



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July 2006 (Special Summer Edition!)

Summer Field Trips!

Up the Creek Without a Paddle! : Mantua Creek Stream Walk

Wednesday July 12, 6:00 PM

Leader: Ed Cleary

Co-leader: Rick Dilks

We'll explore what is in, on, under and around the creek as we walk in the water. We'll look for fish, frogs, turtles, mussels, animal prints, flowers, birds and more. Wear appropriate shoes and bring repellent.

Directions: From Broadway in Pitman go west on Holly Avenue. Turn right at Elm Street (the 4th street on the right; before Alcyon Lake). Make the 2nd left onto Albert Ave. Proceed to end of Albert. Parking is on left, behind Memorial School.

Backyard Habitat

Monday July 24, 6:00 PM

Leader: Karen Kravchuck

Karen says: That insidious suburban sprawl has found its way into my very own neighborhood! Wooded lots that I explored as a child, that served as buffer zones between homes and habitats for birds and other wildlife, are not so slowly but very surely being cleared for new homes. Join me in my own backyard to see what I — with the help of the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Habitat Certification Program" — am doing to help create a habitat that can provide food and shelter for the wildlife that still can be found right here in my neighborhood — and maybe yours.

And while you are here you can visit my Monarch Butterfly "Nursery", too.

25 Barlow Ave., Sewell. Call 468-6536 for directions.

Mantua Creek Trail Walk at Wenonah Woods

Thursday August 3, 6:00 PM

Leader: Rich Dilks

Join us for an early evening walk along the Wenonah Conservation Area's Mantua Creek Trail. We will inspect an infestation of purple loosestrife, an invasive marsh plant, which the Wenonah Environmental Commission and the State of New Jersey are removing by the use of biological

controls (beetles). We will see evidence of Wenonah's new beaver colony on Mantua Creek and we will be looking at the diversity of shrub and tree species found in the varied habitats along the creek. Possible bird sightings include belted kingfisher, rough-winged swallow, and red-tailed hawk.

Directions: Meet at the parking area at Lisle Baseball Field, at the corner of West Mantua Avenue and Hayes Avenue in Wenonah.

**Grass Walk at the West Deptford Scenic Trail (Riverwinds Trail) West Deptford
Thursday August 17, 6:00 PM**

Leader: Karl Anderson

The grass family is perhaps the largest plant family worldwide (only the orchid family might be larger), it is the family from which comes most human food, and its members comprise about ten percent of New Jersey's flora; so why not learn a couple of the easy ones? We will look at some non-graminoids as well. Bring a lens if you have one. Have insect repellent.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot for the West Deptford Scenic Trail. From downtown Woodbury, go west on Delaware Street for about 2 miles. Cross Grove Street. Continue for another 0.3 miles, on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Watch for a sign to the trail, on the right.

**Microbioblitz at Cedar Lake WMA, Monroe Township
Sunday August 27, 10:00 AM to about 2:00 PM**

Leader: Karl Anderson

This Wildlife Management Area, on the border between Gloucester and Atlantic Counties, has been little visited by naturalists. We will try to identify and list everything we see - birds, plants, herps, and dragonflies, anyhow - to gather information that might be incorporated in the upcoming guide to Gloucester County Natural Areas. Dress to suit the weather, bring lunch and plenty of beverage, and insect repellent. Damp walking is possible.

Directions: Take Route 55 or Route 47 to Route 40. Take Route 40 east to the intersection with Piney Hollow Road at the Gloucester-Atlantic County Border. Go northeast on Piney Hollow Road for about 4.6 miles to Jackson Road. Turn right (south) on Jackson Road and go 1.5 miles. Cedar Lake will be on the left. There is a dirt parking area. If you cross a railroad track you have gone a bit too far. Travel time from Woodbury is about 45 minutes.

The Recap by Deb Maka

June 4th was the annual Trustee's meeting and the June Executive Committee meeting. If you are not familiar with the leadership and organization structure of the Gloucester County Nature Club, the following is a brief summary. The Nature Club is a non-profit organization that is ultimately controlled by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is elected by the Club's general membership at the May Nature Club meeting. Each Board member is elected for a 3 year term. The Board of Trustees appoints the officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer). In addition, the Board has given authority to perform the Club's daily operational duties to the Executive Committee, which consists of the officers and committee chairs.

The success of the Nature Club is possible only because of the time and dedication of the talented members of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and our volunteers. This has been a remarkable year full of new ideas and activities. We kicked off 2006 with an entirely new idea...the Vulture Festival, led by our very own Rich Dilks. We partnered with the Wenonah Environmental Commission and it was an amazing success. This year's BirdQuest took on a new twist. Instead of using the theme for International Migratory Bird Day as we have in the past, Erik Mollenhauer had a more progressive plan and we focused on the birds of Gloucester County. With the help of Gariel Graphics, we designed our own t-shirts and posters. Flash cards were also developed of the common birds in Gloucester County to help educate children (and adults). Finally, we are working on putting together our very own publication. It is a guide to parks and nature areas in Gloucester County. Loretta Dunne is leading the way on this project with an amazing team consisting in part of Karl Anderson, Sharon Oakes, and Ed Cleary. One day soon, we will truly put Gloucester County on the map of places with areas worth exploring and conserving.

Now I'd like to introduce (or re-introduce) you to the Club's leadership....

Trustees and terms

Terms for 2006–2009: Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Carol Cassel & Brian Hayes

Terms for 2005–2008: Erik Mollenhauer, Bob Cassel, Bonnie Dann & Jackie Partridge

Terms for 2004–2007: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes & Deb Maka

Officers

President – Deb Maka

Vice-president – Karen Kravchuck

Secretary – Jane Daniels

Treasurer – Ed Cleary

Committee Chairs

Community Events – Jackie Partridge, Bonnie Dann, and Elaine Dzeima

Conservation – Loretta Dunne

Educational Outreach – Kris Mollenhauer and Marge Dolente

Fieldtrips – Karl Anderson

Hospitality – Carol Cassel

Membership – Mimi Glass

Newsletter – Barry Bengel (Barry has also been updating the website)

Programs – Richard Dilks

Publicity – Maria Musciano-Keefe

Special Projects – Erik Mollenhauer, Jayne Rhynard, and Bob Cassel

It has my honor to work with such a remarkable group of people and I congratulate all of you on your efforts and accomplishments. I look forward to another successful year for the Club.

-Deb

GUIDE TO NATURAL AREAS - UPDATE AND QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERS

As all members know by now, the club is compiling a guide to public natural areas in Gloucester County. Some areas, such as Glassboro Woods, will have little by way of developed public facilities - just forests and fields. Others, such as Scotland Run Park, may have playgrounds and ball fields but still have enough remaining natural area to be of interest to birders and other nature enthusiasts. Some sites will get a full description, others just a brief mention. Below is a list of sites that have been or will be described. Please look this over. **DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER SITES THAT MERIT INCLUSION?** If so, please contact Karl Anderson, by mail (46 North Childs Street, Woodbury NJ 08096) or e-mail (karlanderson6@aol.com).

- Alcyon Lake (Pitman)
- Big Timber Creek Park (Deptford)
- Birch Creek Marshes (Logan)
- Cedar Lake WMA (Monroe)
- Ceres Park (Mantua)
- Charles Fasola Park (Deptford) (brief mention)
- Chestnut Branch Park (Mantua)
- Elephant Swamp and Trail (Elk)
- Floodgates Road (Logan) (brief mention)
- Glassboro WMA (Glassboro & Clayton)
- Greenwich Lake Park (Greenwich)
- Harrisonville Lake WMA (South Harrison) (brief mention)
- Hidden Acres Park (East Greenwich)
- Lake Narraticon Park(s) (Swedesboro & Woolwich)
- Lincoln Road County Parkland (South Harrison)
- Little Ease Park (Clayton) (brief mention)
- Nehonsey Creek Park (Greenwich)
- Old Pine Farm (Deptford)
- Pedricktown Marsh (Logan)
- Piney Hollow Preserve (Franklin)
- Raccoon Creek WMA (Woolwich)
- Red Bank Battlefield (National Park)
- Riverwinds Scenic Trail (West Deptford)
- Scotland Run Park (Glassboro, Clayton & Franklin)
- Stewart Memorial Park (South Harrison)
- Tuckahoe NJ Natural Lands Trust Preserve (Franklin) (brief mention)
- Unexpected Wildlife Refuge (Franklin)
- Van Hook Pond Preserve (Newfield) (brief mention)
- Washington Lake Park (Washington)
- Wenonah Trail (Wenonah)
- Wheelabrator Trail (Westville)
- White Oak Branch WMA (Franklin and Monroe)
- Winslow WMA (Monroe)

Information about birds, mammals, and herps of any of the above sites would be welcome. But in particular, does anyone have recent information about the BREEDING BIRDS of the following nine sites? Again, if you do, please get the information to Karl Anderson.

- Cedar Lake WMA
- Greenwich Lake Park
- Hidden Acres Park
- Lincoln Road County Parkland
- Raccoon Creek WMA
- Piney Hollow Preserve
- Stewart Memorial Park
- Wheelabrator Trail
- White Oak Branch WMA

Other Nature Notes

Oil Spills and Wildlife

The West Deptford Public library is sponsoring a talk by Christina Motoyoshi, Executive Director of Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, on Thursday, August 3rd at 7PM. The talk will include case histories of recent spills, including the November, 2004 Delaware River spill.

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.

Looking Ahead

The next edition of the newsletter will be in September. Have a great summer!

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborahann@backpacker.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.