



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

January 2007

Program – Fossil Legends of the First Americans: Fact or Fiction?

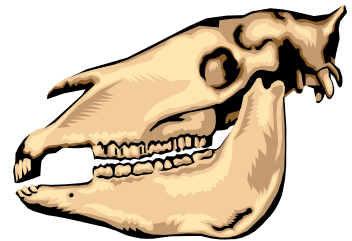
Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Presenter: Erik Mollenhauer

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks

In 1864, Richard Adams, a native Delaware (Lenape), retold a traditional tale that began: “When the world was young, there lived in this country many huge monsters...”

In fact, across the Americas, native people told tales of Giants... marsh monsters... witch buffalo... thunderbirds... little people... and other “mythical” creatures. Since then, modern archaeology has shown that many kinds of fossils were collected and used by native Americans. What if these tales of mythical creatures had a basis in fact? Could traditional tales have been sophisticated attempts to explain fossil evidence that littered the American landscape? How did native explanations contrast with colonial/European explanations of the time?



Join us as we spin a tale of trilobites, horn corals and T. rex, of Thomas Jefferson, the *American incognitum* and Shamong, NJ. For a brief moment, hold 350 million years... and the devil’s toenails... in your hands.

Field Trip – Backyard Feeder Trip

Saturday January 20th

Trip Leaders: Brian and Paula Hayes (856-468-9272)

We are very excited to bring back this club tradition of feeder visits. The Feeder Trip is self-guiding. Read the list of generous club members who have agreed to open their houses and plan your morning according to what interests you. You can spend as much time as you want at each location or try to hit all of them. Please note there are two time slots and we ask you to respect our volunteers and only visit during the listed times. They have all agreed to list their phone numbers as a courtesy, please only use those phone numbers the day of the trip for questions on directions. If you have other questions or need more specific directions before January 20th please call Paula or Brian at 856-468-9272.

These Homes are open 9:00 - 10:30

Home of Wayne Blackman

119 Pitman Ave, Pitman

856-589-3972

Directions- From Delsea Drive, route 47, at the EIRC building, continue on route 47 towards Glassboro through one traffic light. The next street on your right is Pitman Ave, and you should turn right onto this street. Proceed past the light at Woodbury-Glassboro Road and up a small hill looking for Kelley Funeral Home at the top of the hill on your left. Wayne's house is the next house past Kelley's on the left side. It is a split-level house with brick on the lower part and white on top. There is a large Norway spruce and an American Flag in the front yard.

Comments- This certified backyard habitat used to be a show place for over 500 roses. All the roses are gone and have made way for a more natural habitat that welcomes birds and butterflies. Now robins eat holly berries, while cardinals, blue jays, chickadees and several species of sparrows come to the back yard for a drink. In addition, there are many orchids (hopefully blooming) inside.

Home of the Jim and Margie Norton

404 Center Street, Barnsboro

856-468-3097

Directions- From route 55 South take exit 53B (553 or Woodbury/Glassboro Road) towards Wenonah. At the 1st light make a left onto Center Street towards the Sewell Post office. Go about 1 mile, the house is just past Cousin's Nursery on the right. Coming from Sewell it is about 200 feet past New Street, on a curve. The house is barn red with yellow trim. There is a greenhouse on the front of the house.

Comments- This yard is on the edge of a wooded area near a pond which is visited by great blue heron, kingfisher, and in the warmer months – least bittern. The feeders are visited by wrens, juncos, chickadees, cardinals, blue jays, downy and hairy woodpeckers, titmouse, nuthatches, finches, and sapsucker.

Home of Doris and Dwight Weir

24 Brae Ct, Turnersville

856-228-1723

Directions- Take route 42 South and turn right onto Greentree Road. Turn right onto Hurffville Road (there is an abandoned firehouse at the turn on the right). If you get to Egg Harbor Road you have gone too far. Once on Hurffville Road go to the Wedgewood Country Club and turn right onto Wilson Road. Once on Wilson Road take the 3rd right onto Bryant Road and then make an almost immediate left onto Forest Drive. Then take the 2nd left onto Brae Ct. The house is on the left side of the cul-de-sac. It is a brick and white house with blue shutters and a two car garage. **Doris and Dwight have generously offered to open their house during both time slots.**

Comments- This small yard in a development still manages to attract a variety of birds to the feeders. On a typical day you can see chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, titmouse, white throated sparrows, down woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, cardinals, blue jays, mourning doves, goldfinches and others.

The Reserve House, Home of Ermelinda Sgro
22 Pintail Dr (The Reserve at Lake Oberst), Pitman 856-256-8713

Directions- From EIRC travel south on Rt. 47, turn left on Fish Pond Road. Travel about one mile and then turn right into The Reserve. You will be on Pintail Drive, go around the circle and continue straight to 22 Pintail Drive. The house has a red door, stone bench, white arbor, and fence.

Comments- This once summer resort at Lake Oberst is now an adult community. There are mallards, snapping turtles, Canada geese, squirrels, snakes, vultures, and sapsuckers. There are blue jays, sparrows, chickadees, woodpeckers, and in the spring a family of flycatchers. Ermelinda has generously offered to serve light refreshments.

Riverstone Ranch, Home of Bob and Carol Cassel
407 Heritage Road, Sewell 856-478-2496

Directions- Heritage Road runs between Main Street near Daminger's store in Mantua and Rt. 45. Their house is located on Heritage Road 6/10 of a mile from Rt. 45. It is a stone home hidden by the trees. The drive way is at the top of a hill.

Comments- This yard features fox sparrows, woodpeckers, occasional hermit thrushes, red tailed hawks, and occasionally a Cooper's hawk.

These Homes are open 11:00 - 12:30

Home of Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon
46 North Childs Street, Woodbury 856-845-7075

Directions- From the intersection of Delaware Street and route 45 in downtown Woodbury, go west on Delaware approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to Childs Street. Turn right (North). Our house will be on the right about halfway down the block. It is the only one story house on the block. It is cream-colored with green shutters.

Comments- This yard features several feeders, good cover and a small pond. It gets the usual backyard birds and occasionally the neighborhood Cooper's hawk calls in too.

Home of Betty London
239 Clems Run Road, Mullica Hill 856-478-2267

Directions- Coming from Glassboro on Rt. 322 west go to the 2nd light past Rt. 55 and make a soft left on Harrisonville Road behind the Wawa. Go to the 2nd intersection which is Clems Run Road and make a right. Travel about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and on the right is 239 a red brick rancher with blue shutters and an American flag in the yard. The house is next to a horse pasture.

Comments- This yard contains a pond, wooded area, overgrown pasture, several feeders, and good views of it all from inside. Visitors include 3 varieties of woodpecker, Carolina wrens, great blue herons, juncos, chickadees, ducks, sparrows, and wild turkey.

Home of Ed and Millie Cleary
1874 McKee Avenue, Deptford 856-228-6890

Directions- Take Rt. 41 North heading towards the Deptford Mall. Go past the Home Depot and turn left at McKee (across from the Post Office). 1874 is 3/10 mile on the right. McKee is a dead end street. Their house is the next to the last on the street.

Comments- Our backyard borders a large wooded area. Birds often seen in this yard include red bellied woodpecker, downy, hairy, woodpeckers, white and red breasted nuthatches, chickadee's, titmice, junco, white throated sparrow, cardinal, and blue jay. We also host a bunch of squirrels. Our feeder is frequently under attack by either a sharp-shinned or a cooper's hawk.

Home of Doris and Dwight Weir

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856-228-1723

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Home of Waltraut and Heidy Kelley

337 Breakneck Road, Sewell

856-223-1787

Directions- 2 miles from the Barnsboro Inn on Breakneck Road heading toward Clearview School. The house is on the left, their mailbox (with monarchs and a sunflower) is the second one after the Lantern Way development. You can't see the houses from the road.

Comments- This yard features room to hike, 12 acres that you are welcome to explore on your own. The feeders feature hairy, downy, and red-bellied woodpecker and many other species. The yard is wooded with many beech trees.

Conservation Corner – The Slower Path by Loretta Dunne

As the year ends, it is usual to think about time – the time past and future time, where you have been and where you are going. I find myself also thinking about the speed of time. Why does time seem to be rushing by, going too fast? I think it might be because I am going too fast.

The slow food movement has gotten a lot of coverage in the press. It says that the best food is the food grown and prepared with care, and eaten leisurely. This year, I urge you to join me in attempting to institute the slow life movement. Much of the problems of the world would be mitigated if life were lived slower. Moreover, if we slow down and make wise choices in our lives, we are more likely to make choices that are good for the environment, and, I believe, we will probably be a bit more satisfied with our lives.

What changes when you become slower?

- You appreciate what you have and need less new goods – the onslaught of all of those consumer messages become less loud.
- You walk in your own neighborhood and notice what is happening there.
- You can spend an hour at your window, watching the birds at the feeder
- You spruce up that old bike and start pedaling to the convenience store
- You have time to take long walks in your favorite Gloucester County natural places.
- You have time to read a book to yourself or a child.
- You nurture an herb garden in your backyard.
- You make a loaf of bread or make a special meal for friends.
- You might begin to notice more how many things you do in a week that are not really as important as you previously thought, and you begin to simplify your life.

These are just a few examples. I am sure you can think of many more. Can the slow life movement change the world, result in the use of less natural resources, slow global warming, and foster a more sustainable lifestyle? I think it can do that and more. A slower life can seem longer and more satisfying.

How slow can we go? Let 2007 be the year that we answer that question.

Other Nature Notes

A publication of the Gloucester County Nature Club

Natural Places Guide Update:

In an effort to increase the appreciation and knowledge concerning the important natural areas of the county, the Nature Club is publishing the Guide to the Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ. It includes descriptions of 36 important county natural sites, seasonal information, directions, maps, and visitor information. Projected publication date is March 1, 2007.

We need sponsors!

The club is seeking sponsors to defray some of the associated costs. Both businesses and personal (individual) sponsors are welcome. All sponsors will be recognized in the book. The more sponsors we have, the more funds will be available to promote the book and the natural places of the county. Book prototypes are available to show potential sponsors. Those of you who have already seen the book know that this is a wonderful resource for the county and a great opportunity for businesses and concerned citizens to become involved in a project that will benefit both people and the beautiful natural areas that we have to explore. Below are the specifics on sponsorship levels. Feel free to contact **Loretta Dunne** (856-848-1324) or **Erik Mollenhauer** (856-582-7000 x128... day phone), if you need further information or if you feel you need help in approaching a sponsor. We need all sponsor commitments by February 2, 2007.

Send a sponsorship check before December 31 and claim the deduction on your 2006 taxes!

Level	Contribution	Sponsorships Available	What they will receive	Deadline for commitment	Comments
Heritage	\$1500	4	Logo and name on back of book <u>and</u> name, contact, 3-line description on <i>Heritage Sponsor</i> page in book	Feb 2, 2007	Only four!
Sustaining	\$500	6	Placement on <u>Bookmark and</u> listing on <i>Sustaining Sponsor</i> page in book	Feb 2, 2007	Includes contact info and/or coupon-like offer (ex: 20% off at store).
Supporting	\$100	Unlimited #	Listing on <i>Supporting Sponsor</i> page in book	Feb 2, 2007	
Local Environmental Commission Cosponsor	\$100 contribution OR <u>Preorder</u> of 25 books @ \$8.00/copy.	Env Comm	Listing below <i>Heritage Sponsors</i> on back of book and on E.C. page in book.	Feb 2, 2007	

A "Partnership Opportunity" write-up is included on the following page that explains the benefits to potential sponsors. Feel free to use it as needed. If you'd like to be a sponsor or if you'd like to suggest a potential sponsor for us to contact, please use the Sponsorship Form on the last page of this newsletter.

Partnership Opportunity

We'd like to offer your organization the chance to help bring a valuable resource to the residents of Gloucester County, a new book: The Natural Places of Gloucester County.

Most people enjoy a walk outdoors. Whether for exercise or simple pleasure, alone or with friends and family, a stroll through a forest or meadow is a healthy way to relax after the hustle and noise of everyday life. These natural areas are fast disappearing and Gloucester County residents drive long distances to enjoy the serenity of the Pine Barrens, Pocono Mountains, etc.

But the fact is, there are numerous public areas right here in Gloucester County where people can walk, exercise relax and discover nature. Yet most of these natural areas are unknown to the public, even to lifelong county residents. *Recognizing this, the Gloucester County Nature Club, a volunteer, 501(c) 3 non-profit with a 56-year history, decided to act by writing and publishing a book that puts the focus on our own backyard.*

The Natural Places of Gloucester County will enable new and old residents to discover and enjoy great places right here in Gloucester County. The book features 36 sites including:

- Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge
- The Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
- Wenonah Woods
- Raccoon Creek Wildlife Management Area

The Natural Places of Gloucester County has been in development for the past year. Authored by Karl Anderson, a respected New Jersey naturalist and resident of Woodbury, NJ, the book has been researched, written, illustrated, designed and edited by a committee of 12 residents from six Gloucester County communities. The anticipated publication date is March 1, 2007.

Gloucester County Nature Club is now in the process of seeking partners/cosponsors to defray production and publication costs and to assist in getting the book to the public. Various sponsor levels are available (see the attachment). A number of local environmental commissions, businesses and individuals have already committed to join the effort.

We invite you to join as a cosponsor to bringing this unique resource to the public. There are three levels of sponsorship. A representative of the Nature Club can meet with you and share a draft copy. We need a commitment from all co-sponsors by February 2.

I can be reached at 856-848-1324 if you have questions; or 856-582-7000 x128 (Erik). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Loretta Dunne
Coordinator, **Natural Places of Gloucester County**

Sand Clay: A Natural Media for Sculpture (from December's meeting)

4 cups of sifted sand
2 cups of corn starch
4 teaspoons cream of tartar
3 cups of water

Combine dry ingredients, then add water to the mix. Cook over a medium heat burner for 10 minutes and keep stirring. The mixture gets very thick, but keep on stirring. If you are not using it right away, keep the mix in a refrigerator for longer life. Once the sand clay is molded into an object, let it air-dry; objects will last for quite a while.

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount to GCNC members!

Wild Birds Unlimited has a discount agreement with the GCNC executive board and is pleased to offer GCNC members an everyday 10% discount on all purchases excluding optics and food or sale items. Sharon Oakes, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, appreciates the many volunteer contributions made by GCNC members and hopes members can benefit from this discount. Members are requested to identify themselves as GCNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please call Sharon at 218-2973.

Vulture Festival News Update

If you were unable to attend the December Club meeting, we now have colorful "save the date" cards available to help promote the March 3, 2007 East Coast Vulture Festival in Wenonah. We're looking for Club members to get these cards into the hands of people in your area and throughout the Delaware Valley. If you can use some cards, either by passing them on to friends or family...or by stacking some at a friendly store, post office, nature center, etc... please call Erik Mollenhauer at 856-582-7000 x128. Leave a message of how many cards you need and where to send them.

Also, forms and other information can be downloaded from www.eastcoastvulturefestival.org/ or at the Club's website www.gcnatureclub.org. Included on the website is TV footage that aired on December 12 on Channel 6 Philadelphia Evening news, with Cathy Gandolfo.

Club Notes:

- The February Executive Committee meeting will be held on February 4th at a location to be determined. Please contact Deb Maka for more information.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborah71@msn.com or call 863-0330.
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program or trip coordinator if you have ideas or would like to help.
- Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Barry Bengel at sharkeyes@comcast.net or 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.

**NATURAL PLACES OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY NJ
Sponsorship Form**

I'd like to be a sponsor

I'd like to suggest a sponsor

Your Name	Phone Number		
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

Sponsor Name	Sponsor Phone Number		
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

If becoming a sponsor, please check one box below and enclose a check payable to **Gloucester County Nature Club**.

Supporting Level (\$100)

Sustaining Level (\$500)

Heritage Level (\$1500)

Send form and payment to:

Gloucester County Nature Club
c/o Ed Cleary
1874 McKee Ave.
Deptford, NJ 08096

Send a sponsorship check before December 31 and claim the deduction on your 2006 taxes!