



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2008

****Note that our meeting location has changed!****

Program – New Jersey Archaeology & Paleohistory: Flint Knapping

Thursday, October 9th at 7:00 PM at The Wenonah Community Center

Presenter: Jack Cresson, Archaeologist

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342

No one is truly sure when man first came to the place we now call New Jersey. But by eight to ten thousand years ago, as the last great Ice Age was ending, man was here. The climate and the land were unimaginable different then. Through all the millennia as the climate changed from arctic tundra to boreal forest to the temperate climate of today, as the mega fauna vanished and sea levels altered, man was here. Today these ancient cultures from the earliest Paleo-Indians to the Lenni Lenape of the Woodland Period have left behind in stone the stories of their lives.



Flint Knapping is the art and techniques of manufacturing stone tools and implements in the manner of the ancient the cultures which developed and depended on these technologies for their survival. Our presenter, Jack Cresson, is a practicing archaeologist who specializes in Coastal Plain and mid-Atlantic prehistory, and who is creator of Primitive Industries in Moorestown, NJ where he offers workshops, demonstrations and displays of traditional tool making. He is also a lithic technologist, a skilled flint knapper, who will not only tell us of the tool making skills and traditions of ancient peoples, but will show us that those skills and traditions still live. Jack's describes his program tonight as **"Flaked Lithic Technology-A presentation of various techniques and applications used in prehistoric Southern N.J: Comparing and contrasting techniques**

uncovered by archaeology and experimentation." It will be a window on a vanished world and an enlightening and entertaining evening for anyone curious about those who were here before us. A small collection of Native American artifacts from Southern New Jersey will also be on display.

Directions to the new meeting location: The Wenonah Community Center (former train station) is located at E. Mantua Avenue and N. East Avenue, Wenonah, NJ. From Woodbury, travel south on Woodbury-Glassboro Rd (Rt 553), and make a right at the light onto Mantua Avenue. The community center is approximately 1/2 of a mile ahead on the right (at the railroad crossing). There are small parking lots near the Community Center along East Ave and West Ave, plus additional parking is available along the surrounding streets.

Field Trip – Cedar Lake Wildlife Management Area
Sunday October 26th, 9:00 AM to early afternoon
Trip Leader: Barry Bengel

The infrequently-visited 319 acre Cedar Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) straddles the border between Gloucester and Atlantic Counties. The WMA includes the horseshoe-shaped Cedar Lake, as well as some dense maple-gum swamp. The rest of the area is typical upland and lowland pine barrens, with pitch pines mixed with oaks, red maple, and sassafras, over an understory of mountain laurel, sweet pepperbush, and highbush blueberry. The ponds are fringed with pine and Atlantic white cedar.



Please join us as we do take a walk around the area and see what's happening here in Autumn. We should see some migrating songbirds and waterfowl, late goldenrods and asters, persimmon trees, and some native cranberries along the edges of the lake.

There is no hunting allowed on Sundays, which is the reason for the choice of the day of the visit. Dress to suit the weather, bring lunch, beverage, and insect repellent. Damp walking is possible. For those who want to, we will carpool/caravan to Cedar Lake. We will meet at Timberline Shopping Center in Sewell at **8:00 AM**, leaving there promptly at 8:15 AM. If you prefer to drive on your own, directions are below. Travel time to Cedar Lake is roughly 35 minutes.

Directions: Take Route 55 or Route 47 to Route 40. Take Route 40 east to the intersection with Piney Hollow Road at the Gloucester-Atlantic County Border. Go northeast on Piney Hollow Road for about 4.6 miles to Jackson Road. Turn right (south) on Jackson Road and go 1.5 miles. Cedar Lake will be on the right. There is a dirt parking area. If you cross a railroad track you have gone a bit too far. Travel time from Woodbury is about 40 minutes.

Other Nature Notes

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 218-2973 or sillybird348@comcast.net



Events by other Organizations: October 2008

- October 11 (Saturday) - **Birding at Palmyra Cove.** Leader: Sandra Keller. Sponsored by the Audubon Wildlife Society. For info: www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/
- October 11 (Saturday) - **7th Annual Mantua Creek Canoe and Kayak Trip.** Sponsored by the Wenonah Environmental Commission. Bring your own watercraft. Meets at 9:00 AM. For info: www.wenonahenvironmentalcommission.org/.
- October 12 (Sunday) - **Fall Sparrows at Red Bank Battlefield.** 8:45 AM - early afternoon. Leaders: Gary and Margie Lizzi. 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 registration, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- Bird Walks: Saturdays 10/4 and 11/1 at 8:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 10/8 and 11/12 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Strolls: Wednesdays 10/15 and 11/19 at 2:30 PM
- Campfire and Nightwalk: Friday 10/3 at 6:30 PM
- 4H Kids Nature Club Meeting: Saturday 11/1 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.

Kid's Corner - Science Fun Kit * by Deb Maka

Turn your backpack into a Science Fun Kit by adding:

- Magnifying Glass
- Binoculars
- Crayons or pencils and paper to make rubbings
- Small net
- Bug jar

(Put the bug or whatever in your jar to look at it, then put it back where you found it)

- Small bag to carry your trash and your treasures

(Remember, you can't take things like plants, flowers, or artifacts from parks. It's against the law and if people before you did it, there would be nothing left for you to see! Always ask permission before you take something.)

- Wildlife identification book



Also think about adding the following to make your backpack an outdoor kids' survival kit:

- Whistle – If you get hurt or lost, use your whistle. It's easier to be heard than yelling.
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Water – You need water, especially if it's hot outside. It's best to bring your own clean, safe water with you.
- Snack – Sometimes you get hungry
- Compass – Learn how to use one. It's fun!
- Bandana (a bright color like blaze orange is the best) – It makes a great flag on the end of your stick if you have trouble. You can also use it for all kinds of things, like a headband, a towel, or fold it to carry stuff.
- First Aid Kit – You can purchase a kit or make own of your own and put it in a plastic bag that zips shut. Only carry items in your first aid kit that you are old enough to use.

* Adapted from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website

(www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/explore/science_kit.phtml and
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/get_out/survival_kit.phtml)

Looking Ahead:

2008-2009 GCNC Programs

Note: There have been a few changes in topics and schedule since last month.

November 13, 2008 – **Threatened & Endangered Plant Species of the NJ Pine Barrens** - Russell Jueltg of The Pinelands Preservation Alliance

December 11, 2008 – **Global Warming** – Erik Mollenhauer

January 7, 2009 – **Owls of New Jersey** - Don Friday of New Jersey Audubon

February 12, 2009 – **Pot Luck Dinner / The Jersey Devil and Pinelands Folklore** - Jim Albertson

March 12, 2009 - **Birds of The Spring Migration** – Brian Hayes

April 9, 2009 – **The Grand Canyon: White Water Rafting, Canyon History and Geology** - Brett & Erik Mollenhauer

May 14, 2009 – **Native Plants for Insect and Bird Survival and Diversity** - Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, U. of Del

June 11, 2009 – **Annual Picnic at Red Bank Battlefield and The Art of Karen Paust**

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.

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

December 13 (Saturday) - **Audubon Christmas Bird 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.
- The October Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 5th at the home of Elaine Dzeima. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

This time of year 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: Ed Cleary, 1874 McKee Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096.

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 2008-2009

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: _____