

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter



Vol. 24, No. 2
March 1, 2014

Our Mission Statement:

The Friends of Bombay Hook is a not-for-profit corporation working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It supports and enhances educational and recreational programs at Bombay Hook, provides volunteer services and financial assistance and serves as a link between the refuge and the public.

The Visitor Center will reopen on the weekends starting March 1, 2014.

Volunteers are needed at the "Just for Kids Day" event on May 3, 2014 and for the Environmental Education program. (See page 5 for more information)

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<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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The President's Corner

By Linda Osiecki

On a cold February day, when most of the waterways in the Refuge are bound in ice, it is hard to believe that spring will ever come. I'm looking forward to seeing green sprouts from what I planted in the fall, and hearing the songs of the returning birds in the dawn chorus.

In January, the Board met to plan how to better support Bombay Hook, to encourage more visitors to the Refuge and more participation of Friends members as volunteers. Over the coming year, we will be modifying our operations so that we will be more effective.

Please share with family members and friends the Refuge's Calendar of Events. There are so many programs and activities for learning something new.

Also consider how you can volunteer at the Refuge. There are needs for special events, maintaining Refuge facilities, and assisting with normal operations (such as the Visitor Center).



A fundraising opportunity through Redner's grocery stores...

When you shop at Redner's using your Pumps Perks card, save your receipt and hand in the entire receipt at the Visitor Center. Over \$2,000 in Redner's receipts have already been turned in. At \$5,000, Friends can get the first 1% back!

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

Fall Period - September through November 2013

Weather during the report period was relatively calm with dry weather interrupted by two moderate northeast storms which dumped some heavy rains on the area during the second week of October and the last week of November. Total rainfall for the three-month period still remained below normal.

A major event occurred during the first 16 days of October which impacted the public's utilization of the Refuge. A budget impasse by Congress resulted in the federal government being "shutdown" which closed Bombay Hook NWR and many other federal lands to public use. Although this occurred during the heart of waterfowl migration, the ducks, geese, and swans persisted and these populations increased significantly by the time the Refuge re-opened. Snow geese populations numbered a few hundred in early October to 20,000 by the end of November.

Several sightings of snowy owls were reported around the state during late November, but I am not aware of any at Bombay Hook NWR prior to December 2. Reports on snowy owl sightings will be made in the Winter Bird Notes.

Reported Sightings

Following are a collection of selected bird observations reported from Bombay Hook NWR during the report period. Sources of information include bird observation sheets by Refuge visitors, internet postings of Refuge sightings such as *Birdline Delaware*, data collected by state and federal biologists, as well as personal observations and communications. I urge Refuge visitors to post their observations on either the sheets or on the E-Bird Tracker in the Visitor Center. I have grouped the reported observations by week throughout the fall period. I have grouped the observations by land features (in bold type) when specific locations are included with the reports, such as pool name or field location.

9/01-9/07 - Raymond Pool: Marbled Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, American Avocets (600); **Sheariness Pool:** Caspian Terns, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Sora, Common Gallinule, Coot, Wilson's Phalarope, Wilson's Snipe, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Glossy Ibis, Least Bittern, Hudsonian Godwit; **Bear Swamp:** Black and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Glossy Ibis, Snowy Egrets, Bald Eagles (10); **Entrance Road (including Wicks' Potato field):** Upland Sandpipers, Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Canada Warblers and Magnolia Warblers.

9/08-9/14 - Sheariness Pool: White-faced Ibis, American White Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Sora, Least Bittern, Pectoral and Solitary Sandpiper; **Finis Pool:** Bobolink, Wilson's, Chestnut-sided, Black Throated Blue, Magnolia, Northern Parula, and Blue-winged Warblers, Redstart, Veery, Scarlet Tanager,

Friends of
BOMBAY
Hook
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:

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Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** American Avocets (1,000), Black-necked Stilts, Long-Billed Dowitchers, American Wigeon; **Entrance Road (including Wicks' Potato field):** Baird's Sandpipers, Buff-Breasted Sandpipers, American Golden Plovers (35), Black-bellied Plovers, and Semi-palmated Plovers.

9/15-9/21 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets (600+), Marbled Godwits (4), American Golden Plovers (12), Black-bellied Plovers, Stilts, Pectoral Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Caspian Terns (35), Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swan, American White Pelican, Hudsonian Godwit, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Bittern, and Common Gallinules; **Finis Pool:** Barred Owl (calling); **Boardwalk Trail:** Redstart, Black-and-White Warbler.

9/22-9/28 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets (500+), Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plovers, Willet, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swan, Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Ducks, Green- and Blue-winged Teals, White-faced Ibis, White Ibis, and Glossy Ibis; **Refuge Dike Roads:** Tree Swallows (hundreds) and Savannah Sparrows; **Road to Allee House:** Grasshopper Sparrow.

9/29-10/05 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets, Peregrine Falcon, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, and Willet; **Sheariness Pool:** Virginia Rail, Sora, Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, and Teals (many); **Bear Swamp:** Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, and Black-crowned Night Heron; **Finis Pool:** Gray-cheeked Thrush.

10/06-10/12 - Nothing to report due to closure of refuge during government shutdown.

10/13-10/19 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets (hundreds), Shovelers, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Yellowlegs, Foster's Terns, Ruddy Ducks, Black-necked Stilt, **Sheariness Pool:** White-footed Goose; **Marsh opposite Sheariness Pool:** Snow Geese (1,200).



Glossy Ibis

10/20-10/26 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets (500+), Black-neck Stilt, Marbled Godwits (8), Hudsonian Godwit, Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plovers, Least, Western, and Pectoral Sandpipers, Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers; **Bear Swamp:** Blue-winged Teal; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Lincoln's Sparrow, American Wigeon, Tundra Swans (2), Common Merganser, Ruddy Ducks (200+), Pied-billed Grebes, American Coot, and Snow Geese (thousands); **Refuge Entrance Road:** American Pipits (100+); **Refuge Headquarters:** White-crowned Sparrows.

10/27-11/02 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets (200+), Marbled Godwits; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra and Mute Swans, Greater White-footed Goose, Coots, Caspian Tern, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plover, Stilt Sandpipers, and Ruddy Ducks; **Bear Swamp:** Pectoral Sandpipers, Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers; **Tidal Salt Marsh:** Snow Geese (700+).



Grasshopper Sparrow

(Continued on next page)

Bird Notes (Continued from previous page)

11/03-11/09 - Raymond Pool: Marbled Godwits (3), American Avocets (550), Black-bellied Plovers (65), Dunlins (8,000); **Sheariness Pool:** Peregrine Falcon, Black-necked Stilts, Semi-palmated Plover, Pectoral, Stilt, Western and Least Sandpipers; **Bear Swamp:** American Bittern; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Herons, Northern Harriers; **Dike Road:** Vesper Sparrow, Marsh Wren; **Visitor Center:** White-throated and White-crowned sparrows.

11/10-11/16 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets (600+), Marbled Godwit; **Sheariness Pool:** Black-necked Stilt, Semi-palmated Plover, Stilt and Pectoral Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Dowitchers; **Salt Marsh Opposite Sheariness:** Black Ducks, Mallards, and Green-winged Teal; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Tundra Swans (50+), Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Ruddy Ducks, American Coots; **Finis Pool:** Phoebe; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows.

11/17-11/24 - Raymond Pool: Marbled Godwit, American Avocets, Black-bellied Plovers; **Sheariness Pool:** Black-necked, Stilt, Pectoral, White-rumped, and Western Sandpipers, Snow Geese (3,000+); **Refuge Entrance Road:** Yellow-headed Blackbirds; **Area West of Allee House:** Orange-crowned Warbler; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Bobwhite, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark.

11/25-11/31 - Raymond Pool: Hooded Mergansers, Tundra Swans; **Sheariness Pool:** Marbled Godwits, American Avocets, Wigeon, Pintails, Northern Shoveler, American Bittern, Snow Buntings; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Black-bellied Plovers, Long-billed Dowitchers, Western Sandpipers, Ruddy Ducks, and Pied-billed Grebe; **Finis Pool:** Eastern Phoebe; **Whitehall Neck Road:** Lapland Longspur.

OOPS!!!!

In our last newsletter (Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 6-7) the picture shown below and the sentence : "Thanks to the artists that participated in the exhibit!" were mistakenly cut off from our article "Art By Nature Exhibit".



Harold Van Dyck, Bird Carvings

The Friends of Bombay Hook apologize for the errors.

Thank You.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

May 3, 2014

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

JUST FOR KIDS DAY

Explore Nature, Play Games, Make Something, Plant a Flower, Walk a Trail

Volunteers are needed to help with the activities for the day. You will help introduce children to exploring nature and having fun day outside! Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Games
- Trail hike
- Archery
- Plant a flower
- Take pictures
- Crafts
- Dip net in the fresh and brackish water
- In costume as the 'Blue Goose' or 'Smokey the Bear'
- Bird Identification and using binoculars
- Look for bugs and things in the forest

If you would like to help with one of the above activities contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or tina_watson@fws.gov.

Environmental Educator

- Throughout the school year
- Volunteers needed to work with school and youth groups

Position title: Environmental Educator

Position objectives: Help educate school children, youth and adult groups about the Refuge, its wildlife and habitat, wildlife conservation, and about the National Wildlife Refuge System. Training will be provided and self-study may be required. Training workshop scheduled for April 5, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Examples of work to be performed:

1. Take groups on guided tours on the Refuge.
2. Customize presentation to groups' needs.
3. Provide programs at schools and community events.
4. Answer questions about the Refuge, the Refuge System, and wildlife conservation.

Duration:

Length of commitment: Spring and Fall School Season

Estimated total hours: Approximately 4 hours per program

Scheduling:

- Volunteer's discretion
- As needed by requesting school or organization

Position qualifications required:

1. Ability to teach and communicate with children of all ages and adults.
2. Ability to adjust to teachers' curriculum needs.
3. Ability to travel and take specimens from Refuge to schools and community events.
4. Ability to meet agreed upon commitment dates and times.

Volunteer's benefits:

1. Satisfaction of awakening and developing children's interest in nature and wildlife.
2. Satisfaction of introducing people of all ages to wildlife conservation.
3. Learning about the National Wildlife Refuge System and Bombay Hook

If you would like to help with educating children about wildlife contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or tina_watson@fws.gov.

Family Explorer Kit

The family explorer kit is available at the Visitor Center when you are ready to spend several hours of exploring on the refuge. The kit has wildflower, tree, bird, amphibian and reptile, insect, and mammal guides 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 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 on where and how to use the equipment.



A backpack is provided if you want to walk the trails and take only a few books. Remember - take only memories and photographs and leave only footprints.

Visits to the Refuge in 2013

During 2013, the Refuge had approximately 100,000 visitors. The majority of the visitors come from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey. Visitors from 43 states and 14 countries signed the guest registry at the Visitor Center.



Learning about raptors

Most of the visitors enjoyed wildlife observation and photography on the Refuge. The Refuge also hosted 505 deer and 808 waterfowl hunters; approximately 2,235 students participated in environmental education programs; and 1,061 people learned about the Refuge system, Bombay Hook, and wildlife and habitat conservation.

Snowy owls! What a wonderful way to begin 2014. On January 1st, on our annual trip to areas near the Indian River Inlet, 11 of us we were treated to extended views of two beautiful snowy owls. The last stop at Silver Lake in Rehoboth Beach gave great views of thousands of waterfowl including canvasbacks, redheads and hooded mergansers. Pleasant, sunny weather added to our enjoyment as we spotted more than 35 species.

Earlier, in November, on an exceptionally windy and icy-cold day, five hardy birders visited the Ted Harvey Wildlife Area outside Dover. Despite the wind, the group spotted nearly 30 species. Highlights were close looks at a number of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, an America Bittern which flushed almost at our feet, and a pair of Hooded Mergansers, close and in good light. A walk out to the Delaware Bay produced Black Backed gulls and a Kingfisher; Scoters were flying offshore.

Two outings in February – to be held after this article was written – again promise exceptional birding. The first is a trip to Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge trip which was rescheduled from December due to the weather. This is another private tour for our bird club, so it is bound to be very special. For mid-February, we received permission to bird the private wildlife areas at the actual NASA complex on Wallops Island (not the visitors' area). We are limited to 12 lucky people.



Coming up in April will be a tour of the Ponders Tract and Redden State Forest near Ellendale. In May, there will be a "warbler walk" at Bombay Hook. June will take us to Pocomoke River State Park; and we are considering a July outing to look for baby rails. Please join us.

Birding trip announcements and final details (directions, times and any last minute changes) are emailed to all who have signed up. To be added to the list, please email Hannah McLennan at hmclennan@comcast.net

The Bird Club's outings are free and open to all adults and teenagers. You do not have to be a member of the Friends. Dress for the weather and wet paths. Bring your binoculars, water, and snacks. A birding field guide is very helpful.

Refuge Store Report

The Refuge Store, Operated by Friends of Bombay Hook has had enough of the snow as have the rest of us. Snow has kept people away from coming into the Visitor Center for the past 2 months. The Refuge Store is hoping that with warmer weather and migrating birds, March will see more people coming inside. March starts the Spring season of store opening every day of the week. The first weekend in March will be the beginning of 3 months of weekend opening from 9 - 5 for the store. Friends of Bombay Hook and volunteers for Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge provide information to the public and are there as cashiers. It is a very satisfying way to spend part of a weekend meeting people who care about many of the same things: birds, wildlife, habitats native plants and more. Come visit and join us there.

We will have new T-shirt designs for summer arriving Mid-March. Marsha Holler has undertaken an effort to update and redesign several of her T-shirt designs for the Refuge Store. There will be a fox and a hummingbird making their debuts. There will also be new hats and other clothing. Our books are well stocked. Further, we are establishing a Birder's Corner. The Birder's Corner will have specialty items for the serious birder and photographer. That will exclude binoculars and cameras, but include wipes and lens cloths among other incidentals to ease your experience.

Come to the Refuge and visit your store during the Spring migrations.

Bombay Hook NWR



2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 653-9345
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/

2014 Calendar of Events

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 WEEKENDS beginning March 1, 2014.** **The Wildlife Drive is open daily from sunrise to sunset.** **The Allee House is in need of repairs and is closed until further notice.** For more information about programs contact Tina Watson @ (302) 653-9345 or check the website above for additions or changes.

Saturday, March 1, 2014

- **Visitor Center reopens on Saturdays and Sundays (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)**
- **Volunteer Orientation (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)** A meeting about volunteer opportunities will be held in the auditorium. 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 from September through November. 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. Training is provided.
- **Monitoring Osprey Nests – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.)** The Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife is seeking volunteers interested in monitoring the state's Osprey population. We know that Delaware's Osprey population has grown immensely so assistance with monitoring is definitely needed and will work in conjunction with the planned statewide survey which is scheduled to begin this year. Osprey will become a common sight, beginning around mid-March, where nesting pairs will return and start to rebuild many of the nests used in 2013. Veteran volunteer monitors anxiously await the first signs of the Ospreys' return when they can begin recording data that is collected at least every other week. If you are interested in participating, attend the annual osprey monitoring workshop. Anthony Gonzon, wildlife biologist, will briefly describe the history of Osprey in Delaware, monitoring objectives and methods, and the future direction that this project will be taking. The meeting will be in Bombay Hook's Auditorium.

Saturday, March 15, 2014 - 111th NWRS Birthday, 80th Duck Stamp and 77th Bombay Hook Anniversary (9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Learn about the establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge System, in 1903; the creation of the Federal Duck Stamp, in 1934; and the establishment of Bombay Hook Refuge, in 1937. After a short presentation in the auditorium, tour the refuge and walk a trail to learn about wildlife conservation activities. Space is limited, call Tina Watson to register, (302) 653-9345 or tina_watson@fws.gov.

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - Garden Keepers – Vertical Gardening with Native Climbers (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) Vertical surfaces are an important and often neglected element of every garden. Discover great native vines that add beauty and habitat to your garden. Complimentary plants will be provided. We'll do some pruning and other season-

al 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 22, 2014 - *Delaware Wildlife Rehabilitators Presentation – Spring Babies* (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
When you find a baby animal, wildlife rehabber advises “If you care, leave them there.” Along with flowers and showers comes another sure sign of spring: baby animals. If you look, you see them in fields, parks and sometimes your own backyard – a mother fox with her kits, a mama goose with a parade of little goslings, maybe even a doe with her fawn.

But what should you do if you come across these wild babies with no parent animal nearby? “Wait, watch and see before you interfere,” advises Dawn Webb, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with the Delaware Council of Wildlife Rehabilitators and Educators (DCWRE). Licensed rehabilitators take in hundreds of orphaned wildlife each year brought to them by well-meaning citizens who find them. “In almost every case, these animals should be left where they are found. It’s not unusual to see a baby animal alone, but what you often don’t see is its mother, who is most likely nearby and waiting for you to move on,” Webb says.

The presentation will offer advice on how to help wildlife and what to do if you encounter a wild animal. For more information on DCWRE, visit www.dewildliferescue.com

Sunday, March 23, 2014 - *Tour of the Refuge* (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) 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. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 5, 2014 – *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 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) 653-9345 or tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, April 6, 2014 - *Spring Bird Walk with John and Becky Hargrove* (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Join the Hargroves for a Spring bird walk. Walk a couple of trails and ride along the wildlife drive looking for early migrating warblers and waders; resident songbirds, birds of prey, and waterfowl. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 12, 2014 – *Highway Cleanup* (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Celebrate EARTH 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 cleanup.

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 - *Nature’s Gift – Native Trees* (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) Our Arbor Day Celebration will introduce you to some great native trees which will enhance and add beauty to your garden! We’ll demonstrate how to properly plant a tree, too! Following the workshop, participants will perform seasonal maintenance on the landscape around the Visitor Center. This is a great opportunity to learn about basic garden practices. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 19, 2014 - *Bike Ride on the Refuge* (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Join Tina Watson for an eight-mile bike ride on the Refuge. The group will make several stops for bird identification and to discuss wildlife management techniques. Bicycle should have hybrid tires. Don’t forget your helmet and check the air in your tires! Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 26, 2014 – *Refuge Nature Hike – Birds, Botany, and Habitat Management Techniques* (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) This program will be an informative field study. Appropriate for adults (16 years and older) interested in learning about the diverse flora and fauna of the refuge and how the refuge’s habitats and management techniques attract a variety of wildlife. The 3 hour program will include botany and fungi leaders, Susan Yost and Michael Maciarelo. Bird identification by sight and sound will be explored with FOBH bird club members. Participants will walk Boardwalk and Parson Point trail, stop along the wildlife drive, and hike along the Finis Pond and forested area.

(Continued on next page)

Bombay Hook NWR 2014 Calendar of Events (Continued from previous page)

In each area, the habitats and wildlife will be observed and discussed. Participants are required to hike 3+ miles and be able to stand for long periods of time. Bring binoculars, your favorite field guides, notebook, snack, and water. Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Tina Watson to register, (302) 653-9345 or tina_watson@fws.gov.

Sunday, April 27, 2014

- ***Bird Identification Station*** (10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) 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, shorebirds, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Check in at the Visitor Center for the exact location.
- ***Tour of the Refuge*** (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) 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. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 3, 2014 - **JUST FOR KIDS** - Explore Nature, Play Games, Make Something, Plant a Flower, Walk a Trail, Children in Nature (11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Bring your children, toddlers to 11 years old will enjoy a variety of activities on the refuge. Check back for details.

Sunday, May 4, 2014 - ***Spring Bird Walk with John and Becky Hargrove*** (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Join the Hargroves for a Spring bird walk. Walk a couple of trails and ride along the wildlife drive looking for migrating warblers and waders; resident songbirds, birds of prey, and waterfowl. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 10, 2014

- ***International Migratory Bird Day (IMDB), Spring Bird Count*** (7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) 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 who are enthusiastic about birds, informed about threats, and empowered to become involved in addressing those threats, can make a contribution by volunteering to participate in the national 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 Refuges. The teams tabulate their bird sightings and are usually finished by noon.
- ***Live Birds of Prey - Animal Behavior & Conservation Connections*** (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.) In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day there will be a presentation with live birds of prey species that live locally or migrate through the region. Experience these raptors up close and in person. Learn about the uniqueness of this group of birds and why they have been admired for centuries. Participants will come eye to eye with a Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Expert trainer and educators Phung Luu and Jackie Kozlowski will be on hand to show the birds and answer your questions.

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 - ***Visit to Yellow Springs Farm*** (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) Yellow Springs Farm, a Native Plant Nursery and Artisanal Goat Cheese Dairy, founded by Catherine and Al Renzi, is located in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. Join us for a personal tour of the Farm, and plant nursery, with a goat cheese tasting to conclude the visit. Plants, cheese, and yogurt will be available for purchase. Lunch is on your own at a nearby restaurant. Space is limited and reservations are required. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.

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.

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

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**The Friends of Bombay Hook (FOBH) 2014
newsletter will be issued on the following dates:**

May 1, September 1 and November 1.

**Articles for the newsletter will be due on or be-
fore the following dates:**

April 7, August 7 and October 7.