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## **Slaughter Beach Registers as an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat<sup>TM</sup>**

**HOCKESSIN, Del. (February 6, 2014)** – The **National Wildlife Federation** and **Delaware Nature Society** announce that the community of Slaughter Beach, Delaware is putting out the welcome mat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, by recently registering its **Community Wildlife Habitat<sup>TM</sup>** project with NWF.

Slaughter Beach is sending a clear and powerful message to communities all over America that caring people, working together, can help wildlife, wild places and the health of the environment. The residents of Slaughter Beach are making a difference in their own community and beyond.

Since 1973, NWF has provided millions of people with the basic guidelines for making their landscapes more hospitable for wildlife. To date, through the **Certified Wildlife Habitat<sup>TM</sup>** program, NWF has certified more than 160,000 sites including yards, schools, businesses, community gardens, parks, and places of worship. Each of these sites provides the four basic elements that all wildlife need to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

To date NWF has certified 81 entire communities. Slaughter Beach is working to become part of this distinguished group. A Community Wildlife Habitat project brings people together for a common purpose – to create a community where people, flora and fauna can flourish. Slaughter Beach's action plan includes a long-term commitment to citizen education about providing habitat for wildlife and employing sustainable gardening practices. These practices include reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, conserving water, planting native plants, removing invasive plants and composting. Their goal is to certify at least thirty homes, one educational area, and three open spaces.

Residents of Slaughter Beach embrace their environment, sharing their space with a rich, diverse and fragile ecosystem. A Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary since 2004, their town on the Delaware Bay

beachfront hosts thousands of breeding horseshoe crabs, migrating shorebirds and school students each spring. Cradled by the salt marshes of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Milford Neck Wildlife Area and Delaware Nature Society's Marvel Tract, Slaughter Beach residents are enthusiastic caretakers of this nursery for marine life and the dune system that provides natural protection. This certification allows residents to continue to contribute to the established and honored commitment between Slaughter Beach and the environment.

For more information on becoming involved in Slaughter Beach's efforts to become a certified Community Wildlife Habitat, please contact Bill McSpadden at [slaughterbeep@comcast.net](mailto:slaughterbeep@comcast.net). To get started on your own gardening for wildlife adventure, visit NWF's website at [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife). The site offers access to continually-updated information and resources for habitat projects, along with a wealth of other information on wildlife and wild places, and how to help protect these precious natural resources.

For more information, please go to: [www.nwf.org/community](http://www.nwf.org/community).

For more National Wildlife Federation news, visit: [www.nwf.org/news](http://www.nwf.org/news).

For more information about Delaware Nature Society, visit [www.delnature.org](http://www.delnature.org)

*National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization, inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.*

*Founded in 1964, Delaware Nature Society works to improve the environment through conservation, advocacy, and education.*

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