

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter

Rose Mallow
Photo by Karen Dever



Vol. 29, No. 4
September 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 & Wildlife Service. (USFWS) 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 fall items (see Page 4). 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. For more information, contact Karen Dever at fobh@comcast.net. Training will be provided.

2019-2020 Duck Stamps are now available. By purchasing a Duck Stamp, you are helping to conserve wildlife (see Page 6 for more information).

2019 Newsletter Schedule

| <u>Newsletter Release</u> | <u>Articles Due</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| November 1 | October 7 |

The next newsletter will be issued on
November 1, 2019

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Franklin Smith



This September 2019 edition of the FOBH Newsletter includes the last Bird Notes column compiled and written by Franklin Smith (see pages 2-3). Last spring Franklin expressed an interest in starting the search for his successor. We are pleased to announce that replacing

Franklin in November will be long-time Delaware birder and former Delaware Bird Records Committee member, John Janowski.

Franklin started working for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1972. After service in Virginia and North Carolina he returned home to central Delaware, starting work at Bombay Hook NWR in 1977. Franklin worked as the Refuge Biologist for many years until his retirement in 2003. In February of 2013, Franklin replaced FOBH Past President Frank Rawling as the compiler and writer of the Bird Notes column.

Over the years in his column, Franklin included not only the birds seen but also notes of interest, migration notes, arrival dates, and unusual sightings. He typically gathered information from visitor sighting reports and sighting data collected by our State and Federal biologists. In particular, he has included the aerial waterfowl survey data.

Several weeks ago I had the opportunity to ask Franklin several questions about his many years of volunteer service producing the Bird Notes column. Here are the words he shared:

Q. Was there a particular season of the year at Bombay Hook NWR you enjoyed reporting about the most?

I enjoyed the spring and fall migration seasons the best. The active migration of the different species groups makes every day unique in what you might see and hear.

Q. Where there any particular rare bird sighting events

(Continued on page 5)

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

April 1 thru July 31, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

This four-month reporting period included the tail end of the northbound waterfowl migration, the vast majority of the northbound shorebird migration, as well as the beginning of the southbound shorebird migration. It included the arrival of neotropical local nesters such as **Wood Thrush** and **Tanagers** as well as many other species which only stop at Bombay Hook briefly on their way to their nesting grounds. The last **Snow Geese** (12) were recorded on April 12. Unusually high numbers of **Bald Eagles** gathered within the Refuge from late April through much of May. Visitors reported a one-day count of over 100 **Bald Eagles** during mid-May. Spawning carp seemed to be the major attraction for the big birds. A flock of 10 to a peak of 20 **White Pelicans** was observed utilizing the Refuge's impoundments and saltmarsh during the period from mid-May thru July. Precipitation for most of the reporting period was near-normal although much of July received little rainfall and the three major impoundments' water levels were quite low by the end of the month.

WATERFOWL

Most migrants had departed by April, but **Green-winged Teal** and **Shovelers** remained at a few hundred birds throughout most of the month. **Mallards**, **Blacks**, **Gadwall**, and **Wood Ducks** are the primary nesting waterfowl species that remain in small numbers and raise their young at Bombay Hook. **Canada Geese**, and to a lesser extent, **Mute Swans** also nest there. A peak of 13 **Mute Swans** was reported in mid-June. Four **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** were observed and photographed at Raymond Pool during July.

SHOREBIRDS

Woodcock was still evident in April and May with their evening courtship flights near the Shearneck Tower and the Headquarters area. **Avocet** populations increased from nearly 200 at the beginning of April until they peaked at 500 by month's end. **Black-necked Stilts** were present but did not seem to be as evident this year. Changeable water levels may have not been as favorable for nesting, particularly within Bear Swamp. A male **Ruff** was present within Raymond Pool during early May. From mid-May to the end of the month, shorebird varieties were impressive. **Black** and **Semi-palmated Plovers**, **Dowitchers**, **Killdeer**, both **Yellowlegs**, **Dunlins**, **Snipe**, and **Willet** were all reported along the Tour Route as well as an occasional **Turnstone**, **Red Knot**, and even an **Oystercatcher**. Sandpipers reported include **Stilt**, **Least**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, and **White-rumped**. By the end of July, southbound migrants were evident in impressive numbers including a **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, and a **Whimbrel**.

MARSH AND WATERBIRDS

During the first week of April, **American Bittern**, **Black-Crowned Night Heron**, **Snowy** and **Great Egrets**, and **Pied-Billed Grebe** were all recorded in addition to the **Great Blue Herons**. By early May, **Yellow-crowns** and **Glossy Ibis** were added with **Cattle Egrets**, and **Little Blue Herons** noted by the end of the month. **Least Bitterns** were observed in early June. Reports of both **White** and **White-faced Ibis** were noted in July. A cooperative **American Bittern** set up his territory in one of the paddy fields west of Bear Swamp in April and would offer his distinctive "pump handle" call just about any time you stopped on the road nearby.

GULLS AND TERNS

Forster's and **Caspian Terns** were noted regularly throughout the reporting period. A **Royal Tern** was reported during the last week of July. **Skimmers** were seen periodically after mid-May. **Black Terns** were recorded during



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: fobh@comcast.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

May. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen in mid-May. **Gull-billed Terns** were noted in June and July.

RAILS, COOTS AND GALLINULES

Although the marshes of Bombay Hook in the summertime have hundreds of rails distributed over vast areas, they are infrequently seen by visitors. Rails are quite vocal and call frequently. At Bombay Hook, the most common is the **Clapper Rail**, although **Virginia** and **Soras** can be seen and heard as well. Driving along the Bear Swamp east dike early in the morning during the spring and summer offers visitors an excellent chance to hear singing Clappers. Gallinules were reported during both June and July. The July sighting indicated that both adult birds and chicks were present in Shearneck Pool.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Wild Turkeys could be heard gobbling and seen displaying during April and May, especially near the Allee House, Bear Swamp and the Office area. **Bobwhites** were plentiful in most upland areas where they could be heard daily and seen frequently.

RAPTORS

A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was sighted again this year near Bear Swamp in early April. **Barred, Great Horned, Screech,** and **Barn Owls** were noted frequently. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported in late July. A **Northern Harrier** was observed a few times during June and July which could indicate possible nesting by this species. Their nests have been documented on the Refuge on occasion. **Peregrines, Kestrels,** and **Merlins** were reported sporadically during the spring and summer. **Osprey** sightings were frequent and regular as their numbers in the area have increased. **Bald Eagles** were seen daily throughout the year.

PASSERINES & WOODPECKERS

Grassland birds such as **Field** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** seem much more noticeable with the conversion of many of the agriculture fields to fallow fields. **Purple Martins** were reported in the area of the Visitor Center by April 5. Early warblers such as **Yellow, Pine,** and **Palm Warblers** were noted in April with the biggest variety of migrant warblers passing through during May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were evident from mid-May thru the remainder of the summer. **Willow Flycatchers** were reported during May, June, and July. The first **Bobolink** of the fall was noted in late July. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported at the end of July.



*Palm Warbler
Photo by Keenan Adams/USFWS*

FOBH Purple Martin Program at Bombay Hook NWR

FOBH is happy to report these numbers for 2020! We were only ten eggs and six pair shy of our biggest year ever, which was 2012.

As always, the biggest thank you goes out to Joel Martin and Ray Gingrich for their dedication to our little Purple friends! Friends of Bombay Hook is proud to sponsor this program.

| | <i>2018</i> | <i>2019</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Total # of eggs</i> | 459 | 508 |
| <i>Total # hatchlings</i> | 353 | 388 |
| <i>Total # fledglings</i> | 312 | 354 |
| <i>Total # pairs</i> | 98 | 99 |
| <i>Total fledglings/pair</i> | 3.18 | 3.58 |



Hello all!

What a hot summer! Looking forward to fall and all that it brings.

Speaking of fall, we have some new products in the store to try out. We will have some new socks coming in from Wild Habitat, Bees Wrap sustainable food storage, new greeting cards and more! We are also working on another specialized ball cap featuring a Blue Grosbeak.



Starting September 1, the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe will be open Mon-Fri from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and on weekends from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fall is a beautiful time at the Refuge, so take the Wildlife Drive and then stop in the Visitor Center to say hi and do some holiday shopping....it's never too early!

As always, we appreciate your support. All sales at the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe go to help the refuge!

See you in September!! *(Photos by Karen Dever)*

Karen Dever
Store Manager

Bombay Hook Hunt Dates
for 2019-2020 Deer Hunting Season

FRONT of the Refuge CLOSED

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2019 | Monday October 14 Wednesday October 16 Friday October 18 |
| | Friday November 15 Saturday November 16 Wednesday November 20 |
| | Monday December 16 Thursday December 19 |
| 2020 | Friday January 24 |

BACK of the Refuge CLOSED

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 2019 | Monday November 18 Friday November 22 |
|-------------|--|

that you felt were particularly memorable?

Although I enjoy the sightings of rare species at Bombay Hook such as the Burrowing Owl, Snowy Owl, Cinnamon Teal and Ruffs , I thought some of the more common migrants were just as enjoyable and more interesting to study. A rare sighting of an individual bird at Bombay Hook might be pleasing, but in the scheme of things it might just be an accident due to a weather event....where an individual blows in, is seen and then disappears and may mean very little ecologically to the Refuge.

Q. Was there a particular migrant's arrival (breeding, wintering or just passing through) that marked an important seasonal change in your mind?

The arrival of 50,000 migrant Snow Geese a month earlier than normal can effect the habitats of other species of waterfowl for the whole wintering season. I enjoyed keeping track of arrival and departure dates of key species and tried to understand what factors were key in determining these dates. I thought the presence of a small flock of White Pelicans this summer was really interesting since they stayed in the vicinity for several weeks. It will be interesting to see if any show up next year.

Q. Is there a Refuge bird species in decline that's caught your eye in sighting reports? Or a species in recovery that's just not appreciated like past sights once were?

During my tenure at Bombay Hook, significantly noticeable changes have occurred in several bird populations. The Bald Eagle population in Delaware in the late 70s was minimal. Bombay Hook had one of the two active nests in the State when I started working. We saw a few other birds from time to time, but they were not abundant. During this past spring, a visitor reported over 100 birds counted from the public Tour Route during the carp spawning period. Nesting Eagles can be found throughout the state. Wild Turkeys were not present on the Refuge when I arrived but now are producing young and seen commonly on the Refuge. As some of the upland habitats have changed from cropland to grassland, brush, and forbs, some species such as Field Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows seem more abundant. Bobwhite Quail have also benefited from this habitat transition and is still present on Bombay Hook despite their decline in most areas in Delaware. Osprey and Pileated Woodpeckers both seem to have expanding Refuge populations. Some of the waterfowl numbers such as Pintail and Green-winged Teal do not seem as abundant as they did in past years.

Q. In Bird Notes over the years, what did you hope readers would take away after reading your quarterly columns?

I think the Bird Notes column provided highlights of representative bird species that could be and would be seen on the Refuge during various time periods. I tried to interject some comments relative to habitat conditions during each period, e.g. impoundment water levels that might have influenced bird populations during the reporting period. The opportunities for serious birders to obtain almost instant information online listing the birds present in an area like the Refuge are a great resource. The future format of the Bird Notes column may need a dramatic overhaul depending on future objectives and the nature of the audience.

On behalf of the Friends of Bombay Hook, we would like to thank Franklin Smith for his many years of volunteer service to Bombay Hook NWR. The sharing of his Refuge knowledge has allowed readers of Bird Notes to gain a greater understanding of the avian species found at Bombay Hook NWR. (Submitted by BJL)

On the Newsletter Cover Photo.....

Rose Mallow is a native perennial plant with beautiful white or pink flowers that bloom from mid-summer through early autumn.

The Rose Mallow is also known as the Swamp Mallow, Marsh Mallow, and Marsh Hibiscus.

It has been used medicinally in the form of tea to treat digestive and urinary tract inflammations.

Duck Stamps Are Here!



The 2019-2020 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, otherwise known as the Duck Stamp is now for sale! While the Duck Stamp serves as a license for waterfowl hunting, its greater purpose is to generate revenue for conservation. [Anyone can \(and should!\) purchase these conservation revenue stamps](#); **98 percent** of the purchase price goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Duck Stamps have always been an integral tool for our Refuge System. For every dollar spent on Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents goes directly to purchase of critical habitat or the acquisition of conservation easements for protection in the NWRs. More than 6 million acres at over 300 wildlife refuges were created or have been expanded using Duck Stamp dollars.

At least one refuge in nearly every state has benefited from Duck Stamp dollars.

Spreading the word and increasing the sales of Duck Stamps to generate revenue is even more important today, in the wake of reduced budgets and shifting initiatives/priorities. [Please buy a stamp and know that your dollars will be going right back to the refuge system.](#) We also recognize that many people in our community might not be aware of the conservation benefits of the Duck Stamp. We have drafted a general informative article that we would love you to share in your newsletters, communications, list serves, groups, etc. You can upload this article, images of the stamps, as well as FWS' rack card from our website at <http://www.friendsofthestamp.org/resources/materials/>

We know many of your refuges have benefited from Duck Stamp dollars and with your support, look forward to growing our support base and continuing to generate funds.

Many thanks....and GET STAMPED!

Regards,

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp
& The National Wildlife Refuge Association

Duck Stamps are available Monday-Friday during regular business hours at the Refuge, and on the weekends during the Spring and Fall months. If you are planning to purchase them, only CASH, or CHECKS made out to "U.S. Fish & Wildlife", are accepted.



Two Invasive Plant Species Targeted for 2019/2020

As stated on the USFWS Invasive Species website, invasive plant species are the most frequently mentioned threats to the National Wildlife Refuge System. In the data from 2013, they stated that 2.4 million acres of the Refuge System are impacted by invasive plants. The USFWS uses a variety of programs and tools to battle invasive plants across the refuge system. These include professional training for refuges, volunteer programs, Invasive Species Strike Teams, bio-controls, chemicals, mechanical and prescribed grazing, and burning. Refuge Friends Groups and volunteers also have a considerable impact, offering grant funds, organizing Weed Pulls and creating Weed Warrior groups.

Around Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, there are invasive plant species documented, all with varying levels of impact. Many species have been historically managed and require periodic attention; other invasive plant species identified in the region are monitored closely.

Two invasive plant species on the refuge, Autumn Olive and Canada Thistle, are the focus of special management control efforts this coming year. The Refuge staff has contracted professional services to perform this work. Their area of concentration will be three early succession fields near the Refuge Visitor Center for treatment of Canada Thistle: and areas along the Auto Tour and Whitehall Neck Road for treatment of Autumn Olive. Treatment methods will consist of chemical application, cutting and pulling of plants.

Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) was brought to North America in the early 19th century from Asia. It was sold and widely planted as food and cover for wildlife. Currently, it can be found in nearly every state. However, times and management practices have changed, and today it is classified as an invasive plant. Autumn olive grows to be a very dense, large shrub and will crowd out native species as it expands. Local birds feed on the plants' fruit, spreading the invasive seeds everywhere. If unchecked, it becomes a dominant plant species.



Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) came to North America in the early 1600s from Europe. Also called Creeping Thistle and Field Thistle, this invasive is a perennial plant with spreading roots that form a very dense patch, crowding out other plant species. Each thistle plant can produce 1,500 seeds so the thistle can spread quickly. Canada Thistle (*l. and r.*) thrives in full sun and typically dies out in shaded areas. Mowing, burning and spray programs have all been shown to be effective as a control strategy.



These are just two invasive plant species targeted for next year.

Other invasive plants at Bombay Hook are managed yearly and then monitored for their response to control actions. Examples of these would include Phragmites and Johnson Grass.

Johnson Grass (*Sorghum halepense*) is native to the Mediterranean area and was introduced to North America in the early 1830s as a forage crop. The plant species do well in disturbed open areas, wet ground, and edge habitat. It spreads by both seeds and root rhizomes and if unchecked will reach heights of 8 feet. Johnson Grass has become a serious invasive plant species that spreads very quickly into dense infestations that crowd out other plants. Like Phragmites, another invasive plant, Johnson Grass puts off a toxin that stops other plants from growing close by.

Delaware lists six plants on its noxious weed list which includes Johnson Grass. The state requires that this weed not exceed 24 inches in height or be allowed to produce seeds. As a result, land managers in Delaware and many other states are constantly on the lookout for this weed species. The best control for Johnson Grass involves multiple control strategies when it's young and first spotted.

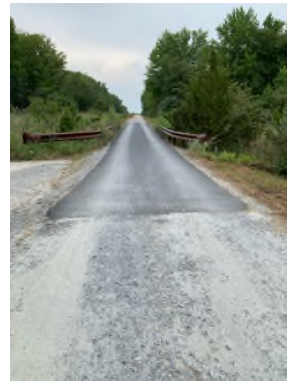
Invasive plants at Bombay Hook NWR are a constant problem and management actions involve a variety of efforts targeting strategic points in the plants growing season for best results. Just as one invasive plant appears to be in control, a new invasive species can be advancing just around the corner. (*Photos by BJL*)

Refuge Maintenance Update
By Michael Vandevander, Maintenance Department



As many of you know, there was a project that started near the swimming hole (the pond going to the Allee House). The project is installing an observation pier. This project required us to remove tons of dirt/mud from the bottom of the pond. Once the project is completed, it will be ADA-accessible. There will be two parking places for handicap parking next to the pier entrance. The handicap spots will be paved and marked accordingly. We will have regular parking across the road. We will also install a new kiosk as well as two new benches and a trashcan that hopefully, will be used. Right now, when you drive by all you see is a big pile of dirt. We are hoping that within the next few weeks to have the dirt moved and put on the finishing touches. So please be patient as this process happens. Also, PLEASE do not enter the work area while walking through the woods. You destroy wildlife habitat when you do this.

Additionally, with the help of the Friends of Bombay Hook, we were able to have the bridge at Bear Swamp paved. It may not seem enough to some while others have issues with it being paved. The reasoning behind it was to remove the potholes and preserve the current structure from further erosion. Until we have funding to tar and chip the entire Auto Tour Route, we are trying to maintain the road the best we can. We have gravel ordered to fill in the potholes. With that being said, I ask that everyone slow down. I will remind you all that the speed limit is 25 mph. This is NOT a suggestion. The critters will still be there when you get there, and when you leave, it is not a race to get out. Please remember you are not the only one visiting. Some children visit as well.



So please be kind and patient as we make a few improvements to your wildlife refuge here at Bombay Hook. As always, Oscar and I are willing to discuss our current projects.

Transverse Flower Fly (Eristatis transversa)

Here are some fun facts about the Transverse Flower Fly, a common summer resident at Bombay Hook NWR:

- Also called Hover Flies or Syrphid Flies.
- Active in Bombay Hook from May to October.
- You can't miss their bright yellow and black colors.
- It's thought their wasp-like colors scare off predators.
- You can see right through the Flower Fly's clear wings.
- As adult flies, they feed on nectar and pollen.
- Very important pollinator of flowering native plants.
- They prefer white and yellow flowers.
- With little mouth parts, they tend to visit more open flowers.
- Flower Fly larva feed on beetle eggs and aphids.
- This fly provides a benefit by eating plant sucking insects.
- In pollinator meadows they offer a natural control of pest populations.



Photo by BJL



Fall 2019 Calendar of Events

(302) 653-6872

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.

September 14, 2019

***Terrapins Program* (10:00 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)**

Nate Nazdrowicz

The program will cover the turtle species commonly found on the Delmarva Peninsula and their status. Nate as the Delaware state Herpetologist coordinates Operation Terrapin Rescue and the Delaware Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

September 28, 2019

***Bald Eagle Program* (10:00 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)**

Anthony Gonzon

The Bald Eagle program will highlight the amazing comeback of this species and its current status on the Refuge and throughout Delaware. At Prime Hook this program was very well received. Anthony has agreed to share it with the visitors of Bombay Hook NWR. Anthony Gonzon is currently the Delaware Bayshore Initiative Coordinator and over the years has worked closely with Delaware's monitoring of Bald Eagles numbers.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

October 12, 2019

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

***Greater Snow Goose* (10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)**

Dr. Justyn Foth

The program will cover the biology of this very important winter migrant to Bombay Hook NWR. The program will also detail the special relationship between Canada and the United States in managing this waterfowl species. Dr. Justyn Foth is a gamebird biologist for DNREC and responsible for the management and research of Delaware's waterfowl and upland gamebirds.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

(Continued on next page)



Bombay Hook Fall 2019 Calendar of Events
(Continued from Previous Page)

October 19, 2019

Whitetail Deer Management (10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)

Eric Ness

This program will cover the current Whitetail Deer status in Delaware. It will also review the management tools used to keep the ever growing deer numbers at safe levels for the habitat they live in. Eric Ness is a Delaware F&W Deer Biologist who manages and conducts research on all game mammals in Delaware.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

October 26, 2019

Backyard Birds for Beginners (10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)

Terry Willis and Eileen McLellan

This program will develop your identification skills for many common birds to your backyard and Bombay Hook NWR.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

November 2, 2019

What's All This Talk About Native Plants? (10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)

Lorene Athey, Habitat Outreach Coordinator for Delaware Nature Society

As we learn basic gardening for wildlife that covers what are native basic gardening for wildlife that covers what native plants are, (what plants are native) and some tips & gardening practices for wildlife-friendly gardens. Find out what all this native plant talk is about! All participants will receive a free Bombay Hook native plant decal.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

November 23, 2019

Duck and Goose Identification for New Birders (10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)

Terry Willis and Eileen McLellan

A very popular class in years past, this program is designed to walk new birders through the common waterfowl species seen at Bombay Hook NWR.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Calendar of Event updates will be announced on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/bombayhookwildliferefuge>), Friends of Bombay Hook website (www.friendsofbombayhook.org), and the Bombay Hook website (http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/)

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.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT FRIENDS???

Donate or Become a Member!

In 2020, the **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK (FOBH)** will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary! Without memberships, donations, and proceeds from the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe, we surely would not exist today. Throughout the years, we have been able to aid Bombay Hook NWR by supporting environmental education programs, fund transportation for field trips to the Refuge for school children, purchase audio/visual equipment, secure grants, paid for internships, purchased new chairs for the auditorium and for outside programs to name a few. Because of our supporters, we continue with our mission!

TO DONATE OR BECOME A MEMBER:

Please fill out the form below and mail your check to **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK, 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977.**

Or go to www.friendsofbombayhook.org and follow the prompts to either donate or obtain membership. And you can always stop by the Visitor Center during gift shop hours to do it in person! We would love to see you! The Blue Heron Gift Shoppe is operated by volunteers and is only open when the volunteers are present. If you are uncertain of days and hours, please call ahead.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS include voting privileges at the FOBH Annual Meeting; 10% discount on merchandise sold at Blue Heron Gift Shoppe; and eligibility to join the Dover Federal Credit Union.

ALL donations are tax deductible.

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK, INC. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded to promote conservation, environmental education, and a better understanding of and appreciation for Bombay Hook NWR.

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION 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*

Membership Donation

Date: _____

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Newsletter Preference:

Print E-mail (require E-mail address)

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)

| <u>Membership Plan (Check One)</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|---------------|
| <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"/> Lifetime*** | \$200.00 |

*Student membership: under age 18.

**Corporate sponsorship includes link to FOBH website; no voting privileges or store discount.

***Sponsor and Lifetime memberships include family.

| <u>Donation (Check One)</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allee House | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Campaign | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial for: | \$ _____ |