immatures), Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (9 eagles - 5 adults, 4 immatures) and Thousand Acre Marsh (8 eagles - 5 adults, 3 immatures).



***Tell Your
Friends and Family!***

Spread the Word!

**Bombay Hook National
Wildlife Refuge is part of the
Delaware History Trail!**

Delaware Tourism Office launched the Delaware History Trail, comprised of 36 sites located throughout the state, to showcase the First State's abundance of historical sites and to educate visitors and residents about Delaware's place in American history. Visitors can now follow a trail of exploration to discover and experience Delaware's rich heritage.

To get started, participants download a Trail Passport and obtain a list of site and trail rules at www.visitdelaware.com/History. As visitors experience each historic site, they record site codes in their passport found on the Delaware History Trail signs posted at each trail site. Passports are then submitted to the Delaware Tourism Office to receive a special reward for completing the trail.

Trail participants who visit a minimum of 18 sites, including 6 sites from each of Delaware's three counties, are eligible to receive a limited-edition book entitled, "Landmarks and Legacies." The book is a colorful narrative written by talented writer, Pam George, and includes a complementary photographs by distinguished photographer, Kevin Fleming, that highlight 50 of Delaware's prominent historic places – each with its own distinctive story. The book also includes a Foreword by Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and an introduction by eminent historian, Russ McCabe – both having strong ties to the First State.

The Delaware Tourism Office, 99 Kings Highway in Dover, Del., a division of the Delaware Economic Development Office, promotes tourism and economic growth in Delaware. For more information, visit the official Delaware Tourism website at www.visitdelaware.com or call toll-free (866) 284-7483.

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
- Participation in the Birding Club
- 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*

Or you can go to www.friendsofbombayhook.org/membership.html
and follow the instructions in applying or renewing your membership

Renewal New Member

Date: _____

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Newsletter Preference:

Print E-mail (require E-mail address)

Membership Plan (Check One)

- | | Annual |
|---|----------|
| <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 |

*Junior membership: under age 18.

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

***Sponsor and Life memberships includes family.

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)



2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977

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

A REMINDER...

The Friends of Bombay Hook Newsletter is available online @

**[www.friendsofbombayhook.org/
friendsnews.html](http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/friendsnews.html)**

You can apply or renew memberships @

**[www.friendsofbombayhook.org/
membership.html](http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/membership.html)**

**The Visitor Center will be open on the weekends
starting March 3, 2012**