

## **Pitching In, Picking Up for National Public Lands Day**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will offer free admission at several national wildlife refuges and other entrance fee sites as part of National Public Lands Day this Saturday, Sept. 29.

On National Public Lands Day, public sites managed by the federal government will be open to visitors free of charge. Visitors to these public places are urged to volunteer that day for projects that improve and enhance public lands.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has 36 entrance fee sites.

Refuges, hatcheries and other Service facilities across the country are sponsoring efforts to remove trash and invasive plants and otherwise beautify and improve lands and wildlife habitat.

- At **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge** in Delaware volunteers will help pick up litter along roads leading to the refuge. Contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-6872.
- At **Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge** in Florida volunteers will remove weeds from a boardwalk, construct benches on an observation deck and remove nonnative plants from within the refuge. Contact David Underwood at (516) 735-6030.
- At **Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge** in Texas, volunteers will help maintain equipment, fencing, vehicles and building facilities. They also can assist environmental education and visitor programs and help with landscaping gardens around the refuge visitor center. Contact Stacy Sanchez at (956) 748-3607.

All National Public Lands Day volunteers who work at sites managed by participating federal agencies will receive a coupon good for a “fee-free” day at any site managed by the agencies. In addition to the Fish and Wildlife Service, other participating agencies are the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Forest Service.

Last year, 100,000 volunteers nationwide participated in volunteer efforts on public lands.

For more information, visit <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>