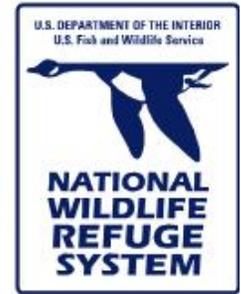


Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
302-653-9345
www.fws.gov/refuge/bombay_hook



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 open on weekends from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm until June 25, 2017.

Saturday, April 1, 2017 10:00 to 12:00 noon Native Plant and Mushroom Walk Join plant expert Susan Yost and mushroom expert Michael Maciarello, to learn about wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and wild mushrooms. With the spring rains, many fungi erupt from the ground to present a spectacular display of mushrooms. We will discuss and identify poisonous and edible species and point out some of the medicinal value too. The warm winter and spring weather will encourage early wildflowers to bloom and trees and shrubs to sprout new leaves. Participants will walk a couple of trails to identify flora and fungi. **Space is limited, call to register or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

April 11, 2017 to April 21, 2017 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.

Saturday, April 8, 2017 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Environmental Education Workshop This hands-on workshop will help people understand, and experience, what kind of environmental education field trips can take place at Bombay Hook. You will learn about the Refuge’s habitats, explore the tidal salt marsh, dip net in the brackish and fresh water, identify birds, explore the forest, and learn about wildlife management techniques. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers, scout leaders, Refuge volunteers, and interested visitors to get outside and explore the refuge. **Call to register, 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, April 8, 2017 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Movie Time – *Silence of the Bees* The video explores the baffling mystery of disappearing honeybees, millions have vanished from their hives without a trace. The honeybee is an important pollinator for fruits and vegetables. Follow researchers as they follow the trail of clues from across the world as they scramble to discover why honeybees are dying in record numbers.

Sunday, April 9, 2017 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Movie Time – *Silence of the Bees* The video explores the baffling mystery of disappearing honeybees, millions have vanished from their hives without a trace. The honeybee is an important pollinator for fruits and vegetables. Follow researchers as they follow the trail of clues from across the world as they scramble to discover why honeybees are dying in record numbers.



Friday, April 14, 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, bird migration at the refuge, and we will walk a trail and identify birds. **Space is limited, call to register or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, April 15, 2017 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers go on a Salt Marsh Safari New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. You will explore the tidal salt marsh to find out who lives there, how the moon and location of the earth makes the water move, and identify the grasses of the salt marsh. **Call to register – 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Saturday, April 15, 2017 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm Bicycle Tour on the Refuge Join Tina Watson for an eight-mile bike ride on the Refuge. The group will make several stops for bird identification and to discuss wildlife management techniques. Bicycle should have hybrid tires. Don't forget your helmet and check the air in your tires! Meet at the Visitor Center. Important- Delaware State law states, "a person under sixteen years of age shall not operate, ride upon, or ride as a passenger any bicycle, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets or exceeds the ANSI Z90.4 bicycle helmet standard."

Tuesday, April 18, 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 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.

Wednesdays, April 19, 2017 to May 24, 2017 8:00 am to 10:30 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 22, 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 herons 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.**

Saturday, April 22, 2017 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Highway Clean Up – Volunteer to help clean up the roads leading to Bombay Hook. Meet at the Visitor Center. Wear shoes that can get wet and bring work gloves. Refreshments will be served after the clean-up.

Sunday, April 23, 2017 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, April 23, 2017 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, April 26, 2017 8:00 am to 10:30 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 29, 2017 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm 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 30, 2017 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 30, 2017 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, April 30, 2017 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 3, 2017 8:00 am to 10:30 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 7, 2017 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.

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:00 am to 10:30 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, May 13, 2017 7:00 a.m. International Migratory Bird Day, Spring Bird Count - IMBD 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 can learn about birds and their migratory threats, and can make a contribution by participating in the international spring bird count. Meet at the Visitor Center to participate in Bombay Hook's 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 around noon.** Over the years, volunteer participation has become less and we encourage more volunteers to help with this important citizen science project. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 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 13, 2017 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Protecting Pollinators in Delaware. Join Dr. Faith Kuehn, Plant Industries Administrator, Delaware Dept. of Agriculture and Dr. Thalia Pappas Environmental Consultant, Delaware Dept. of Agriculture for a presentation on pollinators. Learn the importance of pollinators to Delaware's agriculture and environment, progress on Delaware's Pollination Protection plan, and what you can do to contribute to the goals of the plan. If time permits we will take a walk through the pollinator meadow.

Tuesday, May 16, 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 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.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:00 am to 10:30 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, May 20, 2017 10:00 am -11:30 am Monarch Presentation and Gardening Tips for Monarchs – Learn how to identify monarchs and about their migration. Participants will receive milkweed seeds to plant and will learn about their habitat requirements. Come learn about the amazing monarch and how you can help them survive.



Saturday, May 20, 2017 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm Jr. Rangers go to Pickering Beach to learn about Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Hooray for Horseshoe crabs... They help people and migratory shorebirds! Discover the connection between the species as we take you on an amazing journey into the world of two animals that come together each spring. **Space limited, call to register – 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 8:00 am to 10:30 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, May 27, 2017 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Shorebird and Horseshoe Crab Connection Presentation 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 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 11:49 am and we will plan to be on the beach for about an hour around high tide. Meet at the Refuge’s auditorium. **Space limited, call to register - 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Sunday, May 28, 2017 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 28, 2017 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.

May 31, 2017 11:00 am – 11:45 am Dates for Purple Martin Nest Checks Joel Martin and Ray Gingerich will perform weekly purple martin gourd and house nest checks. Individuals can observe and record data, hold a chick, and count eggs and hatchlings. Hopefully, you will see an adult sitting on the nest or see a bird that spent the winter in Brazil. 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:

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Monday, June 5, 2017

Friday, June 9, 2017

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Monday, June 19, 2017

Friday, June 23, 2017

Friday, July 7, 2017

Saturday, June 3, 2017 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Beginning Wildlife Photography Workshop Join wildlife and landscape photographer Terry Willis (wildthingsphotos.com) 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 photographs of nature. Learn what f stop, shutter speed and ISO mean, and how to use them. We will also look at what techniques to use to approach and capture wildlife with the camera. **Space limited, call to register – 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**



Saturday, June 17, 2017 9:30 am to 11:30 am Jr. Rangers learn about Wild Babies New and returning children (7-11 years old) are invited to attend. Bunnies, possums, skunks, and fawns...to name a few. Learn about young wildlife, how they survive, and how you can help them. Rangers will also monitor the baby purple martins. **Space limited, call to register on 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**