

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter

Photo by Cathy Downes



Vol. 29, No. 2
March 1, 2019

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.

Welcome Back!!! The Blue Heron Gift Shoppe has new items such as our 2019 T-shirts and magnets (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 in order to open the store more days. If you are interested, please contact Karen Dever at fobh@comcast.net or please attend our Volunteer Orientation held at the Visitor Center auditorium on March 2 at 10:00 a.m. Training will be provided.

2019 Newsletter Schedule

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

The next newsletter will be issued on
May 1, 2019

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



Cathy Downes Volunteer for Bombay Hook and Friends of Bombay Hook



Cathy Downes (r.) meeting Senator Tom Carper (l.)

We are happy to recognize Cathy Downes for her volunteer services! Here is a little of what she says about herself:

I have regularly visited Bombay Hook NWR for 30+ years. I always told myself when I retired, I wanted to volunteer there. It provides a learning environment to me. Bombay Hook NWR is unique in many ways to the Mid-Atlantic and migrating birds. I believe in its mission to protect natural habitat for wildlife which in turn protects us. My hobbies are photography, birding (observing and studying the behavior), scrap-booking, painting and learning about our environment. I enjoy photographically documenting the less visited areas of the Delmarva Peninsula and old barns.



Cathy's interest in photography include a lovely sunset and an Egret (photos by Cathy Downes)



Cathy Downes

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

October 1, 2018 thru January 31, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

Near record-setting precipitation totals for the report period provided more water than was preferred within the impoundments and was a challenge for the Refuge staff to maintain optimal levels. Low temperatures, particularly in January, resulted in ice cover during much of the month when most waterfowl use was confined to tidal areas. **Snow Geese** arrived *en masse* during late November when 7,500 were recorded leaving the saltmarsh to feed. By the 23rd of the month 30,000 birds were noted. **Eagle** nesting began this period as the pair on George's Island were seen at the nest by October 22nd. The low point of the report period was the partial shutdown of the Federal government begun in December which resulted in the furlough of most Refuge employees and the closure of the Refuge Visitor Center. Most Refuge activities were brought to a halt, although the Tour Route remained open.

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans were reported by November 11th when 75 birds arrived in Raymond and Sheariness Pools. Swans remained on the Refuge for the remainder of the period with a peak of 300 by mid-December. From fifty to one-hundred Swans remained on the Refuge or close by through January. Seven **Mute Swans** were recorded in Sheariness in October. **Snow Geese** peaked at 50,000 birds on December 17th. Although very plentiful at some portion of each day, Snows were often missed by folks on the Tour Route since they often left before dawn and often came back to the Refuge to roost well after sunset. By late January, I recorded no less than 10,000 Snows within Bombay Hook.

Pintails, Shovelers and **Green-winged Teal** were very abundant in Raymond and Sheariness Pools in October. Numbers of these species declined within the impoundments during December and January. **Bufflehead** and **Hooded Mergansers** were seen after mid-November as were lesser numbers of **Common Mergansers, Scaup** and **Goldeneye**. **Wood Duck, Wigeon** and **Gadwall** were observed frequently in Finis Pool during October and November. **Black Duck** numbers were highest in the tidal areas. An occasional **Cackling Goose** and **Ross's Geese** were reported by Refuge visitors.

SHOREBIRDS

Avocets were commonly reported within the impoundments and adjacent tidal marshes during October through December. The greatest numbers were reported during October when 700 were noted. Both **Marbled** and **Hudsonian Godwits** were observed during the October to December period when as many as 9 Marbled and 13 Hudsonian Godwits were recorded. A good variety of shorebird species was recorded during October through December including **Stilt, Pectoral, Western, Least** and **White-rumped Sandpipers, Willet**, both **Dowitchers, Black-bellied, Golden, and Semipalmated Plovers**, both species of **Yellowlegs**, and **Wilson's Snipe**. Sixteen **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported in Raymond Pool during early January. **Woodcocks** were seen and heard doing courtship flights near Bear Swamp on December 24th.

MARSH AND WATERBIRDS

Pied-billed Grebes were reported frequently during October to December within the major impoundments. A **Red-necked Grebe** was



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Our readers are encouraged to share comments, provide articles for publication and/or suggestions regarding the Refuge as well as notifying us of address changes.

Please direct communications to:

Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.
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spotted in Shearneck Pool. Both **Snowy** and **Great Egrets** were abundant during October and November and a few **Great Egrets** hung around during December. One was seen flying over Bear Swamp on January 14th. **Black-crowned Night Herons** were noted in Bear Swamp through November. A **Cattle Egret** was reported during late December. **American Bittern**, though not easily observed, were reported each month of the report period. **Great Blue Herons** remained plentiful despite even the harshest conditions. They are amazingly adaptable, and most can scratch out an existence even when their feeding opportunities are severely limited.

GULLS AND TERNS + GANNET

Reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were received during each month of the report period. A **Gannet** was sighted during November in Money Marsh

PASSERINES +CUCKOOS + WOODPECKERS

The following warblers were reported during October: **Tennessee, Palm, Yellow, Blackpoll, Black and White, Black-throated Green, Northern Parula, Redstart, Magnolia, and Black-throated Blue**. **Yellowthroats** were reported during each month including January. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported during January. Other species of note reported during the period included **Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Horned Larks and Meadowlarks**. **White-crowned, American Tree, Fox, Savannah, Lincoln, and Saltmarsh Sparrows** were also observed. Both **Rusty** and **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were also noted. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** as well as **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were all welcome sightings. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was sighted near Bear Swamp on January 27th.



Northern Parula
Photo by Mark Danaher/USFWS

RAILS & COOTS

A few **Soras** were reported during October and November near Raymond and Shearneck Pools. A small group of **Coots** were noted during most of November and December.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Bobwhite continue to be observed along the Tour Route particularly in the vicinity of the Allee House and Finis Road. **Turkeys** were reported occasionally and were heard gobbling on the morning of January 25th; can spring be far behind? At least one report of a **Ring-necked Pheasant** in the vicinity of Raymond Pool was received.

RAPTORS

Bald Eagles were usually seen by visitors on a daily basis. **Peregrines** were frequently sighted hunting for shorebirds and waterfowl near the major impoundments. Other raptor regular sightings included **Kestrels, Merlins, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Screech Owls, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls** and a few reports of **Short-eared Owls** were received.

Beaver Night Classes



At Bombay Hook NWR we have an active Beaver population that is always surprising visitors and staff with their nighttime activities. It's been rumored that the Refuge staff has been working with our juvenile Beavers to help with some of the downed trees. Amazing, after just one class they have them cutting up firewood. (Photos by BJL)



PLEASE SUPPORT FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK INC.

FOBH is Group # 999989667



We're partnering with **Yankee Candle® Fundraising** to help achieve our goal this year. They are the world's #1 candle brand and they offer a wide range of premium candles, fragrances, and décor items at a very wide range of prices. But the most important thing to know is that **a percentage of every sale goes to us!**

To help support us, click on the link below and order items online. Your purchases ship directly to your home and our group receives profit on each and every sale. **This promotion is good through July 1, 2019.**

READY TO START SHOPPING NOW?

Click on "Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. Yankee Candle Shopping Site" below and you are on your way to helping our organization reach its fundraising goals:

[FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK INC. Yankee Candle Shopping Site](#)

If this link fails to take you to the shopping site, don't worry. Simply type in **www.yankeecandlefundraising.com** and enter your **Group Number 999989667** in the "Start Shopping" box there. Then you can shop for the same Yankee Candle Fundraising items and your purchases will still benefit our organization.

Remember, our organization receives profit on all orders!



America's Best Loved Candle™
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Welcome Back and Happy Spring!

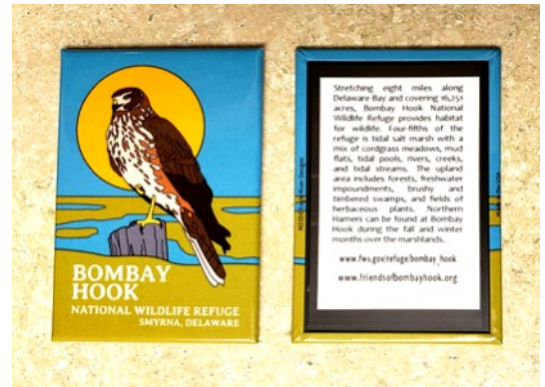
As most of you know, Friends of Bombay Hook rely heavily on store sales and memberships to raise money to help Bombay Hook. This last government shutdown has been extremely hard on everyone and many Friends groups, along with ours have been hurt by no sales and cancelling programs and events.

We are going to hit our sales hard this season to make up some of our lost revenue. We also hope that our visitors take special notice of the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe and help us out!

On to the new stuff! We have some bracelets that we are trying out. Very modern, cute and the price is awesome! We also have Tick Gators coming in and some mosquito net jackets to offer. Gosh knows we have the best test-



ing ground out here for ticks and skeeters! We have a new custom magnet this year (*right*). Our brand spanking new 2019 T-shirts are in (*left*) and we are working on a new designed ball cap for the spring!! Please come see us!



The Blue Heron Gift Shoppe is open Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. from March 1 to June 30, 2019.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support. (*Photos by Karen Dever*)

Karen Dever,
Store Manager

DE Council of Wildlife Rehabilitators & Educators Contact List 2018

FIRST CONTACTS: (302 area code unless noted otherwise)

New Castle County (above the Canal)

Hilary Taylor 834-4604 – all species including RVS*, native & exotic (Bear/Red Lion area)

New Castle County (below Canal) & Kent County

Cathy Martin 270-9256 – all native mammal species including RVS*, turtles both native & exotic, no bats (North Dover/Cheswold)

Vickie Henderson 632-0304 – Non-RVS* mammals, native & exotic reptiles/amphibians (Smyrna)

Dawn Webb Cox 382-4394 – **ALL** deer calls statewide & consultation for mammals (Camden)

Sussex County (Milford south)

Toni Oddo 344-6348 – all mammals including RVS (Rehoboth)

Bob Hughes & Margaret Colvin 228-8733- all mammals including RVS (Rehoboth)

*RVS (Rabies Vector Species) = raccoons, skunks, bats, groundhogs, fox (both red & grey), coyotes.

Did You Know????

One of the loveliest sights an ornithologist runs across is the iridescent blue found in some birds' plumage.

Sure, Cardinals have red feathers and Finches have yellow feathers, but if you ever run across the gleaming, almost metallic-looking blue of an Indigo Bunting, you won't forget it. The colors shimmer and shine like oil on water.

Colorless?

You might be surprised, then, to learn that the feathers which produce such impressive displays are in themselves largely colorless.

Take some Cardinal feathers — after the Cardinal is done with them — and grind them up into powder. The powder will still be red.

That's because the color is the result of actual pigment in the feather. Take those shiny feathers from a Bluebird or Indigo Bunting and grind them up, however, and their color will disappear.



Blue Grosbeak



Blue Jay

Why Does The Blue Disappear?

The glittery blues seen on bird wings are often caused not by pigment, but by the way light waves interact with the feather. Physicists call this “structural color”.

Because of the layered structure of the feather, light waves entering it bounce back at different times and thus collide, or “interfere” with each other. Certain wavelengths get cancelled out while others become reinforced.

The reinforced colors that come back strongly to your eye are mostly in the blue range. The result is that eye-catching display of blues.

Aren't Many Blue Pigments

As it turns out, there aren't many blue pigments used by birds in general. So any time you see blue or purple on a bird's wing, you can suspect that at least some of it is structural color. Especially if it's got that razzle-dazzle effect.

This article is taken from indianapublicmedia.org

Photos by Karen Dever



Eastern Bluebird



2018 Winner: Other Wildlife category by Jerry Am Ende

2019

FOBH SPRING AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST

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.

All proceeds from this event will go directly to our Capital Improvement Campaign.



**We want to see
YOUR photos!**

**OPEN TO
AMATEURS ONLY!**

New Categories!

**SEE OFFICIAL
RULES ON BACK**

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

2591 Whitehall Neck Rd.
Smyrna, DE 19977

302.653.8322

friendsofbombayhook.org

Submit entries from:

April 1, 2019 – May 10, 2019

2019 FOBH Spring Amateur Photo Contest Official Rules

Contest is open to Amateur Photographers only

Categories: Raptors; Other birds; Scenic/landscape; Insect; Mammal; Reptile/Amphibian; Junior (up to age 16); Cell phone (must be able to enlarge up to a 5"x7" photo); and the last category will be for Town of Smyrna photos. These photos will be of "Anything Smyrna". We have a lot of beautiful places, buildings, and scenes that can be found in our town so take a ride through the town, attend some events and get snapping!

Photo Contest Rules:

All *Bombay Hook Refuge* photographs must be taken within the boundaries of Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. "Anything Smyrna" photos are to be within the Smyrna town limits and not of the refuge."

All photos must have been taken within the last 2 years.

Photos will be accepted as an 8x10 photo in an 11x14 white mat with back and no frame. Photos must be adequately adhered to the back of the mat. Cell phone photos accepted as a 5x7 photo with an 8x10 white mat. **Any other color, or not having the proper matting on the front or back, will not be considered for judging.**

Photo backing must include name, category in which to be entered, address, email, and phone number.

To have your photographs considered for the contest you must mail or drop off your photographs at the Refuge office from Monday, April 1, 2019 – Friday, May 10, 2019. Photo contest entry fee is \$10.00 per photo.

Entries can be received Monday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded at the Photo Contest Reception to be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at the Painted Stave Distillery (paintedstave.com) in Smyrna, DE from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The winning photos, including honorable mentions will be available for silent auction at the event. Light refreshments will be served. The Grand Prize will be awarded to Best in Show and other awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category.

If there are any questions about the contest, please contact the Friends of Bombay Hook at fobh@comcast.net, www.friendsofbombayhook.org, message us on Facebook, or call 302.653.8322 and leave a detailed message.

Thank you for all of your continued support and good luck!

Refuge Maintenance Update
By Michael Vandevander, Maintenance Department

POTHOLES! POTHOLES! POTHOLES!



As everyone is aware the Auto Tour Route is full of everyone's friendly family Mr. and Mrs. Pothole. This family is an invasive species. The maintenance department is working as best as we can to eradicate this invasive species. This process is going to be a very long and frustrating. It seems like once one section is complete and we move to another, they creep back into the section that was just completed.

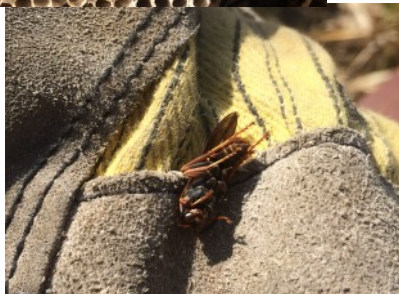
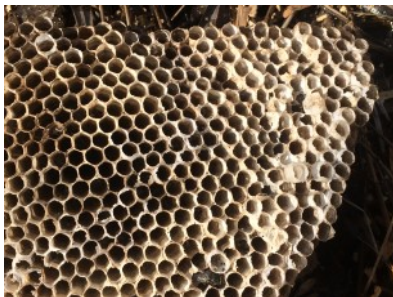
So what is the overall plan? We are still working with The Federal Highways Administration to get a confirmation of a timeline as to when they will be doing the tar and chip. But in the meantime and based on budget, crusher run stone will be used to attempt to fill in the worst areas. This is a temporary fix. I understand the frustration and all the concerns about this issue. We are aware of the issue and are doing our best to fix the issue. With that being said, we ask that everyone slow down and be

patient and when you see the equipment out trying to fill in those pesky things, don't crowd the equipment or try to pass the equipment without making sure the operator has seen you and has moved out of the way. Those wonderful critters that we all love seeing will still be there for your enjoyment even if you have to wait a few minutes. We would rather you stay safe and our operator stay safe and have a great experience while you visit with us than to have a horrible experience due to a preventable accident. Please be aware of other visitor friends as they visit. Some of them are doing things to cause more damage to the Auto Tour Route, by doing donuts in some of the cul-de-sacs and driving off the road and into some of the fields. By doing so they destroy habitat and roadways and takes away funds and time that could be used to fight the pothole invasion.

So if you see anyone doing things that they should not be doing, please report them to the office. We want everyone to enjoy their time here and want everyone to be safe. By doing so this keeps the critters we so love safe and healthy. Maintenance volunteers are always welcome and needed. If you would like to find out more information on how to volunteer, please stop in the Visitor Center during normal business hours and ask whoever is at the front window, they will be more than happy to help you out.

Paper Wasp (Polistes carolina (L.))

Here are some fun facts about the Paper Wasp which is commonly found at Bombay Hook NWR:



Photos by BJL

- Call me **Paper Wasp** while others call me the **Red Wasp**.
- ID me by my nest of paper combs that hangs by a single stalk upside down.
- In the nest colony our queen is the leader and she means business.
- A chemical ant repellent is spread around the stalk that anchors the nest.
- Several species of wasp in the *Polistinae* family share my common name.
- My body colors will range from **brown** and **orange** to **deep red**.
- My paper nest is made of wood fiber and saliva.
 - As I feed on nectar, I also pollinate flowers in the Refuge fields.
 - All my nest worker wasps die over winter and only the fertilized queen will survive to spring.
 - Non-aggressive; I sting only if the colony nest is threatened in order to save the queen.
 - Like bee stings, some people are very allergic to wasp stings.
 - In the summer our nests can grow quickly to a width of 6 to 8 inches.
 - I also enjoy eating other insects like caterpillars, flies and beetle larvae.
 - Look for me in the Refuge Pollinator Field this spring.

***Bombay Hook NWR
Clearing Roads and Trails of Hazardous Vegetation
Submitted by BJJ***



After the winter storms last winter and then the wet summer of 2018, you may have noticed an increase in the number of leaning and fallen trees throughout the Refuge. The tip over trees and fallen limbs are particularly evident along the major Refuge trails.



Bart Wilson, Project Manager at the Refuge, is heading up a crew to assess the situation and begin clearing out problem trees and shrubs. These include fallen trees and trees that are leaning over trails, boardwalks, roads or buildings. In addition, there are trees along roads or trails that are weak due to disease or that were damaged from previous storms. Lastly, there is vegetation growth that restricts visitor traffic.



These trimming activities along the Refuge trails and roads are routinely done every couple of years, and it's time to revisit trail and road vegetation issues again. Some of the most dangerous situations are trees with very shallow roots in very wet soil that have started to tip over but are hung up in other vegetation. It takes a well-trained crew to drop these trees safely and not damage their equipment.



Visitor safety is the driving force behind the tree and scrub cutting activities. The Refuge staff wants to preserve the very important dead snag habitat throughout the Refuge, while at the same time ensuring safe visiting conditions for the public in public areas. By taking a proactive approach, school buses can travel down to Finis Pool and not risk damage from tree branches. Also, hikers on Refuge trails will not be presented with a dangerous trail situation.



Also, hikers on Refuge trails will not be presented with a dangerous trail situation.



Bart Wilson and Mike Vandevander will be doing a lot of the trimming and clearing work. They will also partner with the Delaware Forestry Service for assistance and training. Most of the cutting is chainsaw work, but they also use the Forestry Head. If you're unfamiliar with the Forestry Head, it's an articulating cutter box mounted on a compact track loader for overhead, roadside tree trimming.

Targeted areas include the road and trail at Parson Point Trail as well as the back side of Bear Swamp loop road and the Boardwalk Trail. Finally, another targeted area is the leaning trees at Pasture Point.

In summary, the tree and brush clearing activities are centered on visitor safety. The Refuge staff would like to thank you for your patience and understanding while this important work is being done. *(Photos by BJJ)*

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)

Remaining FOBH Bird Club Outings until Fall 2019

Sunday March 17, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

Bombay Hook NWR Waterfowl; meet at Bombay Hook VC
Leaders: Randy Murphy and Bruce Lantz

Sunday August 18, 2019 – 7:30 a.m.

Woodland Beach; meet at Woodland Beach fishing pier parking lot
Leader: Randy Murphy

Marcia's BH walks will also be put in the schedule as we get confirmation of dates and times.

The new 2019 Bird Club Schedule will be out in August of this year.

Want to be informed of our bird club activities or join us? Sign up for email updates at fobh@comcast.net.

*Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge
By Joanne and Bruce Lantz*

In early March 2018 we took a road trip out to Montauk Point, NY, to experience the annual spectacle of hundreds of thousands of sea ducks in migration around the point. Along the way we stopped at several USFWS refuges on Long Island including Wertheim, Conscience Point, E. A. Morton and Amagansett NWR.



The Elizabeth A. Morton NWR is one of seven refuges that are part of the Long Island NWR Complex. The refuge was established in 1954 when 187 acres were donated to the USFWS by the Morton family. The refuge property forms a point that separates the Little Peconic and Noyack Bays along the north shore. From the main visitor parking lot, a loop trail cuts through rolling forest, meadows, ponds, along a creek, down to a sandy beach and salt marsh. This mix of habitats attracts a diverse community of wildlife species. In addition to providing critical habitat for migrating songbirds, the refuge's sand beaches offer important restricted access nesting areas for Least Terns, Roseate Terns and endangered Piping Plovers.

As we were traveling east out through Long Island, a strong Nor'easter was coming up the Eastern seaboard. So during our winter visit to the E. A. Morton Refuge we found rafts of both bay and sea ducks avoiding the stormy bays and a nice mix of upland winter songbirds taking shelter in the refuge woodlands. In addition, during our short hike we had great looks at Wild Turkey, chipmunks and White-tailed Deer.



Earlier in the day at Wertheim NWR we were told not to miss the Morton refuge where the birds fly onto your hand for seeds. Well, sure enough, we found it to be true. If you were patient and stood very still, they would land on your fingertips one at a time. Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, Downy Woodpeckers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were all seen landing on outstretched fingers. Now feeding birds is not encouraged by the refuge, but apparently it's been going on there for years. We didn't bring any seed with us but a young visitor shared a couple of seeds and before long a Downy Woodpecker was perched on Joanne's fingertips. If you bring black sunflower seed, the staff asks that you keep it in your hand and off the trails or ground. It attracts rats that eat bird eggs and there are signs that reinforce this message along the trails.

All in all we found Elizabeth A. Morton NWR a great place to experience nature. For a small refuge it has a surprising number of very different habitats, lots of wildlife, is well maintained and is easy to find on a stormy winter day. Check it out! *(Photos by BJL)*

Spring into Action 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, sign on if you have an existing Amazon account, and choose Friends of Bombay Hook from a list of charitable organizations. It's a great way to do Easter/Springtime shopping for loved ones while donating for a good cause .

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 beginning March 2 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 2019 Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 2, 2019 *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.

Friday, March 8, 2019 **SPRING FEVER** - *Tour of the Refuge (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 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. Appropriate for families with children **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**



Saturday, March 16, 2019 *Junior Rangers Learn about Endangered Animals (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon)* - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Rangers will learn about the threats faced by local species and what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doing to help species locally and globally. **Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 *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

(Continued on Next Page)

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.

Sunday, March 24, 2019 *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.

Sunday, March 31, 2019 *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.

Updates will be announced on Facebook and the Bombay Hook website at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/



<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
- 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)