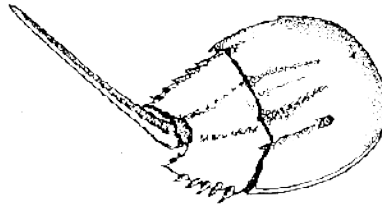


**2009 Annual Slaughter Beach Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey
Volunteer Training Session**



**Saturday, April 25, 2009
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Marvel Drive
Slaughter Beach**

Since 1990, surveys have been conducted of horseshoe crabs spawning in Delaware Bay. Despite the horseshoe crab's importance to the ecology of the Delaware Bay, little is known about its population status. Spawning surveys give scientists an index of the population to assist them in the management of the species. Now, every spring on several peak spawning days, volunteers donate their time to count crabs on key beaches in Delaware and in New Jersey.

The Delaware Nature Society at Abbott's Mill Nature Center, Milford, will once again be coordinating the annual Slaughter Beach horseshoe crab spawning survey.

Abbott's Mill Nature Center staff will give training on Slaughter Beach, at **Marvel Drive**, beginning **4 p.m. April 25th**, for those who are interested in assisting with the count this year. Volunteers will learn how to conduct the survey, how to properly record data, and how to distinguish between male and female horseshoe crabs, and to sign up for dates and times. Participants who are interested in other beaches are more than welcome to attend our training and will be referred to the appropriate beach leader for further information. An adult must accompany volunteers under age 18.

Elliott Workman, Abbott's Mill Nature Center, will present the results of last years Survey Data on the beach at Marvel Drive just prior to the training.

For more information or to register for the training, please contact Elliott Workman, Abbott's Mill Nature Center at **(302) 422-0847**.
Elliott@delawarenaturesociety.org

Or Bill Rafter, Slaughter Beach Mini Market at **(302) 422-8266**.

Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey Dates and High Tide Times Slaughter Beach

Thursday, May 07, 8:53pm	Friday, June 05, 8:30 pm
Saturday, May 09, 10:11pm	Sunday, June 07, 9:50 pm
Monday, May 11, 11:29 pm	Tuesday, June 09, 11:08pm
Friday May 22, 8:11pm	Saturday, June 20, 7:45 pm
Sunday, May 24, 9:50 pm	Monday, June 22, 9:34pm
Tuesday, May 26, 11:34 pm	Wednesday, June 24, 11:21 pm

Please note that volunteers should arrive approximately 1 hour prior to the high tide so they can do the preliminaries necessary for the survey and walk to the beach starting point. A minimum of 3 volunteers will be assigned each night. For more information contact Elliott Workman at Abbott's Mill Nature phone 422-0847 Elliott@delawarenaturesociety.org

or Bill Rafter at Slaughter Beach Mini Market 422-8266