



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

January 2017

Program - A Practical Guide to Plant Propagation

Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ

Presenter: Ron Kegel

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Have you dabbled in reproducing some of your own plants? Have you started plants from seed, divided some of your own plants, or tried taking cuttings to multiply your plants? Propagation might not be as hard as you think.



Join Ron Kegel, former president of our club (back in the 80's), as he gives us some practical tips and procedures for generating new plants. Ron was in the nursery business for 40+ years growing container shrubs and trees. Most recently he worked at Dean's Evergreens in Monroeville. For the first 30 years his time was spent in production. However, the last 8-10 years he wore a propagation hat too, particularly Winter propagation.

Ron will speak to us about different forms of propagating and also show us some practical details we might be able to use on both small and large scale. More emphasis will be spent on rooting cuttings.

Get that jump start and be ready for Spring! What an opportunity - seed catalogs in January and February, and conversation about plants in the dead of Winter!

Directions: The Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is located just off Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd.) immediately south of the traffic light at Mantua Ave. The church parking lot can be accessed by entrances on either Woodbury-Glassboro Road or Lenape Trail (first left off of Mantua Ave).

Field Trip – Birding Along the Delaware River in Gloucester County

Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 9:00am - early afternoon

Starts at Red Bank Battlefield (meet in the lower parking lot)

Trip Leader: Lloyd Shaw

This guided birding trip will have you visiting several locations along the Delaware River to look for winter birds. This trip will be a joint trip with the Audubon Wildlife Society. You can expect to see waterfowl such as canvasback, cormorants, grebes, long-tailed ducks, and ruddy ducks. The group may even see loons or scoter. Your trip leader, Lloyd Shaw, is an experienced birder and knows the locations to be visited well. Scopes will be available to help you view distant birds, but participants should bring binoculars. The area along the river will be cold in January, so dress in layers for comfort. Snow or heavy rain will cancel this trip.

Directions: Meet in the lower parking lot at Red Bank Battlefield.

Address: 100 Hessian Ave., National Park, NJ 08063.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: January 2017

The following events take place at the Scotland Run Nature Center in Clayton. For details and to register for programs, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- Bird Walk: Saturday 1/7 at 9:00am.
- Nature Tots: What's Wild? : Wednesday 1/10 at 10:30am
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 1/14 at 10:00am
- Nature Tots: Winter Walk – Let it Snow! : Wednesday 1/18 at 10:30am
- Nature Tots: Bearly There : Wednesday 1/25 at 10:30am

Natural Events for the month of January

- Earthworms burrow below frost line and become dormant.
- Newly fallen snow makes it easy to find and study animal tracks.
- First mating season for gray squirrels.
- Look for flocks of robins eating holly berries in your backyard.
- Great horned owls, America's earliest nesting owl, may be on eggs by the end of the month.
- As days lengthen, tufted titmice and cardinals start singing.

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

While we may worry about the future of the environment, the Sierra Club says that we should feel thankful for several environmental gains that happened in recent years. Here are a few of the bright spots.

- In November the international climate accord went into force with the goal of keeping global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. With or without our new president, world leaders have shown a consensus to stop climate change before it becomes irreversible. Also, 200 world leaders meeting in Rwanda approved a timeline to eliminate hydrofluorocarbons which could result in a 0.5 degree Celsius drop in global warming by 2100.
- President Obama has designated 23 new national monuments during his tenure protecting 265 million acres of land, water and beautiful landscapes for all of us to enjoy.
- Last month, the Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act became law. This act will give a boost to wildlife trafficking law enforcement both here and abroad. According to the Wildlife Conservation Society the very existence of elephants, rhinos, tigers and other species is threatened by wildlife trafficking.
- In 2016, our national park system celebrated its 100th birthday. Just think how dreary life would be without our national, state and local park systems. They are something to fight for and protect.
- Twenty US cities have committed to 100% renewable energy with St. Petersburg, Florida signing on in November. This is in addition to dozens of large municipalities. Whether or not the federal government commits to renewable energy, much of the transitioning to clean energy occurs at the state and local level.

See sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-6-november-december/green-life/environmental-gains-make-us-thankful?suppress=true&utm_source=greenlife&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter for whole list of things to be thankful for.

PETITION TO END FOOD WASTE BY LARGE SUPERMARKETS

It is estimated the food retailers waste 43 billion pounds of food every year by overstocking, pushing promotions, creating confusing sell-by dates and demanding picture perfect produce. This happens in a country where 1 in 7 families is food challenged. Also, if food waste were a country, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that it generates would put it third in the world behind China and the US. Food waste also represents a huge loss in water and land resources. In France, it is now illegal for grocery stores to throw away food. Instead, they must donate the unused food to food banks and charities. You may sign a petition asking retailers in the US to curb food waste and donate unused food at www.addup.org/campaigns/stop-food-waste-in-american-grocery-stores/petition/stop-food-waste-in-american-grocery-stores?promoid=70131000001DeCCAA0&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sierrarise&utm_campaign=sierrarise&db_token=a4609524b52933d43fc399d7beb368db972a24d1561e2efe96467e71bcda54fe8b122e588fadfb5d1c4331c560a18d19&utm_content=FoodWaste

FIVE PLANETS VISIBLE IN JANUARY

Venus is our brilliant evening star shining as bright as -4.7 magnitude (that's bright!) in the west in January. Venus goes through phases similar to those of the moon. Its phases can be seen through a small telescope and even a spotting scope so take a few minutes to observe its phase this month. Mars is easy to find just to the upper left of Venus. While Mars is not nearly as bright as Venus, the reddish planet still shines brighter than the stars around it. The largest planet, Jupiter, rises in the east in the middle of the night and shines at -2.1 magnitude (also very bright) near the star Spica. About an hour before sunrise Saturn becomes visible low in the east. By mid-January, little Mercury will rise below Saturn. It is always an exciting challenge to find the small bright dot that is Mercury. For an interactive map of the night sky, go to www.heavens-above.com. Be sure to update your observing location under configuration on the left. There is a wealth of astronomical information on this website so take time to explore it.

THE MUCH-MALIGNED OPOSSUM

The Center for Biologic Diversity asks if we knew that possums have "superpowers"? Here are a few examples of those powers.

- One possum can eat 4,000 ticks in a week
- Possums have near-immunity to rabies
- Possums have total immunity to the poisons of rattlesnakes and other snakes
- They have been around since Tyrannosaurus rex and likely ate dinosaur eggs
- When they play possum they are actually in a comatose state brought on by stress



Please brake when you see a possum! Watch a short video about the awesome possum at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao0G4Jz-Qs4&feature=youtu.be>

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the remainder of the club year. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

February 9, 2017: **Pot Luck Dinner (6:00pm) & Program: Adventures in Paddling for Clean Water and a Healthy Ocean** - Margo Pellegrino

March 9, 2017: **Vulture Culture: A Face Only a Mother Could Love** - Jane Morton Galetto, President, Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River

April 13, 2017: **Birds of Gloucester County and Tips on Photographing Them** - Dennis DiMarco & Marilyn Henry

May 11, 2017: **Annual Plant Sale (6:00pm) and Program: A Green Legacy: John Burroughs and the Catskill Mts (6:45pm)** - Erik Mollenhauer

June 8, 2017: **Annual Picnic (6:00pm) at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ followed by Program: Surfskis, Outrigger Canoes, Kayaks, Lifejackets, Rescue Throw bags, Paddles - Up Close & Personal** - Glen Forest Green, P.E., U.S. Canoe Assoc. Safety Committee Chairman

2016-2017 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the remainder of the club year. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@gmail.com.

February 11, 2017 - **Scotland Run Full Moon Hike**

March 2017 - **TBD**

April 2017 - **BirdQuest Training Sessions**

May 6, 2017 - **BirdQuest**

June 2017 - **Horseshoe Crab Walk**

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- 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 GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The January Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday January 8th at the home of Jayne Rhynard. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.