

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter

Photograph by Jamie Richie



Vol. 28, No. 1
November 1, 2017

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 Blue Heron Gift Shoppe has new items for fall (see Page 3)!!!! We will be open until December and need Friends volunteers operating our store and assisting with other events at the Refuge. Please check Facebook and our website for the latest schedule.

We have two stories from our volunteers who have visited Maine refuges (see Page 7). If you would like to contribute a story on one of our 560+ refuges, please send it to fobh@comcast.net. Please help support our refuges by visiting them--they are nature's treasures.

2018 Newsletter Schedule

<u>Newsletter Release</u>	<u>Articles Due</u>
March 1	February 7
May 1	April 7
September 1	August 7
November 1	October 7

The next newsletter will be issued on
March 1, 2018

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!!!

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



*Reprinted from Friends of Bombay Hook Newsletter
January 2004*

This article was reprinted from January 2004, written by our friend, Bob Mayer. So many visitors come to see the Snow Geese each year and this is a great writing worthy of sharing again. We are quite thankful to this day that Bob was such a great person, volunteer and wealth of information for wildlife conservation. Bob will always be missed by all of us at the Refuge.

If It's November, It Must Be Snow Geese By Robert Mayer

No other single species dominates the tidal marshes and freshwater impoundments of Bombay Hook during the late fall and early winter as does *Chen caerulescens atlantica*, the Greater Snow Goose. You may see them in the morning when group by group, reluctantly it seems, they circle up to form huge flocks before taking off in search of corn and winter wheat fields. Or you may see them at sunset when they return in swirling masses that stretch from horizon to horizon to settle for the night in Raymond, Shearneck, and, if the tide is right, in the tidal pools of the salt marsh. But maybe you just want to close your eyes and listen to the sound of fifty thousand of them all talking at the same time.

The peak number at Bombay Hook may have been in 1998 when nearly two hundred thousand were counted on the refuge, but counts of well over one hundred thousand have been made every year since 1996. In 2003 more than one hundred twenty five thousand were on the refuge, while the total for the state of Delaware was three hundred fifty thousand, the largest count ever recorded in the state.

Actually, despite their abundance at Bombay Hook and along coastal Delaware, the Greater Snow Goose is the minority member of this species. The other subspecies, the Lesser Snow Goose vastly outnumber them, breeds across Arctic North America from Baffin Island and western Hudson Bay to Alaska, and winters primarily along the Gulf Coast of the United States, but also in California and as far south as Mexico. Our Greater Snow Goose, on the other hand, breeds much farther north, in a restricted area from Bylot and Ellesmere Islands at the north end of Baffin Bay to the northwestern coast of Greenland. They winter along the east coast of the United States, generally from Delaware to North Carolina.

So the Greater Snow Goose gets its scientific name, *atlantica*, from its limited distribution along the Atlantic Coast; it gets its common name, Greater, from its larger size, about two pounds heavier, wingspan about three inches longer, and bill bigger. But don't expect to use these clues to differentiate Greater from Lesser Snow Geese in the field! Yes, we do have some Lesser Snow Geese at Bombay Hook. How do we

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BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

August through September 2017

August and early September were very wet while the remainder of September was quite dry despite the close proximity of a couple of hurricanes just off the coast. The abundant rainfall of August flooded some of the agricultural fields near the entrance to the Refuge and provided excellent conditions for some of the many shorebirds passing through the area. **Baird's, White-rumped and Buff-breasted Sandpipers** as well as **Black-bellied, Semipalmated and Golden Plovers** found the fields to their liking during the report period. **Ospreys** have all but vacated the area as they exited for their wintering areas to the south. Evidence that the fall waterfowl migration has begun has been less than spectacular as the report period came to a close. Both **Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal** began showing up on the tidal flats and within the impoundments. **Shovelers** were abundant by the last week of September with a few **Pintails** and an occasional **Wigeon**. If **Snow Geese** are on a similar schedule to last year, we should be seeing a few early arriving birds by early October.

Shorebird highlights during the period included peaks of nearly 400 **Avocets** in late August and the presence in the Refuge impoundments of both **Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits** and **Wilson's Phalaropes** during September. A good variety of species were reported including **Pectoral, White-rumped, Stilt, Least and Western Sandpipers** as well as both **Dowitchers and Yellowlegs**.

Spectacular numbers of wading birds gathered in the Refuge main impoundments including **Snowy and Great Egrets, Green, Tri-colored, Little Blue, and Great Blue Herons** as well as both **Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons**. **Glossy Ibis** and an occasional **White Ibis** were sighted as well. **American and Least Bittern** were reported on occasion.

Caspian, Royal, Least, Forster's and a **Gull-billed Tern** were reported over the impoundments.

Both **Barn** (headquarter and maintenance areas) and **Barred Owls** (Finis) were reported on a regular basis. **Peregrine Falcons** were noted hunting shorebirds along the dikes. **Bald Eagles** were seen on a daily basis, while a few sightings were recorded of **Merlin, Cooper's Hawks, Harriers, Kestrels, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks**.

Bobwhite and Turkeys were reported frequently, as well as the occasional **Ring-necked Pheasant**.

Interesting passerines reported included **Willow Flycatchers, Bank Swallows, abundant Bobolinks, Seaside and Grasshopper Sparrows, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia, Tennessee and Yellow Warblers**.



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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.
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Smyrna, DE 19977
Phone: (302) 653-8322
Fax: (302) 653-0684

email: fohmembership@idv.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



Happy Autumn Season!

The Blue Heron Gift Shoppe is bustling with activity! Our Fall season is here and we are open from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. during the week and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on weekends. As always, the Gift Shoppe is only open when volunteers are here to operate the store, so we cannot guarantee the shop will be covered for every shift. Would you like to volunteer in the Visitor Center? Please contact Tina Watson at tina_watson@fws.gov or contact me at fobh@comcast.net. We always

need good volunteers to help us be successful in our mission.

I have spent the summer investigating new merchandise to broaden sales for our visitors with all



different interests. Looking out for a few things great for holiday stocking stuffers and gift-giving, we are trying out a very simple, hunter orange shirt for our hunting friends. Long sleeved, orange and **LIMITED** quantity in sizes Large to 3XL. Did you say stocking stuffers??? Along with our lip balms, socks candles and jewelry, check out our new gorgeous emery boards! They have beautiful bird-themed designs that will never wear off. All great items for that "little something" gift. We brought in the Cornell Bird-a-Day 2018 interactive calendar. It features a new bird with info for each day and a free QR code app to hear songs and calls.



We have a new folding guide that just came out from Quick Reference titled *Mammals of the Mid-Atlantic States*. And we have brought in a new book written by our friend Nancy Lawson, The Humane Gardener. As usual we have an array of gifts and books for the Refuge visitor! Please come check us out!

.....bird-themed emery boards (left) and Quick Reference folding guide titled *Mammals of the Mid-Atlantic States* (right).

New items for Fall!!! We have hunter's long-sleeve shirt in orange (above), Cornell Bird-a-Day 2018 interactive calendar (below).....



Looking forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones this season!!

Karen Dever
FOBH Coordinator

If It's November, It Must Be Snow Geese
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know? Well, when you look over the flocks in Raymond or Shearness, you will see some Blue Geese, the blue morph of the Lesser Snow Goose. The Blue Goose, once considered a separate species occurs (1) never in the Greater race, only in the Lesser, or (2) very, very rarely in the Greater race – depending upon which authority you consult. In any case, when you see a Blue Goose at Bombay Hook, you can be reasonably sure that you have seen the blue morph of Lesser Snow Goose.

Snow Geese love company. They fly in large flocks, and they form huge concentrations when they feed in wheat and corn fields. But perhaps their best display is when the pack into the freshwater impoundments, sometimes turning Raymond Pool into a solid mass of white. They exhibit this same behavior on

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***Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
Governor John Carney Visits Bombay Hook on September 28, 2017***

On an eco-tour organized by the Delaware Tourism Office, Bombay Hook hosted Governor Carney, Secretary Garvin, DNREC, members of their staffs, and Tourism Officials. Governor Carney had never been to Bombay Hook and was interested in learning more about the natural beauty of Delaware. He said that he was impressed by the number of birds that were using the impoundments and salt marsh mudflats. In his hour visit, Governor Carney walked a trail, identified birds on the Wildlife Drive and learned about recreational opportunities on the refuge.



Photo: Gary Emeigh, Delaware State News

See article:

<http://delawarestatenews.net/enewsletter/state-wants-tourism-migrating-bombay-hook-refuge/>

Monarch Tagging Program

It took a joint effort to put on the Monarch tagging program on September 9, 2017. U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees Laura Mitchell, Flavia Rutkowski, and Susan Guiteras reared the 17 Monarchs to be tagged. Volunteer Terry Willis gave a presentation on Monarch migration and 50 participants came to the program and helped capture Monarchs in the wild, tag, record, and release 24 Monarchs. All the Monarchs released were on their southern migration to Mexico.



Left to Right: Laura Mitchell, Flavia Rutkowski, Susan Guiteras



Volunteer Terry Willis and participants



Participant identified that it was a female monarch and then she released the monarch.



**Marshtown Road Bird Trip
9/24/2017**

It was a bright, quiet fall morning for birding as 14 people joined us for a walk along the edge of Steamboat Landing Tract on Donas Landing Road. Our next stop was another seldom-seen Bombay Hook NWR parcel, the Marshland Tract. From the small parking lot along Route 9 we walked east through the forest. Highlighted birds for the trip included American Kestrel, Black & White Warbler, Cape May



Warbler, Wood Duck, Hairy Woodpecker, Kingfisher, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Eastern Phoebe, Scarlet Tanager and lots of Blue Jays. A total of 35 species were recorded. Other wildlife included Red Velvet Ant and Gray Squirrel.



Just a note: the Steamboat Landing Tract is closed to the public; however, walking the last 1/2 mile of Donas Landing Road offers a very nice sampling of the types of habitat found within this property. Further south the Marshland Tract is jointly managed with DE F&W, so there is access; but please respect the hunting activities there. Sundays are your best bet.

2017-18 Friends of Bombay Hook Bird Club Schedule

Welcome to the 2017-2018 FOBH Bird Club Year! Please come and join us at any time during the year. This year's birding trip calendar offers many exciting new destinations, some new leaders, targeting seasonal birds in and around Bombay Hook NWR. Beginning birders to advanced birders and everyone in between are welcome. No dues or meetings. Use your own transportation to the meet sites. All questions, concerns or to be added to our email list please contact: fobh@comcast.net, inquire on our Facebook page or call (302) 653-8322 and leave a message (messages are retrieved 1-2 times/week) All members will be contacted via email in case of unforeseen changes in the schedule due to inclement weather, etc. **Some of our trips may require registration to attend.*

Everyone is encouraged to dress appropriately for field trip weather, consider proper footwear, insect repellent, and bring water. Traditionally many in our bird club will share a meal together after the birding trips outside Bombay Hook NWR. Please join us!

Sunday November 26, 2017 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunset Tour; Bombay Hook NWR
Join us as we watch the geese and ducks fly in.
Leader: to be determined

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

*Eastern Neck NWR, Rock Hall, Maryland
***REGISTRATION REQUIRED** to fobh@comcast.net or (302) 653-8322
This popular private tour of the refuge will target bay waterfowl and upland birds.
Meet at the bridge into the refuge
Leaders: Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis

Monday, January 1, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Indian River Inlet, Inland Bays and other traditional spots
Very popular trip to start the New Year
Meet at Route 1 Wawa (on right) just south of Five Points, Lewes
Leader: Marcia Poling

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2017-18 Friends of Bombay Hook Bird Club Schedule
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Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Bombay Hook NWR
Birding for winter waterfowl and other visiting species
Meeting at the Visitor Center
Leader: Eileen McLellan

Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Owls: Port Mahon, DE
Late afternoon trip for winter owls
Meet at Little Creek Post Office
Leader: Joel Martin

Sunday, March 4, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bombay Hook NWR, Visitor Center
Ole Time Feeder Watch! Come any time and watch a variety of special feeder setups.
Stay as little or long as you want; enjoy coffee, sweet treats, bring a snack if you like.
Leaders: Ed & Mary

Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Bombay Hook NWR
This is the peak waterfowl show before they start moving out.
Meet at the refuge visitor center
Leaders: Bruce & Joanne Lantz

Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

A leisurely walk through Tidbury Creek County Park, 2233 South State Street, Dover, DE
Meet at Tidbury parking lot
Leaders: Hannah McLennan and Karen Dever

Sunday, May 6, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Prime Hook NWR
A spring Warbler walk though some of the best spots at Prime Hook.
Meet at Prime Hook NWR Visitor Center
Leaders: Bill & Sally Fintel

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

DE F&W Ashton Tract, North of Port Penn, DE (along Thorntown Road off Route 9)
Explore this new state property on the south side of 1,000 Acre Marsh
Meet at Ashton Tract parking lot
Leaders: Bill & Ann-Marie Bond

Saturday, June 2, 2018 (time and leader be announced)

Dupont Nature Center at end of Lighthouse Road, along Mispillion River
This trip was suggested as an afternoon shorebird trip, at low tide.
Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.

Sunday, August 19, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Woodland Beach Area
Meet at the Woodland Beach fishing pier parking lot.
Leader: Randy Murphy

We encourage you to join Marcia Poling for Warbler walks throughout the spring for Bombay Hook NWR.
Details can be found on the Bombay Hook National Wildlife website under Calendar of Events.

*Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge
By Mark and Karen Dever*

Our vacation this year was a week-long trip to Maine. Although we were staying about 100 miles from Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, we managed to check it out for a few hours one afternoon. One of the most northern refuges on the Atlantic Flyway, it has nearly 30,000 acres of federally protected lands and located in eastern Maine. The skies looked ominous as we arrived, but had enough time to get in a walk on the short Woodcock Trail. We did not get to see any Woodcocks, but we did see many sparrows and warblers. The rains came and we were left to a 4-5 mile wildlife drive. What an incredibly beautiful place! As you can imagine, the fall foliage on the 2nd week of October was amazing. Just as we were getting ready to head home, the sun broke out and we decided to take the drive one more time. It was worth it. Although we still only saw the

cute red squirrels popping out to greet us, the colors with the sun shining brightly was truly a gift to see! I would recommend this refuge to anyone!



A Visit To Rachel Carson NWR

By Julie Memmelo

Photographs by Julie Memmelo

I recently visited Maine for the first time. As I always do when traveling, I looked for a National Refuge close to where I was staying. The Rachel Carson Refuge in Wells was near the inn I was staying at in Kennebunkport.

The Refuge covers fifty miles and is parceled into ten divisions along the Maine coast. The parcel I visited in Wells was accessible and had a walking trail. It was a nice one mile trail through the woods with great viewing platforms. I saw my first Red Squirrel there and many noisy chipmunks.



If It's November, It Must Be Snow Geese
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their nesting grounds in the Arctic. Their nests, scrapes lined with grass and down, are packed together on the rocky slopes of the islands.

Simply by watching their movements at Bombay Hook would lead to a conclusion that they follow a daily pattern: move in the mornings to the fields in western Delaware and Maryland to feed, return at dusk to spend the night in the impoundments or marsh pools. Frank Smith, the former refuge biologist at Bombay Hook tells of a research project conducted on the refuge that placed radio collars on individual geese to track their movements. The results indicated that their movements actually seem to follow no pattern. In the study, individual geese seemed to move randomly from Bombay Hook to North Carolina, to the New Jersey coast, to Maryland, and then, perhaps, back to Bombay Hook, essentially covering much of their wintering area on a day-to-day basis.

In a report to the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, John Herholdt, Manager of Bombay Hook Migratory Waterfowl Refuge (this was the refuge's first name and he was the first manager) noted that about 250 Snow Geese arrived on the outer marshes of the refuge and in Delaware Bay adjacent to the refuge on October 19, 1938, increased to about 1,000 by November, then decreased in numbers until moving on to their wintering grounds in the Pea Island area of North Carolina. By early February a few Snows appeared again, this time beginning their northward trek, and the number increased to 500 by March 28, and to 1,000 on April 8. The last bird left the refuge on April 22. However, nearly 25,000 were said to have rafted on Delaware Bay closer to the New Jersey side during this period.

This was a pattern that continued until the mid-1970s: a fall migration when the Snows stopped to feed and rest on the way to their wintering grounds, and a spring migration, sometimes the larger, when they returned on their way to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. Beginning in the 1970s a winter population was established that in some years was larger than the fall or spring populations. But then something else happened. The peak number of Snows on the refuge doubled from five thousand in 1978 to ten thousand in 1979, and then again to twenty thousand in 1980. By 1986 it reached fifty thousand, by 1988 seventy-five thousand. In 1998 the count reached nearly two hundred thousand.

This population explosion is not limited to the Greater Snow Goose; Lesser Snow Goose populations have seen similar increases. While more than a single factor contributes to such population changes, one obvious cause is a change in food preferences by the Snow Geese and a resulting abundance of food resources.

In his report for the fall of 1939, Refuge Manager John Herholdt described a study of food preferences by Snow Geese on the outer salt marshes of Bombay Hook. The study found the only material taken to any extent was *Spartina alterniflora* (salt marsh cord grass), particularly its roots. *Scirpus americanus* (three-square) growing next to it was untouched. *Spartina patens* (salt meadow cord grass) and *Distichlis spicata* (spike grass) were eaten in a few small areas, but only the tops not the roots. Today authorities describe this same species as a scavenger that will eat almost anything!

When they began spending the winter at Bombay Hook the Snows discovered that plant material growing in the freshwater impoundments, such as millet and smartweed, tasted pretty good after all. So they began using Raymond and Shearneck to feed and to rest. Like the Canada Geese, they also discovered the wonders of winter wheat as well as the corn and soybeans left on agricultural fields after harvests.

But, of course, they still like *Spartina alterniflora*, salt marsh cordgrass. In fact, they like it too well. Because they relish the roots, they pull up the entire plant, and when they feed in a marsh area for too long, they turn a healthy cordgrass meadow into a mud flat – a condition known as "eatout" that is best seen on the marsh across from the north end of Shearneck Pool.

Because of this fondness for the roots and tubers of plant material, Snow Geese also cause considerable crop damage. But perhaps the greatest damage is to their breeding areas in the Arctic tundra where they already have destroyed all vegetation in large areas and where recovery may take decades.

So now the questions are: will the population continue to grow; how long can it be sustained even at its present level; will the population crash through disease; will control methods, such as hunting, allow some management of this species. Of course, we don't have answers to these questions, but I have my own totally unscientific method of assessing the population. Each year I look for the gray birds in the flocks. The gray geese are immature first year birds, those born last summer, making their first trip south. If I see a lot of them, as I have this year, I believe they had a successful breeding season in the Arctic and the population, at least for now, is healthy – perhaps too healthy.

Bombay Hook NWR

2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977

(302) 653-9345

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/

The Bombay Hook Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The Wildlife Drive is open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.**

The Allee House remains closed until further notice.

For more information about programs, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or check our website above and [Facebook](#) for additions or changes.

Fall 2017 Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 4, 2017 *Mysteries of Gulls and Terns* (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) - Delmarva Ornithological Society (DOS) and the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) will offer a Gull and Tern Identification Workshop in Bombay Hook's auditorium. The intent is to offer participants the opportunity to view, study and discuss the skins of a variety of gulls and terns one might see on the Delmarva Peninsula. The skins will include both the common and the unusual species in a variety of plumages. Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at the DMNH, will guide us through the museum's collections.

The workshop is free. Space is limited and registration is required. If you're interested in attending the Mysteries of Gulls and Terns workshop, **please contact Jean Woods at jwoods@delmnh.org or (302) 658-9111 x314.**

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 *Refuge Introduction Tour* (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) - "Climb aboard" the Refuge's 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the Refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the Refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Friday thru Sunday, November 10-12, 2017 *FREE ENTRANCE FEE* ½ hour before sunrise to ½ our after sunset - Honoring veterans, the National Wildlife Refuge System is providing free entrance to Bombay Hook National Wildlife and all the Refuges throughout the U.S. This is a good time of year to see hawks, Eagles, ducks, and geese. Take time out to remember our veterans and to enjoy nature.

Saturday, November 11, 2017 *Beginning Bird Watching – Duck, Duck, Goose* (10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) What are all those ducks and geese around the Refuge? Come and learn how to tell one duck from another at this beginning birders' class. We'll start with a presentation at 10:00 a.m. and then practice our identification skills on the Wildlife Drive.

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Sunday, November 12, 2017 *Refuge Introduction Tour (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)* - “Climb aboard” the Refuge’s 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the Refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the Refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, November 18, 2017



- *Junior Rangers Explore the Bluebird Trail and Learn How to Clean the Boxes (9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)* - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. 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. **Space is limited, call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**
- *Impoundment Tour of the Refuge (2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)* - Join Terry Willis and Eileen McLellan for a bus tour of the Refuge impoundments and salt marsh. We hope to see and identify shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds along with Eagles and other passing raptors. Viewing scopes will be provided. Tour will take approximately 2+ hours depending on conditions. **Space is limited, call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 *Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are free (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)* - Bombay Hook will be free for toddlers and their guardian on the 3rd Tuesday of November. Children from 1 to 5 years old are developing cognitive skills and being in nature can expose them to sights and sounds that might go unnoticed in their everyday setting. Take your child on the Wildlife Drive, walk a trail, climb a tower, read them a nature book, and look at wildlife exhibits in the Visitor Center. You are never too young to explore and learn. This is a free self-study for families. You can come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 22, 2017 *Refuge Introduction Tour (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)* - “Climb aboard” the Refuge’s 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the Refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the Refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Friday, November 24, 2017

- *Your First Visit To Bombay Hook Tour (10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)* – Learn a little about the Refuge’s history, why it is here, how it is managed for wildlife, and bird migration at the Refuge. We will walk a trail and identify birds. **Space is limited, call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**
- *Bird Identification Station (12:00 noon - 5:00 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 Bird ID Station sign along the Auto Tour route.

Sunday, November 26, 2017 *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, December 2, 2017 *Junior Rangers Learn Why and How the Trees and Plants Stay Green in Winter* (9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Mistletoe, holly, cedar and pine...what is their significance for wildlife? Come learn why they stay green in the winter along with some fun Holiday facts. You will create a Holiday decoration to take home!

Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 *Refuge Introduction Tour* (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) - “Climb

aboard” the Refuge’s 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the Refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the Refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

DEER HUNT DATES

(Partial Closures Affecting the Wildlife Drive)

BACK SECTION CLOSED – Bear Swamp, Finis Pool, and Road to Allee House

November 4, 10, 11, and 15, 2017; December 11 and 14, 2017; and January 19, 2018 - all day for Shotgun

FRONT SECTION CLOSED – Raymond and Shearneck – Enter Refuge on Rt. 9 at Dutch Neck Road

November 13 and 17, 2017; and December 13, 2017 - all day for 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 (FOBH) is a cooperating association formed with Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (BHNWR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation which was founded to promote conservation, Environmental Education, and better understanding of and appreciation for Bombay Hook NWR.

Each year 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 visited our store, the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe*, that has been financed by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

If you attended programs such as the Native Plant Symposium or a Shorebird ID presentation, they are supported by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

Your Membership Dues and proceeds from the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe* in the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook will make it possible for Friends to continue its support of popular educational/recreational programs, services, and improvements at Bombay Hook. Make the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe* your place to buy field guides, books, T-shirts, posters, and souvenirs!

OUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 10% Discount on all items sold at the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe*
- 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
and follow the instructions in applying or renewing your membership thru PayPal

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"/> Student (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

*Student 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)
- Credit/ Debit Card (payment at Visitor Center only)

How Do You Support Friends???

(It's a fact: The National Wildlife Refuge system is underfunded and understaffed)

D - O - N - A - T - E !!!

Every year as funding is reduced, job vacancies are not filled and refuges operate without a budget. To cut costs, many refuges have been consolidated to share staff and resources.

Without the financial and volunteer support of Friends, many of the programs and activities at Bombay Hook would be either cancelled or nonexistent. Friends of Bombay Hook pays for or subsidizes many of the most popular Refuge programs, services, and improvements. Within the last several years, Friends paid for the construction of the new store, the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe*; purchased new chairs and a screen-smart TV for the Refuge auditorium for enhanced presentations as well as viewing programs, webinars and movies to educate visitors; instituted a program to assist schools in funding transportation for field trips to the Refuge; and many other expenditures. Working with Refuge staff, Friends members and volunteers helped to launch the Junior Ranger and Junior Refuge Manager programs and the *Every Kid in a Park* pass program to 4th Grade teachers at local schools; planned, organized and staffed the "Connecting Families with Nature" and the Bombay Hook Quarter Ceremony events; organized the Native Plant Symposiums for the Garden Keepers; and many other activities.

As a 501(c)(3) corporation, we receive no Federal or State funding. We rely on the membership dues and donations we collect and the profits from the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe to provide financial support for the Refuge. Your donations are tax-deductible.

There are several ways you can donate to Friends:

- You can make a donation to Friends by check made out to "*Friends of Bombay Hook Inc.*" and send to: **Friends of Bombay Hook, 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna DE 19977** (make sure to indicate on the Memo line of the check that it is a donation) with the enclosed form provided below.
- You can go online at www.friendsofbombayhook.org/support.html and donate thru PayPal.
- You can stop in at the Visitor Center during Gift Shoppe hours (will vary in the Fall and Spring months) and make a donation (by either check, cash or credit/debit card)

We urge you to help us continue to improve the visitor experience at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge simply by making a contribution to the Friends of Bombay Hook.



DONATION FORM

Date: _____

Name

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Address

Method of Payment

City, State, Zip

- Check (payment by mail or at Visitor Center)
- Cash (payment at Visitor Center only)
- Credit/ Debit Card (payment at Visitor Center only)

E-mail (optional)