



# FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

*Newsletter*



Vol. 25, No. 4  
September 1, 2015

### 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.

We are recruiting Friends volunteers for the following positions:

- ✦ To operate our new Blue Heron Gift Shoppe (see "Refuge Store Report" on Page 3).
- ✦ To update our Friends website (need someone with website experience).

Please contact us either on Facebook or our phone number listed below if you are interested.

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



## The President's Corner

By Linda Osiecki

celebrate this beautiful place; until the end of 2015, there will be no entrance fee on the third Saturday of the month, so that would be a great time to get friends to the Refuge.

The Great Blue Heron and the Great Egret featured on the quarter in their salt marsh habitat remind me of the importance of the various types of habitat needed for species. The preservation of habitats at national wildlife refuges and other public lands is wonderful, but adding to habitat in your own yard helps many species, including migrating birds. Cornell Lab of Ornithology's YardMap project has been mapping habitats yard by yard, recognizing how your plantings provide food and shelter

This month the America the Beautiful Quarter for Delaware will be released. We hope you will be able to go to the Refuge this fall to



*America the Beautiful  
Bombay Hook Quarter*

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### A New Publication Is Available On the National Wildlife Refuge System

*Did you know that the National Wildlife Refuge System protects 150.3 million acres for wildlife and that there are 562 refuges and 38 wetland management districts?*

*Find out more.*

"Meet the National Wildlife Refuge System: *Special Places Where Wildlife and People Thrive*", is available online. This 19 page document provides an overview of the Refuge System including history, key legislation, guiding principles, what we do, and more. To access the document online, go to: [http://issuu.com/nationalwildliferefugesystem/docs/meet the nwrs final 3-20-15](http://issuu.com/nationalwildliferefugesystem/docs/meet_the_nwrs_final_3-20-15).

# BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

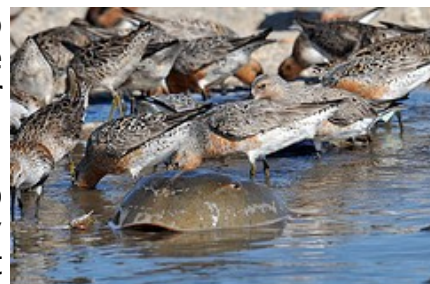
March 14 through July 15, 2015

Precipitation for the report period was scattered with normal to below normal rainfall totals during March, April, and May followed by an extremely wet June with nearly ten inches of rain was recorded. Temperatures during the report period varied from mid-March lows of 25°F to

June and July highs in the 90's °F.

The vast majority of migratory waterfowl departed for northern climates during March, but several hundred Snow Geese and 20 Tundra Swans were still in the vicinity during early April. Shovelers and Green-winged Teal were still plentiful throughout the month.

It was a good season for migrating shorebirds according to Greg Breese with the Delaware Bay Estuary Project. The season started slow with low numbers of birds and water temperatures below what is considered optimal for spawning Horseshoe Crabs during the first week of May. Water temperatures increased by the second week of May and crab spawning was increasing rapidly with birds gaining necessary weight for their trip to the Arctic. Greg reported Red Knot aerial surveys of the Delaware Bay reported roughly similar number to recent years.



Red Knots and Horseshoe Crab  
Credit: Greg Breese/USFWS



Sandhill Crane  
Credit: Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

A Burrowing Owl was sighted and photographed by Refuge Biologist Dan Stotts during early April near the Allee House. Dan believes this is the first known sighting of this species on the Refuge and within the state.

Interestingly, Sandhill Crane sightings were prolific during the report period. Although not sighted on the Refuge during the period, they were frequently reported within 20 miles of the Refuge.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was sighted at the Refuge Boardwalk Trail during early May. A large Warbler "fallout" was reported along Raymond Neck Road at Finis Pool during this period.



Red-headed Woodpecker  
Credit: Dave Menke/USFWS

Two Eagle nests were located on the Refuge this spring according to the information provided by Refuge Biologists. State aerial surveys of the nests in April revealed chicks present in each of the nests.

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## 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:

Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.  
2591 Whitehall Neck Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
Phone: (302) 653-8322  
Fax: (302) 653-0684

email: [fobhmembership@idv.net](mailto:fobhmembership@idv.net)

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



# Refuge Store Report

also would like to announce the new name for the store - *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe* ! Construction on our new addition began in June and was completed in August. We hope to start up in by opening a few days a week and on weekends. Please check out our **Facebook** page or call ahead when planning a trip to make sure we are open that day. The store can only open when we have volunteers to “man” the store. If you or someone you know

Wow, what a busy Summer!!! We are very proud to announce that the Friends now have a permanent store located inside the Visitor Center! Furthermore, we



*We have a new name for our new store---Blue Heron Gift Shoppe!*

of would like to volunteer, please call FOBH at (302) 653-8322. The more volunteers we have, the more hours we will be able to operate.

We have also been very busy this Summer setting up a new computerized cash register for our store. Much work to get it started, but well worth the ability to run more efficiently. Two benefits to our customers are be being able to use a debit card and the system will keep track of inventory so that we can restock our supplies quickly and more accurately.

It's all about that Quarter!! With the new Bombay Hook Quarter coming out this month we have added a few items for sale to honor this amazing event. We have a T-shirt, a key chain and a lapel pin that were made to commemorate the new Quarter. Come check them out while supplies last! We will also have some coin sets from the U.S. Mint available for sale after the official date of the coin's release on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

We plan on having a Pre-Thanksgiving Sale this year, so save some of those “Black Friday” dollars for us!! Remember each purchase you make in our store helps to support and enhance education and recreational programs at the Refuge!

Last year was a great Season for us and we **thank you** for your continued support!



*Bombay Hook Quarter Key Chain*  
(Front and Back shown)

Here's to another wonderful Season full of success and **FRIENDS!**

See you in September!

Karen Dever  
Store Manager



UNITED STATES MINT



*You are cordially invited*

## **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Quarter Launch & Coin Exchange**

Commemorating the release of the 2015  
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge quarter,  
the 29<sup>th</sup> coin to be released in the United States Mint  
America the Beautiful Quarters<sup>®</sup> Program

**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center  
Smyrna, DE**

**September 18, 2015 • 10 a.m. (ET)**

Coin exchange begins immediately following the quarter launch event  
*one-roll (\$10) minimum • 10-roll (\$100) maximum*

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### **Coin Forum**

The United States Mint will host a coin forum the evening before the event

**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center  
Smyrna, DE**

**September 17, 2015 • 6-7 p.m. (ET)**



*[usmint.gov/events](http://usmint.gov/events)*



# BOMBAY HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## Bombay Hook Quarter



Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge was selected to represent Delaware in the U.S. Mint's 'America the Beautiful' quarter series. The quarter features a marsh scene with a great blue heron in the foreground and a great egret in the background. Circulation begins September 2015.

## Range Map

Great Blue Heron  
*Ardea herodias*



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Range data by NatureServe



Photo Credit: Tim Williams

## Great Blue Heron

**T**he great blue heron is a large wading bird in the heron family Ardeidae, common near the shores of open water and in wetlands over most of North America and Central America as well as the Caribbean and the Galápagos Islands.

**Scientific Name** - *Ardea Herodias*

**Appearance** - It is the largest North American heron! It has head-to-tail length of 36–54 in, a wingspan of 66–79 in, a height of 45–54 in, and a weight of 4.0–7.9 lb. They have gray-blue flight feathers, red-brown thighs, rusty-gray neck, with black and white streaking down the front; the head is paler, with a nearly white face, and a pair of black or slate plumes running from just above the eye to the back of the head. The feathers on the lower neck are long and plume-like; it also has plumes on the lower back at the start of the breeding season. The bill is dull yellowish, becoming orange briefly at the start of the breeding season, and the lower legs gray, also becoming orangy at the start of the breeding season. Immature birds are duller in color, with a dull blackish-gray crown, they have no plumes, and the bill is dull gray-yellow.

**Habitat** - Great blue herons live in both freshwater and saltwater habitats.



## **Cool Facts**

- Thanks to specially shaped neck vertebrae, great blue herons can curl their neck into an S shape for a more aerodynamic flight profile and to quickly strike prey at a distance.
- Great blue herons have specialized feathers on their chest that continually grow and fray. The herons comb this “powder down” with a fringed claw on their middle toes, using the down like a washcloth to remove fish slime and other oils from their feathers as they preen. Applying the powder to their underparts protects their feathers against the slime and oils of swamps.
- Great blue herons can hunt day and night thanks to a high percentage of rod-type photoreceptors in their eyes that improve their night vision.
- Despite their impressive size, great blue herons weigh only 5 to 6 pounds thanks in part to their hollow bones—a feature all birds share.
- The oldest great blue heron, based on banding recovery, was 24 years old.
- They can cruise at some 20 to 30 miles an hour.

Credit: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds

**Feeding Habits** - They eat nearly anything within striking distance, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and other birds.

**Reproduction** - Great blue herons nest mainly in trees, but will also nest on the ground, on bushes, in mangroves, and on structures such as duck blinds, channel markers, or artificial nest platforms. Males arrive at the colony and settle on nest sites; from there, they court passing females. Colonies, also called heronries, can consist of 500 or more individual nests, with multiple nests per tree built 100 or more feet off the ground.

**Population and Range** - According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, great blue heron numbers are stable and increasing. Herons can be found throughout the year all over North America, though most populations in Canada are present only during the breeding season, and most populations in Mexico are only present during the winter.

**Habitat Loss or Degradation** - Because great blue herons depend on wetlands for feeding and on relatively undisturbed sites for breeding, they are vulnerable to habitat loss and to impacts such as traffic, logging, motorboats, and other human intrusions that can disrupt nesting colonies. Other threats include chemical pollutants or other causes of reduced water quality.

**Heron in Delaware** - The great blue heron and green heron are widespread breeders in the state. The best place to see herons and egrets in Delaware are the Inland Bays, the Delaware Bayshore - especially Prime Hook and Bombay Hook NWRs and the marshes and farm fields near Delaware City and Pea Patch Island.

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**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge**

2591 Whitehall Neck Road

Smyrna, DE 19977

Phone: 302-653-6872

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



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# BOMBAY HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## Bombay Hook Quarter



Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge was selected to represent Delaware in the U.S. Mint's 'America the Beautiful' quarter series. The quarter features a marsh scene with a great blue heron in the foreground and a great egret in the background. Circulation begins September 2015.



Photo Credit: Tim Williams

## Great Egret

The great egret is a large heron with all-white plumage. Standing up to 3.3 ft tall, this species can measure 31 to 41 in. in length and have a wingspan of 52 to 67 in.

**Scientific Name** - *Ardea alba*

**Appearance** - Apart from size, the great egret can be distinguished from other white egrets by its yellow bill and black legs and feet, though the bill may become darker and the lower legs lighter in the breeding season. In breeding plumage, delicate ornamental feathers are borne on the back. Males and females are identical in appearance; juveniles look like non-breeding adults.

**Habitat** - Great egrets can be found in both freshwater and saltwater habitats.

**Feeding Habits** - The great egret feeds in shallow water or drier habitats, feeding mainly on fish, frogs, small

## Range Map

Great Egret  
*Ardea alba*



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Range data by NatureServe

## **Cool Facts**

- The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society, one of the oldest environmental organizations in North America. Audubon was founded to protect birds from being killed for their feathers.
- The oldest known great egret was 22 years, 10 months old and was banded in Ohio.
- The pristinely white great egret gets even more dressed up for the breeding season. A patch of skin on its face turns neon green, and long plumes grow from its back. Called aigrettes, those plumes were the bane of egrets in the late nineteenth century, when such adornments were prized for ladies' hats.
- In mixed-species colonies, great egrets are often the first species to arrive, and their presence may induce nesting among other species.
- Great egrets fly slowly but powerfully: with just two wingbeats per second their cruising speed is around 25 miles an hour.
- Despite its large size this bird is truly a feather weight, weighing in at about 2 lbs, thanks in part to their hollow bones.

Credit: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds

mammals, and occasionally small reptiles and insects. It will often wait motionless for prey, or slowly stalk its victim, spearing them with its long, sharp bill once the prey is within striking distance.

**Reproduction** - They are colonial nesters, typically placing stick nests high in trees, often on islands that are isolated from mammalian predators such as raccoons. The male builds a nest platform from long sticks and twigs before pairing up with a female, and then both members of the pair may collaborate to complete the nest. The nest is up to 3 feet across and 1 foot deep. It is lined with pliable plant material that dries to form a cup structure. They do not typically reuse nests from year to year.

**Range** - Most great egrets move south for winter, traveling as far as the West Indies or southern Central America. They migrate by day in small flocks. During mild years, great egrets may stay as far north as Massachusetts. Individuals from the southern U.S. may not migrate at all.

**Conservation** - In the late nineteenth century, great egrets were hunted nearly to extinction for their plumes. In North America, large numbers of great egrets were killed so that their plumes could be used to decorate women's hats. This sparked conservation movements and some of the first laws to protect birds. Numbers have since recovered because of conservation measures. Its range has expanded as far north as southern Canada. However, in some parts of the southern United States, its numbers have declined due to habitat loss. Nevertheless, it adapts well to human habitation and can be readily seen near wetlands and bodies of water in urban and suburban areas. In 1953, the great egret in flight was chosen as the symbol of the National Audubon Society, which was formed in part to prevent the killing of birds for their feathers.

**Egrets in Delaware** - The best place to see egrets in Delaware are the Inland Bays, the Delaware Bayshore - especially Prime Hook and Bombay Hook NWRs and the marshes and farm fields near Delaware City and Pea Patch Island.

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



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# Bombay Hook NWR

2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977

(302) 653-9345

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay\\_Hook/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/)

## *Fall 2015 Calendar of Events*

Bombay Hook Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Visitor Center will also be open on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting September 5, 2015. **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 at (302) 653-9345 or check the website above for additions or changes.

**Saturday, September 5, 2015** *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.

**Saturday, September 12, 2015** *Highway Clean Up (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)* - 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 13, 2015** *Heron and Egret Presentation (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)* - Some long-legged waders nest in Delaware and after they fledge their nest, they use the wetland areas along the Delaware Bay to feed. Join Chris Bennett to learn how to identify the species that are regularly seen at Bombay Hook. After a short presentation, the group will head out onto the Wildlife Drive to identify and observe the birds. Species that are likely to be seen are: great blue, black-crowned and yellow-crowned night herons, great and snowy egrets, and glossy ibises, along with shorebirds. This is in celebration of Bombay Hook's quarter launch.



**Wednesday, September 16, 2015** *Native Plants and the Woodland Garden (9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)* - Visit a Kent County Master Gardener's home garden to learn about use of native plants in a woodland setting near Killens Pond. This trip will depart Bombay Hook at 9:30 am. Due to limited space, reservations will be required; contact Leslie or Larry Cook at (302) 514-9371 or [delveggie@gmail.com](mailto:delveggie@gmail.com). Lunch is on your own at a nearby restaurant.



**Thursday, September 17, 2015** *Coin Forum (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)* - After a short presentation on herons, the U.S. Mint will provide information about the 'America the Beautiful' coin series and additional coin news and events. This is in celebration of Bombay Hook's quarter launch. Sponsored by Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.



**Friday, September 18, 2015** *America the Beautiful Quarters® - Bombay Hook's Quarter Launch and Ceremony (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)* - The ceremony will begin at 10:00 and last about an hour. After the ceremony, a coin exchange will be provided by Dover Federal Credit Union, 1 roll minimum = \$10.00 and 10 roll maximum = \$100.00. Post event music and a

*(Continued on next page)*

tour of the Refuge will be offered.

**Saturday, September 19, 2015**



- **FREE ENTRANCE FEE – *Bombay Hook's Quarter Celebration* (½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset)** - We will continue to celebrate the launch of Bombay Hook's Quarter throughout 2015. The third Saturday of September, October, November, and December will be free to all visitors.

- **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 October and November. The group will use sweep nets to study butterflies and insects, walk a trail, use binoculars, learn about wildlife, and have FUN! **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**

**Saturday, September 26, 2015**

- **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.

- **11th Annual Native Plant Symposium –*The Sensory Appeal of Native Plants and Native Pollinator Conservation* (10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)** - Join Horticulturist Gregg Tepper as he explores the unique and intriguing ways in which native plants appeal to each of our senses: sight, smell, touch, taste, and even sound. Also, hear from Wildlife Biologist Flavia Rutkosky discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's native pollinator conservation efforts in our ecosystem. Learn fascinating facts, hear entertaining true stories, and see outstanding photographs of the wildflowers and pollinators. The symposium is free, but registration is required and space is limited; contact Leslie or Larry Cook at (302) 514-9371 or [delveg-gie@gmail.com](mailto:delveg-gie@gmail.com). A healthy lunch will be available.

**Sunday, October 11, 2015 FREE ENTRANCE FEE – *Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week* (½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset)** - Celebrate Refuge Week with free entrance to Bombay Hook National Wildlife and all the refuges throughout the U.S.

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.

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**



- **FREE ENTRANCE FEE – *Bombay Hook's Quarter Celebration* (½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset)** - We will continue to celebrate the launch of Bombay Hook's Quarter

throughout 2015. The third Saturday of October, November, and December will be free to all visitors.

- **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. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or e-mail: [tina\\_watson@fws.gov](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**
- **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 October and November. The group will use a sweep nets to study butterflies and insects, walk a trail, use binoculars, learn about wildlife, and have FUN! **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**



- **Bird Identification Station (1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)** - Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the Wildlife Drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the Auto Tour route.

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015** **Autumn Maintenance for the Delaware Gardener (9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)** - Join us for a discussion of items gardeners need to consider to "winterize" their gardens. Participants are encouraged to bring their ideas (successful and unsuccessful) to share. We will then get some fresh air working on fall maintenance of the Visitor Center garden. Light refreshments will be available.



**Saturday, October 24, 2015** **Beginning Bird Watching Program (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)** - Do you like riding around the Wildlife Drive looking at and photographing wildlife and you can't identify the birds? This program will get you started with the basics of bird watching. The first hour will be in the auditorium and will cover the fun of birding, using binoculars, choosing a field guide, simple bird identification, and bird feeding. The next 2 hours will be a field trip on the Refuge to identify birds and to practice your bird watching technique. Binoculars and field guides will be provided.

**Saturday, November 7, 2015**

- **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 Visitor Center pavilion after the program. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345.**
- **Bald Eagle and Raptor Program (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)** - Display and scheduled program provided by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, Pocomoke and Tuckahoe State Parks.
  - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Display
  - 11:00 a.m. to Noon - Scheduled presentation
  - Noon to 1:00 - Display

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**



- **FREE ENTRANCE FEE – Bombay Hook's Quarter Celebration (½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset)** - We will continue to celebrate the launch of Bombay Hook's Quarter

*(Continued on next page)*



throughout 2015. The third Saturday of November and December will be free to all visitors.

- **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:** Delaware State law states, "a person under sixteen years of age shall not operate, ride upon, or ride as a passenger any bicycle, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets or exceeds the ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard."



- **Bird Identification Station (1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)** - Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the Wildlife Drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the Auto Tour route.



- **Saturday, November 28, 2015 Bird Identification Station (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)** - Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis will be set up on the Wildlife Drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the Auto Tour route.

Refuge Closed for Deer Hunting  
September 2015 to January 2016 Season

#### **Back Section of the Refuge CLOSED**

**Wildlife Drive closed from north end of Shearneck to Finis and Allee House.**

September 4, 11, 2015 - until 1:00 p.m. for Archery  
October 12, 14, 16, 2015 - all day for Muzzleloader  
November 13, 14, 18, 2015 - all day for Shotgun  
December 14, 17, 2015 - all day for Antlerless Shotgun  
January 22, 2016 - all day for Shotgun

#### **Front Section of the Refuge CLOSED**

**Wildlife Drive closed from Visitor Center to Shearneck Parking Lot.  
Enter the back part of the Refuge from Dutch Neck Road on Rt. 9 north.**

November 16, 20, 2015 - all day for Shotgun  
December 16, 2015 - all day for Antlerless Shotgun



<http://facebook.com/bombayhookwildliferefuge>

#### **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
- Participation in special wildlife education programs and field trips
- Participation in the Birding Club
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting 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](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 / MasterCard (payment at Visitor Center only)



2591 Whitehall Neck Road  
Smyrna, DE 1977

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**A REMINDER.....**

**The next release of the Friends of Bombay Hook  
Newsletter is November 1, 2015.**

**ALSO.....**

**Check the website at  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay\\_Hook/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/)  
and our Facebook page ([http://facebook.com/](http://facebook.com/bombayhookwildliferefuge)  
[bombayhookwildliferefuge](http://facebook.com/bombayhookwildliferefuge))  
for updates on Refuge events.**