

Vol. 28, No. 2 March 1, 2018

Our Mission Statement:

The Friends of Bombay Hook is a not-forprofit 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 will reopen March 2. We need Friends volunteers in operating our store and assisting with other events at the Refuge. Volunteer Orientation will be held on March 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Refuge auditorium. Please attend if you are interested. Training will be provided.

Supporting our refuges is more important than ever and purchasing a "I SUPPORT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES" decal is one way you can help (see Page 4 for details). Another way to support them is by volunteering (see Page 8 for information on how Bombay Hook volunteers participated during the 2016-17 season). Also if you would like to contribute a story on one of our 560+ refuges for the newsletter, please send it to fobh@comcast.net. Most importantly, please visit our refuges--they are nature's treasures.

2018 Newsletter Schedule

Newsletter ReleaseArticles DueMay 1April 7September 1August 7November 1October 7

The next newsletter will be issued on May 1, 2018

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

http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org



Welcome Back, Bombay Hook By Tammy Lewis

Sometimes life throws you a curve and makes you appreciate things more than ever......

I would have begun this article, singing the praises of Spring, but this Winter has been a life-changer. I lost my mother in November just after Thanksgiving following a brief illness, while my family and I have been busy adjusting to life without her as well, and that means I have more responsibilities. I am looking forward to Spring more than ever this year because it symbolizes rebirth and renewal. And that also means returning to Bombay Hook to be with my fellow volunteers, staff and the people who visit our Refuge.

Bombay Hook has been busy with new items stocked for the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe while programs are being planned for the Spring season----it also means other volunteers will be returning from their Winter break, ready to meet and greet the visitors.

In the March 2017 issue of the Friends newsletter, I wrote an article stressing the need for volunteers at Bombay Hook. As we have read in the news lately, budgets are further tightening while refuges are threatened with encroachment due to some of the legislators in DC who put business interests above protecting and preserving wildlife. Refuge staff can only do so much, but it's the volunteers who make the difference between supporting programs while keeping refuges open and eliminating programs and closing the refuges. In recent years, some refuges have either closed or consolidated due to lack of money for hiring Refuge staff. Other refuges have volunteers performing many of the duties and responsibilities that is normally done by Refuge staff. One example of this is the refuges in Maine are entirely run by volunteers.

More than ever, we need to support our refuges. One way is visiting them, but another way is by volunteering. Without the volunteers at Bombay Hook, many of our programs and services would either be cancelled or eliminated. Volunteers have participated in Environmental Education programs, Junior Ranger programs, pollinator programs, and Kevin Karlson's Shorebird ID programs; manned booths for events such as Blackbird Creek and Old Dover Days; staffed the Visitor Center and Blue Heron Gift Shoppe; provided Refuge tours; and assisted the Refuge staff in numerous administrative and maintenance functions.

If you are interested, please come to our Volunteer Orientation on March 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center auditorium and see what we have to offer. Supporting our Refuge by volunteering makes a difference for **ALL** refuges.

ON THE COVER.... Short-eared Owl Fun Facts:

While caring for its young, a Short-eared Owl will perform an "injured bird" act to lead away intruders.

During courtship, male Short-eared Owls will fly high over the nest, calling, flapping, soaring and occasionally swooping while clapping its wings below its body.

Short-eared Owls generally roost on low perches or on the ground.

While Short-eared Owls dine on small mammals and an occasional small bird, they prefer Meadow Voles.

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

October 2017 through January 31, 2018

This report period included prolonged cold weather with nearzero low daily temperatures and brutal wind chills during the period from right after Christmas through the first week of January. Large portions of the impoundments were covered with ice this period. More moderate weather was welcomed

through much of the rest of the month. Earlier, much of October was dry during repair work on some of the impoundment water controls; the structures were completed. Water levels within the impoundments were quite low for most of the month. On November 30, a 4.1 earthquake occurred which was centered near Kelly Island. Fortunately, no adverse impacts were apparent at the Refuge although the quake was reportedly felt from Virginia to Connecticut. The annual Christmas Bird Count took place on December 17 and compiled by Andy Ednie who reported over 100 bird species were recorded. This was only the third time that the species observed topped the century mark. Significant sightings included Greater White-fronted Geese, Ross's Geese, Cackling Geese, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Pileated Woodpeckers (six), Lincoln's Sparrow and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Thanks to all who participated. By the close of the report period, Eagle nesting was well underway with both the George's Island nest and the Raymond Pool nest active again this year which offers visitors excellent viewing of the nesting activities. Reports of Snowy Owls being seen in the Port Mahon/Mahon River area were received during the last half of January.

WATERFOWL

Although the start of the Fall duck migration was well underway, by the start of this report period, Snow Geese were not reported until the second week of October when just a few birds were noted. By the last week of the month, a peak of about 200 were seen on the Refuge. Reports of large numbers of Snows were not common until late November when 15,000 were observed in Money Marsh. Numbers grew from 30 to 40,000 on the Refuge during December, although the birds moved on and off the Refuge for roosting and feeding and were not always noted every day within Refuge boundaries, but remained in the vicinity throughout the report period. We've learned from past radio telemetry studies at the Refuge that the birds can move significant distances in response to freeze-up or other weather conditions and quickly return when conditions abated. Normally 20,000+ Snow Geese roosted in the salt marsh during the last half of January and fed along Whitehall Neck Road offering great viewing opportunities for Refuge visitors.



Black Ducks Photo by USFWS

Tundra Swans arrived the second week of November and stayed in the vicinity for the remainder of the report period. Numbers

appeared to peak around 250 birds who tended to roost the imin poundments and salt marsh and to travel to locally-

harvested grain and winter

wheat fields to feed. The tundra stayed in the area even during the freeze-up of the impoundments. A few Cackling Geese, Ross's Geese and White-fronted Geese were reported occasionally throughout the period.

Duck species using the area along the Auto Tour Route, as usual, were dominated by Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Shovelers, Pintails, Wigeon, Black Ducks, a few Wood Ducks, Gadwall, Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, Ruddy Ducks, Blue-winged Teal and Scaup. This year **Hooded Mergansers** have been quite noticeable



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 http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org especially in the "swimming hole" area and Finis Pool. Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were reported infrequently during January. A single Goldeneye hen was reported on occasion during January.

SHOREBIRDS

Marbled Godwits were reported from the beginning of the report period until freeze-up with a peak of 11 on October 13 with none observed after December 8. American Avocets varied from 150 to 400, but were not reported after December 8. Most other shorebirds approximated the same periods of abundance and absence with the exception of a few species encountered on the Christmas Bird Count: e.g. Wilson's Snipes (2), Woodcock, Greater Yellowlegs (5) and Lesser Yellowlegs (3). During the first week of November, very high numbers of many shorebirds were seen in the impoundments with reports of 10,000 Dunlins and approximately 300 each of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied and Semi-palmated Plovers as well as Least, Western and Pectoral Sandpipers were also noted. A Wilson's Phalarope was reported in Shearness in late November. A few Golden Plovers were noted during October and early November.

MARSH AND WATER BIRDS

Hardy **Great Blue Herons** were seen regularly through the fourmonth period although they certainly had a tough time during the freeze. A couple of **Great Egrets** were still around for the Christmas Bird Count. Egret peak use was during the October period when 60 to 100 **Great Egrets** and up to 130 **Snowy Egrets** were noted. **American Bittern** were reported in all months except January. **Pied-billed Grebes** were regularly seen in each month but were not numerous.

GULLS AND TERNS

Caspian, Royal and Forster's Terns as well as Skimmers were reported during October. A few Caspian reports were also made in November. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported in October on two occasions and again in January. A Bonaparte's Gull was reported in Shearness Pool in November and again in December.



Great Egret Photo by Steven Hillebrand/USFWS

RAILS AND CRANES

Eight **Sandhill Cranes** were reported in November flying over the back end of Shearness Pool. A second crane report was received in January when 2 **Sandhills** were reported over Shearness.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Bobwhites were reported frequently throughout report period. **Turkey** sightings were reported during November and December. A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** report was received in November.

RAPTORS

Kestrels and Merlin were reported in October and November. Peregrines were reported in each month except January. Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls and Barn Owls were reported in all months. Screech Owls were reported in all months except October. Short-eared Owls were reported November through January. Snowy Owls were reported on or adjacent to the Refuge only in January (Port Mahon area). A Rough-legged Hawk was spotted in and around Bear Swamp on January 27.

PASSERINES

Two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported in the marsh opposite Shearness in October. White-crowned Sparrows were reported after mid-October throughout the report period. Eastern Meadowlarks were noted during November and January with Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows in late October. Rusty Blackbirds were seen in December and January. American Pipits were spotted November through January. Fox and Savannah Sparrows were reported in January. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported on December 17.

Blue Heron Gift Shoppe Operated By: By MBRY Hook

Coming this Spring!!! Blue Heron Gift Shoppe Loyalty Cards!!! Five purchases of \$20.00 or more gets you 15% off on your sixth visit!!!

Hello Friends!

It's almost Spring and you know what that means....we are gearing up for our 2018 Spring season at the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe! Starting on March 2, the store will be open most weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Times are subject to change with the availability of volunteers to open the store.

Be on the lookout for our Clearance Cart this year for some great deals there are a few week-

end specials in the works! We are at the planning stages of our 2018 Collector's T-shirt that you're sure to love.

So come out and shop till you drop! See you 'round the Visitor Center!

Karen Dever, Store Manager

Check Out Our New "I SUPPORT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES" Decal!!!

NEW!! For a donation of \$10 or more to our Capital Improvement Fund, you too can have one of these great looking decals! Our Capital



Improvement Fund has been established to provide either full or partial funding for capital improvement projects at Bombay Hook. (Decal in photo is shown against a red car)

How do you get one? Come by the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe where they are on sale, you can give us a call and we can process the donation over the phone with a credit card, or send us a check, noting that you want a decal and we will drop one in the mail to you (make sure to include a legible mailing address).

As always, we thank you for your support.



On November 11, 2017, the FOBH Bird Club held a workshop called "Feeding Backyard Birds" for the Delaware

Breast Cancer Coalition ladies. The DE Breast Cancer Coalition has a Survivor Program called Nurture with Nature.



The FOBH partnered with their Kent County office and worked with their Education and Survivorship Program Manager, Lois Wilkinson, to offer a birding program at the Refuge. The day of the workshop the weather was great; the program was well received; and





at closing the ladies thanked us for a great day at the Refuge.



A special thanks to all those Bird Club volunteers that setup in advance, explained bird feeders and bird seed, reviewed common feeder birds, made seed balls, answered questions on the bus tour and made the workshop a fantastic success. Great job, everyone! Special thanks to Karen Dever, Julie Memmolo and Arlene Davis for preparing the gift bags we presented to each of the ladies in attendance. Our Bird Club has exciting activities planned each month so come join us.

If you would like to learn more about The Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition and their programs and services, contact the Kent County office at (302) 672-6435.

2018 Friends of Bombay Hook Bird Club Schedule

Welcome to the 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 repellant, 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, 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.

(Continued on Next Page)

2018 Friends of Bombay Hook Bird Club Schedule (Continued from Previous Page)

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.



"These birders just want to go Birding in Bombay Hook"

"Official trip or not"



November 2017

Desoto National Wildlife Refuge By Joanne and Bruce Lantz

Last May, after an early morning drive across Iowa, we found ourselves on the Nebraska/Iowa border, just north of Omaha. In need of a lunchtime break, we paid a visit to Desoto National Wildlife Refuge. To our delight we discovered a wonderful refuge along the Missouri River full of history and unique habitats.

The refuge was established in 1958 and currently covers 8,300 acres of the Missouri River flood plain. The border of Nebraska and Iowa runs through Desoto NWR that gets its name from a bend in the river. The refuge serves as an important stop for migrating waterfowl, specifically Mallard, Northern Pintail and Canada Geese. Migrating shorebirds, songbirds and White Pelicans also use the refuge.



As we entered the north gate of the refuge, we quickly came upon the Visitor Center that sits high up on white concrete pillars. It's obvious they take river flooding very seriously at the refuge. Inside the Visitors Center are well presented displays of refuge wildlife and habitat types. At the end of the hallway is a large room with a shipwreck exhibit. The Betrand Steamboat Museum is a snapshot of local 19th century history. On display are the salvaged 1865 sunken Steamboat contents, exhibited as if in an old archeological salvage warehouse. Very clever and well done!

To explore the refuge we took the Desoto Avenue/loop road that winds along the Missouri River ("Big Muddy") following

the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition path. With the Lake Desoto bend to the east and the Missouri River to the west, the refuge still preserves excellent examples of pre-Iowa and Nebraska settlement flood plain habitats. The tall grass prairie areas and riverside wetlands habitat can be seen from both sides of the auto drive with several hiking trails for exploring. The breeding season bird species we found in these areas included Northern Pintail, Mallard, Red-winged Blackbird and Wild Turkey (toms) displaying by the road. In addition, the refuge Gray Squirrels sported coats with much more red than their Delaware cousins. We didn't have time to explore the flood plain Cottonwood forests, but we could hear Red-bellied Woodpeckers calling from within them.



For an area that is essentially corn fields for miles in every direction, we found Desoto NWR a beautiful oasis of Missouri River habitat. What a great spot!

Your Dollars at Work!

A little over a year ago the floating dock on the Boardwalk Trail was removed because the support beam broke. This was the main dip netting area on the trail and with the old dock removed, it is difficult for students to be successful at dip netting there. The Friends of Bombay Hook Board has approved an approximate \$7,200 project to replace the dock. Replacing the floating dock will provide easier hands-on access to learn about the animals that live in the brackish water. A new dock will also provide wheelchair access as this is a handicapped trail. We will be excited to get the permit process started and the project started soon! Thank you to all our members for your continued support!

BHNWR Volunteer Report October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 **Reported to Regional Office**

Tell a friend about Volunteer Orientation March 3, 2018 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In the Refuge Auditorium

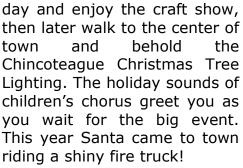
Number of Volunteers	60	
Total Number of Volunteer Hours	2,614	
Breakdown of Volunteer Hours Reported (3 Categories):		
Wildlife-Dependent Recreation Visitor Center, Environmental Education and Other Programs	1,732	
Wildlife and Habitat Boxes (Purple Martins, Wood Ducks, Bluebirds and Owls) and Biological	342	
Maintenance of grounds Trails, Garden, Grass and Buildings	540	
Number of Hours (2,614) times National Average Volunteer Rate (\$24.14)	\$63,101.96	
Visitation for Fiscal Year	100,000	
Welcomed Visitors in Visitor Center	16,000	
Students (Children & Adults) Participated in Environmental Education Programs	1,736	
Deer Hunting Participants	617	
Waterfowl Hunting Participants	345	
Staffing the Visitor Center Teaching Environmental Education Creating Programs Leading Birding Tours Performing Garden, Trail and Ground Maintenance		

A Neighbor to the South.....

If you haven't yet, plan a little visit to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague VA. About a 2 ½ hour drive from Smyrna, you can be there in a jiffy! My husband and I go every Thanksgiving weekend. We drive down on Thanksgiving Day, check into the refuge, eat a wonderful dinner in town and it's off to the marina to see the sunset!



Every Thanksgiving weekend the refuge celebrates its Waterfowl Weekend. What does that mean? Well, the access road is open during certain times during the day, the visitor center is alive with all kinds of birding activities and the nature watching is amazing. Not enough for you? Step into town on Satur-





We saw many small Warblers, Delmarva Fox Squirrels, the resident Mr. and Mrs. Eagle remodeling their home, Snow Geese, Swans, Tri-color, Green Herons and so much more. The sunrises and sunsets here can be amazing!

Although the spring is most inviting at CNWR with all the breeding plumage, don't give up on the fall....it's full of beauty! (*Photos by Karen Dever*)



March 10, 2018 Mammals of Bombay Hook NWR



Photo by Jennifer Lentz

At Bombay Hook NWR each night after the sun sets bridge building starts, young trees are cut, and wood is floated across newly created pools. That's right; the Refuge Beavers get busy once the sun goes down.

Come join us March 10 for the Mammals of Bombay Hook Workshop, as we talk about Beavers and the life cycles of 35 other mammal species documented on the Refuge. This program will run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and there will be both a classroom and field trip component to the workshop.

Please sign up as space will be limited.

Contact Tina Watson @ (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.



Bombay Hook's Junior Ranger and Junior Refuge Manager 2018 Programs

Inspiring children to spend more time outdoors is our mission! The program helps children ages 7-11 (and their families) learn about the Refuge's habitats and the plants and animals that rely on them. Each session includes a new topic along with exploring the Refuge. This gives families the flexibility to attend one session or many.



Each child is provided with the materials necessary to enhance their experience enabling them to become lifelong naturalists. Youth completing the program checklist will receive a Junior Ranger and/or a Junior Refuge Manager patch. You must pre-register for each session by calling (302) 653-9345. Please dress appropriately for weather for each session will have an outdoor field study.

Programs are held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. unless noted. Call to register at (302) 653-9345.

<u>March 17, 2018</u>: <u>MAMMALS AND THEIR HABITATS</u> – Learn about the mammals of Bombay Hook. You will explore the presence and life cycles of many common, shy, and elusive mammal species. A field trip to explore mammal habitats will be included.

<u>April 21, 2018</u>: GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE - Happy Earth Day Weekend! Learn how to create a natural wildlife garden using native plants. You will learn how you can make a difference for wildlife by providing food, water, cover and a place to raise their young - right in your own backyard. Each family participating will receive a kit to make a plant press.

<u>May 19, 2018</u>: BIRD STUDY I; MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS - Learn about the seasonal movement of shorebirds from their wintering grounds, to stopovers, then on to their breeding and nesting grounds. The focus of this session is to identify some of the common shorebirds visiting the area while learning about the nutrient-rich habitats they depend on before continuing their journey north.

<u>June 16, 2018</u>: BIRD STUDY II; CAVITY NESTERS - Swallows, Purple Martins, Barn Owls, Bats and Bluebirds to name a few... where do they nest? Learn about different birds, their nests and how they raise their young. The focus of this session will be on Purple Martins and Barn Owls; providing participants an up-close view of their nesting cavities.

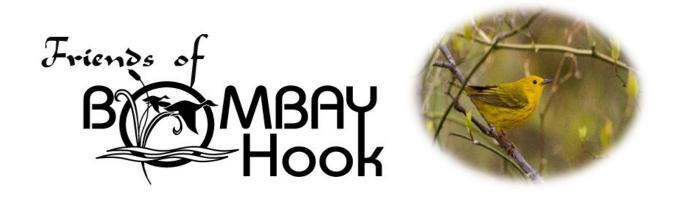
<u>September 15, 2018</u>: <u>WHO NEEDS POLLINATION?</u> - We do! Can you imagine a world without flowers, fruit, or even chocolate? You will learn that pollinators are important because they create and maintain habitats that many animals depend on for food and shelter. During this session you will study different pollinators and learn how you can protect them in your backyard environment.

October 13, 2018: TREE STUDY - There are many kinds of trees around us...they all have three parts and can be divided into two groups. We will explore the Refuge to identify different trees, do bark rubbings, and learn how their leaves and seeds are used by wildlife. You will have a permit to collect leaves for your plant press.

November 17, 2018: WILDLIFE IN WINTER - How do animals prepare for the winter months ahead? How do bats, birds, deer, foxes, snakes, turtles, butterflies survive in the winter and where do they live during cold weather? We'll study hibernation, migration and adaptation and how, burrows, dead trees, dens and nests help animals survive. You will learn how to cast animal tracks with a take-home kit for your family to use through the winter.

Materials provided by:





2018 SPRING PHOTO CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY!!

CATEGORIES:

BIRDS

OTHER WILDLIFE

PLANTS/FLOWERS/TREES

SCENIC/LANDSCAPE

SMYRNA 250th ANNIVERSARY (photos unique to Smyrna, DE)

See official rules on next page

All questions concerning the contest, should be addressed to the Friends of Bombay Hook at fobh@comcast.net, through our website at www.friendsofbombayhook.org, or by calling (302) 653-8322 and leave a detailed message.

Official Rules

- All photographs must be taken within the public boundaries of Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, except for the Smyrna 250th Anniversary photos category.
- All photos must have been taken within the last 2 years.
- Photos will be accepted in 8"x10" only with white mat and no frame. Photos must be adequately adhered to the mat.
- Backs of each mat must include name, category in which to be entered, address, email and phone number.
- Entries are \$10 each or 3 entries for \$25 using cash or check only, made out to <u>Friends of Bombay</u>
 <u>Hook</u>. Limit of 6 entries per person.
- To have your photographs considered for the contest you must drop off your photographs at the Refuge office at <u>2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna DE 19977</u> from April 2, 2018 to April 22, 2018.

Photos will be accepted on these dates and times:

Monday, April 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Friday, April 6, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Monday, April 9, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, April 13, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Monday, April 16, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 20, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday April 22, 2018 from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

<u>Reception and prize awards</u>: Prizes will be awarded to the overall Best in Show and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. Winners to be announced and prizes given at a reception on Saturday May 5, from 3:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. in the Refuge auditorium; light refreshments will be served.



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. Starting March 3, the Visitor Center will also open 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.

Spring 2018 Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 3, 2018 Volunteer Orientation (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) - A meeting about volunteer opportunities will be held in the auditorium. The meeting will cover volunteer opportunities and upcoming activities, with the latter part of the session being a tour of the Refuge. Individuals are needed to staff the Visitor Center on weekends and weekdays from March through June. 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.

<u>Saturday March 10, 2018</u> <u>Mammals of Bombay Hook</u> (9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) - Join volunteer Bruce Lantz, for a program about many of the 35 mammal species documented on the Refuge. The program will explore the presence and life cycles of many common, shy, and just elusive mammal species. We'll examine the past history and some of the current challenges faced by many of these game and non-game mammals. The program will include both a classroom and field trip component. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Friday, March 16, 2018 SPRING FEVER Tour of the Refuge (1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) - Spring fever is a feeling of restlessness and excitement felt at the beginning of Spring. Make use of that excitement and explore the Refuge. Join Tina Watson for a fun morning outside: tour the Refuge, walk a trail or two looking for signs of Spring, and identify birds along the way. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.



Saturday, March 17, 2018 Junior Rangers Learn About Mammals of Bombay Hook (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon) - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Junior Rangers will explore the presence and life cycles of many common, shy, and just elusive mammal species. A field trip to explore mammal habitats will be included. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are FREE (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) - Bombay Hook will be free for toddlers and their guardian on the 3rd Tuesday of the March, April, and May. 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.

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<u>Friday, March 23, 2018</u> Your First Visit To Bombay Hook Tour (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) – Learn a little about the Refuge's history, why it is here, how it is managed for wildlife, bird migration at the Refuge, and we will walk a trail and identify birds. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Sunday, March 25, 2018 Tour of the Refuge (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 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.

<u>Saturday, April 7, 2018</u> <u>Impoundment Bird Identification Tour</u> (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) – Join Volunteer Terry Willis for a bus tour of the Refuge impoundments and bayside. We hope to see and identify the winter waterfowl, resident herons and perhaps some shorebirds along with Eagles and other passing raptors. Viewing scopes will be provided. Tour will take approximately 2+ hours depending on conditions. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

<u>Sunday, April 8, 2018</u> Refuge Introduction Tour (1:30 p.m. to 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.

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are FREE (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) - Bombay Hook will be free for toddlers and their guardian on the 3rd Tuesday of April and May. 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.

April 17, 2018 to April 26, 2018 Delaware State's Waterfowl and Trout Stamp Contest Exhibit (Auditorium open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) - Delaware's Waterfowl and Trout Stamp contest is sponsored by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNREC. After the contest, the artwork from the Waterfowl and Trout Stamp contest will be on display at Bombay Hook's Auditorium. The winning artwork is reproduced on a stamp which must be carried by most hunters and anglers. They are also purchased by collectors and conservationists. The funds from the State Duck Stamp sales are used for waterfowl conservation and funds from the Trout Stamp are used to purchase trout for stocking in selected streams around the state.

<u>Wednesdays, April 18, 2018 to May 30, 2018</u> <u>Bird Walks with Marcia Poling</u> (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the Wildlife Drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

<u>Friday, April 20, 2018</u> Refuge Introduction Tour (10:00 a.m. to 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.



Saturday, April 21, 2018 Junior Rangers Learn About Gardening for Wildlife (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon) - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Happy Earth Day Weekend! Learn how to create a natural wildlife garden using native plants. You will learn how you can make a difference for wildlife by providing food, water, cover and a place to raise their young---right in your own backyard. Each family participating will receive a kit to make a plant press. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Sunday, April 22, 2018 Tour of the Refuge (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 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.

<u>Wednesdays, April 25, 2018 to May 30, 2018</u>

Bird Walks with Marcia Poling (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the Wildlife Drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

<u>Saturday, April 28, 2018</u> <u>Beginning Birding – Warbler Program</u> (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) – Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis will give a presentation on the warblers migrating through Bombay Hook during the spring.

Sunday, April 29, 2018

- Beginning Birding Warbler Walk (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) The walk will be on one or two trails along
 the Wildlife Drive with expert birders Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis. This will be an excellent way to
 practice what you learned at the Warbler Program the day before or for anyone who wants to look for
 warblers.
- Tour of the Refuge (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 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.

<u>Wednesdays, May 2, 2018 to May 30, 2018</u> <u>Bird Walks with Marcia Poling</u> (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the Wildlife Drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 6, 2018

- Beginning Birding Warbler Walk (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) The walk will be on one or two trails along the Wildlife Drive with expert birders Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis.
- Refuge Introduction Tour (1:30 p.m. to 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.

<u>Wednesdays, May 9, 2018 to May 30, 2018</u> <u>Bird Walks with Marcia Poling</u> (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

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Bombay Hook NWR Spring 2018 Calendar of Events (Continued from Previous Page)

Saturday, May 12, 2018

- Beginning Birding Shorebird Program (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis will
 give a presentation about shorebirds, their amazing migrations, and simple identification techniques.
 After the presentation, participants will visit the Bird Identification Station to practice their new skills.
- Monarch Presentation and Gardening Tips for Monarchs (2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) Learn how to identify monarchs and about their migration. Participants will learn about their habitat requirements and gardening tips to attract butterflies. Come learn about the amazing monarch and how you can help them survive. While monarchs will be the main focus, other local butterflies and pollinators will be included.

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are FREE (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) - Bombay Hook will be free for toddlers and their guardian on the 3rd Tuesday in May. 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.

<u>Wednesdays, May 16, 2018 to May 30, 2018</u> <u>Bird Walks with Marcia Poling</u> (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the Wildlife Drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

<u>Friday, May 18, 2018</u> Refuge Introduction Tour (10:00 a.m. to 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.

Saturday, May 19, 2018



- Junior Rangers Learn about Migratory Shorebirds (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon) New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Learn about the seasonal movement of shorebirds from their wintering grounds, to stopovers, then on to their breeding and nesting grounds. The focus of this session is to identify some of the common shorebirds visiting the area while learning about the nutrient-rich habitats they depend on before continuing their journey north. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.
- The Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Connection Presentation (12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Greg Breese, Project Manager for the Delaware Bay Estuary Project, will start the program with a 15 minute video on shorebirds, their amazing migration journey, and horseshoe crabs on the Delaware Bay. The Red Knot, a robin-sized shorebird was designated as threatened under the Endangered Species Act December 9, 2014. A "threatened" designation means a species is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range. After the presentation, the group will go to Pickering Beach to see horseshoe crabs that come up onto the Bay beach to spawn. If we are lucky we will see shorebirds as well, bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. Note: High tide is at 1:49 p.m. and we will plan to be on the beach for about an hour around high tide. Program starts in the Refuge's auditorium. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

<u>Wednesdays, May 23, 2018 and May 30, 2018</u> <u>Bird Walks with Marcia Poling</u> (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the Wildlife Drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

<u>Various Days, May 21, 2018 to July 2, 2018</u>

Purple Martin Nest Checks (11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) - Joel Martin and Ray Gingerich will perform weekly Purple Martin gourd and house nest checks during May, June and July. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, counting eggs and hatchlings, and after they hatch hold a chick. You will see birds that spent the winter in Brazil and you may see an adult sitting on a nest. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the Martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center on the following dates: May 21, 25, 30, 2018 and June 4, 8, 13, 16, 18, 22, 27, 2018 and July 2, 2018.

Sunday, May 27, 2018 Tour of the Refuge (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 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.

<u>Wednesday, May 30, 2018</u> <u>Bird Walk with Marcia Poling</u> (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) - Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the Wildlife Drive. Location TBD (To Be Determined) depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

<u>Saturday, June 9, 2018</u> <u>Photo Workshop</u> (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) - Join wildlife and landscape photographer Terry Willis (<u>wildthingsphoto.gov</u>) for a beginning look at how to photograph wildlife. This workshop will focus on learning how to go beyond the "Auto" mode on your camera to enhance your photos of nature. Learn what f-stop, shutter speed and ISO mean, and how to use them. We will also look at the differing techniques used to capture wildlife and landscapes with the camera.



Saturday June 16, 2018 Junior Rangers Learn About Cavity Nesters (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon) - Swallows, Purple Martins, Barn Owls, Bats and Bluebirds to name a few... where do they nest? Learn about different birds, their nests and how they raise their young. The focus of this session will be on Purple Martins and Barn Owls; providing participants an up-close view of their nesting cavities. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov



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 <u>www.friendsofbombayhook.org/membership.html</u> and follow the instructions in applying or renewing your membership thru PayPal

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member	Membership Plan (Check One)	Annual
Date	☐ Student (under 18)*	\$5.00
Date:	☐ Individual	\$15.00
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	☐ Family	\$20.00
Name	☐ Sponsor***	\$25.00
	☐ Sustaining	\$50.00
Address	☐ Corporate**	\$100.00
Additess	☐ Life***	\$200.00
4. VA BARA	*Student membership: under age 18.	
City, State, Zip	**Corporate sponsorship includes link to FOBH website; no voting privileges or store discount.	
	***Sponsor and Life memberships includes fai	mily.
E-mail	Method of Payment	
Newsletter Preference:	☐ Cash (payment at Visitor Center only)	
☐ Print ☐ E-mail (require E-mail address)	□ Check (payment by mail or at Visitor Cer	nter)
ш Filit ш E-maii (require E-maii address)	☐ 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.

Date:	BONATION FORM
Name	
Address	 <u>Method of Payment</u> ☐ Check (payment by mail or at Visitor Center)
City, State, Zip	☐ Check (payment by man or at visitor Center) ☐ Cash (payment at Visitor Center only) ☐ Credit/ Debit Card (payment at Visitor Center only)
E-mail (optional)	