

**Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge**  
**2591 Whitehall Neck Road**  
**Smyrna, DE 19977**  
**302-653-9345**  
**[www.fws.gov/refuge/bombay\\_hook](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bombay_hook)**



## Calendar of Events – 2017

**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 closed on weekends until September 2, 2017.**

**Biting flies, mosquitoes, and ticks are active during September.**

**Wear appropriate clothing and bring bug spray.**

**Saturday, September 2, 2017 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Volunteer Orientation** A meeting about volunteer opportunities will be held in the auditorium. The meeting will describe the different types of volunteer opportunities, upcoming activities, and the latter part of the session will be a tour of the Refuge. Individuals are needed to staff the Visitor Center on weekends and weekdays from September through November. 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. Training is provided.



**Saturday, September 9, 2017 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Monarch Tagging** Terry Willis will give a short explanation of the Monarch butterfly life cycle before tagging Monarchs. After tagging Monarchs that were raised in captivity, participants will visit the meadow at the visitor center to capture and tag Monarchs. Participants should wear long pants and long sleeved shirts.



**Saturday, September 16, 2017 9:30 am- 11:30- am Jr. Rangers learn about Insects!** New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Be a dead log detective to see what kind of insects live within. You will make a viewing jar so that you can study them without hurting them. You will then identify and journal what you see! **Jr. Rangers bring your notebook, we will review your progress and checklist! Space is limited, call to register on 302-653-9345 or email: [tina\\_watson@fws.gov](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the September, October, and November. 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.

**Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 am – 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, September 24, 2017 1:30 pm – 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.

**Saturday, September 30, 2017 ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset FREE ENTRANCE FEE**

The \$4.00 entrance fee will be waived to celebrate National Public Lands Day and to invite people to visit Bombay Hook. It's a great opportunity to spend the day exploring and relaxing in nature. National Public Lands Day is a fee-free entrance day at many federal public lands including, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Saturday, September 30, 2017 10:00 am – 2:30 pm Annual Native Plant Symposium**

**10:00 am - Welcome and Introductions**

**10:10 am - George Coombs – Presentation on Trial Gardens** - Native plants are essential in habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife that provide an ecosystem with food, water, cover and shelter. This year our guest speaker will be George Coombs, manager of the horticultural research program at Mt. Cuba Center, including the trial garden where he evaluates native plants and their related cultivars for their horticultural and ecological value. To date, he has authored evaluation reports on Heuchera, Coreopsis, Baptisia, and Monarda. In addition to the trials, George also evaluates plants for introduction to the nursery trade. Most recently, his work has helped bring to market four new selections of hardy Coreopsis. George is a graduate of the University of Delaware and prior to joining Mt. Cuba Center, he worked in the nursery industry at both the wholesale and retail level.

Join George Coombs as he details how Mt. Cuba selects and evaluates native plants for superior garden performance, and learn about some of their exciting research comparing the ecological value of cultivars and straight species.

**11:30 am Discussion of Volunteer Day at University of Delaware, Lewes**

**12:00 noon – Lunch**

**1:00 pm Nancy Lawson - Presentation on Native Bees** - Nancy is the author of *The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife*, published by Princeton Architectural Press. A columnist for *All Animals* magazine, she is the founder of *Humane Gardener*, an outreach initiative dedicated to cultivating compassion for all creatures great and small through animal-friendly and environmentally sensitive landscaping methods. Lawson volunteers as a master naturalist and master gardener in central Maryland. After an early career in newspaper journalism, she worked for more than 15 years as an editor and publisher at *The Humane Society of the United States*, leading the creative teams behind the organization's award winning print and digital magazines.

The symposium is sponsored by Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc. and Delaware Native Plant Society. Lunch will be provided. **The symposium is free, but registration is required and space is limited; contact Eric Wahl at EWahl@elementdg.com or (302) 645-0777.**

**Sunday, October 1, 2017 1:30 pm – 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.**

**Sunday, October 8, 2017 ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset FREE ENTRANCE FEE** The \$4.00 entrance fee will be waived to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Day and to invite people to visit Bombay Hook. It's a great opportunity to spend the day exploring and relaxing in nature.

**Saturday, October 14, 2017 10:00 am to 11:30 am Backyard Birding** Learn about the types of birds you see in your backyard. We will discuss bird feeding techniques and identify the birds at the bird feeders.

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the October and November. 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, October 20, 2017 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, and bird migration at the refuge. We will walk a trail and identify birds. **Space is limited, call to register or email: [tina\\_watson@fws.gov](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**



**Saturday, October 21, 2017 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers learn about the Pollination Process.** New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Find out how flowers reproduce by pollination. You will discover how new seeds form, how pollen can travel, and how to identify the reproductive parts of a plant. Learn what roles birds, bees and butterflies can play in the pollination process. **Space is limited, call to register on 302-653-9345 or email: [tina\\_watson@fws.gov](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov)**

**Sunday, October 22, 2017 11:00 am – 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, October 22, 2017 1:30 pm – 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, October 25, 2017 10:00 am – 12:00 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](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**

**Saturday, October 28, 2017 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Impoundment Tour of the Refuge** Join Terry Willis and Eileen McLellan for a bus tour of the refuge impoundments and salt marsh. We hope to see and identify shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds along with eagles and other passing raptors. Viewing scopes will be provided. Tour will take approximately 2+ hours and depending on conditions. **Space is limited, call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: [tina\\_watson@fws.gov](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**

**Sunday, October 29, 2017 11:00 am – 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, October 29, 2017 1:30 pm – 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.

**Saturday, November 4, 2017 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Mysteries of Gulls and Terns** Delmarva Ornithological Society (DOS) and the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) will offer a Gull and Tern Identification Workshop in Bombay Hook’s auditorium. The intent is to offer participants the opportunity to view, study and discuss the skins of a variety of gulls and terns one might see on the Delmarva Peninsula. The skins will include both the common and the unusual species in a variety of plumages. Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at the DMNH, will guide us through the museum’s collections.

The workshop is free. Space is limited and registration is required. If you’re interested in attending the Mysteries of Gulls and Terns workshop, **please contact Jean Woods, [jwoods@delmnh.org](mailto:jwoods@delmnh.org) or 302-658-9111 x314.**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2017 10:00 am – 12:00 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](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, November 10-12, 2017 ½ hour before sunrise to ½ our after sunset FREE ENTRANCE FEE** Honoring veterans, the National Wildlife Refuge System is providing free entrance to Bombay Hook National Wildlife and all the refuges throughout the U.S. This is a good time of year to see hawks, eagles, ducks, and geese. Take time out to remember our veterans and to enjoy nature.

**Saturday, November 11, 2017 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Beginning Bird Watching – Duck, Duck, Goose.** What are all those ducks and geese around the Refuge? Come and learn how to tell one duck from another at this beginning birders' class. We'll start with a presentation at 10:00 am and then practice our identification skills on the wildlife drive.

**Sunday, November 12, 2017 1:30 pm – 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.**



**Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers Explore the Bluebird Trail and Learn How to clean the boxes.** New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. The program will cover the plight of the Eastern Bluebird and how conservation activities can benefit the species. The group will walk a 1-1/2 mile section of the refuge, exploring the Bluebird nest boxes and the different kinds of wildlife that use them. **Space is limited, call to register on 302-653-9345 or email: tina\_watson@fws.gov.**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Impoundment Tour of the Refuge** Join Terry Willis and Eileen McLellan for a bus tour of the refuge impoundments and salt marsh. We hope to see and identify shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds along with eagles and other passing raptors. Viewing scopes will be provided. Tour will take approximately 2+ hours depending on conditions. **Space is limited, call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina\_watson@fws.gov.**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of November. 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.

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**Friday, November 24, 2017 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, and bird migration at the refuge. We will walk a trail and identify birds. **Space is limited, call to register or email: tina\_watson@fws.gov.**

**Friday, November 24, 2017 12:00 noon to 5:00 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 waterfowl, passing raptors, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue Bird ID Station sign along the auto tour route.

**Sunday, November 26, 2017 11:00 am – 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, November 26, 2017 1:30 pm – 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.



**Saturday, December 2, 2017 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers learn Why and How the Trees and Plants stay Green in Winter** New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Mistletoe, holly, cedar and pine...what is their significance for wildlife? Come learn why they stay green in the winter along with some fun Holiday facts. You will create a Holiday decoration to take home! **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: [tina\\_watson@fws.gov](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017 10:00 am – 12:00 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](mailto:tina_watson@fws.gov).**

### **Deer Hunt Dates – Partial Closures affecting the Wildlife Drive**

#### **Back Section Closed – Bear Swamp, Finis Pool, and road to Allee House**

September 1 and 8, 2017 until 1:00 pm for Archery  
October 9, 11, and 13, 2017 all day for Muzzleloader  
November 4, 10, 11, and 15, 2017  
December 11 and 14, 2017  
January 19, 2018, all day for Shotgun

#### **Front Section Closed – Raymond and Shearneck – Enter Refuge on Rt. 9 at Dutch Neck Road**

November 13 and 17, 2017  
December 13, 2017 all day for Shotgun

**Biting flies, mosquitoes, and ticks are active during September.  
Wear appropriate clothing and bring bug spray.**