



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2006

Program – Hawaii: What Price Globalization?

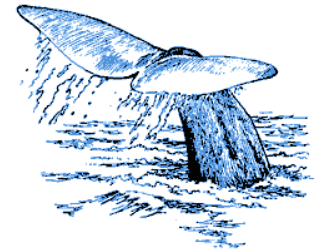
Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Presenter: Marie Hageman

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks

The ever-present trade winds have brought globalization crashing to the shores of Hawaii early and often. We'll travel to the "Hotspot of the Pacific" to assess the effects many generations of haole (visitors) have had on endemic birds, plants, the land, and the surrounding ocean. We'll observe the impacts from the first inhabitants, with their aloha aina (love of the land), through whalers and merchant traders, to today's tourism boom of 7 million visitors/year. What have they brought? What have they taken? Can we possibly do anything here to cause implications there?

Bring your diving gear. We will be enjoying a rare visit to the coral reefs and marine life of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, one of the most remote places on Earth, to find out. As we tour the 1,200-mile chain of islands and atolls in the newly created Coral Reef Reserve, we will come up for air and to search for influences on the bird life on Tern and Laysan Islands and Pearl and Hermes Atoll.



Field Trip – John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

Sunday, October 15th, 7:30 AM

Trip Leader: Jeff Holt

Visit the closest National Wildlife Refuge to Gloucester County as we search for lingering late fall migrants and early-returning winter waterfowl. We'll meet in the main parking lot of the refuge at 7:30 AM for a walk along the dike that separates the main impoundments from the adjacent Darby Creek. The John Heinz N.W.R. is located at 86th Street and Lindbergh Blvd. in southwest Philadelphia.

Directions: From the Walt Whitman Bridge, take I-95 South to Exit 14 (Bartram Avenue). At the 5th light, make a right onto 84th Street. Take 84th Street to the second light and make a left onto Lindbergh Blvd. The entrance into the refuge is well marked.

Additional information about the refuge can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/heinz/> .

One More Summer Field Trip Report



Field Trip Report – Backyard Habitat (7/24/06) by Karen Kravchuck
The weather the evening of July 24th was spectacular - spectacular enough to bring 27 people out to visit Karen's house and see what she doing there to achieve the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification" and to visit her Monarch Nursery. The monarchs were the stars of the evening, appearing as if on cue to the delight of everyone there.

After a quick lesson in monarch egg identification, everyone had a chance to test their skill at finding these tiny eggs in the milkweed patch. Then it was on to see nursery where Karen raises monarchs - in a predator-safe setting - to be used to teach others about the plight of the migratory monarch population.

Conservation Corner – More Toxics for Gloucester County by Loretta Dunne

Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corp, a factory in Newfield, has been throwing trash into its back yard for the past forty years. Now there is a six-acre, 35-foot high pile of radioactive rock in that back yard. Recently a sister company started do the same thing more cheaply in Brazil and Shieldalloy wants to leave New Jersey.

They are refusing to clean up the place before they leave. The company has indicated that they would go bankrupt if they were required to clean it, leaving the taxpayers to hold the bag. Rather than take the radioactive slag to a special site in Utah, which would cost \$58 million, they propose to tamp down the slag, cover it with soil and grass and build a fence. They estimate that monitoring costs for the site would be \$19,000 for the next 1000 years. Yes, that is **1000 years**.

Think of how difficult it has been to track a mercury factory for twenty years. How long would it be until something was built on the radioactive site? What about leakage into the water supply? The owners of the company insist that the slag is “innocuous” and so does the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The question is why would it take \$58 million to clean up the site if the site is not dangerous?

The DEP wants the site cleaned and the ground cleared. If this site remains as the company wants, it will be the first radioactive dump in New Jersey.

If you feel that the site must be cleaned up rather than having a radioactive dump in our county, please contact your senators and congressman and your New Jersey assembly people. Also, contact Steven Sweeney, the director of the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders.

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Information for the above article was taken from “Hard to Ignore Radioactive Slag” that appeared in the 9/24/06 Philadelphia Inquirer and was written by Monica Yant Kinney.

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.

Reminder - Membership Dues

The Gloucester County Nature Club's memberships run from September to September. If you haven't renewed your membership, do so as soon as possible. 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 October Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: Ed Cleary, 1874 McKee Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096.

Looking Ahead:

Programs- (All occur on Thursdays)

November 9 th	Raptors and Owls of Georgia (Caucasus) (Antonio Galvez)
December 14 th	Ecological Art: The Goldsworthy Lesson (Kate LeMay or Lee Whitehead)
January 11 th	Fossil Legends of Native Americans (Erik Mollenhauer)
February 8 th	Pot Luck Dinner & Program - Sharing Our Culture: From A Native American Indian Perspective (Jean Red Raven Kilian)
March 8 th	Natural Wonders of The Jersey Pines and Shore: Presentation and book signing (Michael Hogan)
April 12 th	Tropical Rainforests and New Jersey's Extraordinary Songbirds - Emile DeVito
May 10 th	Gardening Naturally: Native Plants in gardening and landscaping (Lorraine Kieffer) plus Annual Plant Sale
June 14 th	Annual Picnic

Field Trips-

November 5 th (Sunday)	Pine Barrens Hike (Gale Cannon)
December 16 th (Saturday)	Christmas Bird Count (Ron Kegel)
January 20 th (Saturday)	Backyard Bird Feeder Tour (Brian and Paula Hayes)
February 24 th (Saturday)	Cumberland County Birding (Bob Baruzzi)
March 11 th (Sunday)	Conowingo Dam (Bob Duke)
April 22 nd (Sunday)	Assunpink WMA Wildflowers and Birds (Karl Anderson)
May 19 th (Saturday)	Wenonah Woods (Richard Dilks)
June 16 th (Saturday)	Chestnut Branch (Kris Mollenhauer)

Club Notes:

- The October Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 5th at Karen Kravchuck's house. Please contact Deb Maka for more information.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborah71@msn.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.

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 discontinue on route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2006-2007

- 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: _____