



DNREC, Shoreline and Waterway Management Section Spring/Summer 2012

Volume 6, Issue 1

The Delaware Bayshore Initiative

Upcoming Events:

Delaware State Fair

July 19, 2012 – July 28, 2012
Delaware State Fairgrounds
Harrington, DE
For more information:
www.delawarestatefair.com

Coastal Cleanup

September 15, 2012
9 AM – Noon
For more information contact
DNREC Public Affairs Office
(302) 739-9902

Coast Day

Sunday, October 7, 2012
11AM-5PM
University of Delaware
Hugh H. Sharp Campus
Lewes, DE
For more information:
(302) 645-4346



Extending from Pea Patch Island in New Castle County to the City of Lewes in Sussex County, the Delaware Bay shoreline is widely recognized as an area of global ecological significance. Its expansive coastal marshes, shoreline, agricultural lands and forests provide diverse habitat to many species, including migratory shorebirds. Birders and biologists from around the world come to central Delaware to witness the annual spring spectacle of more than a half million shorebirds taking a rest stop to dine on eggs laid by spawning horseshoe crabs.

The Delaware Bayshore Initiative will collaboratively build on the region's reputation as a unique and beautiful natural resource, and help improve the local economy by encouraging more Delawareans and visitors to enjoy it through activities such as low-impact fishing, hunting, boating and ecotourism. By building on public-private partnerships and leveraging state, federal and private resources, the Bayshore Initiative targets three major areas for improvement:

- Conservation and ecological restoration – Connect wildlife areas by acquisition or easement of unprotected lands; restore native habitat; and protect resources.
- Recreation and connectivity – Focus strategic investments to connect wildlife areas to urban centers; maximize enjoyment of the outdoors by providing safe, healthy recreational experiences; and enhance access to wild areas.
- Engagement and marketing – Engage, educate and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards; partner with local communities and organizations to promote the area regionally, nationally and internationally; and promote local volunteerism.

On May 29, 2012, Governor Jack Markell along with Secretary of DNREC Collin O'Mara hosted a kick-off event at Slaughter Beach. The Governor and Secretary were joined by Cabinet Secretary Ken Salazar, US Department of Interior, Senator Tom Carper, Representative John Carney, Mayor Ron Hunsicker, Mayor Frank Draper and Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands Kate Hackett as well as many DNREC employees, local officials and Delaware Bayshore residents. Each of the officials mentioned above spoke about how the Delaware Bayshore is important to not only the State of Delaware, but also to the Nation.



The Delaware Bayshore Initiative stands to improve quality of life through enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities; to provide students with outdoor living classroom educational options; and to help prepare Delaware for future climate changes and impacts. It was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as one of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world.



Beach Grass Planted Post Nourishment

On Saturday March 24, 2011 about 600 volunteers came to several of Delaware's beaches to help plant beach grass on newly reconstructed dunes. The dunes in Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach and Bethany Beach were reconstructed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC's) Shoreline and Waterway Management Section after the US Army Corps of Engineers had the beaches refilled by dredging. Along the Delaware Bay, Bowers Beach, South Bowers Beach and Kitts Hummock Beach were planted after DNREC completed truck haul nourishment projects.

The weather was less than favorable, with occasional down pours of rain and almost constant drizzle but it did not seem to effect many of the volunteers. Quite a few groups and individuals stuck

it out until all was planted or until lunchtime. "We would not be able to get all the grass that was needed planted before the cut off date of April 15th, if it wasn't for our dedicated volunteers. We get new volunteers every year, but for the most part we get folks who come back year after year and who are willing to go to just about any beach," stated Jennifer Luoma, event coordinator.

DNREC would like to thank the City of Rehoboth Beach, the Town of Dewey Beach and the Town of Bethany Beach for providing restrooms for volunteers to use, the Delaware Mobile Surf Fisherman for providing refreshments and to Giant, Pepsi Co., Super Fresh and Safeway for providing drinks to volunteers.



We would not be able to get all the grass that was needed planted before the cut off date of April 15th, if it wasn't for our dedicated volunteers. We get new volunteers every year, but for the most part we get folks who come back year after year and who are willing to go to just about any beach," stated Jennifer Luoma, event coordinator.



Delaware Recognized For Having Outstanding Beaches



In Rehoboth Beach on July 3, 2012, Governor Jack Markell, U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons, U.S. Representative John Carney, and DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara today recognized Delaware's ocean beaches for receiving the highest national ranking for clean water quality and for recently completed beach nourishment projects. Joining in the ceremony at the bandstand in Rehoboth Beach were U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Col. Chris Becking, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin, Delaware state legislators and dignitaries from Lewes, Rehoboth, Dewey, Bethany, South Bethany and Fenwick Island beaches.

Delaware attracts more than 7 million visitors each year, in large part because of the state's picturesque Atlantic beaches. According to the report, *The Contribution of the Coastal Economy to the State of Delaware*, released June 1 by the Delaware Sea Grant College Pro-

gram at the University of Delaware, the state's coastal economy has a significant impact on Delaware's overall economy - generating \$6.9 billion annually, including \$711 million in tax revenue and supporting 59,000 jobs. Beach tourism provides more than 10 percent of the state's total employment, taxes, and business production.

The event honored Delaware's beaches for receiving national recognition as the top beaches in the nation for swimming water quality from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the non-partisan international environmental advocacy group founded in 1970. Delaware is ranked first out of 30 states for cleanest water quality overall. The report cited that Delaware State Park beaches - Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island - and the state's Atlantic community beaches - Rehoboth, Dewey, Bethany, South Bethany, and Fenwick Island - had excellent swimming water quality, with no swimming advisories issued.

Two of the state's most popular beaches - Rehoboth and Dewey Beach - were awarded 5-star ratings as Superstar beaches for their perfect swimming water quality for the past three years. Each year the NRDC evaluates two of the most popular beaches in each state for consideration of the 5-star rating. As Delaware's most visited beaches, Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches are the only beaches in the state evaluated by the NRDC for Superstar Beach status. This marks the second year that Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches were awarded Superstar status.

Nourishment projects were initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, following property damage and the erosion of dunes and beaches from several nor'easter storms, including Nor'Ida in 2009. With funding from the U.S. Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Program, emergency repair work began in 2010. Delaware's Congressional Delegation secured additional funding through the federal Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control provided the balance of the funds as the non-federal sponsor.

Nourishment included the placement of 3 million cubic yards of clean sand along community beaches from Lewes to Fenwick Island. The sand was pumped from an offshore borrow area, then bulldozed, graded and built into a dune and berm system designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dunes, which serve as primary buffers for protection, were rebuilt to an average elevation of 15 feet. Depending upon the severity of erosion, community beaches were widened by 75 to 200 feet to protect buildings and infrastructure from flooding and coastal storms and restore beaches for recreational use.

“Clean water quality and nourished ocean beaches are vital to tourism, job growth and Delaware’s economy,” said Gov. Markell. “Delaware’s ranking as first in the country for swimming water quality and our expanded, beautifully-nourished community beaches are continuing to make our coastal resorts national destinations of choice.”

New Field Operations Program Manager

Maria Sadler has served us well as an Environmental Scientist for the last 21 years, but she has moved onward and upward. That said, she has not gone very far. Maria is now the new program manager at the Field Operations Office in Lewes, Delaware. She will still be heavily involved in the wellness of Delaware's beaches, but will be taking on a different role. Maria will oversee the dune fencing, dune maintenance, dredging, macroalgae harvesting, channel marking and derelict structure removal. The Shoreline and Waterway Management Section would like to congratulate Maria on this promotion and looks forward to working with her on future projects.



SAFETY CORNER

Recently, there has been a lot in the news about beach goers who have attempted to dig tunnels in the sand and have been trapped due to collapse. In some cases, emergency workers were able to reach the accident victims in time; in other cases, they were not. It does not take much time for a person to suffocate under sand. When digging holes on the beach be sure not to dig them too deep or dig tunnels under the ground. Holes on the beach are also difficult to see putting whoever is inside them at risk of getting run over or trampled or for pedestrians who could twist an ankle or trip and fall. Please exert caution when it comes to holes and/or digging on the beach.



Shoreline and Waterway
Management Section
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 739-9921

For Your Reference:

Beach Preservation Act

Title 7, Chapter 68

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title7/c068/index.shtml>

Regulations Governing Beach
Protection and the Use of Beaches

<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/bechregs.htm>

Link to Applications for Coastal
Construction

Scroll to the bottom of the page for list of
applications

<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/services/Pages/PermitsLicensesApprovals.aspx>

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program

<http://www.fema.gov/about/programs/nfip/index.shtm>

If you have any questions regarding the information found in this publication, please contact Jennifer Luoma at (302) 739-9921 or

Jennifer.Luoma@state.de.us

Document No. 40-07-01/12/01/01