HORSESHOE CRAB COUNT TO BE HELD AGAIN IN MAY AND JUNE ON SLAUGHTER BEACH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For the 13th consecutive year the Delaware Bay Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey will be implemented in a standardized manner throughout Delaware Bay during the months of May and June. The counts are conducted on 13 beaches in New Jersey and 13 in Delaware during the new and full moon evening high tides, usually 6 nights in May and 6 in June.

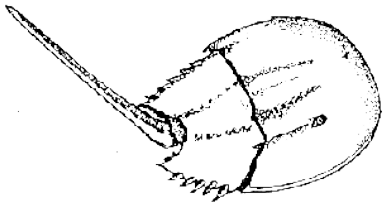
For most of the years our beach at Slaughter has produced the largest number of spawning crabs for the entire Delaware Bay area. During these years, Abbott's Mill Nature Center in Milford has sponsored the count on Slaughter Beach. Elliott Workman will again work with the Volunteers to conduct the survey this year. A Training Session will be Sat. 23 April, 4pm (see below for details).

If you are interested in helping any of the nights with the horseshoe crab count this year please contact Abbott's Mill Nature Center at 422-0847 or by email Elliott@delawarenaturesociety.org

Lunar Date	Survey Date	Time of High Water
New Moon May 3	Sunday, May 1 Tuesday, May 3 Thursday, May 5	8:54 pm (5.3 ft) 10:07pm (5.5 ft) 11:24 pm (5.5 ft)
Full Moon May 17	Sunday, May 15 Tuesday, May 17 Thursday, May 19	8:11 pm (6.2 ft) 9:53 pm (6.4 ft) 11:32 pm (6.1 ft)
New Moon June 1	Monday, May 30 Wednesday, June 1 Friday, June 3	8:21 pm (5.3 ft) 9:43 pm (5.7 ft) 11:06 pm (5.8 ft)
Full Moon June 15	Monday, June 13 Wednesday, June 15 Friday, June 13	7:54 pm (6.1 ft) 9:38 pm (6.2 ft) 11:13 pm (5.9 ft)

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 or by email Elliott@delawarenaturesociety.org or Bill Rafter at Slaughter Beach Mini Market 422-8266.

2011 Annual Slaughter Beach Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey
Volunteer Training Session



Saturday, April 23, 2011
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 23**, 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. If you have taken the training before you do not need to take it again.

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 or by email** Elliott@delawarenaturesociety.org. Or, contact Bill Rafter, Slaughter Beach Mini Market at (302) 422-8266.