

## Hours of Operation

### April - October

Tuesday – Sunday

10:00 am to 500 pm

Closed Monday

### November - March

Monday – Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

The observation deck is open year-round  
from sunrise to sunset.

## Directions

### From the North (Wilmington / Dover)

Take Route 1 south to exit SR-36 toward  
Milford /Slaughter Beach

Turn left onto Cedar Beach Road / DE-36  
(4.6 miles)

Turn left onto Lighthouse Road (1 mile)

### From the South (Sussex County)

Take Route 1 north to exit SR-36 toward  
Milford / Slaughter Beach

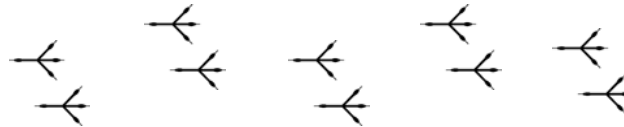
Turn right onto Cedar Beach Road  
DE-36 (4.6 miles)

Turn left onto Lighthouse Road (1mile)

Phone: 302-422-1329  
Fax: 302-422-1338  
Web site: [www.dupontnaturecenter.org](http://www.dupontnaturecenter.org)

at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve  
2992 Lighthouse Road  
Milford, Delaware 19963

The Dupont Nature Center



The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife



The DuPont Nature Center at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve is located on a 1.7-acre property at the mouth of the Mispillion River on the Delaware Bay. The Mispillion Harbor along the Delaware Bay represents one of the most important horseshoe crab spawning beaches and shorebird feeding areas in the world. Each year, thousands of horseshoe crabs mate and lay millions of eggs on beaches visible from the DuPont Nature Center's observation deck. The eggs are a critical food source for migratory shorebirds, including the remarkable Red Knot, which stops at the Delaware Bay each spring on its 9,000-mile flight from Tierra del Fuego (South America's southern most tip) to its summer nesting grounds in the Arctic.

**History...**The property was purchased by the State of Delaware in 2001 with funding from the PSEG Estuary Enhancement Program. The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife began renovations on the building in May 2005. The DuPont Company joined the initiative in December 2005 and provided funding and technical assistance for the educational exhibits and observation decking. The property overlooks approximately 70 acres of marsh and dunes purchased by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control from the Conservation Fund in July 2006. These adjacent lands are prime horseshoe crab spawning and shorebird feeding areas. Other state holdings to the west include the marshes of the Milford Neck Wildlife area.

The Mispillion Lighthouse once stood on the property. In May 2002, tragedy struck the endangered old Lighthouse with a bolt of lightning. Fire quickly spread down the walls virtually ending all hope of the once-proud little sentinel being restored to its beautiful "stick-gothic" elegance at this site.



**The DuPont Nature Center** will serve as a science-based education and interpretive facility for schools, families, and other organized groups. It is designed to connect people with nature and will instill an appreciation for the ecological significance of the region.



*Photo courtesy of Chris Bennett*

The center with its distinctive red roof, includes an observation deck with spotting scopes to view the harbor, bay and shoreline. More than 130 species of birds, fish, shellfish, and other animals populate the area. Inside the center visitors can view shorebirds and horseshoe crabs along the shoreline more than 100 yards away, courtesy of a remote camera and a 42-inch plasma viewing screen.

The center is filled with exhibits devoted to the Delaware Bay's natural history and ecology.

- Bird identification panels are designed to help visitors spot many of the species that may be seen in and around the harbor.
- "Fly the Delaware Bay" an interactive exhibit sponsored by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, provides an aerial tour of the estuary.
- Beautiful murals illustrate the anatomy of the horseshoe crab, the red knot's migration and also discuss the connection between the two.
- Computerized touch-screens take visitors beyond the exhibits with lively closed-captioned video.
- Detailed exhibits provide information about the biology and ecology of horseshoe crabs and

shorebirds illuminating the connection between them.

- Additional exhibits describe research efforts to protect crucial shorebird feeding areas and nesting habitats, horseshoe crab spawning areas, bait use and the importance of the horseshoe crab in modern medicine.
- An internet access station is available as an additional resource for educational information on wildlife and their habitat.

## Live Sturgeon

Atlantic Sturgeon are another ancient denizen of the Delaware Estuary. A live-tank features juvenile sturgeon year-round.



*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*



On Wednesday, May 23, 2007 Friends of the Red Knot Club attended the Grand Opening of the new DuPont Nature Center. Their picture was taken with "ALX" the center's Mascot.

*Photo courtesy of Gail Hudson*

Interested in learning more about the DuPont Nature Center and the programs being scheduled for the Summer, Fall, and Winter?

Contact Dawn Webb at 302-422-1329, or visit our web site at [www.dupontnaturecenter.org](http://www.dupontnaturecenter.org)