

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter



Northern Cardinal (male) by Karen Dever.
Check out our photo gallery on Pages 6 and 7 in the newsletter

Friends of BOMBAY Hook

30 Years of Conservation
1990 - 2020

Vol. 30, No. 4
Winter 2021

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.

The Visitor Center will remain CLOSED until further notice but the Wildlife Drive is open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

2021 Newsletter Schedule

<u>Newsletter Release</u>	<u>Articles Due</u>
March 1	February 7

The next newsletter will be issued on
March 1, 2021

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.

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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>



Hello Friends!

Most of you know that Friends of Bombay Hook raises money for the Refuge by store sales and memberships. Due to the COVID-19 virus, we have not been able to open the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe since mid-March and therefore are not making money from the store sales. We *do* offer an item that was made specifically for us to use as a donation tool for our new Visitor Center...

Show off your support for the Refuge system by buying an *I Support* decal!

For just a **\$10.00 donation**, you will receive one of these **awesome decals**. Just send in a check to Friends of Bombay Hook, 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977, and one will be mailed out to you! The decals were made to be a generic decal for all refuges no matter which one you support. They are of high quality with each letter separate and stay on beautifully! The dimension of the decal is approximately 6" x 3.5". Thank you!!!



Let it go, Let it go, Let it go.....

That's right! The fall and winter may be when all the little guys in your yard to go to sleep, but did you ever wonder *where* they sleep and spend their winter?

Have you ever heard the term "Leave the leaves"?

Yes, leave those beautiful blankets for our friends! There is huge value in your fall leaves. If not too many, mulch them with a mulching mower but check this out, rake them all into your flower and garden beds. Free! The best mulch around!

How about raking them into piles to decompose for some great leaf mold in your garden?

You can rake some together and add a few twigs for a shelter to small creatures.

Some birds go to the leaves on the ground hoping to find insects to eat underneath.

Every litter bit matters.....

Bug-a-bode?

Who doesn't want to snuggle up during those freezing cold nights? Our little buddies sure do! Insects are the very foundation of our ecosystem. They pollinate our food and feed other wildlife. Adult insects will lay their eggs in the safest place they can find. As the adult goes off to die, she hopes that her little babies will make it through the winter. Sadly, a lot has changed for these little wonders and their habitat is dwindling.

Just by not cutting down all your plants, you are creating habitat! Hey, you don't have to tell me twice to leave the work till spring!

Don't think you have anything to offer with a small area? Think again. Gather up some pithy stems or hollow stems and twigs and leave them outside in a little bundle.

Every litter bit matters.....

Birds of a feather flock together?



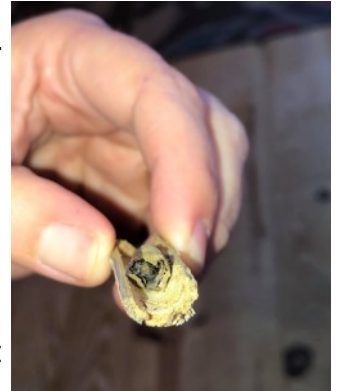
Home made bird nest box. Photo taken from Internet.

The non-trimmed shrubs are great places to hide and hunker down.

It can be as simple or as elaborate as you would like! Make a roosting box! What a hoot for the kids to do and make! You can do something like this cute little bucket hung sideways or even a cleaned out tin can will work fine. Or you can go all out.....

The ideas are about endless for all these gardening tips and more are abundant on the internet! Check them out!!

Every litter bit matters.....



Bee that did not make the winter, may have been parasites. Photo by Kara Okonewski



Close up of a Jumping Spider found in woody and pithy stalks. Photo by Kara Okonewski

---Karen Dever

Spotted Lantern Fly

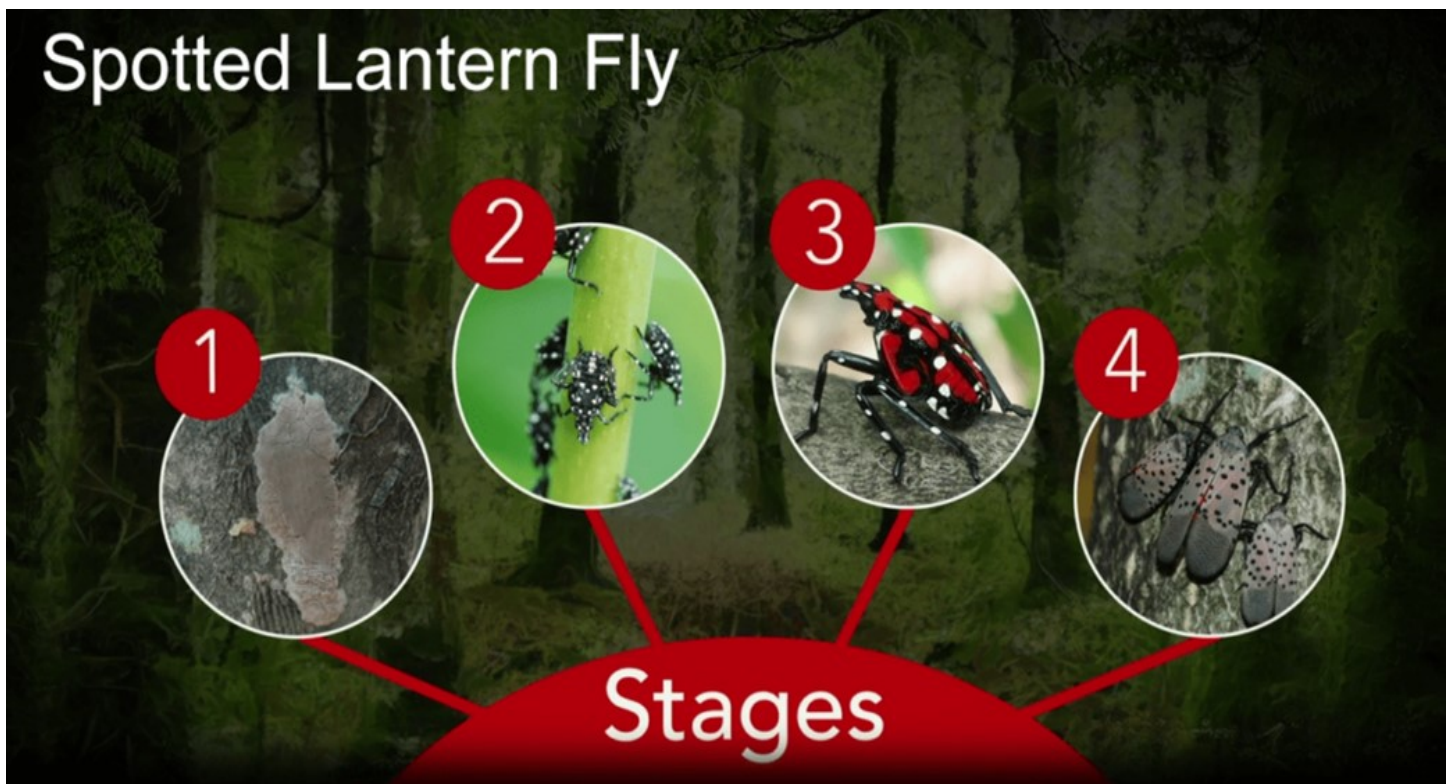


Photo Courtesy: treephilly.org

Some Spotted Lanternfly Resources for Delaware

Delaware Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Locator

<https://delaware.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=b698bb601f194579962f03b53e6e605c>

What Does the Delaware Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Mean?

https://agriculture.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2020/06/DDA-Spotted-Lanternfly-What-the-Quarantine-Means_6.26.20.pdf

Delaware Homeowner Spotted Lanternfly and Treatment Fact Sheet

https://agriculture.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2020/06/Delaware-Homeowner-Spotted-Lanternfly-and-Treatment-Fact-Sheet_2020.pdf

Delaware Resident Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Compliance Checklist

https://agriculture.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2020/06/DDA-Spotted-Lanternfly_Residential-Quarantine-Checklist_6.26.20.pdf

Delaware Business Spotted Lanternfly Permit Registration and Testing

<https://stateofdelaware.csod.com/default.aspx?c=ddaslp>



A special thanks to our trail steward volunteers Ralph and Hunter. Their maintenance efforts this fall brought the Refuge Boardwalk Trail back into great shape.



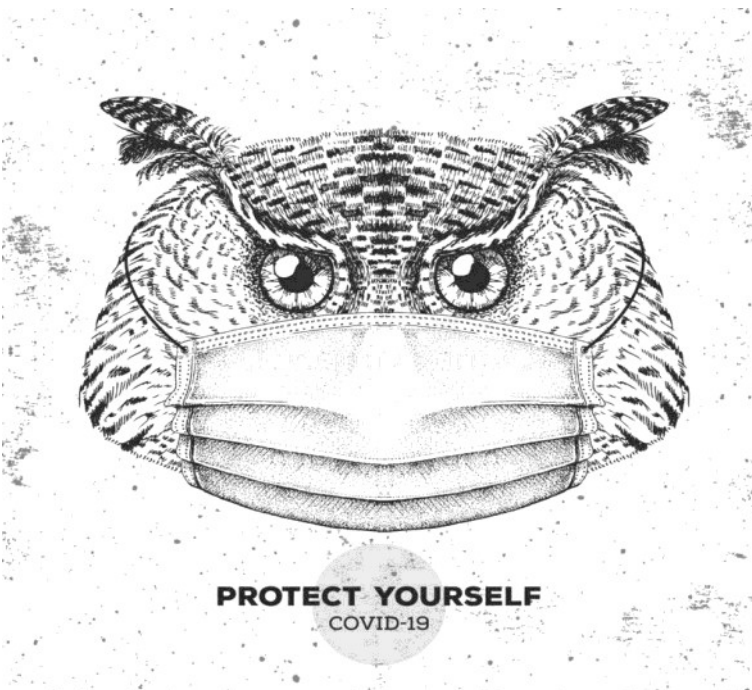
Interested in becoming a Bombay Hook Trail Steward??



If you would like to volunteer in maintaining the Refuge trails please drop a note at: fobh@comcast.net

Photos by BJL

FOBH gives a **HOOT** about your safety!!



You can help prevent the spread with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Practice social distancing by putting at least 6 feet of space between yourself and others
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Wear a mask

Refuge Maintenance
By Michael Vandevander, Maintenance Department



On October 15, 2020, I traveled to California to assist with the forest fires. The fire I was assigned to was the August Complex Fire, which was started as small fires caused by lightning strikes, then grew and joined together. This fire burned over 1.2 million acres.



My job while there was equipment manager trainee. Some of the tasks included being in charge of dispatching vehicles and drivers to take supplies and pick up things for the guys and gals on the front line. Also, I had to coordinate with food service to make sure that the folks on the front lines got their breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Other tasks included inspecting all heavy equipment and vehicles in and out of the complex while tracking

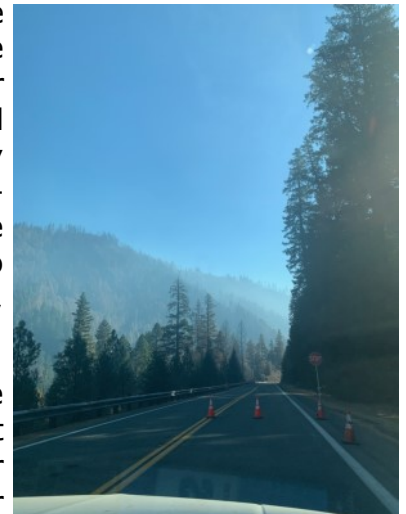
of all the rental equipment and vehicles that were used during the fire. My days started at 5:00 a.m. and ended at 11:00 p.m. While there, I learned a lot about how things operated on the front lines and behind the front lines. Everyone always sees the folks on the front lines, but behind all their work is someone in my position who made sure they have everything they need to do their job and making sure they are fed.



I met amazing people. They are dedicated to their job, no matter what it may be, and making sure it is done. I met one of the drivers whose home burned in the fire; she

lost everything she had. She still stayed and worked as a driver for us. When I ask her why she stayed, she stated because she needed to make sure her family was getting what they needed and that they are taken care of. Her home was just possessions that can be replaced, but the lives of the men and women here on the fire; those possessions can never be. Even though I was only there for two weeks, I became part of a family. You make great life friendships, and those friendships become family.

When you are out driving and you come across firefighters out there working, remember, they are mostly volunteers, and they are out there trying to save may be your possessions or your life or your loved ones. They have a family as well and care about you and your family even if they do not know you.



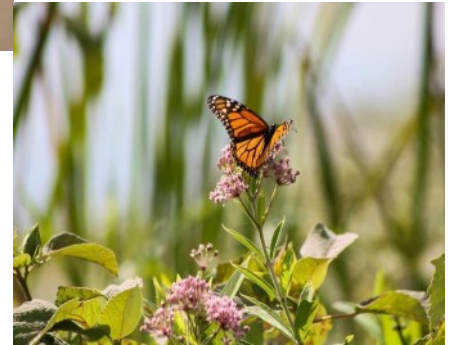
So please show people who are battling these fires some respect and slow down, and if you can offer a thank you, it will go a long way. *(Photos by Mike Vandevander)*

Around Bombay Hook NWR in 2020

With the guidelines and restrictions related to the pandemic this year, many have not been able to visit the Refuge or share what they have seen. Here is a tour of some of the Refuge sights from this past year. To see the complete gallery of photos, visit the expanded electronic version of the FOBH Newsletter. To get an electronic copy, you can request to be placed on the e-mail list by contacting FOBH@comcast.net.



Neotropic Cormorant from April by J. Memmolo. It was a First State record.



Monarch Butterfly by C. Phillips



Morning Dove by J. McReynolds



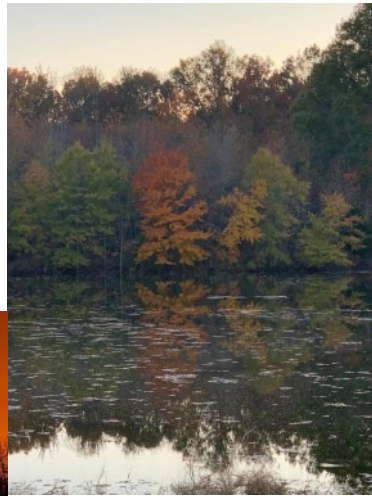
Great Blue Heron in flight by J. Sutton



Great White Egret by V. Wilkinson



Great White Egret by M. Morrissey



Fall Foliage by S. Marie



Forster Terns by K. Oliver



Sun Thru the Trees by A. Lebengood



Blue Grosbeak by J. Lawless



Tundra Swans in Flight by R. Whitehouse



Egrets by B. Hargrove

**Around Bombay Hook NWR
in 2020 (Continued)**



Northern Harrier by L. Frazier



Tundra Swans by M. Holler



Fall Scene by A. Haley



Green Heron by P. Morris



Northern Bobwhite by K. Sheaffer



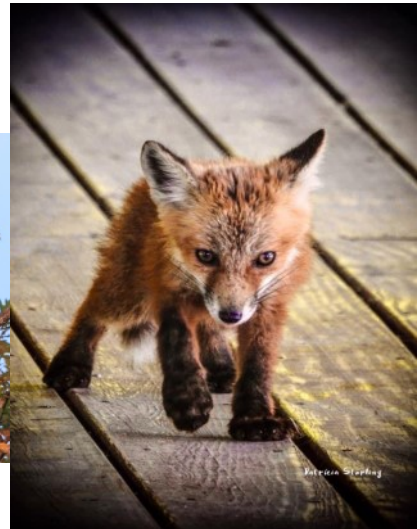
Northern Shoveler by E. Blair



American Avocets by S. Helmuth



American Bald Eagle by J. AmEnde



American Red Fox Kit by P. Sterling



Northern River Otters by J. Reynolds



Barred Owl (May 25) by J. Memmolo

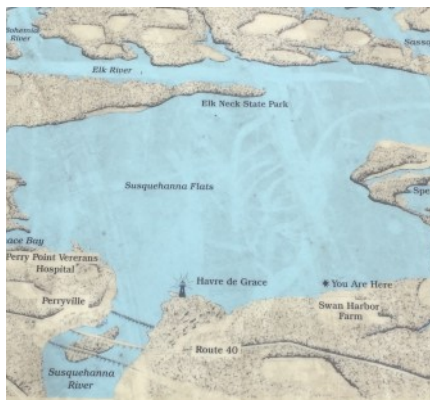


Belted Kingfisher by S. Abbott



Yellow Warbler by R. Brown

Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge ***By Joanne and Bruce Lantz***



If you enjoy finding those out of the way national wildlife refuges, the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge just might be for you. The refuge is located just west of the mouth of the Susquehanna River at the upper end of the Chesapeake Bay in an area called the Susquehanna flats. On a cold Saturday morning we went looking for Susquehanna NWR. Because it is an island refuge, we narrowed our search for potential coastal viewing spots between Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Havre de Grace. Initially we thought Army Lieutenant Dan (my son) could get us past the Proving Ground guards and navigate us to a great viewing spot. Since he was stuck in DC that day, we started exploring south out of Havre de Grace. We found our best viewing spot in a Hartford County Park called the Swan Harbor Farm.

The refuge was created by a presidential proclamation back in 1940 and covered an area of over 13,000 acres of water. In those days there were reports of over a ½ million Canvasback and Red-heads using this important duck feeding area. However, over time waterfowl usage declined with changes in water quality, water flow and upstream erosion. Then in 1972 Hurricane Agnes destroyed the Susquehanna flats aquatic vegetation. Several years later most of the water acreage was given back to the state of Maryland.

Today the refuge is a U-shaped island of less than 4 acres. It's managed by Blackwater NWR and is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR complex. Like the Glen Martin NWR west of Crisfield, Maryland, the Susquehanna NWR is closed to the public at this time. There is a small wooded area near the islands center with marsh grass meadows that extend out to the waters edge. Sand Island, a very small wooded island, can be seen close by to the west toward the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

From the Swan Harbor Farm lookout on the January day of our visit we saw a number of bay ducks and geese in the waters around the island refuge. We both agreed a summertime kayak trip around the refuge might be in the future. All in all it was a great local day trip adventure that we would recommend. *(Photos by BJL)*



Share Your Refuge Experiences

In our FOBH newsletter from March 2008, Janet Manchester made an insightful request. Today we continue to embrace her call to the Friends of Bombay Hook by reprinting her request below:

WANTED: YOUR TRAVEL STORY

Many people make a point of visiting National Wildlife Refuges when they travel to other parts of the country. In the last newsletter (December 2007), Frank Rawling described a visit that he and his wife and sister made to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in the state of Washington.

In recognition of the uniqueness and great importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System, we would like to print more articles about other refuges.

If you have visited a refuge recently, or if you do so in the future, please consider sharing your experience with other Friends by submitting an article to the newsletter. Just a couple of paragraphs describing what you saw and experienced might inspire someone else to visit a refuge. If space allows, we might be able to print a photo, so if you took a nice digital picture, feel free to send that along with your article.

Submit your articles to this e-mail address: fobh@comcast.net.

(Photos by KD)



Are those kids still at home, taking class lessons over the computer? A family visit to Bombay Hook is an opportunity to experience the outdoor classroom! Come



see the wildlife, and learn about the important habitat Bombay Hook NWR provides.



Swamp Cicada (*Neotibicen tibicen*)

Here are some fun facts about the Swamp Cicada, a common resident at Bombay Hook NWR:



Photo by BJL

- ◆ The Swamp Cicada is also called the Morning Cicada.
- ◆ These are annual cicadas, not the 17-year cicadas.
- ◆ They don't bite or sting.
- ◆ Their color varies - more black and green with brown occasionally mixed in.
- ◆ They normally have a black collar and a humped back.
- ◆ These cicadas spend most of their lives underground, sucking juice from roots.
- ◆ After hatching from an egg, the nymph lives in the ground for 2-5 yrs.
- ◆ When the larva emerges from the ground, they molt into adults.
- ◆ After molt the new adults leave a brown crunchy exoskeleton behind.
- ◆ Adult males like to make their buzz song on low branches during the day.
- ◆ Powerful muscles are used to create their buzzing song.
- ◆ The male's mating song attracts females who will mate and lay their eggs.
- ◆ Cicadas are a prized nutrient meal for many Refuge predators like birds, snakes and mammals.
- ◆ Adult cicadas do not feed at all and are most active in the morning.
- ◆ Adults live for 4-6 weeks while they mate and lay eggs but start to die off in July.
- ◆ Keep an ear out for this beneficial insect next spring at the Refuge.

Fall Waterfowl Migration at Bombay Hook NWR

Visitors arrive from all around the mid-Atlantic region to witness the fall waterfowl migration at Bombay Hook NWR. It's a North American puzzle of waterfowl species moving all on their schedule, route, and eventual destination.

In early September, the Blue-winged Teal begins migrating south and out of the Refuge. By months end Northern Arctic Geese have started staging and moving south along their migration routes. In early October, Sea Ducks and many far north ducks have started



moving south. In late October, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks start appearing around the Refuge tidal creeks and along the Delaware Bay. Northern Black Ducks and Mallards are migrating south and may start dropping in our Refuge. Snow Geese have started their move south in masses and could appear by months end in the Refuge. In November, migration is in full swing. Snow Geese are arriving each day. Many species of ducks are arriving daily also. Just before Thanksgiving, it's not uncommon to have a dozen species of waterfowl in the Refuge. They might include American Widgeon, Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, Mergansers, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Black Duck, Mallards, Green-wing Teal, Ruddy Ducks, Coots, and grebes. By late December, most waterfowl are in their wintering area. With the right conditions, viewing waterfowl at Bombay Hook NWR can be some of the best in the mid-Atlantic region. With a mix of freshwater impoundments and tidal creeks, the Refuge offers a diverse selection of waterfowl habitats attracting many waterfowl species.

But back to those Snow Geese! For many visitors, it's all about the Snow Geese!

In October at the Refuge Visitor Center, people often ask, "are the Snow Geese in yet?" Occasionally the Snow Geese start to arrive as early as late September (2017). However, 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 sky. On a sunny day in the late afternoon, photographers will start staging themselves along the Auto Drive. They're looking for that photo spot that will capture sunset colors on the nightly return of the Snow Geese flock to the Refuge. With the presence of migrating Canada Geese and Tundra Swans, the fall waterfowl migration can be amazing at Bombay Hook NWR.

Come for a visit and see what's on the move. *(Photos by KD)*



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT FRIENDS???

Donate or Become a Member!

Last year, the **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK (FOBH)** celebrated its 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:	\$ _____