



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

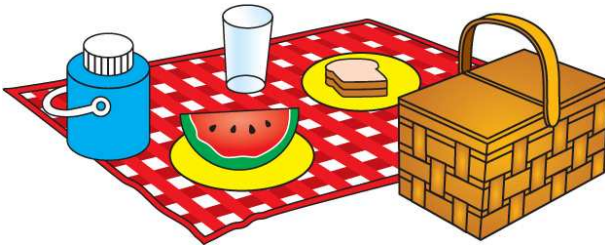
June 2012

Program - Annual Picnic at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ

Thursday, June 14 at 6:00 PM (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856-468-6342)

The June 14 meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be our annual spring picnic. The picnic will be held this year at Alcyon Park on the shores of historic and scenic Alcyon Lake. Attendees should bring a food item to share, and their own utensils, plates, and cups to cut down on the waste of disposables. As with all club functions, the picnic is open to the public so why not bring a friend? We hope you will join us for the picnic. After the picnic, we will enjoy a nature walk through the park and along the lake.



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Alcyon Lake's shore featured a boardwalk, skating rink, bowling alley and other arcade type attractions. The famous Alcyon Speedway once stood on the site of Alcyon Park. Today, a half paved/half gravel trail meanders through attractive lakeside trees, an arboretum, butterfly garden and wildflower meadow, where a variety of suburban wildlife can be found.

Directions to Alcyon Park:

From points south: From Broadway in Pitman, turn west onto W. Holly Ave. Go .6/10 of a mile, passing Alcyon Lake on your left. Turn left onto Carr Ave. and proceed to the park entrance.

From points north: From Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553) turn west onto Lambs Rd. and continue for 1.6 miles. Turn east (left) onto W. Holly Ave. and go 3/10 of a mile to Carr Ave. Turn right onto Carr Ave. and proceed to park entrance.

Field Trip – Birding and Kayaking at Malaga Lake **Saturday, June 9, 2012, 7:30 AM until mid-afternoon** **Trip Leader: Jay Hoffecker 856-341-0980 (cell)**

Join us for some birding and kayaking at Malaga Lake. With luck we might see bald eagle, osprey, beaver, and possibly river otter.

Directions: From Route 55: Take Route 55 to exit 39A (US 40 Eastbound) then go east on US 40 about 1 mile to old Dutch Mill Road. Make a left onto old Dutch Mill Road and a quick left onto Malaga Park Drive. Go past playground area to boat ramp.

From Route 47 South: Take Route 47 South to Malaga. Turn left onto Route 615 (Malaga Park Drive). This is about 2 miles past where Route 553 dead ends into Route 47. Turn right into boat ramp.



Bird Quest 2012 (13 years) by Brian Hayes



The weather was not bad for the 13th Annual Bird Quest with some morning mist and occasional sprinkles, but the birds were spectacular! Everyone commented on what great looks that we had of rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo buntings, orioles, eagles or cedar waxwings. It seemed like the birds were preening and showing off their beautiful spring colors. A Baltimore oriole was performing for us at Scotland Run Park all morning, and when the group gathered for lunch an Osprey perched across Wilson Lake so everyone was able to add it to their final list for the day.

Our winning team saw 77 species with the top four teams all seeing over 70 species of birds. There were 124 total species seen during Bird Quest but everyone agreed that the views of the birds were the best in many years.

Everyone received our Bird Quest t-shirt which focused on our theme of “Gardening for Nature” and two plants of scarlet lady salvia to encourage planting for nature. We encourage everyone who participated in Bird Quest, and those of you who were not able to join us this year, to think of the birds and other wildlife when planting in your flowerbeds and landscaping. Host plants like fennel, hops, hyssop, and local cherry trees are just as important as the flowering and nectaring plants for butterflies and insects. Here is probably one of the best and most useable website to help you:

<http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionBackyardHabitat/CreateaGarden.aspx>.

All proceeds from BQ this year will be donated to the efforts to save Maple Ridge. It is a critical time in the efforts to save this land. If we don't raise the money needed by the end of June this jewel of open land will be lost to us. With your help Bird Quest has raised over \$6,000 towards the preservation of Maple Ridge over the past two years. It is my sincere hope that at some point in the near future we could hold a gathering for Bird Quest at Maple Ridge. Join the \$10,000 donation challenge. Find more information at their website on how you can help: <http://www.friendsofmapleridge.org/update.htm>.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year – May 4, 2013 at the 14th Bird Quest.

Thank you to all the sponsors and to all the people who helped to make this event a success.

It takes a lot of work to hold an event like Bird Quest and many hands make light work. If you would like to help or be a part of the planning committee please contact Brian Hayes at pnbhayes@comcast.net or call 856.468.9272.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: June 2012

- June 15 (Friday) – 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM – **TGIF Nature Walks**. Sponsored by the Camden County Park Department. Free, but registration is required. Phone 856-858-3614 to register and to learn the locations. Bad weather cancels.
- June 16 (Saturday) – **Pinelands Birds and Botany**. Leader: John Courtney. Sponsored by the Audubon Wildlife Society. For information: www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/

- June 17 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, **Walk in the Wild**. Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Experience a casual stroll on the trails of the land trust with a knowledgeable leader to observe the plants, animals, natural features and processes, and just plain magic that make this place very special. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. For more information call Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.
- June 24 (Sunday) – 10:00 AM to mid-afternoon. **Plants of Pemberton Township, Burlington County**. Leader: Joe Arsenault. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Botanical Club. For information: http://rex.ansp.org/hosted/botany_club/index.html.

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 except Nature Detectives.

- **WATER FEST:** Sunday 6/3 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Live Animal Shows at 12:00, 1:30 & 3:00 PM. Crafts, Face Painting, Canoeing, Kayaking, Food, Exhibits, Music. And it's FREE! Takes place Rain or Shine.
- Bird Walks: 6/12, 7/17, 8/14 at 6:00 PM and Friday, 6/29 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 6/6 at 10:00 AM
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 6/16 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 6/13 at 2:30 PM
- Nature Explorers: Friday, 6/22; Monday through Friday, 6/25 to 6/29; Wednesdays 8/8, 8/15, 8/22 and 8/29 at 10am
- Canoeing/Kayaking: Wednesday 6/20 at 6:00 PM and Thursday, 6/28 at 10:00 AM
- Dragonfly ID Walk: Saturday 6/9 at 10:00 AM. Make sure to call us and register, as space is limited. Bring binoculars!
- Nature Watch Programs: Thursdays 8/9, 8/16, and 8/23 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Detectives: Monday through Friday 7/9 - 8/3 9:00 AM to 12 Noon (\$35 fee)

Natural Events for the month of June

- During courtship, a cedar waxwing pair may repeatedly pass a flower petal or insect back and forth.
- White-tailed deer are giving birth. The young fawns lie down and "freeze" when threatened.
- Longest day of the year is June 21.
- Pond turtles are digging nests and laying eggs, which will hatch in 80 to 90 days.
- Mountain laurel in bloom.
- Herons can be found roosting with young in marshes at the shore.
- Wood duck and mallard ducklings hatch and venture forth.
- Canada geese begin molting.

Club Notes:

- Check out our **FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gcnatureclub/>. Note: You will need to have a Facebook membership, and new group members will need to be added by one of the administrators. Join today and share your nature information!
- 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 856-468-6536.
- 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.