

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter



Vol. 24, No. 4
September 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 September 6 -- Volunteers are needed.

Changes are coming to the Refuge Store -- see "Refuge Store Report" on page 6.

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Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.
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(302) 653-8322

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

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The President's Corner By Linda Osiecki

At the beginning of August, I had the privilege to attend the Friends Academy at the National Conservation Training Center of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. With Board members of Friends groups from across the country (Alaska to Florida), we shared our challenges and successes in supporting our local National Wildlife Refuge plus one Fish Hatchery, while learning more about national policies, procedures, and better ways for non-profit organizations to operate. The Friends Academy was preceded in June by a Peer-to-Peer Workshop hosted by Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. Friends and staff from refuges in our region attended, and were able to share specifics about their programs and practices. I am excited about new programs we will have in the coming year for Friends and volunteers, as well as becoming more effective in supporting the Refuge and what visitors do there, especially wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation.

This month is the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed this law. The bill established the National Wilderness Preservation System and set aside 9.1 million acres of wild lands for the use and benefit of the American people. Over the past 50 years, over 100 million acres have been added to this land preservation system. In the Wilderness Act, "Wilderness" is defined as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain; wilderness lands may contain ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic or historical value. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has the honor of having the first wilderness land under this Act.

Looking back at conservation history such as the Wilderness Act, my thoughts are directed to the value of Bombay Hook – the views of the landscape at Shearness Pool, the forested areas near the Boardwalk Trail, hearing birds feeding at Raymond Pool. I hope that you will be able to participate in new events in the coming year, and find a way that you can volunteer in order to help others to enjoy wilderness at our Refuge.

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

Spring-Early Summer March 2014 through June 2014

Precipitation for the report period was below normal during April and June with near average levels during March, during which a total of 12 inches of snow was recorded during three events (3/03, 3/17, 3/26). Early March was quite cold, as was much of the winter, with several readings in the low to

mid-teens. May produced several spring storms including tornado activity in the vicinity.

A recent newspaper article by *News Journal* columnist Molly Murray reported that Horseshoe Crab spawning was relatively late this year due in part to below normal bay water temperatures (59 degrees needed for spawning). State biologist Kevin Kalasz (Delaware Shorebird Project) declared that despite a chilly spring, the Shorebirds arrived and put on enough weight to make their Arctic migration (*News Journal*, June 8, 2014).

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 date throughout the report 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 geographic locations.

3/01-3/08 - Sheariness Pool: Common Merganser, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser; **Bear Swamp:** Pintail, Fox Sparrow, Catbird; **Finis Pool:** Wood Duck, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Merganser; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Bufflehead, Tundra Swan, American Coot.

3/09-3/15 - Sheariness Pool: Short-eared Owl; **Bear Swamp:** Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Common Merganser, Greater Yellowlegs; **Entrance Road:** Ross's Goose; **Salt Marsh Opposite Sheariness Pool:** Dunlins (500+), Avocets; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrow, Woodcock, Short-eared Owl, Red-tailed Hawk; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Ducks, American Coot, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Merlin.

3/16-3/22 - Raymond Pool: Short-eared Owl, American Avocets, Wilson's Snipe, Osprey; **Sheariness Pool:** Common Mergansers; **Bear Swamp:** Red-throated Loon, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Eurasian Teal; **Finis Pool:** Barred Owls (2), Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Great Egrets, Hooded Mergansers, Tree Swallows, Great Horned Owl, Rusty Blackbirds; **Entrance Road:** Ross's Goose.

3/23-3/29 - Raymond Pool: American Avocets, Short-billed Dowitchers, Northern Shovelers, Tundra Swans; **Sheariness Pool:** Greater Yellowlegs, Bald Eagle, American Coot, Buffleheads, Shovelers, Tundra Swan; **Bear Swamp:** Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Wilson's Snipe, Black-Crowned Night Heron; **Finis Pool:** Blue-winged Teal, Kingfisher; **Visitor Center:** Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Lesser Scaup, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers, Rusty Blackbirds, Tree Swallow, Eastern Phoebe, Short-eared Owl,

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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Barn Owl.

3/30-4/05 - **Raymond Pool:** Ospreys (3); **Sheariness Pool:** Glossy Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, Forster's Tern, Ring-Necked Ducks, Pie-billed Grebe; **Bear Swamp:** Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Eastern Towhee, Black-crowned Night Herons, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler; **Finis Pool:** Merlin, Blue-winged Teal, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows, Tree Sparrows; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Bufflehead, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Purple Martin, Tree Swallows.

4/06-4/12 - **Raymond Pool:** Bald Eagle, Red-necked Grebe; **Bear Swamp:** Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Least Tern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron; **Finis Pool:** Kingfisher; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows; **Boardwalk Trail:** Blue-grey Gnatcatcher; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebes, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Glossy Ibis, Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Avocets (85), Black-bellied Plover, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipes (75), Barred Owl, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Mute Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers.

4/13-4/19 - **Raymond Pool:** Tri-colored Heron; **Sheariness Pool:** Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, Green-winged Teal, Coot, Shoveler, Tree Swallow; **Bear Swamp:** Black-necked Stilt, Pied-billed Grebe, Shoveler, Eurasian Green-Winged Teal; **Finis Pool:** Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** White-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, House Wren, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, American Avocets, Dunlins (1000's), Semi-palmated Sandpipers (6), Least Sandpipers (5), Short-billed Dowitchers, Willet, Sanderling, and Wilson's Snipe.

4/20-4/26 - **Raymond Pool:** Osprey, American Avocets (100+), Black-necked Stilts; **Sheariness Pool:** Bald Eagle, Glossy Ibis; **Bear Swamp:** Black-crowned Night Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Semi-palmated Plovers, American Golden Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Pectoral, Least Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Willet, Palm Warbler, Hermit Thrush; **Finis Pool:** Barred Owls (2); **Visitor Center:** Pileated Woodpecker; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Seaside Sparrow, Winter Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

4/27-5/08 - **Raymond Pool:** Bald Eagles, American Golden Plovers, Black-necked Stilts (10); **Bear Swamp:** Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Whippoorwill, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Black-necked Stilt, Bald Eagles, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Screech Owls; **Finis Pool:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-winged Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper; **Saltmarsh Across from Sheariness Pool:** American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plovers, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher, Least Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Sandpipers; **Raymond Tower and Boardwalk Trail:** Black-throated Blue Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Orchard Oriole, Least Bittern; **Allee House:** Bobolinks, Magnolia Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow; **Parson Point Trail:** Northern Harrier, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush; **Visitor Center:** White-crowned Sparrows; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** American Woodcock, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Caspian Tern, Bobwhite, Wild Turkey.

5/09-5/16 - **Raymond Pool:** Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Black-necked Stilts, Canada Warbler, Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Orchard Orioles, White-eyed Vireos, Warbling Vireos, Red-eye Vireo, Arcadian Flycatchers, Glossy Ibis, Lesser Yellow-

(Continued on next page)

Bird Notes (Continued from previous page)

legs; **Sheariness Pool:** Coots, Rusty Blackbirds, Least Bitterns, Tri-colored Heron; **Bear Swamp:** Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Green-winged Teal, Black-necked Stilt, Ruddy Turnstone, Screech Owl, Bobolink, American Golden Plover, Swainson's Thrush, Least Bittern; **Finis Pool:** Green Heron, Barred Owl; **Allee House:** Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak; **Visitor Center:** American Woodcock, Barn Owl, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo; **Boardwalk Trail:** Redstart, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, Yellow Warbler, Parula, Cape May Warbler; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Prothonotary Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler.



Eurasian Green-winged Teal

5/17-5/23 - Raymond Pool: Wilson's Phalarope, Seaside Sparrow, Red-necked Phalarope; **Sheariness Pool:** Glossy Ibis; **Bear Swamp:** Bobwhite, Semi-palmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Little Blue Heron; **Allee House:** Least Bittern, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolinks; **Entrance Road:** Curlew Sandpiper; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Hooded Mergansers, Mute Swan, Tennessee Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, Swainson's Thrush.

5/24-5/30 - Raymond Pool: Mute Swan, Clapper Rail; **Sheariness Pool:** Least Bitterns, American Coot, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Black-bellied Plover,

Spotted Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Common Moorhen; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Black-necked Stilts; **Allee House:** Northern Bobwhite, Grasshopper Sparrow; **Boardwalk Trail:** Willow Flycatchers, Arcadian Flycatchers.

5/31-6/13 - Raymond Pool: Avocets, Little Blue Heron, Orchard Orioles; **Sheariness Pool:** Common Gallinule, Least Bittern, Ruddy Duck, Black Skimmer, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck; **Bear Swamp:** Least Bittern, Black Skimmer; **Finis Pool:** Green Heron, Great-crested Flycatcher; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Mute Swan, Tri-colored Heron.

6/14-6/20 - Raymond Pool: Bonaparte's Gull, Black Skimmer, Glossy Ibis, Osprey, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs; **Sheariness Pool:** Black Skimmers (8), Least Bitterns, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck; **Bear Swamp:** Black-crowned Night Heron; **Allee House:** Bobwhite, Grasshopper Sparrow, Ring-necked Pheasant; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis.

6/21-6/30 - Raymond Pool: Ruff, Glossy Ibis, Avocets, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper; **Sheariness Pool:** Tundra Swan, Least Bittern, Black Skimmer, Royal Tern, King Rail, Spotted Sandpipers; **Bear Swamp:** Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron; **Finis Pool:** Phoebe; **Other Unidentified Refuge Areas:** Dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets.

Refuge Update Newsletter

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issue a newsletter every two months. The latest *Refuge Update: National Wildlife Refuge System* highlights Friends and Volunteer activities at different locations. To print a copy or to read the newsletter online visit website: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeupdate>.

Birding Trips Announced



If you enjoy birding, or want to try it for the first time, sign up to receive emailed notices of the Friends' Bird Club outings. Field trips are open to adults and teens, and you are welcome to participate as often or as little as you like. No fees are involved; just friendly people who like to go birding. Most outings are on Sunday mornings, but others are during the week, in the evening or on Saturday.

A preliminary schedule from this September through next May includes locations in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and, of course, Bombay Hook. Trips are planned to three other National Wildlife Refuges: Blackwater, Brigantine and Eastern Neck.

Any late changes in dates, times or meeting places due to weather or other factors are emailed to the Bird Club list. To be added to the list and receive the new schedule, please contact Hannah McLennan at hmclennan@comcast.net.

You do not have to be a member of the Friends to attend. Dress for the weather and wet paths. Bring your binoculars, water, and snacks. A birding field guide is very helpful.

We hope to see you!



CARE Releases “America’s National Wildlife Refuges: Home for Wildlife, Haven for Wildlife Enthusiasts”

In June, 2014, the **Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE)** released a new report, **“America’s National Wildlife Refuges: Home for Wildlife, Haven for Wildlife Enthusiasts”**. According to the report, the steady decline in congressional funding is threatening the economic vitality of hundreds of local communities that rely on the tourism and recreation dollars that refuges provide.

Without adequate funding for basic maintenance and repairs, refuges will be forced to reduce visitor services and wildlife habitat management, which will reduce opportunities to hunt, fish, and view wildlife on refuge lands.

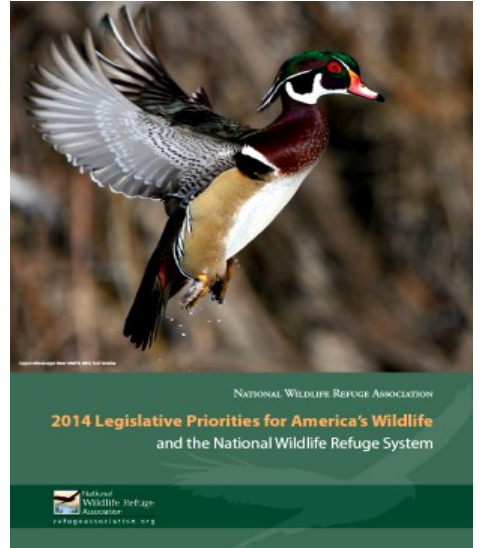
“More than \$2.4 billion generated in local economies is at stake,” said David Houghton, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, which leads CARE. “National wildlife refuges are economic engines, but without sufficient funding from Congress, those engines are going to stall.”

The CARE coalition is comprised of 23 wildlife, sporting and conservation organizations that span the political spectrum, representing 16 million Americans who value outdoor recreation, scientific research and wildlife conservation. The report notes the benefits wildlife refuges provide, and also what is at stake if funds were to be cut.

To view the report’s highlights and to print the entire report go to: <http://fundrefuges.org/2014/06/care-releases-americas-national-wildlife-refuges-home-for-wildlife-haven-for-wildlife-enthusiasts/>.

Reprinted from <http://fundrefuges.org>.

“2014 Legislative Priorities for America’s Wildlife” Now Available Online



The National Wildlife Refuge Association’s 2014 Legislative Priorities for America’s Wildlife, is now available online.

This report highlights the Refuge Association’s top 10 legislative priorities for 2014 that are aimed to secure a lasting conservation legacy for our children and grandchildren. Our priorities cover critical conservation needs, from increased operational funding for our beleaguered National Wildlife Refuge System to encouraging conservation partnerships such as those with America’s working lands like ranches and farms that leverage federal funding in support of landscape-level conservation.

We also highlight the need to continue engaging volunteers in the service of wildlife conservation. Volunteers, including the over 230 refuge support “Friends” organizations, are responsible for over 22% of work on refuges. This contribution of over 1.4 million hours is valued at \$31 million.

With a refuge located in every state and within an hour’s drive of every metropolitan area, our refuges provide unparalleled opportunities to experience and enjoy the outdoors and America’s diverse wildlife heritage. Refuges are economic engines, providing \$4.87 for their local communities for every \$1 of federal investment, creating 35,000 jobs, and generating \$2.4 billion in economic output.

To view or print entire document go to: http://refugeassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Priorities-2014_web.pdf.

Reprinted from: <http://refugeassociation.org/>

Refuge Store Report

This is an invitation to come to the store to start or to finish your holiday shopping. The Refuge Store is having its usual fall sale. All short-sleeved t-shirts will be starting at 25% off. During the next few weeks, both the number of items on sale and the percentage discounted will increase. There will be amazing sales coming during September.

Due to the new Friends Policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, starting in October the Refuge Store can only be operated by Friends Volunteers. Due to this, the Refuge Store layout will be reconfigured and the times that the Refuge Store will be open during Visitor Center hours will vary.

Thank you so much Tina, Oscar, Suzan, and Gary and all past staff! You have each, and all, made an enormous difference in the Refuge Store’s success .

Children's Adventure Day

The Children's Adventure Day in May, 2014 provided 300 family members a day to get outside and explore together. Families brought picnic lunches, explored the refuge, and participated in fun activities.



Coloring was a good opportunity to rest.



Children found creatures in the fresh water.



Crafts had families working together.



Everyone potted native plants to take home.



All ages learned about butterflies and forest.



Migration Game taught about obstacles birds face.

Thanks to volunteers and Friends of Bombay Hook for making the day special to so many children.

Look in the Calendar of Events for the **Fall Family Exploration Series**. For ages 7-10 years old. Families will explore the Refuge and learn about the habitats of Bombay Hook and the animals that live there.



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 WEEKENDS starting Saturday September 6, 2014. The Wildlife Drive is open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after 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, September 6, 2014 - *Volunteer Orientation (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)* A meeting about volunteer opportunities will be held in the auditorium. The meeting will describe the different types of volunteer opportunities, upcoming activities, and the latter part of the session will be a tour of the Refuge. Individuals are needed to staff the Visitor Center 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.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 - *Garden Keepers – Autumn Maintenance for the Delaware Gardener (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)* This hands on workshop will help you get a jump on your next year's garden by performing a few off season tasks now. Learn a checklist of things to do now to make your garden even better next year. Light refreshments will be served. **To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.**

Saturday, September 20, 2014

- *Fall Family Exploration Series (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)* For ages 7-10 years old. Families will explore the Refuge and learn more about the habitats of Bombay Hook and the animals that live there. Different areas will be explored in September, October and November. The group will walk trails, dip net in wetlands, use binoculars, learn about wildlife, and have FUN! **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**
- *10th Annual Native Plant Symposium – Planting for Beauty and Biodiversity: Putting Back the Layers (10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)* Landscape designer, photographer, and author Rick Darke will look at landscape layers from ground cover to canopy and will describe how to create and manage them in gardens that are beautiful, biologically diverse, and eminently livable. Darke's presentation will illustrate proven plants for the mid-Atlantic region and will describe a practical, ecologically sound approach to layering he calls "spacemaking with organic architecture". Bill McAvoy, Botanist with the Delaware Natural Heritage Program, will show us the layers of Delaware forest as a model. A complimentary lunch is included. Sponsored jointly by the Delaware Native Plant Society and the Bombay Hook Garden Keepers. 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.**

Saturday, September 27, 2014

- **FREE ENTRANCE FEE** (½ hour before **SUNRISE** to ½ hour after **SUNSET**) The Refuge's \$4.00 entrance fee will be waived to celebrate National Public Lands Day and invite people to visit Bombay Hook. National Public Lands Day is a fee-free entrance day at many federal public lands. It's a great opportunity spend the day exploring or relaxing in nature.

Bombay Hook is open from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset and invites individuals and families to tour the 12-mile wildlife drive and to walk 5 short walking trails. The Refuge provides a variety of habitats for wildlife. Migratory waterfowl are starting to arrive and a variety of shorebirds and tall wading birds are still present on the Refuge. This is also a good time of year to look for migrating raptors.

- **Highway Clean Up** (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) Volunteer to help clean up the roads leading to Bombay Hook. Meet at the Visitor Center. Wear shoes that can get wet and bring work gloves. Refreshments will be served after the clean-up.

Sunday, September 28, 2014 - **Tour of the Refuge** (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 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, October 4, 2014 - **Environmental Education Workshop** (9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) This hands-on workshop will help people understand, and experience, what kind of environmental education field trips can take place at Bombay Hook. You will learn about the Refuge's habitats, explore the tidal salt marsh, dip net in the brackish and fresh water, identify birds, explore the forest, and learn about wildlife management techniques. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers, scout leaders, Refuge volunteers, and interested visitors to get outside and explore the refuge. **Contact the Refuge to register at (302) 653-9345 or e-mail: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, October 11, 2014 - **Waterfowl Research Presentation** (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.) University of Delaware Graduate Student, Mark Livolsi will give a presentation on his research project. The Delaware Bay is an important stopover and wintering location for several waterfowl species in the Atlantic flyway. Consequently, managers are concerned with providing migrating and wintering waterfowl with adequate food and cover resources. Manipulating water levels in impounded wetlands is a popular management technique to promote the growth of desirable plant species. Mark's research focuses on quantifying the energetic value of impoundments compared with unmanaged salt marshes, and predicting the implication that sea level rise may have for the abundance and distribution of waterfowl in the future.

Sunday, October 12, 2014 - **FREE ENTRANCE FEE** (½ hour before **SUNRISE TO** ½ hour after **SUNSET**) The Refuge's \$4.00 entrance fee will be waived to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week and invite people to visit Bombay Hook. It's a great opportunity spend the day exploring or relaxing in nature.

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 - **Garden Keepers – Native Plants for Autumn Color** (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) Too many gardens lack year-round interest. Learn what great native plants to add to your garden for autumn color. Pot up a complimentary perennial of autumn interest to enjoy at home. Participants will perform season maintenance on the landscape around the Visitors Center. Light refreshments will be served. **To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at (302) 653-6449 or gcsjr@comcast.net.**

Saturday, October 18, 2014 - **Fall Family Exploration Series** (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) For ages 7-10 years old. Families will explore the Refuge and learn more about the habitats of Bombay Hook and the animals that live there. Different areas will be explored in September, October and November. The group will walk trails, dip net in wetlands, use binoculars, learn about wildlife, and have FUN! **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**

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

Bombay Hook is open from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset and invites individuals and families to tour the 12-mile wildlife drive and to walk 5 short walking trails. The Refuge provides a variety of habitats for wildlife. Migratory waterfowl are starting to arrive and a variety of shorebirds and tall wading birds are still present on the Refuge. This is also a good time of year to look for migrating raptors.

Sunday, October 26, 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, November 1, 2014 - *Bats – Halloween's Favorite Mammal* (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Did you know that 25% of all mammals on earth are bats? Bats are found on every continent in the world, except Antarctica. They fill many different ecological roles around the world, including pollination and they are some of the only nocturnal, flying insect predators. Bats are clever and acrobatic wildlife, but their lifestyle has led them to be very misunderstood. Learn all about Delaware bats – where they live, what they eat, how they sound, and how many different species we have in our night sky. Also, come to learn about a very important issue facing bats called White-Nose Syndrome. We will also break the myths associated with Halloween's favorite mammal. Sarah Bouboulis will give the presentation she works at the Refuge as is a Biological Science Technician conducting research on the integrity of the salt marsh. Sarah hails from Pennsylvania where she received her Master's Degree while researching bats and how they were affected by White-Nose Syndrome while hibernating.

Saturday, November 8, 2014 - *Exploring the Bluebird Box Trail* (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) The program will cover the plight of the Eastern Bluebird and how conservation activities can benefit the species. The group will walk a 1-1/2 mile section of the refuge, exploring the Bluebird nest boxes and the different kinds of wildlife that use them. The program is a hands-on experience for both youth and adults. Bring a bag lunch and picnic at the Visitors Center pavilion after the program. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**

Saturday, November 15, 2014 - *Fall Family Exploration Series* (9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) For ages 7-10 years old. Families will explore the Refuge and learn more about the habitats of Bombay Hook and the animals that live there. The group will walk trails, dip net in wetlands, use binoculars, learn about wildlife, and have FUN! **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**

Saturday, November 22, 2014

- *National Family Volunteer Day* (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) National Family Volunteer Day is a great opportunity for families and individuals to spend time making significant contributions to the Refuge while learning about natural gardens and landscaping techniques. Individuals will work in the landscape garden at the Visitor Center. Light refreshments will be served.
- *Bike Ride on the Refuge* (12:00 noon – 2:30 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.

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:**

November 1.

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

October 7.