

**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 – Spring 2024**

**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.**

**Programs are free and no registration is necessary unless otherwise specified.**

**To request a reasonable accommodation please call the Refuge office at (302) 653-9345 or email [Joshua\\_Smith@fws.gov](mailto:Joshua_Smith@fws.gov) 2 weeks before the event.**

### **Saturday, February 10, 2024 9:00 am – 11:00 am Beginning Birding – Waterfowl Identification**

Eileen McLellan and Terry Willis present Duck, Duck, Goose. Enjoy a presentation in the auditorium and then take the bus (or carpool) out to Raymond and Shearness pools to observe waterfowl on the refuge. The presentation is open to unlimited participants. The bus is limited to 12 participants, pre-registration is required to reserve your spot. Any un-reserved spots will be available on the day of the event. **Call 302-653-9345 to register.**

### **Saturday, February 17, 2024 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Black History at Bombay Hook**

Join the Sierra Club Delaware Chapter, Outdoor Afro Delaware River Network, and Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge for a special Black History Month program and learn about the African- American Cohort of the Civilian Conservation Corp that built the Refuge that we now know and love.

### **Saturday, February 24, 2024 9:00 am – 10:00 am Signs of Spring**

Bruce Lantz will discuss the natural worlds visible signs of the transition from Winter to Spring. From new plant growth to new assemblages of birds migrating through to characteristic animal behaviors. There are better ways to know if Spring has sprung than a groundhog's shadow.

### **Saturday, April 6, 2024 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Monarch Presentation and Gardening Tips for Monarchs**

Learn how to identify monarch butterflies 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.

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 10:00 am – 11:00 am Delaware's Diamondbacks** – Nate Nazdrowicz DNREC biologist will discuss Diamondback Terrapins and turtles of Delaware. He'll also discuss Operation Terrapin Rescue.

**Saturday, April 27, 2024 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 28, 2024 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.

**Various Days, May through June, 2024 11:00 am – 11:45 am Purple Martin Nest Checks** Joël Martin will perform weekly purple martin gourd nest checks during April, May, and June. 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 purple martins are not disturbed for a long period of time. Meet at the Visitor Center. May 6,10,15,20,24,29 June 3,7,12,17,21,26

**Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Here come the Bugs!**

Join biologist Anthony Gonzon for a journey through the diversity of Delaware's invertebrate life. Learn about life histories, identification, and fun facts. After the program Anthony will set up lights to draw in insects for observation and identification. Part of this program is outdoors after dark. Bring a headlamp/flashlight and dress appropriately.

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 8:00 am – 10:00 am 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.

**Saturday, May 11, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 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 take the bus to the impoundments to practice their new skills (**11:15 – 12:30**). The presentation is open to unlimited participants. The bus is limited to 14 participants, pre-registration is required to reserve your spot. Any un-reserved spots will be available on the day of the event. **Call 302-653-9345 to register.**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 8:00 am – 2:00 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 shorebirds, wading birds, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the auto tour route.

**Saturday, May 25, 2024 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Horseshoe Crab life history and ecology by Brandi Besecker** Learn about one of the planets oldest migrations as we discuss the fascinating story of the horseshoe crab, and its critical role for both people and wildlife. We'll then take an excursion to Woodland Beach to get a close look at these prehistoric creatures. High tide at Woodland Beach is 12:12pm

**Saturday, June 1, 2024 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Photo Workshop** Join wildlife and landscape photographer Terry Willis for a Wildlife/Nature Photography Workshop. Learn how to optimize your camera for photographing wildlife and landscapes. In this workshop we will discuss camera settings, and how to go beyond the "Auto" setting on your digital camera. We will also begin to delve into editing your photos using software like Adobe Photoshop, beginning with the Raw Image and proceeding to the final version suitable for printing or using on the web. **Call 302-653-9345 to register.**

**Sunday, June 2, 2024 8:00 am – 2:00 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 shorebirds, wading birds, and whatever else flies by. Look for the blue ID Station sign along the auto tour route.