

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
302-653-6872**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 5, 2011

BOMBAY HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ANNOUNCES UPCOMING SPRING PROGRAMS IN 2011

The following programs are offered free of charge and provide an excellent opportunity for people to explore the outdoors and to learn about nature.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday- March 16, 2011 - Garden Keepers Session - 9:30am - Enjoying Native Ferns in Your Garden - Learn how to grow and enjoy native ferns in your own garden. Divide a native fern for you to enjoy in your garden. We'll do some pruning and other seasonal work on the landscape around the visitor center. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at 302-653-6449 or qcsjr@comcast.net.

Sunday, April 3, 2011 - Bird Identification Tour with John and Becky Hargrove -1:00pm – 4:00pm - Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for early migrating songbirds, identifying waterfowl and herons in the impoundments, watching for eagles, and looking for shorebirds in the tidal salt marsh. Meet the Hargroves at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 9, 2011 – Environmental Education Workshop –Exploring the Refuge – 10:00am – 2:00 pm The workshop is for teachers, volunteers, scout leaders, and interested visitors. It will introduce educators to the National Wildlife Refuge System and provide an understanding of how Bombay Hook NWR can be used as an outdoor classroom for environmental education programs. Participants will tour the Refuge; learn about bird migration and bird identification; explore the brackish water, fresh water, and forest habitats; and develop an understanding of how the Refuge is managed for wildlife and habitat conservation. Lesson plans and general information about the Refuge are provided. **To register, contact Tina Watson at (302) 653-6872.**

Sunday, April 10, 2011 – Bird Identification Tour with Joel Citron – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm – Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for songbirds, identifying wading birds and ducks in the impoundments, watching for eagles, and looking for shorebirds. Meet Joel at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 16, 2011 – Highway Cleanup – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Celebrate SPRING by cleaning up the roads leading to the Refuge. Bring your gloves and wear shoes that can get wet. Refreshments will be served after the clean up.

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 - Garden Keepers Session - 9:30am - Creating a Native Butterfly Friendly Garden – Learn how to attract and encourage butterflies using native plants in your garden. Sow seed of a butterfly friendly plant to grow and enjoy in your own gardens. Following the workshop, participants will perform seasonal maintenance on the landscape around the Visitors Center. This is a great opportunity to learn about fertilizers, mulches and other basic garden practices. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at 302-653-6449 or qcsjr@comcast.net.

Sunday, April 24, 2011 - Tour of the Refuge - 11:00am – 12:30pm - 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, April 24, 2011 - Tour of the Refuge - 1:30pm – 3:00pm - 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 30, 2011 – Personal Nature Journaling -10:00am – 12 noon Would you like you and your children to remember your outdoor adventures together? Introduce your children to journaling. Join local artist Ramona Maziarz, pen and ink artist, for a fun *discussion on the many ways and reasons to keep a personal journal of your experiences and connections with the natural world. We will take a walk along a trail and discover it is possible to collect nature's treasures while honoring the rule of "taking only pictures and leaving only footprints."* Journaling helps develop better observation skills and trains the brain to look again and again for more detail. Not suitable for children under seven. Sketch book will be provided.

Sunday, May 1, 2011 - Bird Identification Tour with John and Becky Hargrove -1:00pm – 4:00pm - Beginner and experienced bird watchers will enjoy walking a trail looking for migrating songbirds, identifying wading birds in the impoundments, watching for eagles, and looking for shorebirds. Meet the Hargroves at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 – International Migratory Bird Day, Spring Bird Count – 7:00am – IMDB 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 who are enthusiastic about birds, informed about threats, and empowered to become involved in addressing those threats, can make a contribution by volunteering to participate in the national spring bird count. Meet at the Visitor Center to participate in Bombay Hook's Spring Bird 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 before noon.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 Bird Identification Station - 2:00pm – Sunset Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the auto tour route with scopes and binoculars to help you identify waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Check in at the Visitor Center for the exact location.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 - Garden Keepers Session - 9:30am - Bombay Hook Wildflower Walk - Enjoy a tour with Dr. Susan Yost to see many spring wildflowers native to Bombay Hook in bloom and learn how to grow and enjoy them in your own garden. Following the workshop, participants will perform seasonal maintenance on the landscape around the Visitors Center. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact Quentin Schlieder at 302-653-6449 or qcsjr@comcast.net.

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 19, 2011 – Salt Marsh Boat Ride – 9:00am – 11:30am - Meet at the Visitor Center. The salt marsh grasses will be 'greening up' for summer. Shorebirds will be looking for mudflats to probe for aquatic insects, and you may see or hear a rail or two. Dress for the weather and possibly a wet spray from the water. Limit 8. **Call to register at 302-653-6872.**

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – The Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Connection – 12:30pm 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 group will then go to Pickering Beach to see the shorebirds and the horseshoe crabs that come up onto the Bay beach to spawn.

Sunday, May 29, 2011 - Tour of the Refuge - 11:00am – 12:30 pm - 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 29, 2011 - Tour of the Refuge - 1:00pm – 3:00pm - 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.

Thursday, June 2, 2011 – Salt Marsh Boat Ride – 9:00am – 11:30am. Meet at the Visitor Center. The salt marsh grasses will be 'greening up' for summer. Shorebirds will be looking for mudflats to probe for aquatic insects, and you may see or hear a rail or two. Dress for the weather and possibly a wet spray from the water. Limit 8. **Call to register at 302-653-6872.**

For more information on upcoming events visit the website: <http://bombayhook.fws.gov> or contact Tina Watson on 302-653-6872. Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is located east of Route 9, north of Leipsic at 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, Delaware.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

FWS

March 5, 2011