

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
302-653-9345
www.fws.gov/refuge/bombay_hook



Calendar of Events – 2018

The Wildlife Drive is open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

The Visitor Center is open during the week from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Visitor Center is open on weekends from March 3, 2018 to June 30, 2018 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Saturday, March 3, 2018 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Volunteer Orientation 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.

March 10, 2018 9:00 am to 11:30 am Mammals of Bombay Hook Join volunteer, Bruce Lantz, for a program about many of the 35 mammal species documented on the refuge. The program will explore the presence and life cycles of many common, shy, and just elusive mammal species. We'll examine the past history and some of the current challenges faced by many of these game and non-game mammals. The program will include both a classroom and field trip component. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Friday, March 16, 2018 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm SPRING FEVER Tour of the Refuge Spring fever is a feeling of restlessness and excitement felt at the beginning of spring. Make use of that excitement and explore the refuge. Join Tina Watson for a fun morning outside: tour the refuge, walk a trail or two looking for signs of spring, and identify birds along the way. **Call to register – 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**



Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:30 am to 12:00 noon Jr. Rangers Learn about: Mammals of Bombay Hook New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Jr. Rangers will explore the presence and life cycles of many common, shy, and just elusive mammal species. A field trip to explore mammal habitats will be included. **Call to register – 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are free. 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.

Friday, March 23, 2018 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Your First Visit To Bombay Hook Tour – Learn a little about the refuge's history, why it is here, how it is managed for wildlife, bird migration at the refuge, and we will walk a trail and identify birds. **Call to register or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, March 25, 2018 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Tour of the Refuge 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, March 25, 2018 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Tour of the Refuge 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, March 29, 2108 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Garden Keepers – Cleanup, Pruning, Mulching - Join Larry and Leslie Cook for some hands on garden maintenance. Learn gardening techniques and bring your garden gloves.

Saturday, April 7, 2018 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Impoundment Bird Identification Tour – 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. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, April 8, 2018 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Refuge Introduction Tour “Climb aboard” the refuge’s 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Thursday, April 12, 2018 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Garden Keepers – Trim & Install Metal Edging Join Larry and Leslie Cook for some hands on garden maintenance. Learn garden techniques and bring your garden gloves.

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are free. 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.

April 17, 2018 to April 26, 2018 Auditorium during 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Delaware State’s Waterfowl and Trout Stamp Contest Exhibit 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.

Wednesdays, April 18, 2018 to May 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walks with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location “To Be Determined” depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Friday, April 20, 2018 10:00 am -12:00 noon Refuge Introduction Tour “Climb aboard” the refuge’s 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**



Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:30 am to 12:00 noon Jr. Rangers Learn about: Gardening for Wildlife New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Happy Earth Day Weekend! Learn how to create a natural wildlife garden using native plants. You will learn how you can make a difference for wildlife by providing food, water, cover and a place to raise their young- right in your own backyard. Each family participating will receive a kit to make a plant press. **Call to register - 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, April 22, 2018 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Tour of the Refuge 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.

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Wednesdays, April 25, 2018 to May 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walks with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location "To Be Determined" depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 28, 2018 10:00 am to 11:30 am Beginning Birding – Warbler Program – Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis will give a presentation on the warblers migrating through Bombay Hook during the spring.

Sunday, April 29, 2018 8:00 am – 10:00 am Beginning Birding – Warbler Walk – 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.

Sunday, April 29, 2018 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Tour of the Refuge 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.

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Wednesdays, May 2, 2018 to May 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walks with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location "To Be Determined" depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 6, 2018 8:00 am – 10:00 am Beginning Birding – Warbler Walk – The walk will be on one or two trails along the wildlife drive with expert birders Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis.

Sunday, May 6, 2018 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Refuge Introduction Tour "Climb aboard" the refuge's 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Wednesdays, May 9, 2018 to May 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walks with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location "To Be Determined" depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Thursday, May 10, 2018 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Garden Keepers – Meadow Maintenance and Reseeding – Join Larry and Leslie Cook prepare the meadow for Spring, clean up the path and reseed some milkweed.

Saturday, May 12, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Beginning Birding – Shorebird Program - 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.

Saturday, May 12, 2018 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Monarch Presentation and Gardening Tips for Monarchs Learn how to identify monarchs and about their migration. Participants will learn about their habitat requirements and gardening tips to attract butterflies. Come learn about the amazing monarch and how you can help them survive. While monarchs will be the main focus, other local butterflies and pollinators will be included.

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Toddlers/preschoolers (1 year old to 5 years old) and their guardian are free. Bombay Hook will be free for toddlers and their guardian on the 3rd Tuesday in 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.

Wednesdays, May 16, 2018 to May 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walks with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location “To Be Determined” depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Friday, May 18, 2018 10:00 am -12:00 noon Refuge Introduction Tour “Climb aboard” the refuge’s 12-passenger bus for a 2-hour guided tour of the refuge. Look for wildlife, walk a short trail, and learn how the various habitats on the refuge are managed to provide the food, water, and cover needed by the many species of wildlife that live on or pass through the refuge. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair at the Visitor Center.

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Saturday, May 19, 2018 9:30 am to 12:00 noon Jr. Rangers Learn about Migratory Shorebirds - New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Learn about the seasonal movement of shorebirds from their wintering grounds, to stopovers, then on to their breeding and nesting grounds. The focus of this session is to identify some of the common shorebirds visiting the area while learning about the nutrient-rich habitats they depend on before continuing their journey north. **Call to register - 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, May 19, 2018 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm The Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Connection Presentation Greg Breese, Project Manager for the Delaware Bay Estuary Project, will start the program with a 15 minute video 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 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 1:49 pm and we will plan to be on the beach for about an hour around high tide. Program starts in the Refuge’s auditorium. **Call to register – 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, May 20, 2018 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm Bird Identification Station Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the wildlife drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify shorebirds, wading birds, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the auto tour route.

Various Days, May 21, 2018 – July 2, 2018 11:00 am – 11:45 am Purple Martin Nest Checks Joel Martin and Ray Gingerich will perform weekly purple martin gourd and house nest checks during May, June and July. Individuals can observe and assist with recording data, counting eggs and hatchlings, and after they hatch hold a chick. You will see birds that spent the winter in Brazil and you may see an adult sitting on a nest. 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: May 21, 25, 30, 2018 and June 4, 8, 13, 16, 18, 22, 27, 2018 and July 2, 2018.

Wednesdays, May 23, 2018 and May 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walks with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location “To Be Determined” depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Tour of the Refuge 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 27, 2018 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Tour of the Refuge 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 30, 2018 8:00 am to 11:00 am Bird Walk with Marcia Poling Join Marcia Poling, avid birder and artist, to look for early songbird arrivals from Mexico and South America. The group will walk several trails in search of songbirds and will stop to identify shorebirds along the wildlife drive. Location “To Be Determined” depending on current sightings. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 9, 2018 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm Bird Identification Station Get a close look at the different bird species in the impoundments. Randy Murphy will be set up on the wildlife drive with scopes and binoculars to help you identify shorebirds, wading birds, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the auto tour route.

Saturday, June 9, 2018 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Photo Workshop Join wildlife and landscape Terry Willis 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 photos of nature. Learn what f-stop, shutter speed and ISO mean, and how to use them. We will also look at the differing techniques used to capture wildlife and landscapes with the camera. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**



June 16, 2018 9:30 am to 12:00 noon Jr. Rangers Learn about Cavity Nesters Swallows, purple martins, barn owls, bats and bluebirds to name a few... where do they nest? Learn about different birds, their nests and how they raise their young. The focus of this session will be on purple martins and barn owls; providing participants an up-close view of their nesting cavities. **Call to register - 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**