

# FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

*Newsletter*



Vol. 24, No. 3  
May 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.**

***Children's Adventure Day will be held on May 3, 2014----see page 6 for Schedule of Events.***

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***The Visitor Center will be closed on the weekends in July and August.***

Published Quarterly by  
Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.  
2591 Whitehall Neck Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
(302) 653-8322

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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## ***The President's Corner***

***By Linda Osiecki***

Despite doubts during what seemed to be an endless winter, spring has come once again.

As nature renews itself with emerging plants and returning wildlife, this is a good time to make plans. Here are some ideas:

- \* For those of you with children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews who are toddlers to age 11, the Refuge will have a Children's Adventure Day on May 3rd. The day will be packed with activities.
- \* March was the 80th anniversary of the signing of the bill authorizing the Federal Duck Stamp (see the article on page 5). Many of us buy this stamp each year for our entrance fee for Bombay Hook and other national wildlife refuges. When the new stamp is released for July, consider getting one for yourself plus another as a gift for a friend. See the web site [www.friendsofthestamp.org](http://www.friendsofthestamp.org) for additional information about the stamp and how the money is used for habitat.
- \* Each time you go to the Refuge, make sure you bring something to record what you observe - a camera, journal or sketchbook. Look with fresh eyes at the birds you see, even if it's a common Robin or Cardinal. Listen to the sound of birds flying overhead or the moving water.

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# BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

Winter Period December 2013 through February 2014

Weather during the report period was characterized by frequent, significant snow storms which resulted in near record snow fall totals for the year and extremely cold weather for extended periods. Temperatures dropped close to zero degrees Fahrenheit on a few nights. Im-

poundments remained frozen for long periods during the reporting period and even the salt marsh experienced heavy icing during the winter.

Virtually the entire state experienced a major influx of Snowy Owls for virtually the entire winter although most sightings on the Refuge occurred during December. The nearby Dover AFB attracted birds for most of the report period and were easily viewed by visitors near the Air Base Museum.

Peaks of Snow Goose populations at Bombay Hook NWR seem to have occurred later in the season the past several years. As recently as 10-15 years ago, large number of the birds would arrive by late October. Recently, however, population spikes seem to be occurring later. Populations increased significantly this year during late November and climbed to 100,000 by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tundra Swan activity on and near the Refuge seemed greater this year as large flocks were seen feeding in Kent County farms and frequently roosting on the Refuge.

A pair of Bald Eagles nested on the Refuge and at least one hatchling is in the nest according to information provided by the Refuge staff. The final outcome of this year's Eagle nesting activities will be included in the next newsletter following the state Fish and Wildlife's final aerial nesting surveys of the nests in Delaware.

## 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 winter 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.

**12/01-12/06 - Raymond Pool:** White-fronted Goose; **Sheariness Pool:** Marbled Godwits (2), Black-necked Stilt, Avocets (48), Western Sandpipers (5), Semi-palmated Plover; **Bear Swamp:** Wilson's Snipe, Western Palm Warbler, White-breasted Nuthatch; **Salt Marsh Opposite Sheariness Pool:** Snow Geese (100,000+), Snowy Owl; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Eastern Phoebe, American Pipits

### 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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(100+), Lapland Longspurs (1-3), Eastern Meadowlarks (15).

**12/07-12/13** - **Raymond Pool:** Avocets (25); **Sheariness Pool:** Snowy Owl, Marbled Godwit, Black-necked Stilt, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson's Phalarope, Snow Buntings, Cackling Goose; **Bear Swamp:** Bobwhite (adjacent uplands); **Entrance Road:** Lapland Longspur, Horned Larks, American Pipits (100); **Salt Marsh Opposite Sheariness Pool:** Avocets (75), Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plovers; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows.

**12/14-12/20** - **Raymond Pool:** Black-necked Stilts, Cackling Goose; **Sheariness Pool:** Common and Hooded Mergansers, American Pipit, Clapper Rail, American Bittern, Snow Buntings; **Bear Swamp:** Woodcock, Great Egret, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher; **Finis Pool:** Rusty Blackbirds (125+); **Boardwalk Trail:** Virginia Rail, Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren; **Salt Marsh Opposite Sheariness Pool:** Snowy Owl; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Red-breasted Merganser, Black-bellied Plover, Avocets, Tree Sparrows.



*Rusty Blackbird*

**12/21-12/27** - **Dutch Neck Area:** Bobwhite Quails (16); **Visitor Center:** Barred Owl, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Tundra Swan, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Common, Red-breasted, and Hooded Mergansers, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owls, Short-eared Owl, Barn Owls, Dunlin, Woodcock, Yellowlegs, Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Virginia Rail.

**12/28-01/03** - **Sheariness Pool:** Common Mergansers (15), Bald Eagles (10), Black-necked Stilt, Great Egret; **Bear Swamp:** Dunlins (16), Common Mergansers (20); **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows, Fox Sparrows; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Pied-billed Grebe, Coot, Clapper Rail, Osprey.

**01/04-01/11** - **Entrance Road:** American Kestrel, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Eastern Meadowlark, Wilson's Snipe; **Visitor Center:** Fox and White-crowned Sparrows; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Common Goldeneye, Bald Eagles (courtship), Peregrine Falcon.



*American Tree Sparrow*

**01/12-01/18** - **Sheariness Pool:** Eurasian Wigeon, Ring-neck Ducks; **Finis Pool:** Turkey; **Visitor Center:** Common Yellowthroat, Tree Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Rough-legged Hawk, Common Mergansers (70), Red-breasted Mergansers (15), Hooded Mergansers (40), Tundra Swan, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Virginia and King Rails, Marsh and Winter Wrens.

**01/19-01/24** - **Entrance Road:** Lapland Longspurs; **Visitor Center:** Tree Sparrow, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows; **Boardwalk Trail:** Marsh Wren; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Common Goldeneyes (14), Bufflehead, Ring-neck Duck, Ruddy Duck, Common, Red-breasted, and Hooded Mergansers.

**01/25-01/31** - **Raymond Pool:** Short-eared Owls (8), Barn Owl; **Bear Swamp:** Pileated Woodpecker; **Allee House:** Bobwhites (8), Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler; **Raymond Neck Road:** Lapland Longspur; **Visitor Center:** American Tree and Fox Sparrows.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Bird Notes (Continued from previous page)*

**02/01-02/07 - Finis Pool:** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned, Fox, and American Tree Sparrows; **Whitehall Neck Road:** Cackling Goose; **Boardwalk Trail:** Greater Yellowlegs; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Snow Geese (2,000), Hooded Mergansers.

**02/08-02/14 - Boardwalk Trail:** Short-eared Owl; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Pintail, Black Duck, Mallards, Bufflehead, Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, White-throated Sparrows, Junco, and Harrier.

**02/15-02/21 - Upland Fields Adjacent to Refuge:** Snow Geese (20,000), Tundra Swans (250); **Refuge Entrance Road:** Horned Lark.

**02/22-02/28 - Raymond Pool:** Short-eared Owls; **Shearneck Pool:** Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, and American Bittern; **Maintenance Buildings:** Barn Owl; **Bear Swamp:** Woodcock (courting), Bobwhite Quail; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Wood Ducks, Pintails (thousands), Gadwall, Tundra Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded and Common Mergansers, Fox, White-crowned, Field, and Tree Sparrows.

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## Refuge Store Report

### Attention All Coffee-Loving Birders.....

Shade grown coffee benefits those migratory birds you love to see moving through Bombay Hook. It provides wintering habitats; helps maintain the threatened forest canopy in South America; promotes organic farming methods; provides healthier farms for growers and their families; and supports over 150 species of birds, most of them those you like to see in the spring. Most coffee today is grown in full sun which has had a terrible impact on the migratory birds and the environment, one study found that coffee grown in the sun supported 97% fewer bird species. Like native plants, shade grown coffee is significantly healthier for the environment and for the birds. The coffee we carry at The Refuge Store, operated by the Friends of Bombay Hook, is all shade grown.

Thanksgiving Coffee Company partnered with the American Birding Association to create **Song Bird Coffee™**. Thanksgiving Coffees were developed in consultation with American Birding Association and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Thanksgiving Coffee Company also contributes to the American Birding Association's Birder Exchange. In doing so, they have supplied binoculars, field guides and other birding tools to more than 350 programs in 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. These programs have increased awareness of the importance of their habitat to the success of migratory birds.



Your purchase of **Song Bird Coffees™** makes a huge difference to song birds and to small farm cooperatives. You will enjoy the flavors and selections: Hazelnut, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Panama, Decaffeinated, French Roast, Nicaraguan, and Wild Birds Unlimited. When coffee is grown in dense shade, it allows the flavor of the coffee beans to develop slowly creating better flavor. This is one of those ethical choices we can make which have an impact on the world around us. Please make this your coffee of choice for your sake and for the sake of the birds you love.

The Spring Sale will start May first and last throughout May.

20% off of nearly everything in the store.

25% off of the long sleeve fall items: sweat shirts and long sleeve T-shirts

The only items excluded from the sale will be the short sleeve T-shirts.

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp

Sunday, March 16, 2014 was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp. In 1934, after years of debate and disappointment, forces for wetland and waterfowl conservation were finally able to agree and get a Stamp bill through Congress.

*First Duck Stamp, 1934-1935*



The backdrop was a triple crisis confronting the country: the Depression with its impact on virtually all sectors of the economy, drought that was to contribute to creating the Dust Bowl, and the corresponding loss of crucial wetlands and their birds across the land.

As soon as the bill passed, it was signed into law by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. That was on March 16, 1934.

The artwork for the very first stamp (1934-1935) was created by Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, the Pulitzer-Prize winning American cartoonist and dedicated conservationist, who had just been appointed by the President as the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, predecessor to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more on that history, go to: <http://www.friendsofthestamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Wingtips-6-January-2014.pdf>.

The urgently needed funds generated from the Stamp were immediately directed to buy or lease wetland habitat.

Now, 80 years later, we can visit the wetland, riparian, and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System that have been secured through the acquisition decisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

Waterfowl, other birds and wildlife, and the American public have all benefited greatly from the Stamp, and we can certainly celebrate that fact after these 80 years.

The 2014-2015 Federal Duck Stamp will be on sale in July 2014. They will be sold in the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook NWR.



Coming up are trips to 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.



*Bird Club Group  
at Eastern Neck NWR*

On February 17, members enjoyed a private field trip at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The weather was perfect, and the group spotted 38 species. The scheduled trip in February to the NASA complex on Wallops Island was postponed twice due to weather and at this writing was scheduled for mid-April. In March, eight members toured Bombay Hook to look for late winter lingerers and early arrivals. Despite cold temperatures, the group saw more than 50 species.

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](mailto:hmclennan@comcast.net).



*March 23 at Bombay Hook*

The Bird Club's outings are free and open to all adults and teenagers from novices to experienced birders. 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.



# Children's Adventure Day

## May 3, 2014



Toddlers to 11 years old

### Schedule of Events

- 11:00 – 12:30 The Refuge System's Blue Goose Visits
- 11:00 – 2:00 Games
  - Station #1 Bird Migration Hurdles
  - Station #2 Bird Adaptations & Nature Mystery Bags
- 11:00 - 2:00 Crafts
  - Station #3 Monarch life cycle & Animal Tracks
  - Station #4 Bottle bird feeder and Hummingbird feeder
  - Station #5 Fish Prints
  - Station #6 Pot a plant
  - Station #7 Bird Education - Bird identification. Learn to use binoculars. Start Nature Trail.
  - Station #8 Purple Martin Nest Checks
  - Station #9 Archery – last group starts at 2:30
  - Station #10 State Forest Service – The importance of forest for wildlife.
  - Station #11 Dip netting in brackish water – On Boardwalk Trail
  - Station #12 Dip netting in fresh water – At Finis Pool
  - Station #13 Forest Exploration – Look for salamanders and bugs!
- 11:00 – 1:00
- 11:00 – 2:30
- 11:00 – 2:30
- 11:30 – 2:00
- 11:30 – 2:00
- 12:00 – 2:00
- 12:30 – 2:00
- 2:00 – 3:00
- 12:00 – 2:00 Smokey the Bear Visits
- 2:00 – 3:00 Station #14 Wildlife Songs and Stories with Ms. Jackie McCabe – The program is great for toddlers up to early elementary ages. Join in songs, stories and finger plays about wildlife including frogs, deer, ducks, bugs, and salamanders!

### All Day

Families on your own – Drive the 12-mile wildlife drive and walk 5 different trails. Three trails have 30 foot observation towers. Photograph wildlife.

Free activities and entrance fee.  
Free juice and water.  
Bring a picnic lunch.

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, 2591 Whitehall Neck Rd., Smyrna, DE 19977



[fws.gov/refuge/bombay\\_hook](http://fws.gov/refuge/bombay_hook)

(302) 653-9345

## *Three Great (and Neat) Large Native Deciduous Trees for Delaware Gardens*

The Garden Keepers at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge recently offered a program titled "Fifty Great (and Neat) Native Plants for Delaware Gardens." Many people associate native with an unkempt garden aesthetic, but nothing could be further from the truth. Quentin Schlieder developed a listing of 50 native plants with photographs of each was distributed at the session, which now is posted on the Friends of Bombay Hook website. This series of articles is based on that list and hopefully will inspire gardeners to consider these fine native plant for their own gardens. The first three plants which are profiled here are large trees, especially appropriate since celebrations of Arbor Day are in April.

When properly selected, located, planted, and maintained, native canopy trees:

- provide shade and funnel air in the summer for cooling, and form windbreaks in the winter for warming,
- soak up excess storm water, filter pollutants, and control erosion,
- improve community aesthetics and increase property values,
- provide bird and other wildlife habitat,
- reduce energy costs, clean the air, and sequester carbon dioxide,
- contribute to the health of our streams, rivers

The trees which are included on this list were selected since they offer year-round interest, adapt to a wide variety of growing conditions and have attributes which reduce maintenance.

The **Heritage River Birch** (*Betula nigra*), or 'Heritage', is the most prominent of all the cultivars of River Birch trees. It is faster growing, has larger, glossier leaves and is less prone to leaf spot than the other species and offers excellent disease and pest resistance, including Bronze Birch Borer, which plagues so many other native birch species. A native to the flood plains of Delaware, River Birch tolerates really wet soil but adapts to drier soils also. A mature tree can reach 60 feet in height with a spread of 40 feet. One caveat - keep it away from patios and walkways, since its surface roots can cause them to become uneven.

The Heritage River Birch was selected as a cultivar because of its unique bark. All River Birches have a bark that flakes off regularly in long thin sheets. Most River Birches have orange and brown shades of bark. Heritage has rich shades of cream, purple, orange and salmon, which has made the most popular cultivar of River Birch. The colorful bark makes Heritage interesting in winter after the leaves, which are a glorious golden color in autumn, have fallen.

Chickadees, Song and White-throated Sparrows, Wild Turkeys, Pine Siskins, Finches and other birds love the seed of River Birch. River Birch also provides a great nesting site for many animals.



◀ **Mountain Silverbell Mountain** (*Halesia monticola* or *Halesia tetraptera*) grows into a 40-50 foot tree with an upright-spreading crown. The tree begins blooming when only 10 to 12 feet tall with white, bell-shaped blossoms are borne in clusters of up to five and present a memorable display. Flowering occurs along last year's branches in mid-spring on the previous season's wood. Because the flowers point downward, they are partially hidden by the foliage and best viewed from below. The flowers are a valuable nectar source for pollinators while the fruits are a food source for large and small mammals as well as water and terrestrial birds. Eastern Tennessee beekeepers speak highly of the species as a honey plant.

Other ornamental features are the yellow fall color and the bark, which peels off in large, flat scales. The pale yellow fruits are quite attractive as they hang down from last year's branches.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Three Great (and Neat) Large Native Deciduous Trees for Delaware Gardens (Continued from previous page)*

The tree can grow in fairly heavy shade, and is usually found in moist well-drained soil, often near streams. While not native to Delaware, this is a choice large deciduous tree which should be more popular.

**Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*) is a deciduous conifer native to wetlands in southern Delaware and is a terrific landscape and street tree which casts light shade and provides easy fall cleanup. Bald Cypress is ideal for wet locations, such as its native habitat of stream banks and mucky soils, but the trees will also grow remarkably well on almost any soil, including heavy, compacted, or poorly-drained muck, except alkaline soils. Surprisingly, the roots do not appear to lift sidewalks and curbs as readily as some other species. Its delicate, feathery foliage affords light, dappled shade, and the heartwood of Bald Cypress is quite resistant to rot. It displays attractive reddish brown, fibrous bark and produces knees when grown in or near water. The tree develops a large taproot and is heat and drought tolerant.



Cities from Charlotte, NC, Dallas, TX to Tampa, FL currently use it as a street tree and it should be used more extensively throughout its range in urban landscapes. It provides a good vertical accent to the landscape and should be used more often in urban areas. Bald Cypress can be clipped into a formal hedge, creating a wonderful soft screen. One of the prominent features at Pierre Samuel DuPont's Longwood Gardens is the magnificent alee of Bald Cypress just to the left as one enters the estate.

Locate Bald Cypress where the sun will strike the tree on all sides for best symmetrical development. Bald Cypress is relatively maintenance-free, requiring pruning only to remove dead wood and unwanted lower branches which persist on the tree. It maintains a desirably straight trunk and a moderately dense canopy and does not form double or multiple leaders as do many other large trees.

Bald Cypress seeds are eaten by Wild Turkeys, Wood Ducks, Evening Grosbeaks, squirrels, waterfowl, and wading birds. Cypress domes provide unique watering places for a variety of birds and mammals and breeding sites for frogs, toads, salamanders, and other reptiles. Yellow-throated Warblers forage in the Spanish moss often found hanging on the branches in its southern ranges. Tina Watson suggested that one of the benefits of Bald Cypress is that since it drops its needles in autumn, it facilitates winter bird watching.

Delaware celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. Mark the occasion by planting one of these great trees!

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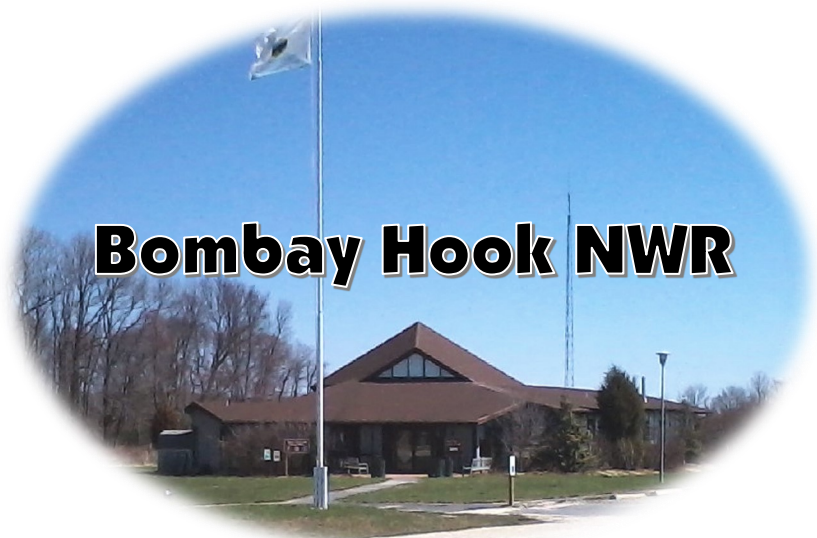


***Birding in the U.S.***

**A new report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides an excellent overview of birders in the U.S. and their impact on the overall economy. The report identifies who birders are, where they live, how active they are, and the kinds of birds they watch. It also provides an economic measure of birding, estimating how much birders spend on their hobby and the economic impact of these expenditures. The report is available at: <http://pcjv.org/docs/2011%20Birding%20Report--FINAL.pdf>.**







# Bombay Hook NWR



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(302) 653-9345  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay\\_Hook/](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 be closed WEEKENDS during July and August.** **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, May 3, 2014 - **Children's Adventure Day** for toddlers up to 11 years old  
(11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

### Schedule of Events

- 11:00 – 12:30 The Refuge System's **Blue Goose** Visits
- 11:00 – 2:00 Games
  - Station #1** - Bird Migration Hurdles
  - Station #2** - Bird Adaptations & Family Nature's Journal – Mystery Bags
- 11:00 - 2:00 Crafts
  - Station #3** - Monarch life cycle & Animal tracks
  - Station #4** - Bottle bird feeder and Hummingbird feeder
  - Station #5** - Fish Prints
- 11:00 – 2:00 **Station #6** - Pot a plant
- 11:00 – 2:00 **Station #7** - Bird Education -- Bird identification. Learn to use binoculars.  
Start nature trail.
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Station # 8** - Purple Martin Nest Checks

*(Continued on next page)*

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

- 11:00 – 2:30      **Station # 9** - Archery – last group starts at 2:30.  
11:00 – 2:30      **Station # 10** - State Forest Service – The importance of forest for wildlife  
11:30 – 2:00      **Station # 11** - Dip netting in brackish water – On Boardwalk Trail  
11:30 – 2:00      **Station # 12** - Dip netting in fresh water – At Finis Pool  
12:00 – 2:00      **Station #13** - Forest Exploration – Look for salamanders and bugs! Finis Woods  
12:30 – 2:00      Smokey the Bear Visits  
2:00 – 3:00      **Station #14** - Wildlife Songs and Stories with Ms. Jackie McCabe – The program is great for toddlers up to early elementary ages. Join in songs, stories and finger plays about wild-life including frogs, deer, ducks, bugs, bear and salamanders!

*All Day*

Families on your own – Drive the 12-mile wildlife drive and walk 5 different trails. Three trails have 30 foot observation towers. Photograph wildlife. Free activities and entrance fee. Free juice and water. Bring a picnic lunch.

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. – 1:45 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, Screech Owl and Turkey Vulture. 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](mailto:gcsjr@comcast.net).

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #1* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Monday, June 2, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #2* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Friday, June 6, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #3* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Wednesday, June 11, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #4* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Monday, June 16, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #5* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Friday, June 20, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #6* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

*(Continued on next page)*

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #7* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Monday, June 30, 2014 - *Purple Martin Nest Check - #8* (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Joël Martin will check the purple martin gourds and houses. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, holding a chick, and counting eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or maybe hold a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center.

July and August – **The Visitor Center is closed on WEEKENDS.**

Saturday, August 9, 2013 - *Shorebirds and Birding by Impression with Kevin Karlson and Dale Rosselet* (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

Join Kevin Karlson, author of *“The Shorebird Guide”*, and Dale Rosselet, Vice President of the NJ Audubon Society, for a special indoor and outdoor workshop that concentrates on the ID approach covered in their upcoming book in the Peterson Reference Series at Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt Publishers. The book is called *“Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds”*. A morning of outdoor viewing on the refuge (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) will concentrate on shorebird ID, but also how to identify other birds using nonchangeable features as the initial focus of your ID process.

The afternoon session (2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.) will share Kevin’s personal approach to shorebird ID that is used in *“The Shorebird Guide”* and will feature comparative ID photos that show similar species in a side by side digitized view. The last half hour previews Dale and Kevin’s new book by showing a number of comparative ID photos of other bird families. The authors will ask the audience to participate in the ID process by assessing the structural features and plumage details of the birds in each photo. While Kevin and Dale will tell you what birds are featured in each digital composite photo, it will be up to you to identify which is which. Come and practice your ID skills and get a preview of their new book which will be published in the spring of 2015. *Space is limited and reservations are required.* Call the Refuge to register at (302) 653-9345. The program is sponsored by Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.

**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 !"*

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### **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](http://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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Wilmington, DE 198

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

**September 1 and November 1.**

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

**August 7 and October 7.**