

# 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*

For about a year, Center for the Inland Bays' staff discussed the idea of creating an artificial nesting structure for Pelican, Great Blue Heron, and Egret. The design had 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.*



Delaware Center for the

Inland Bays

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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)
- 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

# MIDDLE ISLAND ROOKERY

NEST POLES (4)

12/16/08

NEST BASKETS (28)

