

Middle Island Rookery Project



Photo courtesy of Carol Bason

DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS - - A NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION, WISE USE, AND ENHANCEMENT OF DELAWARE'S INLAND BAYS

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays' staff developed a unique artificial nesting structure for Great Blue Heron and Egret. The design needed to meet several criteria: It had to be cost-effective; it needed to be lightweight; it had to be able to handle the harsh conditions found in the Mid-Atlantic coastal region; and it had to look more like a tree than existing nesting structures already in use.



The photo above, taken in March 2009, shows the completed project including the decoys and various nesting material placed in the nesting baskets.

The photo to the right, taken in early June 2009, shows an adult Great Blue Heron standing over a young chick in the nest.



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- Installed March 2009.
- 28 individual nests.
- Total cost for materials and installation was \$13,427.
- Cost-share provided through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Additional funding provided by Rosemark DesignBuild.
- Decoys mounted to keep Ospreys away and attract Heron and Egrets.
- Nest baskets are made of 3/16" aluminum.
- Located on a privately-owned island between Indian River and Rehoboth Bay.

DELAWARE



Limulus polyphemus

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS
Rehoboth Indian River Little Assawoman