



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MATTAMUSKEET-SWANQUARTER-CEDAR ISLAND
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
85 MATTAMUSKEET ROAD
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885



Ph: 252-926-4021
Fax: 252-926-1743
email: Pete_Campbell@fws.gov

[NEWS RELEASE for Immediate Distribution](#)

Contact: Pete Campbell, Refuge Manager

[Bell Island Pier at Swanquarter NWR to Reopen on Saturday, December 15, 2012](#)

The Bell Island Pier on Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge is a highly valued recreational fishing and bird watching destination for the public. In August 2011, Hurricane Irene caused damage to the Bell Island Pier significant enough that it forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to close the pier to the public due to safety considerations. Thanks to the hard work of refuge volunteers and staff, the damage to the pier has been repaired. The pier will reopen on Saturday, December 15.

Repairs to the pier were completed in November by Dr. John Hale and eight volunteers (see attached photo) with logistical support from refuge employee Mr. Larry Boomer. Together, the nine volunteers spent 400 hours over three days working on the pier, replacing lost and damaged handrails, damaged boards, support brackets and tightening bolts and other connecting hardware to make the pier safe for public access.

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Hale and his group of volunteers have completed many projects at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, including observation platforms and walkways to name a few, that the public continues to enjoy today. When not volunteering for the refuge, the group also donates their time and talent to build Habitat for Humanity houses.

The pier repairs were inspected and approved by Mr. Nelson Pendleton, a certified engineer with the National Park Service stationed in Manteo. Mr. Pendleton provided invaluable assistance to refuge staff throughout the pier repair project.



Photo Credit: Larry Boomer

Refuge Volunteers from Left to Right Standing: Gary Crawford, Greenville NC; Doug Killingsworth, Robersonville NC; John Hale, Nebo NC; Rick Sutton, Morganton NC; Charlie Buckner, Morganton NC; Ted Restel, Nebo NC; Malcolm McLeod, Greenville NC. Kneeling: Nelson McCrae, Morganton NC; Andy Brown, Greenville NC