

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.

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.

Thursday, May 11, 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, 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.**

Sunday, May 21, 2017 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.

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 10, 2017 3:00 pm to 5:00 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.



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 help monitor the baby purple martins. **Space limited, call to register on 302-653-9345 or email: tina_watson@fws.gov.**

Kevin Karlson’s workshop is the first weekend in August. [Check back for date and details.](#)