



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

Summer 2008

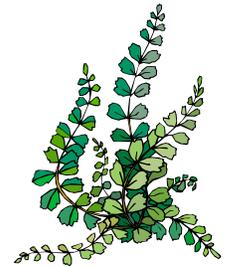
Summer Field Trips!

Field Trip - Daniels Preserve, South Harrison Township

Saturday, July 12 - 9:00 AM to Mid-day

Leader: Karl Anderson

GCNC member Bruce Daniels has donated 100 acres of woodland to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The site includes upland forest, swamps, and several vernal ponds (which may be dry, but still interesting, at the date of this trip). We will be walking on level but narrow woodland trails for a round trip of no more than one mile, to "get a feel for the place" and to look for flowers, ferns, and birds. Dress to suit the weather, and bring plenty of beverage and insect repellent.



Directions: Meet at 9:00 AM at 337 Ferrell Road in South Harrison Township. From the intersection of Route 617 (Mullica Hill Road) and Ferrell Road in the center of Harrisonville, go east on Ferrell Road for about 1.9 miles (or about 0.4 mile east of Commissioner's Road). No. 337 is on the right. We will consolidate into a couple of cars to drive to the nearby trailhead. If you have questions, phone Karl Anderson at 845-7075.

Field Trip - Where do you Draw the Line? Hidden Acres Park, East Greenwich Twp.

Wednesday, July 16 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Leader: Karl Anderson

This will be an introduction to wetland delineation, using vegetation, soils, and hydrology.

Directions: Easy-to-miss park entrance is on the north side of Jessup's Mill Road, about 1.3 miles west of Route 45. It is about 0.15 mile west of the entrance to the Little League Field. Drive all the way to the rear of the parking area.

Field Trip - Eglington Cemetery, East Greenwich Township

Sunday, July 20 - 9:00 AM to about 11:00 AM

Leader: Karl Anderson



We will look at trees and roadside plants, and we will pay a brief homage to Carl Bresler, a fine Gloucester County naturalist and an early member of the GCNC.

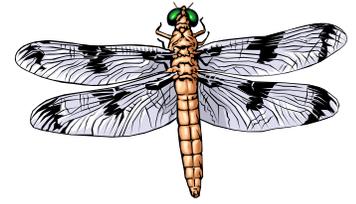
Directions: Meet in the parking area by the cemetery office. The entrance is on Kings Highway, a short distance south of Cohawkin Road.

Field Trip - Wildflowers of the Manumuskin

Sunday, August 10 - 9:00 AM until ??

Leader: Karl Anderson

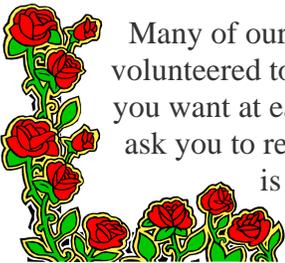
We will explore some areas in the vicinity of Port Elizabeth in Cumberland County in search of interesting summer wildflowers. We might see such species as scarlet gilia, bristly locust, dotted monarda, and perhaps the globally rare sensitive joint-vetch. Birds and dragonflies will not be ignored. Dress to suit the weather, have beverage and insect repellent, and bring lunch, just in case we stay out past noon.



Directions: Meet at the Timberline Shopping Plaza at 8:00 AM. Contact Karl Anderson at 845-7075, or e-mail karlanderson6@aol.com to get directions if you would prefer to drive to the trip location on your own. Travel time to Port Elizabeth from Timberline is about one hour.

Field Trip - Members' Garden Tours

Saturday, August 16 - 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM



Many of our members have bird-and-butterfly friendly gardens. Read the list of those who have volunteered to share their gardens with you, and pay them a visit! You can spend as much time as you want at each location or you can try to visit them all. Note that there are two time slots and we ask you to respect our volunteers and only visit during the listed times. The "center of Woodbury" is taken as the intersection of Broad Street (Route 45) and Cooper/Delaware Street.

Directions are given from well-known landmarks, but a Gloucester County street map is still recommended equipment for this tour.

These Gardens are open from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM:

Jessie MacGregor, 291 Lansing Drive, Mantua

Directions: From the center of Woodbury, take Broad Street (Route 45) south for about 4.3 miles to Jackson Road (Route 627) (one block south of the traffic light at the WAWA at Mount Royal Avenue). Turn left on Jackson. Make the first right onto State Road, then the first left onto Lansing. No. 291 is the 8th house on the right. It is tan with tall evergreens out front. Or from the Barnsboro Inn on Main Street in Mantua, go north on Main Street. The road will split at a traffic light - take the left hand fork onto Mount Royal Road (Route 678). In about 0.5 mile make a left onto Royal Oaks Drive and follow it to Jackson Road (T-intersection). Make a right onto Jackson Road, then the first left onto Columbus Drive, then a right onto Lansing.

Ron Kegel, 3 Countryside Circle, Clayton

Directions: From the intersection of Delsea Drive (Route 47) and Academy Street (Route 607) in Clayton, take Academy Street east for about one mile to East Avenue. Turn right (south) on East Avenue and go about 0.5 mile to Moore Boulevard (on the right). Turn right onto Moore Boulevard. The first road on the right is Countryside Circle. Turn right into Countryside Circle. No. 3 is the third house on the right. It is a gray house with a stone front.

Jay Hoffecker, 27 West Garfield Avenue, Blackwood

Directions: From the center of Woodbury, take Cooper Street (which becomes Almonesson Road) east for about five miles to Route 168 (Black Horse Pike). Turn right. The fourth street on the right, about 0.5 mile south of Cooper/Almonesson Road, is Garfield. Turn right onto Garfield. No. 27 is the third house on the right. It is tan with brown trim.

Jayne Rhynard, 185 Tyler Lake Road, Sewell

Directions: From Route 55, take the Pitman Exit for Route 553 and head south towards Pitman. Make a right on Lambs Road and go about 0.9 mile to the light at Broadway (Route Alt. 553) and turn right. Pass Ceres Park and make a left onto Tyler Lake Road. Proceed to the end of the street. If you come to Tylers Mill Road you missed Tyler Lake Road. Note that bridge construction will probably make it impossible at this date to reach Tyler Lake Road by coming south from Barnsboro on Alt. 553.

Bob and Carol Cassel, 407 Heritage Road, Sewell

Directions: From the center of Woodbury, go south on Broad Street (Route 45) south for about 5.6 miles to Heritage Road. Turn left (east) on Heritage Road. No. 407 is about 0.6 mile east of Route 45, on the right, at the top of a hill. It is a stone home hidden among the trees.



These Gardens are open from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM:

Wayne Blackman, 119 Pitman Avenue, Pitman

Directions: From Delsea Drive (Route 47) at the EIRC building, continue south towards Glassboro through one traffic light. The next street on your right is Pitman Avenue, and you should turn right onto this street. Proceed past the light at Woodbury-Glassboro Road and up a small hill. Watch for Kelley's Funeral Home at the top of the hill to your left. No. 119 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 above.

Gale Cannon and Karl Anderson, 46 North Childs Street, Woodbury

Directions: From the center of Woodbury, go west on Delaware Street about 0.75 mile to Childs Street (just one block west of Girard Street). Turn right (north) on Childs Street. Number 46 is on the right, about half way up the block. It is cream-colored with green shutters, and is the only one-story house on the block.

Glenn and Maria Ceponis, 59 North Girard Street, Woodbury

Directions: From the center of Woodbury, go west on Delaware Street about 0.7 mile to Girard Street. Turn right (north) on Girard Street. Number 59 is the ninth house on the left. It is a dark gray-green 1927 Dutch Colonial-Revival house, with white trim.

Woodbury Community Gardens. Red Bank Avenue, Woodbury

Directions: From the center of Woodbury, go north on Route 45 to Red Bank Avenue. Turn right and go about 0.5 mile, passing the Y and the ball fields. Look for a sign on the right. Turn in and park. Note that this garden is open every day.

Field Trip Report - Hein Stewardship Forest, Washington Township NJ - Saturday June 14, 2008



About a dozen nature club members made a trip to the 35-acre Stephens Run Timber Estate (mentioned in the June newsletter as the Hein Stewardship Forest) on June 14th. The weather was warm, but not uncomfortable in the shade of the forest. We met the owners of the property, Mr and Mrs. Walter Hein, at the gate. Before leaving on the walk, they provided us with the history of the property, and also some details of the effort to preserve and restore it. Mr. Hein told of being very grateful to forestry expert Bob Williams, who provided his expertise on how to manage the forest properly. For example, one of Bob's recommendations was to cut a few paths through the forest to allow fire equipment to be able to reach any area of the tract in the event of a fire.

On the walk Mr. Hein took us to a natural spring on the property, and we walked the varied terrain both on and off the trails. We saw several plants that indicated that this is a healthy forest, such as Striped Wintergreen and ferns/fern allies such as NY fern, ebony spleenwort, and tree clubmoss. We spent several minutes being entertained by a group of white-breasted nuthatches who were foraging for food. After walking the trails, it was hard to believe that a property like this still exists in the middle of the suburban sprawl of Washington Township.

Much thanks to club member Pat Ransom for recognizing this as a special area and for arranging this interesting field trip.

- Barry Bengel



Field Trip Report – Unexpected Refuge - Saturday June 21, 2008

The weather on this day was relatively cool and clear - perfect for a leisurely two-mile, three-hour stroll on the trails of this 800-acre wildlife refuge. The ten participants were much impressed by the varied habitats here, which included hardwood swamps, pine forests, oak forests, a grassy clearing, the edges of sand roads, a large shallow lake (once a cranberry bog), and a sedge-dominated vernal pond. Birds seen or heard included prothonotary and prairie warblers, scarlet tanager, great crested flycatcher, great blue heron, ruby-throated hummingbird, indigo bunting, tree swallow, and numerous eastern bluebirds. 26 plant species were added to the preserve's list, bringing the total to 206 species - surely only 1/2 to 2/3 of what is present on the rich site. Some plant species in bloom included colic-root, bulblet loosestrife, Virginia willow, yellow pond lily, bur-reed, and a bog-loving variety of jack-in-the pulpit. Butterflies and dragonflies also vied for the group's attention. The trip was led by Unexpected Refuge Director Sarah Summerville. Many thanks to participant Lloyd Shaw for pointing out the birds, and to Karl Anderson for pointing out a few unusual plants.

- Karl Anderson

Other Nature Notes

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.



Events by other Organizations: July & August 2008

- July 4 (Friday) - **Wenonah Trail Walk.** Meets at 4:00 PM. Sponsored by the Wenonah Environmental Commission. For info: www.wenonahenvironmentalcommission.org.
- July 12 (Saturday) - **Birding Elephant Swamp and Piney Hollow Preserve.** 7:30 AM-12:00 PM. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: <http://njaudubon.org/centers/rancocas/>.
- July 19 (Saturday) (Rain date July 20) - **Butterflies.** Leader: Dave Amadio. Sponsored by the Audubon Wildlife Society of N.J. For info: www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/.
- July 26 (Saturday) - **Botany at Stafford Forge WMA.** 10:00 AM - Mid-afternoon. Leader: Ted Gordon. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Botanical Club. For info: www.ansp.org/hosted/botany_club
- August 9 (Saturday) - **Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.** 10:00 AM - Mid-afternoon. Leaders: Karl Anderson and Linda Kelly. Joint trip by the Philadelphia Botanical Club and the Torrey Botanical Society. For info: www.torreybotanical.org.

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

- Bird Walks: Tuesdays 7/8 and 8/12 6:00 PM
- Nature Explorers: Wednesdays 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Watch: Thursdays 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21 at 10:00 AM

Natural Events for the month of July

- Blueberries ripen in early July.
- Bog asphodel, now found only in New Jersey, blooms in early July in Pinelands fens.
- The first brood of monarch butterflies is emerging from their chrysalis.
- Raccoons, skunks, and opossums are digging up and eating turtle eggs.
- Breeding and nesting season for birds ends this month except for goldfinches and late bluebirds
- Thistle plants are beginning to seed; goldfinches gather thistle down for nesting materials
- Listen for the feeding calls of young barred and great horned owls.
- Yellow warblers begin to head south in July; migration is complete in August

Natural Events for the month of August

- Perseid meteor shower - August 12.
- Sweet goldenrod, early goldenrod, cardinal flower, and other late-summer flowers bloom.
- Sweet pepperbush in bloom.
- Purple martins begin roosting in phragmites along the Maurice River near Port Elizabeth in preparation for their southern migration. Peak numbers usually occur around the third week in August.
- Red knots pass through New Jersey again on their southward migration to Chile. Adults are still in breeding plumage.
- Fall raptor migration begins in mid-August with small numbers of several species, including American kestrels, ospreys and bald eagles.
- Gray squirrels give birth to second brood.
- Early warblers migrating south through New Jersey.
- American goldfinches finish nesting late in this month
- Second brood of hummingbirds begin to appear at feeders.
- Birds are feeding on fruits of flowering dogwood trees.



Looking Ahead:

2008-2009 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the next season. Others may be added as opportunity permits and leaders become available.

September 20, 2008 (Saturday) - **Birding at Palmyra Cove** - Gary Lizzi

October 25, 2008 (Sunday) - **Cedar Lake WMA** - Barry Bengel

November 8, 2008 (Saturday) - **Nature and History at Fort Mott State Park** - Karl Anderson

December 13 (Saturday) - **Audubon Christmas Count** - Ron Kegel

January 18, 2009 (Sunday) - **Eagles at Conowingo Dam** - Jonathan Stillwell

February 28, 2009 (Saturday) - **Winter Birding at Jakes Landing** - Brian Hayes

March 10, 2009 (Tuesday) - **Full Moon Hike at Alcyon Park** - Kris Mollenhauer

April 19, 2009 (Sunday) - **Wildflowers on the Wenonah Trail** - Richard Dilks

May 16, 2009 (Saturday) - **Birding at Allaire State Park** - Jonathan Weir

June 6 (Saturday) - **Birding at Brightview Farm** - Bob Duke

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 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.

Note: There will be no newsletter in August. Have a great Summer!

- Barry Bengel, Newsletter Editor