



Prime Hook Notes

Vol. 9, Number 3

Summer 2007

WISHING YOU FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

Jonathan Schafler

As I head off to my new assignment as the Refuge Manager of Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia I can honestly say that my time at Prime Hook has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. To understand that you need to know that Prime Hook was my first refuge as a full manager, my first after going back to school to obtain the necessary college coursework I needed to make the move from the Park Ranger series to the Manager series, and my first as an Officer in the Coast Guard Reserves, made possible by my move east. Very few Rangers make this transition and I am grateful that the powers that be trusted me enough to take on the management of Prime Hook.

Here, I cut my teeth on the challenges of refuge management, learned some lessons the hard way, and tried to be a good steward of the resources entrusted to me. In hindsight sure, there were things I would have done a bit differently, but I would rather be judged for those things I did, and not those things I failed to do. You'll have to make that assessment for yourself.

I viewed my tenure at Prime as a relationship builder, a link between the public we serve, and the resources we manage for the American people. I know you have heard me say this many times before, yet it is still as important today as it was when I arrived. If our public lands are to survive, they must be relevant to the communities in which they reside. We must be known, appreciated, understood and protected by constituents that are willing to fight for THEIR special place, to insure that future generations will have wildlife and wild places now and forever in their lives.

To that end I believe that we have been successful in building those relationships. We have increased our presence in several communities, reached out to many civic groups and developed an infrastructure that informs, educates and invites the public to be a part of this wonderful place. New boat ramps, trails, kiosks, signage, brochures, facilities and most importantly new partners in conservation that help us spread the message that Prime Hook is important. The work accomplished over these past years is a credit to us all.

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JONATHAN SCHAFLER TAKES JOB AT CANAAN VALLEY REFUGE

Joyce Lindsay

Jonathan Schafler has left Prime Hook NWR for West Virginia, taking the job of Refuge Manager at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Larger than Prime Hook, Canaan Valley will also be a challenge to Jonathan, who appeared to be happy with his new situation. Unlike the flat, salt marsh aspects of Prime Hook, the West Virginia refuge is comprised of 18,000 acres of heavily forested mountain country, presenting many opportunities and problems quite different to those he experienced here.

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(Fair Winds, continued from Page 1)

Finally I will tell you that I have made friends here I will keep for life. My wife Shawn-Ann, Simone and Benjamin were very comfortable here in Sussex County and we will miss this place and all of you. Remember...no matter what the politics are, they are not this place...this place you love...and that will never change.

As the centuries old mariners saying goes, I leave Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge wishing you nothing but smooth sailing no matter what the state of your seas. Please keep in touch.

Respectfully,

Jonathan

(Schafler, continued from Page 1)

Jonathan has also acknowledged that the current situation with our recent merger with Bombay Hook helped to facilitate his change in job. He has already moved his family to the new site, including his mother, who needs to be close by.

Prime Hook has of course once more been placed under the control of the slightly larger Bombay Hook NWR to the north. According to Terry Villaneuva, now the manager of Bombay Hook, a new manager for Prime Hook will be hired. However, since Prime Hook will operate under the auspices of Bombay Hook, Villaneuva will supervise both facilities. Prime Hook's budget and staff will also be managed by Bombay Hook.

FALL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST PLANNED

Building on the outstanding success of contests in the past three years, the Friends of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge are sponsoring the Fourth Annual Nature Photography Contest in the fall of 2007. Entries will be accepted in three categories: Delmarva Scenery, landscapes or seascapes; Native Wildlife, birds, animals, insects, amphibians, etc.; and Native Flowers and Plants. For a full account of what can or cannot be included in an entry and of what counts as "native" with respect to the flora and fauna photographed, please consult the Refuge website—<http://primehook.fws.gov>. Entries submitted by students (persons 17 or under) will be judged separately. Up to two photographs can be submitted in each category. The entry fee is \$5 per photograph or 6 for \$25. There is no entry fee for students.

Entries should be color prints no larger than 12"x16", matted in white. The total dimensions (i.e. the photograph and the mat) cannot exceed 15"x19". Again, it is advised that entrants consult the Refuge website for matting suggestions. The entries will be on display in the Refuge Auditorium from October 14 to November 15. The judging and awarding of prizes will take place during a reception for the artists and the public on Sunday, October 14 (2-4 PM).

A Grand Prize of \$100 will be given to the photograph judged "Best in Show." First, Second, and Third Place winners in each category will receive prizes of \$75, \$50, or \$25 respectively. In addition, three Honorable Mention awards will be given in each category.

All entries should be either mailed to the Refuge Office at 11978 Turkle Pond Road, Milton, DE 19968 between September 9 and October 6 or hand-delivered. Hand delivered entries will be accepted only between September 17 and September 28.

“HOMETOWN EVENT” TO CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTIST FOR WINNING FEDERAL DUCK STAMP COMPETITION

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is hosting a “Hometown” celebration event on Saturday, July 14, 2007, in honor of local artist Richard Clifton's winning the 2007-2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest with a pair of swimming ring-necked ducks. He is the first Delawarean to win this prestigious award. This “hometown” event will be open to the public from 10 am to 3 pm with a ceremony honoring Richard starting at 1 pm. Joining Richard in celebration of this wonderful achievement will be Senator Thomas Carper; Representative Michael Castle; Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; Paul Schmidt, Chief of the Migratory Bird Program of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; John Tompke, CEO of Ducks Unlimited; and several notable state and local officials.

The purpose of this “Hometown Event” is to provide an opportunity to celebrate and publicize Richard’s artistic accomplishments and his contribution to wildlife conservation with family, friends and the public from local and state-wide communities. It will also educate the public about the immense success of the Duck Stamp Program, its contribution to wildlife conservation, and its connection to the National Wildlife Refuge System. As part of this celebration, the event will feature live music, live wildlife presentations, wildlife management demonstrations, conservation displays, a guided nature walk, and face painting for kids. Food and beverage vendors will be available for the entire event. Federal duck stamps featuring Richard’s artwork will be on sale.

Another exciting component of the “Hometown Event” is a duck and goose calling contest for youth and adults. Mitch Hughes, winner of the 2006 World Goose Calling Championship and winner of the 2006 Maryland State Goose and Duck Calling Competitions, will be on hand to oversee the contest. Avid local waterfowlers will judge the contest and the winners will receive special edition prizes designed by Richard Clifton.

For more information, please visit the refuge’s website at <http://primehook.fws.gov> or call the Refuge Office at (302) 684-8419.

CLOSURE OF BOAT RAMP AT PRIME HOOK HEADQUARTERS

The boat ramp located at the Refuge Headquarters to access the eastern end of Prime Hook Creek will be closed to all public entry from Tuesday, July 10, through Monday, July 16. The boat ramp will reopen on Tuesday, July 17. This closure is due to the Hometown Event on Saturday, July 14, from 10am to 3pm, celebrating local artist Richard Clifton winning the 2007-2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest. For more information, call the Refuge office at (302) 684-8419.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Membership dues for 2007 are due by December 31, 2006. The dues money the Friends receive plays an important part in funding the various activities our society supports at the PHNW Refuge. All Friends members, including the Trustees and Officers, receive no monetary compensation for their efforts but rely on donations from generous contributors from the area and its members to carry out various educational, refuge infrastructure improvements and other activities to benefit PHNWR and the people who visit it. If possible please consider increasing your donation this year. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Membership dues for 2008 are due by December 31, 2007. Thank you for your support!

AMATEUR DUCK & GOOSE CALLING CONTEST AT THE RICHARD CLIFTON HOMETOWN EVENT

Bill J. Jones, Visitor Services Manager

An Amateur Duck and Goose Calling Contest will be held for youth and adults at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 14, 2007, as part of the Richard Clifton Hometown Event at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. All amateur youth aged 17 & under and all amateur adults aged 18 years and older are invited to participate in this special one-time calling event. Two separate competitions, each divided between youth and adults, are scheduled to include the Goose Calling Competition and the Duck Calling Competition. The contest will be judged by five avid local waterfowlers who are not competing in the event. Each competition will award first, second, and third prizes, for a total of twelve prizes. First prize will be the Special Edition Richard Clifton Call. Second prize will be the Special Edition Richard Clifton Gold Medallion. Third Prize will be the Special Edition Richard Clifton Silver Medallion.

Overseeing the contest will be renowned duck and goose calling champion Mitch Hughes. Mr. Hughes has been guiding hunters on Maryland's Eastern Shore since he was fifteen years old. Not only is he an experienced guide, but Mr. Hughes was recently crowned the 2006 World Goose Calling Champion. Mr. Hughes has also consecutively been crowned World Live Duck Calling Champion in 2005 and 2006. In 2006, Mr. Hughes won the Maryland State Goose title as well as the Maryland State Duck Calling title. Mr. Hughes also won the Maryland State Duck Calling title in 2005.

This competition is part of the Richard Clifton Hometown Event, which is a celebration in honor of Richard Clifton winning the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp Competition with a pair of swimming ring-necked ducks. The Hometown Event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature live music, live wildlife presentations, wildlife management demonstrations, conservation displays, a guided nature walk, and face painting for kids. Food and beverage vendors will be available for the entire event. Federal duck stamps featuring Richard's artwork will be on sale.

For more information, please visit the refuge's website at <http://primehook.fws.gov> or call the Refuge Office at (302) 684-8419.

CONGRESS URGED TO APPROVE LARGE INCREASE FOR NWRS

Congress is being urged by the National Wildlife Refuge Association to appropriate a 451 million dollar increase for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) and members of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, or CARE, a diverse coalition of 21 sporting, conservation and scientific organizations, are asking Congress to fund the Refuge System at \$451 million in 2008, the amount appropriated in 2004, adjusted for inflation.

According to the NWRA, funding shortfalls have pushed the national refuges into a crisis situation. Visitors' services and public access are being curtailed at some refuges and many refuges are being completely de-staffed. Approximately 40% of the 547 refuges nationwide have no permanent staff.

Friends are being asked to get in touch with their senators and representatives in the Congress to support this increase in appropriations.

AT THE HOOK 2007 LECTURE SERIES

- August 9:** *How to Train Your Retrieving Dog the Natural Way*
Bill Wolter, Owens Station Hunting Preserve
- September 13:** *Acid Rain in Delaware: Past, Present & Future*
Joe Scudlark, Marine Laboratory Manager, UD College of Marine & Earth Studies
- October 11:** *The Design & Folkart of the Pennsylvania/Kentucky Rifle in Colonial America*
Dick Niekamp, 18th Century Story Telling Historian
- November—No Lecture Scheduled**
- December 13:** *Is Habitat Change and Loss at Bombay Hook NWR a Harbinger of Things to Come?*
David Carter, Environmental Program Manager, DNREC, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Delaware Coastal Programs

WHERE: Refuge Headquarters WHEN: 7:00.m./ Light Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT'S IN STORE AT THE STORE???

Great News! Congratulations to Artist Richard Clifton for winning the 2007 Federal Duck Stamp contest this year!

The *Friends Store* will help commemorate this event with a grand assortment of 2007 Federal Duck Stamp Products.



Items include, Mouse Pads,
Ceramic Mugs, Tote Bags,
Magnets, Postcards, and Tee
Shirts.

All the usual Store items are available also. During the Home Town Event Festival only, there will be an extra 10% discount on all books!

TRAIL NOTES AND NEEDS

Bill Jones has put out a request for several trail maintenance volunteers. With the recent addition of new trails, there is a need to get more folks involved. Each route must be inspected every week throughout the year to ensure the safety of our visitors. Some light maintenance is involved. Please contact Bill (684-8419) or Jean Charles (947-1779), if you can help.

Prime Hook is also looking for a name for the newest trail soon to be opened near the Broadkill Beach bridge. Have any ideas? See our friend Bill.

**FRIENDS OF PRIME HOOK
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, INC.**

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**FRIENDS OF PRIME HOOK NWR
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Remember: Membership dues and all donations are tax deductible. Mail checks to FRIENDS OF PRIME HOOK NWR, INC., 11978 Turtle Pond Road, Milton, DE 19968.

Name

Street Address

City State ZIP

Phone E-mail

() New Member () Renewal

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

(Choose one level from list below)

()	Individual	\$ 10.00
()	Family	\$ 15.00
()	Student	\$ 8.00
()	Sustaining	\$ 25.00
()	Supporting	\$ 50.00
()	Sponsor	\$100.00
()	Small Business	\$125.00
()	Corporate	\$250.00

WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages Friends groups to expand and extend support of national wildlife refuges. Here at Prime Hook, the goals of the non-profit Friends of PHNWR are:

- To provide educational and interpretive material in the Friends' Store and raise awareness of the environment and habitat at Prime Hook NWR. The funds generated through store sales are used to support Refuge activities and programs.
- To seek public and private support for new and existing programs.
- To contribute time, talents and funds for construction, repair and maintenance of recreational and educational facilities and grounds.
- To sponsor activities to encourage the public to become stewards of our natural resources.
- To establish and maintain positive public recognition of the Refuge and Friends of PHNWR.

THE FRIENDS OF PHNWR
GIVE A SPECIAL "THANK YOU!"

TO OUR SPONSOR MEMBERS:

- Dave & Rosemary Baues
- Ingrid Bogen
- Dr. Nicholas Constantinople
- Terry Eidell
- Glenn Garner
- Owen & Janice Henning
- Patrick Noonan

AND TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS:

- Kent-Sussex Industries
- Wyoming Millwork

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!