

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Photographers Jay Fleming and April Abel Highlight Nature Photography Workshop at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge**

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is hosting a Nature Photography Workshop on Tuesday, August 19, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., in the refuge auditorium to help nature enthusiasts improve their photography skills.

This evening workshop will feature two professional photographers, Jay Fleming and April Abel, who will share with you their journey in professional photography and provide you with tips on taking better photographs.

Mr. Fleming will present on underwater photography, including his underwater work from Delmarva and around the world. Ms. Abel will focus on the elements and choices that go into taking quality photographs and will also open participant's eyes to the beauty of Delaware's natural areas, including Delaware State Parks, wildlife refuges, and preserves. Mr. Fleming and Ms. Abel will also provide you with the criteria they use when judging photographs.

Participants are encouraged to bring their photographs to be critiqued by our guest speakers. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by calling the refuge office at 302.684.8419.

#### **About the photographers...**

##### *Jay Fleming*

Though beginning under the tutelage of his father, former National Geographic photographer, Kevin Fleming, Jay quickly and naturally developed a photographic style and identity all his own. Through experimentation, an incredible amount of patience & preparation, and countless hours spent researching potential photo opportunities, Jay began to capture such awe-inspiring photos as the last house on Holland Island reflecting in the rippling water just before it collapsed, a fleet of wooden Skipjacks against an ominous grey sky, and his pair of underwater Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. Jay's photographs of these threatened Cutthroat Trout appeared in a publication by National Geographic that was designed to inform the public of the increasing threat of invasive species on native ones.

Jay has spent the past two years actively documenting all aspects of the seafood industry on the Chesapeake Bay. From underwater shots of oyster divers, to crabs shedding their shells, to incredibly poignant portraits of workers in a crab picking house, to watermen in their deadrise boats leaving the dock before sunrise, Jay hopes to illustrate the full spectrum of the seafood industry in his first book, "Working the Water." Expected to be published in 2015, Jay hopes that his documentation will demonstrate the different ways that people make a living off of the Bay as well as portray an accurate representation of the various Chesapeake Bay cultures.

Whether it's a sunrise over the marsh or a waterman hand tonging for oysters, the passion of his craft is obvious in every photograph. Jay's talent is undeniable. His photography is not only beautiful but purposeful. Jay considers himself to be extremely fortunate to have found a livelihood that both satisfies his creativity and simultaneously supports his beliefs in ecological conservation. Jay is available for commercial, editorial, wedding and portrait photography.

### *April Abel*

April Abel picked up a DSLR camera for the first time in 2008 as a Media Arts student at Wesley College. From there it has been a rapid journey of discovery, documenting the landscapes and wildlife of central Delaware and beyond. Her photography has been featured in *The News Journal*, *Delaware Beach Life Magazine*, *Outdoor Delaware Magazine*, and Delaware State Parks official publications. She exhibits and sells her photography at the Rehoboth Beach Museum, Gallery 37, the Rehoboth Art League, and with the Milton Arts Guild. Abel works as Exhibits Coordinator for Delaware State Parks and is a freelance photographer for local and state publications.

*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](http://www.fws.gov).*

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