

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK

Newsletter

Photo by Karen Dever



Vol. 27, No. 2
March 1, 2017

Our Mission Statement:

The Friends of Bombay Hook is a not-for-profit corporation working in conjunction with Bombay Hook NWR and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It supports and enhances educational and recreational programs at Bombay Hook, provides volunteer services and financial assistance and serves as a link between the Refuge and the public.

The Blue Heron Gift Shoppe will be reopening for the Spring season in March. Hours may vary, so please check on Facebook.

We will be having a Volunteer Orientation on March 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center auditorium. Please join us as we need Friends volunteers to operate our Blue Heron Gift Shoppe and to assist with other events at the Refuge for the Spring season.

If you are interested, please contact us either on Facebook or our phone number listed below. Training will be provided.

2017 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, 2017

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

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



Reflections on Volunteering *By Tammy Lewis*

As I am looking at my window in late February, Robins and Cardinals are singing their song of warmer weather while the trees are budding with the promise of green leaves. I am also reminded that it is almost time for Bombay Hook to reopen on the weekends and time for me to volunteer at the Visitor Center and the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe.

Volunteer? Yes, volunteer. Something wonderful happens when volunteers are full of hope and promise during Spring with the return of birds from their winter grounds singing a lovely choir while Refuge visitors awaken with discoveries of flowers, trees, insects, mammals, amphibians and reptiles emerging from their winter sleep. Kids are awestruck as they discover the wonders of the world away from the roughness of life while giving hope to their generation.

Being a volunteer is not about handing out brochures and giving directions; it is about finding common interests with visitors while working together with Refuges to make these natural wonders possible.

And volunteers are truly needed in this day and age as budget cuts are forcing refuges to "do more with less" by freezing staff positions and eliminating programs. Without the volunteers at Bombay Hook, many of the programs and services would either be eliminated or nonexistent. Volunteers have participated in Environmental Education programs, the Junior Ranger programs and events such as the Bombay Hook Quarter Ceremony and Kids' Day; manned booths for events such as Blackbird Creek and Old Dover Days; staffed the Visitor Center; provided Refuge tours; and assisted the Refuge staff in numerous administrative and maintenance functions.

If you are interested, please come to our Volunteer Orientation on March 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center auditorium and see what we have to offer. Volunteers **DO** make a difference in helping our refuges to survive as well as thrive.

Blue Heron Gift Shoppe



Hello Friends!

Thanks to all of our supporters, the Blue Heron Gift Shoppe had a great fall season. Normally closing about 1 ½ weeks into December, we stayed open throughout the entire month this year. We had a great sale and gave out 20% off coupons to use in 2017. Our 2016 T-shirt was a big hit this year with the theme of the Bombay Hook salt marsh. Be on the lookout for our 2017 design!

See you in the Spring!

Karen Dever, Store Manager

BIRD NOTES

By Franklin Smith

September 21, 2016 through January 31, 2017

Rainfall during October and November was less than normal and pool levels, although generally good for shorebirds were less than optimal for newly arriving waterfowl. Fortunately, December and January saw levels rise and made food more available for feeding ducks. Populations in Shearneck Pool increased significantly during that period although numbers of Pintails and Green-winged Teal in that unit did not appear to reach those of recent years. Temperatures remained mild during December and January with the exception of about six days when temperatures remained below freezing. Ice cover never lasted long and pools remained open. One six-inch snowfall represented the total snowfall for the winter to date.

Bald Eagles all over Delmarva are becoming much more abundant. Eagle pairs constructed two new nests this Fall on Bombay Hook NWR. Both nests are easily observed by Refuge visitors along the Auto Tour route. One nest is on George's Island (the wooded hummock in the tidal marsh east of Raymond Pool) and the other is located on the island in the northwest portion of Raymond Pool. There are other nests located both on and off Refuge property which should provide plenty of Eagle observation opportunities for Refuge visitors during the next few months.

Tundra Swans were present in the three major Refuge impoundments from late November until the end of the period when nearly 300 birds were present. The first Snow Geese were reported during late September when a few birds dribbled in. By early October, 200 birds were present. One thousand birds were recorded by early November with larger numbers by early December. The population continued to increase on the Refuge into January when groups of 5,000 birds plus were normally present on the Refuge during some portion of the day. Ross's Geese, Cackling Geese, and a group of 8-9 Greater White-fronted Geese were frequently reported throughout the report period after early November. A Brant was reported in early November and a Eurasian Wigeon was sighted during the last week of December. A female Redhead was seen during January when Common Mergansers made their presence known for the winter period.



Brant
Photo by USFWS/Don Becker, USGS
EROS

Marbled Godwits were sighted each month of the report period. Hudsonian Godwits were reported into December. Avocets were sighted each month and varied from a few birds to 650 (November). Visitors were treated to a good variety during October and November with some huge concentrations of mixed species in Money Marsh during low tide and Raymond Pool (high tide). Species encountered during that period included Black-bellied Plover, a few Golden Plovers, Semi-palmated Plovers, Stilt Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, and Yellowlegs (both).

A White Ibis was seen during late October. Peregrine Falcons were present during much of the period, in particular October and November when they harassed arriving waterfowl and shorebirds in the impoundment and over the salt-marsh.



White Ibis
Photo by USFWS

Red-shouldered Hawks, Redtails, Merlin, Kestrel, Harriers, Long-eared Owls as well Short-ears and Barn Owls were recorded. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed in November and December. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported along the Boardwalk Trail in early October. A Pileated Woodpecker was reported in Finis Woods in October and December. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was recorded during November.

Friends of
BOMBAY HOOK
Newsletter

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
Smyrna, DE 19977
Phone: (302) 653-8322
Fax: (302) 653-0684

email: fobhmembership@idv.net

<http://www.friendsofbombayhook.org>



Starting the Year Right With the Bird Club

On January 1, the Friends' Bird Club enjoyed its annual field trip to the Indian River Inlet area and Silver Lake in Rehoboth. The group started at the Indian River marina, went over to the Inlet and then headed north to Rehoboth. All told, they saw about 30 species including Surf Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Red-throated Loons, a Harbor Seal swimming under the bridge, and the famous Silver Lake Canvasbacks. The Inlet waters were extremely calm, temperatures were in the 50s and there was very little wind -- a rare day for January 1.

Thanks to other birders along the way, the group learned where to find two recently reported rarities: an Ash-throated Flycatcher and a Crested Caracara. There had been considerable buzz on the birding networks about the two species, so everyone was excited to see them. The Caracara provided great views by flying between nearby trees and going to the ground to eat.

Two weeks later, Bird Club members went to Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge near Rock Hall, MD, for a private tour. They especially enjoyed the sunshine and the birds by Shipyard Creek. Highlights included three Sapsuckers interacting just up the trail, along with both White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches. In total, 34 species of birds were recorded over a three-hour period.



*Crested Caracara
Photo by Karen Dever*

The next two trips will be at Bombay Hook in March.

You are encouraged to attend the Bird Club's field trips. There are no dues, fees or meetings; the Club just goes birding! You can attend as often or as seldom as you want. The only requirement is that you be on the Club's email list. Dates, times, meeting places, special instructions and any last minute changes are communicated via this email list. You do not have to be a member of the Friends, either, although it is hoped that you eventually will want to do that.



*The New Year's Day Group Before Heading Out
Photo by Bruce Lantz*

All levels of birders are welcome from those who never even held binoculars all the way to highly expert veteran birders. It is an excellent way to improve one's bird identification skills, learn about various species, and have fun with friendly people.

To join the email list, please contact Hannah McLennan at hmclennan@comcast.net.

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 will reopen on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting March 4, 2017. **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 2017 Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 4, 2017

- **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.
- **Impoundment Bird Identification Tour (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)** – Join Volunteer Terry Willis for a bus tour of the Refuge impoundments and bayside. We hope to see and identify the winter waterfowl, resident herons and perhaps some shorebirds along with Eagles and other passing raptors. Viewing scopes will be provided. Tour will take approximately 2+ hours depending on conditions. Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Saturday, March 11, 2017 **SPRING FEVER** - **Tour of the Refuge (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)** - Spring fever is a feeling of wanting to go outdoors and do things because Spring is coming and the weather is getting warmer. Join Tina Watson for a fun morning outside: walk a trail, look for signs of Spring, explore the Refuge, and identify birds along the way. Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.



Saturday, March 18, 2017 **Junior Rangers Learn about a Frog and Toad Orchestra (9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)** - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. You will explore the life cycle of a frog, listen to their calls, and make a toad house to place in your yard at home. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 **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 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 26, 2017 **Tour of the Refuge (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.)** - Join Volun-

(Continued on next page)

teer 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.

April 11, 2017 to April 21, 2017 *Delaware State's Waterfowl and Trout Stamp Contest (Auditorium during 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)* - Delaware's Waterfowl and Trout Stamp contest is sponsored by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNREC. After the contest the artwork from the waterfowl and trout stamp contest will be on display at Bombay Hook's auditorium. The winning artwork is reproduced on a stamp which must be carried by most hunters and anglers. They are also purchased by collectors and conservationists. The funds from the State Duck Stamp sales are used for waterfowl conservation and funds from the Trout Stamp are used to purchase trout for stocking in selected streams around the state.

Saturday, April 8, 2017 *Environmental Education Workshop (10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)* - This hands-on workshop will help people understand, and experience, what kind of Environmental Education field trips can take place at Bombay Hook. You will learn about the Refuge's habitats, explore the tidal salt marsh, dip net in the brackish and fresh water, identify birds, explore the forest, and learn about wildlife management techniques. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers, scout leaders, Refuge volunteers, and interested visitors to get outside and explore the Refuge. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Saturday, April 15, 2017



- *Junior Rangers go on a Salt Marsh Safari (9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)* - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. You will explore the tidal salt marsh to find out who lives there, how the moon and location of the earth makes the water move, and identify the grasses of the salt marsh. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.
- *Bicycle Tour on the Refuge (2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)* - Join Tina Watson for an eight-mile bike ride on the Refuge. The group will make several stops for bird identification and to discuss wildlife management techniques. Bicycle should have hybrid tires. Don't forget your helmet and check the air in your tires! Meet at the Visitor Center. **IMPORTANT:** Delaware State law states, *"a person under sixteen years of age shall not operate, ride upon, or ride as a passenger any bicycle, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets or exceeds the ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard."*

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 *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 April and May. Children from 1 to 5 years old are developing cognitive skills and being in nature can expose them to sights and sounds that might go unnoticed in their everyday setting. Take your child on the Wildlife Drive, walk a trail, climb a tower, read them a nature book, and look at wildlife exhibits in the Visitor Center. You are never too young to explore and learn. This is a free self-study for families. You can come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 2017 *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.

Saturday, April 29, 2017 *Beginning Birding – Warbler Program (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)* – Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis will give a presentation on the warblers migrating through Bombay Hook during the Spring.

Sunday, April 30, 2017

- *Beginning Birding – Warbler Walk (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.)* – The walk will be on one or two trails along the Wildlife Drive with expert birders Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis. This will be an excellent way to

practice what you learned at the Warbler Program the day before or for anyone who wants to look for warblers.

- ***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, May 7, 2017 ***Beginning Birding – Warbler Walk*** (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) – The walk will be on one or two trails along the Wildlife Drive with expert birders Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis.

Saturday, May 13, 2017

- ***International Migratory Bird Day, Spring Bird Count*** (7:00 a.m.) - IMBD is celebrated in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation. Citizens can learn about birds and their migratory threats, and can make a contribution by participating in the International Spring Bird Count. Meet at the Visitor Center to participate in Bombay Hook's count. Teams will be formed and each team will survey a section of the Refuge. The teams tabulate their bird sightings and are usually finished around noon. Over the years, volunteer participation has become less and we encourage more volunteers to help with this important citizen science project. Meet at the Visitor Center.
- ***Beginning Birding – Shorebird Program*** (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) - Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis will give a presentation about shorebirds, their amazing migrations, and simple identification techniques. After the presentation, participants will visit the Bird Identification Station to practice their new skills.
- ***Protecting Pollinators in Delaware*** (1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) - Join Dr. Faith Kuehn, Plant Industries Administrator, Delaware Dept. of Agriculture and Dr. Thalia Pappas Environmental Consultant, Delaware Dept. of Agriculture for a presentation on pollinators. Learn the importance of pollinators to Delaware's agriculture and environment, progress on Delaware's Pollination Protection plan, and what you can do to contribute to the goals of the plan. If time permits we will take a walk through the pollinator meadow.

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 ***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 April and May. Children from 1 to 5 years old are developing cognitive skills and being in nature can expose them to sights and sounds that might go unnoticed in their everyday setting. Take your child on the Wildlife Drive, walk a trail, climb a tower, read them a nature book, and look at wildlife exhibits in the Visitor Center. You are never too young to explore and learn. This is a free self-study for families. You can come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, 2017

- ***Monarch Presentation and Gardening Tips for Monarchs*** (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) – Learn how to identify monarchs and about their migration. Participants will receive milkweed seeds to plant and will learn about their habitat requirements. Come learn about the amazing monarch and how you can help them survive.



- ***Junior Rangers go to Pickering Beach to learn about Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds*** (4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Hooray for Horseshoe crabs... They help people and migratory shorebirds! Discover the connection between the species as we take you on an amazing journey into the world of two animals that come together each Spring. Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

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Saturday, May 27, 2017 *The Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Connection Presentation (10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)* - Greg Breese, Project Manager for the Delaware Bay Estuary Project, will start the program with a presentation on shorebirds, their amazing migration journey, and Horseshoe Crabs on the Delaware Bay. The Red Knot, a robin-sized shorebird was designated as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on December 9, 2014. A “threatened” designation means a species is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range. After the presentation, the group will go to Pickering Beach to see Horseshoe Crabs that come up onto the Bay beach to spawn. If we are lucky we will see shorebirds as well, bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. NOTE: High tide is at 11:49 a.m. and we will plan to be on the beach for about an hour around high tide. Meet at the Refuge’s auditorium. Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.

Sunday, May 28, 2017 *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.

Wednesday May 31, 2017 *Dates for Purple Martin Nest Checks (11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.)* - Joel Martin and Ray Gingerich will perform weekly Purple Martin gourd and house nest checks. Individuals can observe and record data, hold a chick, and count eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or see a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. The nests need to be checked quickly to make sure the martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 31, 2017	Saturday, June 17, 2017
Monday, June 5, 2017	Monday, June 19, 2017
Friday, June 9, 2017	Friday, June 23, 2017
Wednesday, June 14, 2017	Friday, July 7, 2017

Saturday, June 3, 2017 *Beginning Wildlife Photography Workshop (2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)* - Join wildlife and landscape photographer Terry Willis (wildthingsphotos.com) for a beginning look at how to photograph wildlife. This workshop will focus on learning how to go beyond the “Auto” mode on your camera to enhance your photographs of nature. Learn what f-stop, shutter speed and ISO mean, and how to use them. We will also look at what techniques to use to approach and capture wildlife with the camera.



Saturday, June 17, 2017 *Junior Rangers learn about Wild Babies (9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)* - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Bunnies, possums, skunks, and fawns...to name a few. Learn about young wildlife, how they survive, and how you can help them. Rangers will also monitor the baby Purple Martins. Space is limited. Call to register at (302) 653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.



<http://facebook.com/bombayhookwildliferefuge>

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO REFUGE VISITORS....

To protect wildlife and their habitat and to provide the best opportunities in wildlife observation and photography, it is important not to disturb, injure, or damage plants and animals of the Refuge. In fact, it is a prohibited act as stated in 50 CFR27.51. This disturbance includes flushing birds and other wildlife or using electronic calls (taping) to lure birds closer for observation or photography. Please remember to take only memories and photographs and leave only footprints.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING FRIENDS???

FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK (FOBH) is a cooperating association formed with Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (BHNWR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation which was founded to promote conservation, Environmental Education, and better understanding of and appreciation for Bombay Hook NWR.

Each year students visit Bombay Hook. They use equipment to study habitats, watch videos about endangered species, and are taught from field guides - all provided by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

If you visited our store, the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe*, that has been financed by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

If you attended programs such as the Native Plant Symposium or a Shorebird ID presentation, they are supported by **FRIENDS OF BOMBAY HOOK!**

Your Membership Dues and proceeds from the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe* in the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook will make it possible for Friends to continue its support of popular educational/recreational programs, services, and improvements at Bombay Hook. Make the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe* your place to buy field guides, books, T-shirts, posters, and souvenirs!

OUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 10% Discount on all items sold at the *Blue Heron Gift Shoppe*
- Participation in special wildlife education programs and field trips
- Participation in the Birding Club
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting in June
- Eligibility in the Dover Federal Credit Union (DFCU)
- Opportunity to meet others with similar interests in birds, other wildlife, wetlands, and the environment

And perhaps best of all, the chance to say, *“Thank you Bombay Hook, for all the great times I’ve had here !”*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Submit completed application at the Visitor Center
(payment by cash, check or credit card) or Mail (with check) to:

*Friends of Bombay Hook
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977*

Or you can go to www.friendsofbombayhook.org/membership.html
and follow the instructions in applying or renewing your membership

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)