

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter

Photo by Cathy Downes



Vol. 30, No. 1
November 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.

Congratulations to Friends for receiving an award as best not-for-profit for the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe (see Page 4).

In other news, we have new items including ball caps featuring a Blue Grosbeak and a patriotic ball cap in time for Veterans Day (see Page 4). Stop in at the BHGS for your holiday shopping.

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 in volunteering, contact Karen Dever at fobh@comcast.net. Training will be provided.

2020 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, 2020

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



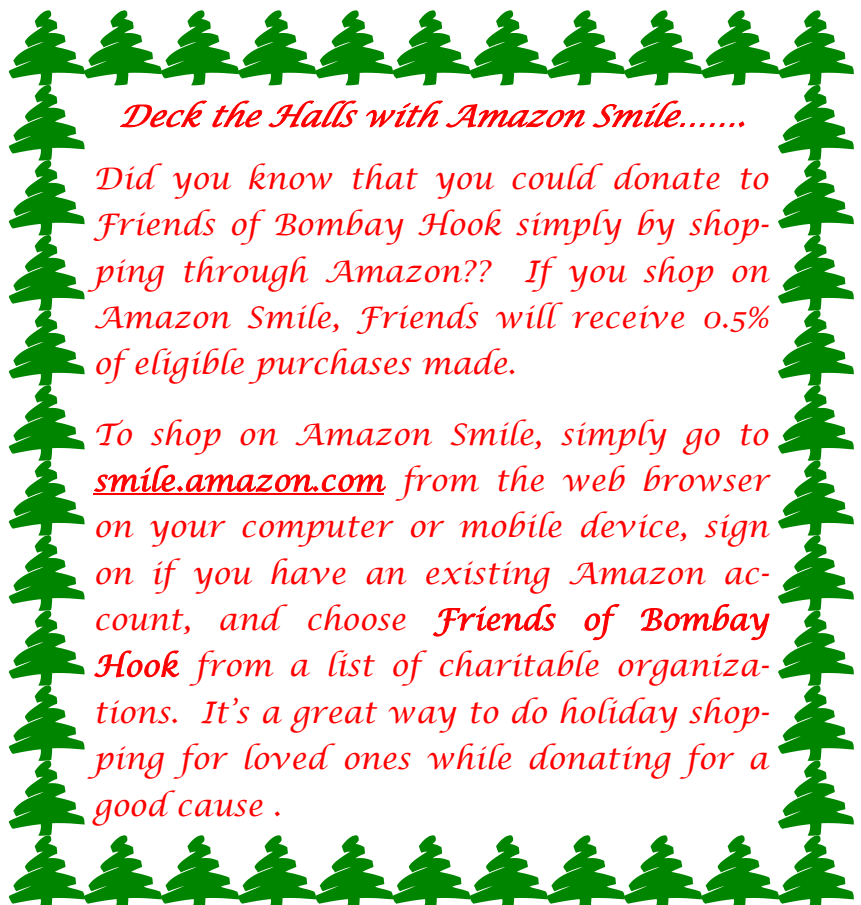
Friends of Bombay Hook were happy to volunteer for the Dogfish Head/Velo Amis bike ride in Rehoboth Beach, DE on October 19, 2019.



A great day with awesome people and a chance to tell about our Refuge! We hosted a snack-aid station and were pleased to see that our bird-themed snacks went over well! Thank you to our amazing volunteers!

And of course, there was some exciting wildlife that visited. :-)

Our volunteers are always ready to lend a hand!



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 on Amazon Smile, Friends will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases made.

To shop on 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 holiday shopping for loved ones while donating for a good cause.

"Bird Notes" has been pre-empted due to Franklin Smith's retirement from writing the column. We will be resuming the column with our new writer John Janowski in an upcoming newsletter. For this issue, we take a look at what birds appear at Bombay Hook in the fall.

Fall Migration at Bombay Hook NWR

Fall avian migration at Bombay Hook NWR can be defined in many ways. It's the post-breeding departure of many spring and summer residents and the arrival of the over-wintering bird species. Fall migration also includes those avian species just passing through to a southern destination and possibly stopping in to rest and refuel at the Refuge.



For many of us, fall migration is not the birds that have left, but rather it's those birds arriving through the fall season. To some, it's the late summer and early fall arrival of shorebirds returning from their breeding season in the far north. To others, it's the arrival of Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and ducks, coots, and grebes stopping at Bombay Hook NWR later in the fall.



Starting in mid-August the shorebirds start appearing on the low-tide mudflats. At first, there are just a few, but their numbers will grow with each passing week. The presence of water in our three Refuge impoundments will also dictate how much of the shorebird migration we see. Passing tropical storms, hurricanes, or the weekly storm fronts all help to replenish waters to Raymond Pool, Shearneck Pool, and Bear Swamp Pool. These impoundments provide important roosting and feeding habitat for migrating shorebirds, particularly at high tides. They also offer Refuge visitors excellent close viewing opportunities that just aren't available along the mid-Atlantic coast. Typically, one might expect to see 5-10 common shorebird species, including plovers, sandpipers, dowitchers, avocets, and godwits, often in good numbers. Also, each year Bombay Hook hosts a seldom seen migrant – a hotline bird. These might include a White-rumped Sandpiper,

Ruff, Baird's Sandpiper, Lapwing, Upland Sandpiper, or an American Golden Plover. The sighting reports of these rarely-seen shorebirds are "events" that attract Refuge visitors from outside of Delaware.



For visitors, as the fall season progresses, migration is defined by the arrival of waterfowl to the Refuge. In Oc-

tober at the Refuge Visitor Center, people often ask "are the Snow Geese in yet?" Occasionally they start to arrive as early as late September (2017). Typically, in mid-October, reports of Snow Geese sightings at the Refuge start coming in. With each passing week, the sighting reports and Snow Goose numbers continue to grow. In 2013, by the end of November, 20,000 Snow Geese had arrived. Few places offer the sight of a white field of Snow Geese often feeding right up to the edge of the road, or the thunderous early morning departure of thousands of Snow Geese filling the

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is published quarterly by "Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. (FOBH)", a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FOBH provides financial and developmental support for Environmental Education programs at the Refuge and in communities throughout the region.

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

Please direct communications to:

Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc.
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
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<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>

sky. Add to this the presence of migrating Canada Geese and Tundra Swans; fall can be amazing at Bombay Hook NWR.

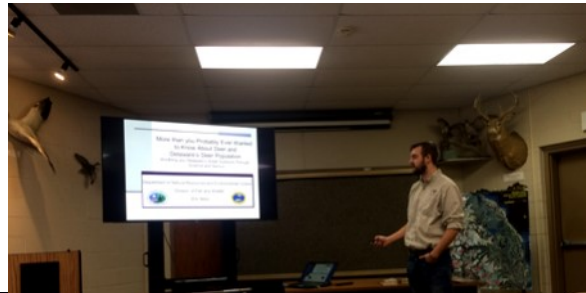
The fall duck migration also typically starts in mid-October with the arrival of over a dozen other waterfowl species. These birds are normally seen on one of the three freshwater impoundments or the tidal marshes. Typical ducks seen in fall migration at the Refuge include American Wigeon, Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, Mergansers, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Ducks, Coots, and Grebes. Unusual waterfowl such as Barnacle Goose, Cinnamon Teal, White-fronted Goose, or a Eurasian Wigeon can also be spotted.



Bombay Hook NWR isn't known for big fall raptor flights like other locations, but we do get reports of these birds passing through each fall. Often its reports of a Peregrine Falcon or Merlin working the impoundments, or an American Kestrel spotted on the wires along Whitehall Neck Road. The November arrival of Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls are most notable because they are commonly seen and spend all winter with us.

Finally, I can't overlook the fall arrival of our winter residents during migration such as Horned Larks, Northern Junco, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and elusive Snow Buntings.

Fall migration is a very exciting time at Bombay Hook NWR. Come for a visit and see what's on the move. (Photos by BJJ and KD)



Thanks to all who attended our fall programs at the Refuge.

Your support and participation are much appreciated by us and by the guest speakers.



Photos by BJJ, KD and MD



Happy Pumpkin Spice Everything Season!!

Julie Memmolo, FOBH member and volunteer, and I were fortunate enough to be able to attend the 2019 Wild Bird Expo at Gold Crest Distributing last month. The trip took us to Mexico, MO. We enjoyed 2½ days of getting ideas for the BHGS, seminars and some bargain items to bring back!!!

Each year Gold Crest gives recognition to the best vendor, best display, etc. I am proud to say that Friends of Bombay Hook won a beautiful plaque for the best not-for-profit! Please check out the plaque as you enter the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe!



Have you seen the latest hat added to our collection? A beautiful Blue Grosbeak! Another image digitized to embroidery. Each design is ours alone and we love them! Come in and take a peek. Speaking of hats, check out our special patriotic hat that we have ordered to be on sale by or before Veterans Day! What a way to display your patriotism! These special hats will



be an extremely limited offer. You will not see them back until at least Memorial Day 2020.

There will be quite a bit of new items in the BHGS this season. By the time you read this, we will be stocked up on all our fall and winter flavors and smells with our Bee Natural lip balm and amazing beeswax candles!

Bottom line.....come in and visit!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

As always, thank you for your support (*Photos by Karen*



Dever).

Karen Dever, Manager BHGS

*Congratulations to our friends,
Bill and Marsha Holler, owners of Great Graphics in Dover, DE.
Friends of Bombay Hook feel very fortunate to have been able to
collaborate on shirt designs for nearly 30 years.
Though sad to lose you as one of our most cherished vendors, we are
just as happy for you in your retirement!*

Best Wishes,

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Pure Golden Green Sweat Bee

Here are some fun facts about the Pure Golden Green Sweat Bee (*Augochlora pura*) which is commonly found at Bombay Hook NWR in the summer:

- ◆ Very solitary bee species which works alone.
- ◆ A tiny non-aggressive bee but a very important wild pollinator.
- ◆ Visits a wide range of flowers: daisy, asters, goldenrod, maple flowers.
- ◆ Carries pollen under their abdomen rather than on the legs
- ◆ Brilliant metallic green body color which also comes in a yellow or coppery colored body.
- ◆ Makes its mud cell nest under loose bark of old trees or rotten stumps.
- ◆ Collects pollen from many different flower species, then creates a pollen/nectar ball for its larvae in the mud cell nest.
- ◆ Will produce 2-3 generations per year
- ◆ After mating in the fall the males die, but females hibernate through winter. Often young females will huddle together over winter.
- ◆ Normally seen from April to November at Bombay Hook NWR.
- ◆ Has been seen licking the sweat from humans (seeking salt).
- ◆ Only the females can sting you but are very timid.



Photo by BJL

KNOW YOUR ENEMIES!!



LEARN MORE AT:

<https://agriculture.delaware.gov/plant-industries/spotted-lanternfly/>

**2019/2020 FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK
BIRD CLUB SCHEDULE**

Sunday, September 29, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m.

MARSH TOWN ROAD TRACT AND MORE

Visit southern sections of Bombay Hook NWR

Meet at BH Visitor Center

Leaders: Bruce Lantz and special guest leader

Sunday, December 8, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

****EASTERN NECK NWR – WINTER WATERFOWL & OTHER VISITING SPECIES***

Meet at the bridge into the Eastern Neck Refuge

Leader: Terry Willis

****MUST REGISTER FOR THIS WALK***; If less than 5 people register, the walk will be cancelled and you will be notified by Wednesday, December 4, 2019 via email at fobh@comcast.net

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

INDIAN RIVER INLET, INLAND BAYS AND OTHER TRADITIONAL SPOTS – WINTER COASTAL BIRDS

Meet at WAWA (not sure which one yet, I will look up address)

Leader: Marcia Poling

Sunday, February 9, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

PORT MAHON – WINTER OWLS

Meet at Little Creek Post Office

Leaders: Marcia Poling and Bruce Lantz

Saturday, March 21, 2020 @ 8:00 a.m.

BOMBAY HOOK NWR – WATERFOWL

Wintering waterfowl before they head north

Meet at BH Visitor Center

Leaders: Bruce and Joanne Lantz

Sunday, May 10, 2020

BOMBAY HOOK NWR - MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Meet at BH Visitor Center

Leader: TBA

Sunday, May 24, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

DUPONT NATURE CENTER – SHOREBIRDS LOW TIDE

Meet in Nature Center parking lot

Leaders: Marcia Poling and Bruce Lantz

Sunday, August 15, 2020 @ 8:30 a.m.

****BIRD CLUB BREAKFAST PLANNING MEETING***

Bridgeway Family Restaurant

15 E. Glenwood Avenue

Smyrna, DE 19977

(302) 653-3466

****YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS MEETING FOR RESERVATION TO BE MADE AT THE RESTAURANT.***

SIGN UP AT: fobh@comcast.net

Sunday, August 16, 2020 @ 7:30 a.m.

WOODLAND BEACH AREA

Local salt marsh history and birds

Meet at Woodland Beach fishing pier

Leader: Randy Murphy

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge
By Joanne and Bruce Lantz



At the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, just before the toll plaza for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, you can find the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR. The property is a former WWII coastal defense facility with 16-inch gun bunkers. It later became an airfield station for the Air Force before becoming a national wildlife refuge in 1984. Currently, the refuge is comprised of a little over 1,100 acres.

Like Point Pelee NP in Ontario or Cape May Point SP in New Jersey, the Eastern Shore of VA refuge at the peninsula's tip is a geographic migrant trap each fall. Migrating birds move south down the ever-narrowing Delmarva Peninsula and finally concentrate at the refuge and the Kiptopeake SP area. The fall migrants need favorable wind conditions to cross the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

The raptors cross the bay in daylight and most songbirds cross at night. Daily winds crossing the peninsula from the east or west determine if the raptor migration is along the Atlantic side or the Chesapeake Bay side.

If weather conditions are not favorable for crossing the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, the migrants start backing up until crossing conditions improve. Hungry and in need of a place to rest, these birds need habitat. Add into the mix thousands of migrating Monarch Butterflies that pass through this area each fall, and you can see why this refuge habitat is so very important during migration.

All in all, the fall migration can be incredible on days when everything is in motion. Something is always on the move - thousands of migrating swallows swirling around overhead or the passing flocks of Egrets, Herons, Sea Ducks, and Cormorants. In the morning hungry warblers are busy feeding after the previous night's flight. On good raptor flight days, there's a steady flow south of Osprey, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Northern Harriers, Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons or Bald Eagles, depending on the week in the fall.

If you like confusing fall warblers, the maritime forest trails around the bunker area are great after a big overnight flight. And then there is the unexpected. One fall evening we counted 31 Nighthawks working low over the old airstrip, and Night Herons were everywhere. As we were counting Bald Eagles on an early November day, out from the pines came an uncommon Rough-legged Hawk. At last check, the refuge sported a bird list of 406 species.

If you enjoy canoeing or kayaking, we recommend the salt marsh creeks out from the Wise Point boat ramp or the kayak launch area. This large expanse of sheltered marsh offers lots of areas to explore to the south and east. Listen to Seaside Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, and Rails. Watch the creek bottoms for those big blue crabs and don't overlook the thousands of periwinkles as they move up and down the salt marsh grass as the tide changes.

In the newly renovated Visitor Center, excellent educational exhibits are detailing the salt marsh ecosystem and how it works. In addition, other exhibits capture the rich history of those who called the lower Eastern Shore home. Don't forget to check out the outside bird feeders and scope that Visitor Center pond for waterfowl.

So, take a day trip south and explore this refuge and the important habitat it protects and offers nature's fall migrants (*Photo by BJL*).



Refuge Maintenance Update
By Michael Vandevander, Maintenance Department



Fall has started and winter is on its way. Things have begun to slow down as projects are ending. As many of you have realized, the road to the Allee House is now open. There are a few items left in completing the new pier such as installing the pier itself, seeding the area, and paving the handicap parking. Those items will be completed very soon. So please look for sporadic closings as they will happen with short notice.

Hunting has begun and different parts of the Refuge will be closed. Please call the Refuge for hunting dates or see the Friends of Bombay Hook Facebook page or website for the list of closings.

Also, please know that roadside mowing will be going on under our Habitat Management Plan, as well as pothole filling.

Many people have asked about our wonderful impoundments and why the water has been low in them. This is not something we had hoped would happen but Mother Nature decided to withhold a lot of rain this year, so because of that, the water levels are lower. We cannot add water to the impoundments, as there is no freshwater source available to do so. Moreover, we definitely cannot put saltwater in them.

More improvements are coming and some exciting news will be coming as well.

If you or someone you know would like to become a maintenance volunteer, please contact me or stop by the Visitor Center and fill out a volunteer form and ask for more information. I always need help and you will see the Refuge from a different angle



The Bridges of Bombay Hook

You may have noticed new wooden bridges being built and transported around the Refuge.

This past fall, the Refuge staff has replaced several trail ditch bridges with volunteer help.

These well-built, sturdy bridges will serve the Refuge activities for many years to come.



Photos by BJJ and MV



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.

All Public Events are FREE unless noted

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.

November 16, 2019

***FOBH Entry Roads Clean Up!* (8:00 a.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)**

Please join Friends of Bombay Hook in picking up some litter!! All of Whitehall Neck Road will be covered and a short distance on Route 9. Everyone enjoys the Refuge, so how about a lending hand? Vests, trash grabbers, trash bags and gloves provided. Remember to dress accordingly.

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.

***Bluebird Workshop* (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. @ BHNWR Visitor Center)**

Brandi Besecker and Bruce Lantz

Friends members Brandi Besecker and Bruce Lantz present a program which includes a species review and a van tour of the Bluebird box trail. Reservations are required. Please send an email to fobh@comcast.net mentioning the Bluebird Workshop, your name and the number of people in your group.

(Continued on next page)

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

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Tour the Refuge (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. @BHNWR Visitor Center)

Ray Cullom

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. Please meet at the Visitor Center for these free tours of the Refuge.

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/)

BOMBAY HOOK HUNT DATES FOR 2019-2020 DEER HUNTING SEASON

FRONT of the Refuge CLOSED

2019	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
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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:	\$ _____