



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July/August 2011

This is an abbreviated version of our newsletter with all of the club's summer activities listed. The next newsletter will be the September issue. Enjoy your summer!

- Barry Bengel, Newsletter Editor

Field Trip – Natural History at Cedar Lake **Sunday, July 10, 9:30 AM to Noon**

Leaders: Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon

There is something for everybody at the Cedar Lake Wildlife Management Area. We should see a few birds, some reptiles and amphibians, and (weather permitting) some dragonflies and butterflies. Depending on water levels, we could see over a hundred species of plants, many of them pine barrens specialties. Some will be in bloom. Be prepared for possible damp walking, and have insect repellent.

Directions: Cedar Lake WMA is on Jackson Road in Monroe Township and straddles the border between Gloucester and Atlantic Counties. From the intersection of Route 47 and Coles Mill Road in Franklinville, go east on Coles Mill Road for about 7.7 miles to Jackson Road. Turn right (south) on Jackson Road and go about 3.0 miles to the parking area which will be on the right (and is actually in Atlantic County). There are other ways to get there, see your road maps.

Field Trip - Riverwinds Scenic Trail Butterfly Walk **Saturday, August 13, 9:30 AM to Noon**

Leader: Chris Herz

This will be a leisurely walk around the trail with a possible side trail to the center field. The trail is usually mowed, but spray pants and socks with insect repellent. In addition to insect repellent, bring close focusing binoculars, plenty of water, hat, and shoes that can get wet or a little muddy. If there is interest we may drive down to the Community Center to check out the weedy field or walk near the Delaware River. There are no public restrooms here, but stop at nearby National Park if needed. I will have a butterfly field guide. Trip is cancelled if rainy. Any questions, call 856-546-5471 prior to the 13th, or my cell 856-534-5597 day of the trip.

Directions: See your guide to the Natural Places of Gloucester County. Or, from the intersection of Delaware Avenue and Broad Street in the center of Woodbury, go west on Delaware Avenue for about 2.2 miles. The entrance to the trail will be on the right, about 0.3 mile after you cross Grove Street.



Family Fun Stream Walks - all ages are welcome!

Trip Leaders: Paula Hayes (856) 468-9272 Email: pnbhayes@comcast.net
Maria Keefe (856) 627-7010 Email: mariamk19@comcast.net

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 water shoes or old sneakers to walk in the water and bring repellent. **See below for dates, times, and locations.**

Fri., July 15th at 10:30 AM in Ceres Park, Mantua

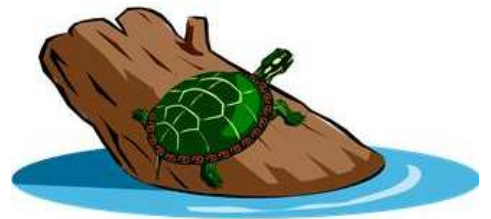
This park is a great one for summer hikes since its tall trees provide lots of shade. There is easy access to a stream after a short hike to the corner of this lovely park.

Directions: From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Turn left onto Rt553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. We'll meet in the parking lot.

Fri., Aug. 19th at 10:30 AM in Pitman

This stream walk is an old favorite, we do this one most years and it is always filled with a surprise or two.

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. We'll meet in the parking lot.



Other Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: July/August 2011

- Saturday mornings, 7:30 to about 9:00 AM, **Bird Walks.** Joe Esterly is doing bird walks at Scotland Run Park, weather permitting. Walks meet at the nature center parking lot. For information phone Joe at 856-629-7626, or e-mail jde9773@aol.com.
- July 9 (Saturday) – Meets 7:00 AM. **Birding at New Brooklyn Park.** Leader: Lloyd Shaw. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone 609-261-2495, Tuesday – Saturday.
- July 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.
- July 23 (Saturday) **Oldmans Creek Preserve Walk.** - Join the South Jersey Land and Water Trust for a guided tour of the Oldmans Creek Preserve. Explore the old-growth deciduous forest and spy migratory songbird populations. Staff member Michael Hogan will perform a macro invertebrate assessment. Meet at 21 Main Street/Rt. 551 in Auburn, NJ. Please RSVP to Mike 609-476-2086 or hoganphoto@verizon.net.

- July 30 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – Noon. **Butterfly Walk at Long Bridge Park.** Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Commission. Free, but registration is required; phone 609-265-5858. Bad weather cancels.
- August 7 (Sunday) – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. **Butterflies, Birds, and Garden and Meadow Walk** at the nature center. Leader: Sandra Keller. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone 609-261-2495, Tuesday – Saturday.
- August 21 (Sunday), 2:00 PM – **Walk in the Wild.** (See July 17 description on previous page).

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 Walks: Tuesdays 7/12 and 8/9 at 6:00 PM

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.

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 856-468-6536.
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program coordinator or field 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.

Upcoming Programs for next year from Rich Dilks, Program coordinator

I am happy to report we have a program schedule (see attached) for next year and that all speakers have confirmed. My thanks go out to all who helped put this together, came out for the programs meeting or offered ideas, suggestions and contacts throughout the past year. The program schedule for this coming year offers variety and substance. It will take us to exotic places and will explore some of the hidden elements of nature that surround us every day.

September 8, 2011: **Banding Monarchs & Insect Pollinators** - Diane Cameron

October 13, 2011: **Iceland** - Karl Anderson

November 10, 2011: (Joint meeting w/ SJLWT) **The Hidden Life of Streams: Aquatic Communities and Leaf Packs** - Erik & Kris Mollenhauer

December 8, 2011: **A Birding Adventure in Cuba** - Marilyn Henry

January 12, 2012: **Trickster Makes The World** - Erik & Kris Mollenhauer and Brian Hayes

February 9, 2012: **Pot Luck Dinner & Cargo For Conservation** - various GCNC members

March 8, 2012: **Dragonflies** - Mary Lenahan

April 12, 2012: **Birding Trails of Florida** - Joe Baur

May 10, 2012: **Rare Plants of Southern New Jersey** - Renee Brecht

June 14, 2012: **Annual Picnic** (Location to be determined)

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

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount (for non bird food items) to GCNC members! *Due to the current volatile market for bird food, the 10% discount for these items has had to be discontinued.* However, members will still receive credit for their purchases towards the Frequent Seed Shopper Program. WBU offers the GCNC discount on all other items in the store. Members are requested to identify themselves as GNNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please contact Sharon at 856-218-2973 or sillybird348@comcast.net.

