

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter



Photo by Linda Kilgore



Vol. 29, No. 1
November 1, 2018

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 such as campfire coffee mugs, tumblers and coffee frac packs (see Page 5). However.....

WE ARE IN NEED FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS AT THE BLUE HERON GIFT SHOPPE!!! Proceeds from the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe help Friends finance projects and programs for the Refuge. Our current volunteers have kept the store running when hours are available, but we need more people so we are able to open the store more days. If you are interested, please contact Karen Dever at fobh@comcast.net.

2019 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, 2019

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and
Winter!!!

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



Photo by Bruce Lantz

Meet Volunteer Tammy Lewis

Tammy has been volunteering at Bombay Hook for 23 years in a variety of ways. She has been involved with Friends of Bombay Hook (FOBH), serving on the board and filling many other vital roles. Working quietly behind the scenes, her tireless efforts could go unrecognized. However, a spotlight of appreciation and gratitude is in order.

Tammy uses her graphics and software expertise to prepare our quarterly FOBH newsletter by arranging articles, announcements and photographs. As FOBH Board Secretary, she documents the Board meeting discussions and actions. As our Membership Chair, she processes all of our new FOBH membership applications and membership renewals.

Tammy frequently helps in the Visitor Center and the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe. She also finds time to assist with processing FOBH finances related to store sales. And, finally, she sometimes has been known to appear as "Puddles the Blue Goose" at Refuge events.

Tammy wears "many hats" at Bombay Hook, and we hope she'll continue to support the Refuge and FOBH for many years to come. On behalf of FOBH we'd like to say a big THANK YOU, Tammy, for all that you do!!!

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

August 1 thru September 30, 2018

Over 16 inches of rainfall was recorded during this report period which is approximately twice the normal amount and made it difficult for Refuge personnel to maintain optimum pool levels for shorebirds and arriving waterfowl within the Refuge impoundments. Regardless, conditions were favorable for many species and visitors were treated to a wide variety of shorebirds within the Refuge and in some of the sheet water ponds in farm fields nearby. Sightings of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** and **American Golden Plover** were recorded in the potato fields on the Wicks farm along Route 9. A few migrating **Snow Geese** arrived during the latter part of September when 15-20 birds were recorded. These birds were slightly earlier than last year when my first observation occurred in our area on October 9.

WATERFOWL

Both **Blue-** and **Green-winged Teals** were arriving throughout late August and early September as were **Shovelers**, **Pintail**, and a few **Wigeon** with numbers growing through the end of the month. There was no evidence of the arrival of significant numbers of migrant **Canada Geese** through the report period. **Mute Swans** were recorded throughout the period including a peak of eight birds on 9/14. A **Ruddy Duck** was noted during the first week of September

SHOREBIRDS

Avocets in numbers of 2-500 were evident along the Wildlife Drive throughout the period. **Long-** and **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Black-bellied**, **Semipalmated** and **Golden Plovers** as well as **Western**, **White-rumped**, **Pectoral**, **Stilt**, **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers**, and both **Yellowlegs** were observed at times either in the impoundments and their environs or the adjacent tidal marshes. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was noted in early September within Shearneck Pool. Both **Marbled** and **Hudsonian Godwits** were available at times during September.

MARSH AND WATERBIRDS

A single adult white **Pelican** was recorded during late September. Other waders and water birds recorded were both **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** (Bear Swamp), **Tri-colored Heron** (Raymond), **Cattle Egret**, **Great Egret**, **Snowy Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Least Bittern** (Finis), **White Ibis** and **Pied-billed Grebe**.

GULLS AND TERNS

Gull-billed Terns were recorded during early August while **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were noted during September; a **Black Tern** was recorded during the last week of September. A peak count of 86 **Caspian Terns** was reported the first week of September.

PASSERINES - WOODPECKERS, CUCKOOS

Some of the species observed this period included **Seaside** and **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** at the Boardwalk Trail, **Cliff Swallows**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Grasshopper Sparrows**, **Bobolinks**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, **Rough-winged** and **Bank Swallows**, **Lark Sparrow**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Nashville**, **Magnolia**, **Yellow**, **Prairie**, **Canada**, and **Chestnut-sided Warblers**. Bruce Lantz and the FOBH



Dark-eyed Junco
Photo by Lee Karney/USFWS

Bird Club recorded an early-arriving **Dark-eyed Junco** on the Steamboat Landing tract on September 30.

Friends of BOMBAY Hook Newsletter

is published quarterly by "Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. (FOBHI)", a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FOBHI 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: fohmembership@idv.net
<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Turkey and Bobwhite were seen frequently throughout the period in the Raymond Neck and Dutch Neck areas.

RAPTORS

Peregrine Falcons were seen consistently throughout the period. Barred Owls were commonly heard and occasionally seen particularly in the Finis area with Merlin and Kestrel noted on occasion. Barn Owls were seen at dusk in the maintenance and HDQ areas.

***Bombay Hook NWR Prescribed Fall 2018 Burning
By Oscar Reed, Refuge Manager***

This fall during the months of November and December, and again in mid-winter, the Refuge will conduct controlled burns in specific areas of the Refuge. The exact days and times will depend on many factors, including the burn crew schedule, wind conditions, and moisture in the field. As in past years, sections of the Refuge may be closed to the public on selected burn days.



You may ask why burn areas of the Refuge? In general terms, the Refuge staff uses prescribed burning as one of their tools to manipulate the Refuge vegetation to benefit wildlife. In addition, it's a valuable tool for maintaining desirable plant communities.



The crews that do the burning are well-trained and highly skilled.

Their goal is to accomplish a successful burn in a controlled manner, while being ever mindful of the safety of the fire crew and neighboring community. On burn days the burn crew and their partners monitor weather conditions, use test burns, flanking fires, black lines at pinch points and even watercraft to manage the burn. In addition, they manage the smoke, rate of spread and even flame heights. Then, after the burn, the crews revisit the burn sites to re-ignite unburned areas.

With the use of controlled burns this fall and winter the Refuge staff has some very specific goals in mind. They include:

- Maintaining desirable plant communities.
- Manipulating vegetation to benefit grassland birds and marshland mammals.
- Releasing nutrients to improve the soil for lush growth.
- Removing dead invasive plant litter for new native plant growth.
- Burning the nuisance plant seed load.
- Setting back succession to an earlier stage.
- Reducing the risk of wild or arson fires from hazardous fuel loads.
- Promoting biodiversity in the Refuge marsh and grasslands.

So, if you experience the inconvenience of a portion of the Auto Drive or a side trail closed for a controlled burn, you'll be comforted to know why. The Bombay Hook staff and their partners, in particular the Delaware Forest Service, are working hard at managing habitat communities for our resident and migratory wildlife populations. *(Photos by Oscar Reed)*

*Visiting Other Refuges
Bitter Lake NWR
By Rodney Murray*



Photo by Rodney Murray

Bitter Lake NWR, ten miles east of Roswell, NM, may not be as popular a birding spot as Bosque del Apache NWR in the western part of the state, but with 357 bird species, Bitter Lake should not be missed if you bird New Mexico. My drives to the American Southwest almost always seem to include a day spent birding along the trails and the eight-miles long auto tour route. Fall, winter, and spring are the best times of year to bird there; summer can be hellishly hot, and the refuge affords very little shade. For you odonate lovers, Bitter Lake is one of the best places in the US for observing over 100 species of dragonflies and damselflies. An odonate festival is held the second Saturday of each September.

Established in 1937, this NWR is situated within the Pecos River watershed system where the Chihuahuan Desert meets the Southern Plains and is a critical spot for conservation of wetlands in the Southwest. The visitor center is newly renovated, and the dirt/gravel tour route is well-maintained. Roswell has all the amenities a traveling birder needs, and the small city/big town is easily within range of several other interesting birding sites: Carlsbad Caverns NP, Rattlesnake Springs, White Sands National Monument, Sacramento Mountains, Guadalupe Mountains National Park (just over the southern border in Texas), Big Bend NP (TX) and the cities of El Paso, TX and Las Cruces, NM. *Good Birding!!!*

Leaf Cutter Bee

Interesting facts about the Leaf Cutter Bee commonly found around the wildflowers that grow at Bombay Hook NWR.

- ◆ They are the size of a Honey Bee with a black-and-white striped abdomen and a black head.
- ◆ They are able to cut a near-perfect semicircle in a plant's leaf.
- ◆ They roll the leaf into a cylinder and, while holding it in its legs, fly off.
- ◆ They use the leaf roll to build cells, filled with food, for its larva.
- ◆ They are solitary and very hard-working gentle bees.
- ◆ One Leaf Cutter Bee can do the work of twenty Honey Bees.
- ◆ No need for protective gear; this bee rarely stings.
- ◆ They do not damage structures by drilling holes.
- ◆ It's a family of bees with many individual species.
- ◆ Set up a Leaf Cutter Bee House or Bee Hotel and they might use it.



Photo by Bruce Lantz



Hello Autumn!

We have a few new items that I would like to introduce to you. We have some beautiful **coffee/soup mugs** in three colors just in time for the cooler weather. On the same note, we are now offering these colorful **vacuum insulated tumblers** to keep your beverages hot or cold while you are out enjoying our beautiful Refuge! Keeping in line with that, we are now offering **frac packs** of our Birds and Beans, bird-friendly coffee. These packs are good for one single pot of coffee....a nice gift with a couple of mugs added! Starting in mid-November, we will be putting together some gifts baskets to grab and go for your holiday gift giving.



Campfire Mugs; \$9.75



We still have some 2018 Flyway T-shirts on hand so get them before they are gone! We also have our hunter orange long-sleeve Tees and some ladies ¾ length sleeve wildflowers shirt.



Frac Packs; \$3.00 each

Don't forget your frequent shopper card when you come in! for each \$20 you spend, you get a check mark and after \$100 spent, you get 15% off of your next total purchase!



Insulated Tumblers; \$23.75 each

Have you been out to Bombay Hook and the store has been *closed*? Please spread the word that **volunteers are needed** to keep the store open!

Thank you for your continued support. All purchases made at the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe and membership sales go towards helping the Refuge! *(Photos by Karen Dever)*

Karen Dever
Store Manager

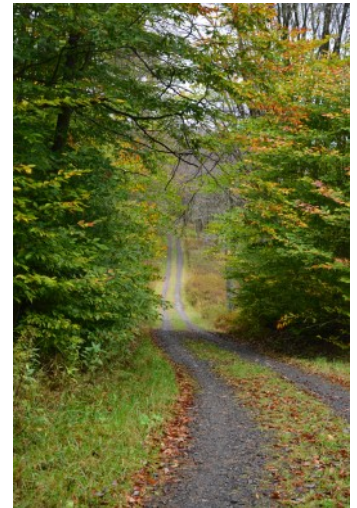
*Visiting Other Refuges
Canaan Valley NWR
By Karen Dever*



I had the pleasure of going to West Virginia a few weeks ago to visit Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Despite rain all weekend and missing the peak of fall foliage, it was a beautiful refuge to visit. Our bird walk on Saturday morning was cancelled, again due to rain, so I am not able to report on the birds we might have spotted. My



friends and I did do some hiking on the trails and found the area to be awesome! Such a variety of ferns and trees with a nice lookout over the bogs. The trails were easy and we mostly walked through the wooded areas. I am going back when the weather is better and hope to report wonderful sightings! If you go out to Canaan, check for updates on their new Visitor Center! *(Photos by Karen Dever)*



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working hard to design and build a new multi-purpose facility along with outdoor recreation and trail improvements at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge with the \$7 million appropriated by Congress. We have made early decisions to ensure that the project moves ahead quickly and efficiently and construction supports the local economy and meets state-of-the-art requirements for accessibility and energy efficiency. The building will ultimately house staff from the refuge, as well as the Service's West Virginia Ecological Services Field Office and Office of Law Enforcement who will relocate from Elkins, WV. The new facility will include a visitor area and multi-purpose room for the public, as well as administrative offices for employees. It will be located on the site of the existing administrative building as a cost savings since the current site is already serviced by public utilities including electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. We are planning to incorporate state-of-the-art, green energy efficient features, and meet sustainability and Architectural Barriers Act requirements for access. We will encourage the contractor to employ local contractors whenever possible to construct the new facility, with the goal of creating local jobs and supporting the economy. (taken from the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge website)

Deck the Halls with Amazon Smile.....

Did you know that you could donate to Friends of Bombay Hook simply by shopping through Amazon?? If you shop at AmazonSmile, Friends will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases made. To shop at Amazon Smile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and shop. It's a great way to do holiday shopping while donating for a good cause in the season of giving.

WANTED!!!



FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK VOLUNTEERS

Staffing the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe • Performing Maintenance Work Around the Refuge • Conducting Environmental Education Programs • Participating in Refuge Surveys, Walks and Tours • Helping with Workshops and Refuge Events • Assisting Refuge Staff and Other Volunteers in Office Work

TRAINING IS PROVIDED

If you, a family member, or a friend are interested in becoming a volunteer for the Friends of Bombay Hook, please contact Karen Dever at fobh@comcast.net. For more information about volunteering opportunities, please visit our Facebook page and our Friends of Bombay Hook website (www.friendsofbombayhook.org)

Northern Harrier (Circus Cyaneus) By Julie Memmelo

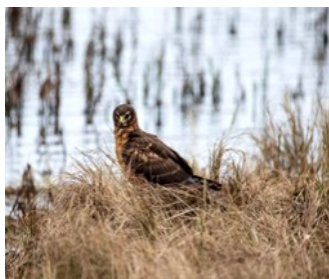


Photo by Julie Memmelo

The Northern Harrier is a common find in the fall and winter around Bombay Hook. The Harrier is also known as a Marsh Hawk and is a slender, medium size hawk with a characteristic white rump and an owl-like face. The male is gray on top and white underneath with black wing tips. The female is larger and is dark brown above, paler below and has dark streaks. It has bars on the wings and tail.

The Northern Harrier usually hunts low to the ground and has a variety of prey ranging from small mammals to birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and larger mammals and birds and even sometimes carrion. You will normally see them over Bombay Hook's grasslands, wetlands, and marsh.

This bird builds its nest on the ground in dense vegetation. They usually have clutches of three to six eggs which are incubated by the female. During the time of incubation and until the chicks are about two weeks old, the male brings all the food.

The Northern Harrier inhabits a variety of open habitats and is the most northerly breeding of all harrier species. The Northern Harrier can be found in North America, Europe and Asia and wintering as far south as South America and the Caribbean.

Refuge Maintenance Update
By Michael Vandevander, Maintenance Department



Photo by Tammy Lewis

Welcome to Bombay Hook NWR. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your patience as I get acquainted with your Refuge. As many of you know I am new to Bombay Hook and so things these past few months have gone by quickly. As this year draws to a close, I'd like to update you all on some of the things the Maintenance Department has done or is doing. As you may know we have a new maintenance building. So much of my time has been occupied with moving stuff from different locations to the new building and then organizing it. Hopefully after this winter, the building will be fully operational.

Mowing has been started. This includes the sides of the Auto Tour route. I ask each and every one of you to please pull to the opposite side of the road as the mower goes by and not to stand in the road. The mower blades rotate at 1,000 rotations per minute. There are 6 blades on the mower. The mower does not stop quickly. So please do not try and pass the mower. Once a vehicle approaches the mower will be shut off and then we have to wait for the blades to stop turning then lift the mower up. This could take up to 1 minute. So please be patient and respectful. Also please be advised that during mowing some parts of the Auto Tour route could be closed. Potholes, they are a pain. They are being filled in as time and gravel allows. So please be careful and drive slowly.

Upcoming projects: new roof on the kiosk at the Visitor Center; drainage in from of the Visitor Center sidewalk; replace the flag pole light, just to name a few. I am also looking for some volunteers for the Maintenance Department. So if anyone is interested, please let me know. If you see something that needs to be fixed, please report it to any Refuge staff or Refuge volunteer. Once again thank you for your patience and I hope that you enjoy your time at Bombay Hook NWR.



*Refuge Nest Boxes...
Who Uses Them?*

Join us as we look back at the birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects that have made a nest box their home at Bombay Hook NWR on **Saturday, December 1, 2018** at **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** we'll share our photos and stories of the wildlife found using the different boxes throughout the Refuge. It's a free program and starts at the Refuge Visitor Center.



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 is 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.

Fall 2018 Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 3, 2018

- ***Winter Waterfowl Identification Workshop*** (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) - is a joint program with Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) and Delmarva Ornithological Society (DOS). The program will offer participants the opportunity to examine closely, study and discuss the skins of a variety of waterfowl common to Delmarva in the Winter. Birds for study will include both the expected and the unusual species. This program will introduce new birders to many commonly seen waterfowl, while offering plumage challenges for our more advanced birders and waterfowlers. Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at DMNH, will guide us through the museum's selected collections. The workshop is free and will be at Bombay Hook's Visitor Center. Space is limited and registration is required. (Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent) **If you are interested, contact Jean Woods at jwoods@delmnh.org or by phone (302) 658-9111, x314.**
- ***Afternoon Hayride on the Refuge*** (2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) - This is great for the Kids! If they come dressed as their favorite animal, they will receive a small gift. You will learn about the salt marsh, birds, and wildlife conservation. Parents you can come dressed as your favorite animal as well! Refreshments will be served by Friends of Bombay Hook. **Space is limited and registration is required, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**
- ***Sunset Hayride on the Refuge*** (5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) - This is great for the Adults! Children dressed as their favorite animal will receive a small gift. You will learn about the salt marsh, birds, and wildlife conservation. Parents you can come dressed as your favorite animal as well! Refreshments will be served by Friends of Bombay Hook. **Space is limited and registration is required, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, November 10, 2018 ***Beginning Bird Watching – Duck, Duck, Goose*** (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) - 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 meet at the Visitor Center at 12 noon for a talk and then go out to the Bird ID Station and practice new skills.

Sunday, November 11, 2018

- ***FREE ENTRANCE FEE*** (½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset) - Honoring veterans, the National Wildlife Refuge System is providing free entrance to Bombay Hook NWR 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.

(Continued on Next Page)

- **Dr. Erica Miller, Veterinarian at Tri-State Bird Rescue, will give a presentation on 'TOXINS IN NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS' (1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)** - Dr. Miller will discuss how birds come in contact with a wide variety of toxic agents, from pesticides, heavy metals, petroleum products, and other man-made chemicals to toxicants occurring naturally in the wild. Exposure can occur in many ways and settings, often affecting large number of birds. The presentation will address toxicants commonly affecting wildlife, how the birds are treated when poisoning occurs, and some thoughts about what can be done to prevent such poisonings in the future. Dr. Miller will also provide information about Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, Inc. and what people should do if they come across a bird that needs help. At Tri-State she specializes in rehabilitation of wildlife injured as a result of oil spills.

Saturday, November 17, 2018



- **Junior Rangers Learn how Wildlife Survive in the Winter (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)** - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. 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. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**
- **Afternoon Hayride on the Refuge (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)** - This is great for the Kids! It is getting close to Thanksgiving and we should be thankful that we have places protected for wildlife. Maybe we will see a wild turkey along the way! You will learn about the salt marsh, birds (turkeys), and wildlife conservation. **Space is limited and registration is required, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**
- **Sunset Hayride on the Refuge (4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)** - This is great for the Adults! It is getting close to Thanksgiving and we should be thankful that we have places protected for wildlife. Maybe we will see a wild turkey along the way. You will learn about the salt marsh, birds (turkeys), and wildlife conservation. Refreshments will be served by Friends of Bombay Hook. **Space is limited and registration is required, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, November 18, 2018 **Live Birds of Prey - Presented by Animal Behavior & Conservation Connections (1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.)** - Come enjoy a live birds of prey presentation by Animal Behavior & Conservation Connections. Learn the habits and behaviors of hawks, falcons and owls. Experience the "silence" flight of an owl as it glides inches over your head. See a vulture demonstrate its role as "nature's recycler". Learn about the decline of the Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles and the efforts people took to recover the population. Meet birds up close where you will be able to see the details of their magnificent contour feathers. Other raptors will swoop inches over head for a close connection. This program is a must see for the entire family.

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 **Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardians 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.

Friday, November 23, 2018

- **FREE ENTRANCE FEE (½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset)** - Bombay Hook National Wildlife

Refuge is providing free entrance to introduce you and your family to wildlife conservation and bird watching. This is a good time of year to see hawks, eagles, ducks, and geese. Bring your family to drive the 12-mile Wildlife Drive and walk 5 short walking trails.

- ***Black Friday Tours of the Refuge*** (Starting at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.) - Are you and family members looking for something to do the day after Thanksgiving that DOES NOT include shopping? Bombay Hook is offering 1-1/2 hour tours throughout the day to introduce people to Bombay Hook, bird watching, and wildlife conservation. What a great way to spend time with family or come by yourself and join the fun. **Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**
- ***Bird Identification Station*** (10:00 a.m. - 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.

Saturday, November 24, 2018

- ***Impoundment Tour of the Refuge*** (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) - Join Terry Willis and Eileen McLellan for a bus tour of the Refuge impoundments and salt marsh. We hope to see and identify waterfowl, along with Bald 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.**
- ***Sunset Tour of the Refuge*** (3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) - Join Tina Watson for a tour of the Refuge as the sun sets. The tour will begin early enough to make a couple stops along the way. The group will walk a trail, discuss wildlife management practices, bird watch, and will end with the sunset over Shearneck Pool. **Space is limited, call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.** Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 25, 2018

- ***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.
- ***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.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 ***Refuge Introduction Tour*** (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.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.**

Friday, November 30, 2018 ***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, bird migration at the Refuge, and identify birds. We will also walk a trail. **Space is limited, call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, December 1, 2018 ***Refuge Nest Boxes...Who’s in There?*** (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) - Join volunteer Bruce Lantz as we explore the wildlife that finds “Refuge” in the nest boxes at Bombay Hook. The program will begin with a presentation in the Visitor Center and then the group will visit some of the nest boxes.

(Continued on Next Page)

Sunday, December 2, 2018 *Refuge Introduction Tour (2:30 p.m. – 4:30 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.**

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 *Refuge Introduction Tour (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.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.**

Sunday, December 9, 2018 *Bird Identification Station (10:00 a.m. - 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.

2018-2019 DEER & WATERFOWL HUNT DATES

Partial Closures affecting the Wildlife Drive

Back Section Closed – Bear Swamp, Finis Pool, and road to Allee House

November 9, 10, and 14, 2018 - all day for Shotgun

December 10 and 13, 2018 - all day for Shotgun

January 18, 2019 - all day for Shotgun

Front Section Closed – Raymond and Sheariness – Enter Refuge on Rt. 9 at Dutch Neck Road

November 12 and 16, 2018 - all day for Shotgun

December 12, 2018 - all day for Shotgun

Waterfowl hunting dates - TBD



<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)