



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2007

Program - Jottings in the Woods and Voices from the Land

Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks

Jottings in the Woods - Presented by **Lynne Shivers** of the Old Pine Farm Land Trust

After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on - have found that none of these finally satisfy, or permanently wear - what remains? Nature remains.

-Walt Whitman. *Specimen Days and Collect*, "New Themes Entered Upon" (1882).

I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars. -Walt Whitman

In the latter part of the 19th century, one of America's great poets, Walt Whitman, spent summers along the banks of Big Timber Creek where he strolled and explored the woodlands and fields, observing with a poet's eye the subtle beauty of the natural world. It is here that he wrote the nature prose sketches of *Specimen Days* as well as other important works of his later career. The Old Pine Farm Lands Trust has recently published the book, Jottings In The Woods, written and edited by Lynne Shivers, Joan Tracy and Debbie White, which chronicles and explores this connection between this special place of natural beauty and the creative output of one of our most important writers. All three authors will be present and have graciously consented to a book signing for our members. Lynne Shivers will also tell us this evening about the history and the natural history of one of Gloucester County's natural gems, the 32 acre Old Pine Farm nature preserve along the banks of Big Timber Creek in Deptford, NJ which the Lands Trust owns and manages.



Whitman

Voices from the Land - Presented by **Kris Mollenhauer & Gale Cannon**

The inspiration for Voices comes from the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy, who uses found natural materials to create ephemeral works of art in a local landscape. With bare hands and natural tools,

Goldsworthy rearranges leaves, grass, stone, twigs, sand, ice, snow, mud, pine cones, etc. Rarely is the artwork real, recognizable objects; instead, Goldsworthy uses color, form, shape, pattern, light and shadow to create art which appears natural but in simple contrast to its surroundings. He invites us to discover the simple miracles of everyday life... the landscape that sustains us... and the fragile relationship between people, nature, art and the passage of time. Goldsworthy documents his work and its eventual decay with a camera.



The Voices project expands the Goldsworthy concept. Teams of students work together, using natural materials to create artwork in a natural setting. They photograph their artwork, write poetry or prose

about it, giving the art and their experience a "voice". They help in the layout and design of a full-color book, publishing their work; copies of published books are shared among three linked schools (sometimes from different states or even different countries).

The Voices project began in 2006-2007 with a pilot cohort of schools from New Jersey, Manitoba, Ontario, Ohio, and New Zealand, with funding support from the October Hill Foundation.

Two Nature Club members, both elementary teachers, Gale Cannon and Kris Mollenhauer will share their experiences and their Voices books. Also on display will be Voices books from many other schools who have participated in the project last year.



Field Trip – Franklin Parker Preserve

Saturday, October 6th, 9:30 AM to mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Dr. Emile DeVito, NJCF Manager of Science and Stewardship

The 9,400-acre Franklin Parker Preserve, in the heart of the Pine Barrens south of Chatsworth in Burlington County, is owned by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. It links Wharton State Forest, Bass River State Forest, and Brendan Byrne State Forest. It contains pitch pine forest, ponds, pristine streams, and cranberry bogs and blueberry fields that are gradually reverting to woodland. Many unusual plants and animals have been reported from the area. Visitors to this wonderful place in early autumn should see asters, goldenrods, milkworts, and possibly the rare pine barrens gentian, as well as birds and perhaps other wildlife.

NOTE: Participation is limited, so phone Karl Anderson at 856-845-7075 or e-mail him at karlanderson6@aol.com to register or to get more information.

Directions: Meet at 7:45 AM at the Timberline Shopping Plaza on Route 553 in Sewell. Directions to the final meeting place will be provided to registrants. No more than five vehicles can enter the preserve, so car pooling within the preserve will almost certainly be required. Dress to suit the weather, and bring binoculars and lunch and beverage.

Conservation Corner - Open Space in New Jersey by Loretta Dunne

There will be a very important initiative for Open Space on the November 6th ballot, Question # 3 – the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007. By authorizing the state to issue \$200 million in general obligation bonds, the Act would provide funds to keep New Jersey's open space, farmland and historic preservation programs afloat for one more year and to begin a new Blue Acres program to purchase flood prone properties. This is critical to protect wildlife habitat, preserve open space, create urban parks and help to protect New Jersey's drinking water.

The original Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), which has historically financed the Green Acres, Farmland and Historic preservation programs, is running out of money, and there have been no successful long-term funding proposals, despite efforts that have been made by many New Jersey conservation groups. This one-year bill is an initiative to keep the preservation going.



The passage of this bill depends on informed citizens. Now is the time to write a letter to the editor and discuss this question with your friends and neighbors. A coalition of 90 organizations across the state are working to ensure the passage of Question #3 via their Keep It Green Campaign. Their website, www.NJKeepItGreen.org, has more information about the bill.

You can also ensure the passage of this bill by volunteering with the Keep It Green effort. As a volunteer, you can determine which tasks you would like to work on. They are seeking assistance with the following:

- Delivering flyers, postcards and posters to businesses, nonprofits and natural areas near your home
- Tabling at events in your area
- Stuffing and labeling envelopes
- Contacting Park Friends groups and other nonprofits and asking them for their help distributing information about the ballot question
- Calling county and local municipal offices and encouraging them to pass a resolution in support of the ballot question
- Other activities depending on your interests, skills and the campaign needs

It's not too late to help the Keep It Green campaign. You can contact the volunteer coordinator, Liz Silvernail at mlsilvernail@environmentnewjersey.org or call Joanna Wolaver, of the New Jersey Audubon Society at 609-392-1181.

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.



October Events by other Organizations

- October 6 (Saturday) - **Field trip: Seasonal Specialties at Absecon Inlet.** Leader: Ed Bruder. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. \$Fee. For info: <http://njudubon.org/centers/rancocas/>
- October 13 (Saturday) - **Field trip: Ghost Towns of New Jersey.** Leader: Budd Wilson. Sponsored by the Burlington County Natural Sciences Club. For info: <http://oldsquaw.tripod.com/>
- October 13 (Saturday) - **Field Trip: Birding Palmyra.** Leader: Lloyd Shaw. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. \$Fee. For info: <http://njudubon.org/centers/rancocas/>
- October 14 (Sunday) - **Field Trip: Fall Migrants at Supawna Meadows.** Leader: Frank Lenik. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. \$Fee. For info: <http://njudubon.org/centers/rancocas/>

The following events take place at the **Scotland Run Nature Center** in Clayton. For details and to register, call the center at 856.881.0845. All events are free.

- **Bird Walks:** Saturdays 10/6 and 11/3 at 8am
- **Afternoon Nature Strolls:** Wednesdays 10/17 and 11/28 at 2:30 pm
- **Nature Tots:** Wednesdays 10/10 and 11/14 at 10am
- **Scout Saturdays:** Saturdays 10/20 and 11/17 at 10am
- **4H Kids Nature Club Meeting:** Saturday 11/3 at 10:30 am

Natural Events for the month of October

- Pine barrens gentian in bloom in the Pinelands.
- Goldenrods, asters, bonesets, and blazing star in bloom.
- Cranberry harvest in the Pinelands.
- Autumn colors peak in late October.
- The greatest variety of raptor migration comes in mid-October, with golden eagles, red-shouldered hawks and more.
- Fox sparrows, one of the largest sparrows, are often seen under seed feeders during their autumn migration
- Wood ducks are migrating south
- Green-winged teals, one of the smallest dabbling ducks, are passing through the area as they migrate to the shore.

Looking Ahead:

2007-2008 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the interesting and diverse field trips we have lined up for this year:

- October 6, 2007 (Saturday) - Franklin Parker Preserve - Emile DeVito
- October 14, 2007 (Sunday) - Birding at Tinicum - Jeff Holt
- November 3, 2007 (Saturday) - Voices from the Land: Art in Natural Landscapes - Erik Mollenhauer
- November 10, 2007 (Saturday) - Lichen field trip – Brendan Byrne S.F. – Karl Anderson
- December - Christmas Bird Count
- January 22, 2008 (Tuesday) - Full Moon Hike at Alcyon Park - Kris Mollenhauer
- February 16, 2008 (Saturday) - Long Beach Island - Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon
- March 15, 2008 (Saturday) - Ringing Rocks State Park, PA - Brian and Paula Hayes
- April 12, 2008 (Saturday) - Salem County Birding - Lloyd Shaw
- May 18, 2008 (Sunday) - Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve - Richard Dilks
- June 21, 2008 (Saturday) - Unexpected Refuge - Karl Anderson and Sarah Summerville

Upcoming GCNC Programs (All occur on Thursdays)

Here is a tentative program list for the rest of this year:

- November 8, 2007 – Pine Barrens Wetlands: Geographical Reflections of South Jersey's Ice Age Past
 - Presenter: Mark Demitroff
- December 13, 2007 – Bald Eagles & Wildlife Conservation (Join meeting with SJL&WT)
 - Presenter: Larry Niles of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation
- January 10, 2008 - Mammals of New Jersey
 - Presenter: Karl Anderson
- February 14, 2008 - Traditional Pot Luck Dinner & Craft Night
- March 13, 2008 - The Sport of Geocaching
 - Presenter: Joe Valentino
- April 10, 2008 - The Birds of Panama
 - Presenter: Jeff Holt
- May 8, 2008 - Horseshoe Crabs
 - Presenter: Sue Ann Slotterback from the Cape May Nature Center
- June 12, 2008 - Annual Picnic

Reminder - Membership Dues

The Gloucester County Nature Club's memberships run from September through August. 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.

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 October Executive Committee meeting will be held at the home of Ed & Millie Cleary on October 7. The November Executive Committee meeting will be held at the home of Karen Kravchuck on November 4. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.
- We're still looking for a Conservation chairperson, Publicity chairperson, and a Vice President. If anyone is interested, 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 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 intend to discontinue on the route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2007-2008

☐ 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: _____