



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2011

Program - Raising Butterflies & Insect Pollination: (How Insects Sustain the World)
Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Diane Cameron

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

You can chase a butterfly all over the field and never catch it. But if you sit quietly in the grass it will come and sit on your shoulder.

~Author Unknown

We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.

~ Maya Angelou

We are like butterflies who flutter for a day and think it is forever.

~ Carl Sagan

Diane Cameron is a naturalist, educator and insect enthusiast who has been involved in raising butterflies in captivity for almost 15 years. She began her butterfly career as a manager in the indoor butterfly exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Trips to visit butterfly farms in Costa Rica, and participation in Invertebrates in Captivity Conferences in Rio Rico, Arizona, increased her knowledge and enthusiasm for insects and proper rearing methods. Currently, Diane leads butterfly and insect walks, and raises primarily monarch butterflies at home.

Tonight, she will share with you her experience in raising butterflies, talk about their importance as pollinators, and explain her efforts as part of Monarch Watch to increase public awareness of monarchs and the threats that they face due to habitat loss. Diane will also bring a portable rearing chamber containing live caterpillars and chrysalides, as well as design ideas for other rearing containers, made from recycled materials. Please come prepared to ask questions, so that Diane can be sure to share aspects of her knowledge that are specifically interesting to you.



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 – Plants of the Pine Barrens

Saturday September 24, 2011 9:00 AM to Mid-afternoon.

Trip Leader: Karl Anderson

Visit several plant communities of the Pine Barrens, including cedar swamps and upland pine and oak forests. The focus will be on woody plants and forest associations, but we will also look at some late-blooming wildflowers. If time permits we will make a brief botanical foray to Whitesbog. Joint trip with the Rancocas Nature Center.

Directions: Meet at the Brendan Byrne State Forest office, which is about one mile east of the intersection of Routes 70 and 72 in Pemberton. From Woodbury, take Rte. 295 north to Route 70. Go east on Route 70 for approximately 22 miles to the intersection with Route 72. Continue east on Route 70 for another mile. Look for a Brendan Byrne State Forest sign on the right. Turn in and go a short distance to the office. Bring binoculars, lunch, beverage. Have sufficient fuel in your car to drive about twenty miles during the day, some of it on unpaved roads. For additional information phone the leader at 856-845-7075.

Field Trip Report – Cedar Lake, July 10

Some of the birds seen on this trip included bald eagle, red-shouldered hawk (nice looks at a low-flying bird), white-eyed vireo, and yellow-billed cuckoo. Redroot, Canada Saint John's-wort, pickerelweed, golden hedge-hyssop, Small's yellow-eyed grass, meadow-beauty, and bladderworts were in bloom. The small pink flowers of thread-leaved sundew were particularly abundant, and along with the white flowers of spatulate-leaved sundew made an attractive border along the pond edges. Southern leopard frogs seemed to be everywhere, cricket frogs were numerous, and good looks were gotten of the usually elusive carpenter frog. For the "odies" there were at least a dozen species of dragonflies and damselflies, including swamp spreadwing and an early-season yellow-legged meadowhawk. Trip leaders were Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon.

Field Trip Report – Riverwinds Scenic Trail Butterfly Walk, August 13

This trip began with a leisurely walk around the mile-long Riverwinds Trail, which found seventeen species of butterflies including hackberry emperor, Zabulon and silver-spotted skippers, spicebush and tiger swallowtails, American copper, red-spotted purple, red-banded hairstreak, eastern tailed blue, pearl crescent, monarch, question mark, buckeye, cabbage white, summer azure, red admiral, and Horace's duskywing. This was followed up by a visit to the butterfly garden at the Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge, where American lady, northern broken-dash, and broad-winged, crossline, dun, Peck's, swarthy, tawny-edged, and Delaware skippers brought the day's list to 27 species. The trip leader was Chris Herz.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: September 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.
- September 11, 2011 (Sunday) – **12th Annual Pond and Garden Tour** begins and ends at 702 Mid-Atlantic Parkway in West Deptford. The self-guided tour of local ponds and gardens begins at 4:00 PM. The tour concludes with a Wine and Cheese Finale (wine, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts) at 6:30 PM. This event is a major fundraiser for the GFWC Woman's Club of West

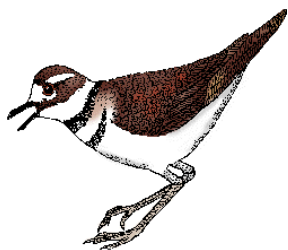
Deptford's Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$12. Call Ellen at 856-468-7012 for more information and tickets.

- September 17 (Saturday) – **Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival**. 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the John Heinz NWR at 8601 Lindbergh Blvd in SW Philadelphia. Live Animals, Workshops, Music, Fly-Tying, Birding, Photography, Food. Sponsored by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and friends of Heinz NWR. FREE. For info call 215-365-3118 or visit <http://heinz.fws.gov/>.
- September 18 (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. This month we expect to focus on Fungus.
- September 18 (Sunday) – **Jersey Fresh Dinner**. Old Pine Farm Lands Trust is having a "Jersey Fresh Dinner" from 4 PM to 8 PM at 340 Pine St., Deptford, NJ rain or shine. Any questions contact Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. Food to be provided by the trustees at no charge. However, since this is a benefit, donations will be graciously accepted.

Mid-Summer Seasonal Observations

A few seasonal observations from Ron Kegel back in July:

Just a few nature notes to share from the past couple days. At the nursery the Cicada Killers are in full swing. There are literally 100's buzzing around a couple areas of greenhouses, 2-3 different sections, mating and digging there tunnels for the storing of an unsuspecting cicada. They select special spots where there is loose orange gravel and often times right at the edge or side of the greenhouse sideboard where a little bit of wash has taken place. If there was flat ground I would imagine the hole would fill with water from irrigation! If unfamiliar with this creature look it up. Yesterday while sitting on the 4-wheeler I had one fly right by face in slow motion with cicada gathered up by legs, under the 'killer'.



A few days ago I was admiring a tiny Killdeer with one of the parent birds in an aisle between a couple of greenhouse structures. A crew of two fellows was approaching on tractor in another aisle a greenhouse away. As they approached the area adjacent to the birds the little cottonball struck out and did a complete somersault and landed back on its feet. It looked like one of those "I meant to do that" situations, gracefully clumsy. I guess if we had flippers on all day and got 'hurried', we might do the same thing. Those feet are big on those little ones.

Some of you know Railroad Ave. (First time I heard of it was in the 70's when Bob Cassel talked of a Vulture roost in that area) in Aura. While driving down it on Monday from Rt. 538, I noticed a bright reddish/orange patch on the side of the road. It first looked like someone had scattered crepe paper of that color with a lawnmower. As I approached closer I was to find it was fungi growing on the side of the road in leaf litter. I had to get home so I didn't delay but it was striking! I plan to look it up and try to get back to the area. For those of you who might remember the area from the Bird Quest trip it was not too far on the side of the road just beyond where the road swerved a bit.

I think the Eagle pair across from Silver lake raised one young (did anyone else see more than this?). Over the last week I have seen the young bird on various branches on the nest tree, mainly after 5:00 PM. Nice success story. Nice to see they are moving inland from the Bay.

Today at the nursery was surprised to see an Indigo Bunting singing on a pile of crushed concrete. The pile is about 5' tall and 10' around and sitting in a field on the edge of the woods. Have you noticed the birds are a bit more quiet? We still have House Wren singing, occasional Robin and Mockingbird at home, but alot have gone quiet. I can remember Will Middleton telling me that after the 4th of July the birds tend to go quiet! - *Ron Kegel*

Kid's Corner - "The Guessing Game" by Deb Maka

Hiking through the park can be a lot of fun. The next time you take a hike through the park try adding a guessing game to your hike.

What You Need:

- A paper bag or reusable cloth bag

What You Do:

- Select one person to be in charge of the carrying the bag
- Each person in the group selects one natural object* during the walk and puts it in the bag. (Try to keep your object secret from everyone else)
- Once everyone has put their object in the bag, take turns reaching into the bag and trying to identify the hidden objects by touch.
- You can also try to guess the location where each object was found.



*Other Rules:

1. No animals, no live plants, and no thorns or other things that could cause injury are allowed to be selected as your object
2. You can give clues if you'd like.

Adapted from the National Wildlife Federation website (<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Outdoors/Archives/2011/Get-Psyched-to-Hike.aspx>)

Natural Events for the month of September

- The last brood of monarch butterflies emerges and flies south to Mexico.
- Black gum foliage turns red - first tree to get its autumn color.
- Wild grapes ripen - not all of them are sour.
- Turtle eggs hatch and hatchlings emerge and head for the nearest water.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks
- Most hummingbirds depart by the end of the month
- Bats busy feeding – building fat reserves for hibernation and migration.
- Broad-winged hawk migration peaks in mid-month - plan a visit to a hawk lookout.

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the new season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

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)

2011-2012 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the new season. January and February are still TBD. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Karl Anderson at karlanderson6@aol.com or 856-845-7075.

Saturday September 24, 2011: **Plants of the Pine Barrens**

A look at woody plants, forest associations, and late-flowering wildflowers in Brendan Byrne State Forest. Leader: Karl Anderson. (See page 2 for a detailed description)

Saturday October 8, 2011: **Birding at Amico Island Park**

A leisurely walk to see migrant and resident landbirds, at a Burlington County park at the mouth of Rancocas Creek. Leader: Gary Lizzi.

Saturday October 29, 2011: **Mad Hatter's Tree Party**

Pre-register for a fun, 45-minute walk on the Wenonah Trail, ending with refreshments and music at a historic, open-air teahouse. Leaders: GCNC volunteers.

Sunday November 13, 2011: **Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge**

Walk the trails and drive an eight-mile loop, to see waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, and raptors, at this well-known refuge in Atlantic County. Leader: Jonathan Stilwell.

Saturday December 17, 2011: **Audubon Christmas Count**

Join a team or go on your own, to seek out and count wintering birds of Gloucester County, in a traditional citizen science activity. Coordinator: Ron Kegel.

January: TBD

February: TBD

Saturday March 24, 2012: **Birding the Delaware Bayshore**

Drive some of the roads along the bay in Cumberland County, looking for waterfowl and raptors including bald eagle, northern harrier, and short-eared owl. Leader: Joseph Esterly..

Sunday April 22, 2012: **Wildflowers Along the Wenonah Trail**

An easy walk to see some of the early spring wildflowers along the trail. Leader: Richard Dilks.

Saturday May 5, 2012: **Gloucester County Bird Quest**

Form a team, join a group, or go on your own to visit natural places in Gloucester County to identify as many birds as you can between 7:00 AM and Noon. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday June 9, 2012: **Kayaking and Birding**

At a local park. With luck we might see bald eagle, osprey, beaver, and possibly river otter. Leader: Jay Hoffecker.

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 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 September Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 6th at the home of Barry Bengel. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

September brings with it membership renewals. This year we will once again be keeping the price the same as last year. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$15 for electronic mailings and \$20 for regular mail delivery. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the September Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

WAIVER

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you intend to discontinue on the route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011-2012

New Member Renewal
 Paper Membership(\$20) - regular mail
 Electronic Membership(\$15) - newsletter via email; ***please provide email address below

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ***Email Address: _____

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): _____

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how?

Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Individual ____ or Family ____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____