



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2009

Program – The Natural and Unnatural History of Oaks

Thursday, October 8th at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenters: Erik Mollenhauer & Karl Anderson

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342

Trees are the tallest, most massive, longest-lived creatures on Earth. Oaks hold none of these records, but no trees have been more useful to people than oaks. Where there are or have been, cities and cultures that shaped the modern world... there were oaks [and jays]. Oaks are at the root of much of what we know, but their role in shaping mankind and civilization has been almost forgotten. In Gloucester County, about one-fifth of our native tree species are oaks. Some are common and easy to identify, some are common and hard to identify, and some are neither common nor easy. But all are important to wildlife and many are of horticultural interest.



Join us for a visual and tactile presentation about the natural and unnatural history of oaks: the science, history, philosophy and spirituality of oaks. Learn what local species, including the "difficult" species look like, and where to find them. If you have any oak leaves that need to be identified, feel free to bring them in.

Directions: The Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is located just off Rte 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 – Migrating Fall Warblers at Riverwinds

Saturday October 3rd, 8:45 AM to early afternoon

Please Note: This trip occurs BEFORE the regular monthly meeting.

Trip Leader: Lloyd Shaw (Joint trip with the Rancocas Nature Center)

Visit little-explored areas in and around the Riverwinds complex in West Deptford, Gloucester County.

The area includes many viewing locations along the Delaware River and Mantua Creek and affords a chance to see a variety of warblers, including Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Blackpoll, American Redstart, and Magnolia.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot for the Scenic Trail. From Exit 21 on I-295, take Delaware Avenue west. In about 0.4 mile, cross Grove Street. Continue for another 0.3 mile, on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Watch for a sign to the trail, on the right.

Field Trip report – Stafford Forge (September 12) by Karl Anderson.

Despite dire weather predictions, this trip took place as scheduled, with four hardy participants (plus the two leaders). A good variety of pine barrens specialty plants were found in bloom, including bog aster, slender aster, showy aster, blazing star, Maryland golden-aster, smooth gerardia, thread-leaved gerardia, Nuttall's lobelia, fern-leaved false foxglove, several species of goldenrods and bonesets, and the usual pitcher plant and sundews. Unfortunately, a bog that we had hoped to visit was flooded, a result of extremely heavy local rains the previous night, so we missed curly-grass fern and a few other species. A few birds were also seen, including osprey, great blue heron, great egret, and blue-gray gnatcatcher.

Family Fun Walk

Monday, October 19 at 9:30 AM at West Deptford Scenic Park

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (856) 627-7010 Email: walkingwith4boyz@comcast.net

Join us on Monday, October 19 at West Deptford Scenic Park to take a stroll in the cool Autumn air and look at the leaves changing colors. Bring your baby in a backpack, your toddler in tow or your grandmom along for a walk. We will walk at a toddler's pace exploring as we go. Bring your own backpack and/or a stroller that is able to be pushed on unpaved paths. Everyone welcome.



Directions: From Exit 21 on I-295, take Delaware Avenue west. In about 0.4 mile, cross Grove Street. Continue for another 0.3 mile, on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Watch for a sign to the trail, on the right. Meet in the parking lot.

Conservation Corner – Fall Conservation tips by Jayne Rhynard

Here are some small steps you can take to keep your Fall green:

Fall is the time for trees! Both raking leaves from them and planting them. Strategic planting saves energy. Deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home can keep the surrounding air up to 9° degrees cooler in summer but let in warming sun in winter. Evergreens planted on your home's windward side block cold winter winds and provide year round shade. Just 3 well-placed trees can offer yearly energy savings of \$100 - \$250 while absorbing heat-trapping carbon dioxide and reducing storm-water runoff.

Put raked leaves and other yard wastes in a compost bin keeps them out of landfills. Don't forget what was cleaned out of your gutters, too!

And speaking of trees, save some. Get off junk mail lists. The website www.GreenDimes.com can get you started. They'll even plant a tree for you!

Halloween costumes are something that you probably use once and then throw away. Recycle old clothes or buy items from a consignment shop for costumes. Also use reusable cloth bags or containers instead of disposable ones for trick-or-treating.

Make the most of your pumpkins. Puree and freeze the meat for pie or muffins and make the kitchen toasty (& keep the heat down) by roasting the seeds. Yummy. Then take anything else left and toss it in the compost bin.

Other Nature Notes

Announcing the NJ Native Plant/Seed Exchange

Using native plants in our landscaping is becoming more popular as people become more enlightened about biodiversity and the importance of native plants to other creatures that depend on them. Natives are desirable also for their ease of maintenance and low requirements in terms of water and fertilizer if planted in their appropriate habitat.

However obtaining native plants is not always an easy matter since many commercial nurseries do not carry much of a selection. In order to help promote the use of natives and provide an additional low-cost way to obtain plants, we have started this Yahoo group mailing list forum.

This forum provides a means for people in the New Jersey area to exchange locally native plants and seeds. If you have extras of some species, need to thin out an area of the garden, or are putting in a path and don't have anywhere to move the plants to, offer them here.

All offers must be free of charge. Plants must be dug and picked up at the offerer's location by the recipient unless otherwise agreed. At the end of the season, you can also share some seeds.

To join:

- Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nativeplantexchange>
- Click on the "Join this Group!" button.
- You will need to create a free Yahoo account if you do not already have one. Then you set up your account to email to your regular email address and you can get individual emails as they come out, a single daily digest or nothing - just go to the web and read the posts - as you desire.

For more information about the forum or how it works, contact Linda Rohleder, rohleder@rci.rutgers.edu.

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 2009

- October 17 (Saturday) - Marl Ravines of Gloucester County. 9:00 AM to early afternoon. Leader: Karl Anderson. Sponsored by the Burlington County Natural Sciences Club. For info: <http://oldsquaw.tripod.com/>
- October 18 (Sunday) - Nature walk at Taylor's Refuge. 9:00 AM to noon. Leader: Sandra Keller. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone (609) 261-2495.
- October 24 (Saturday) - Birding at Bombay Hook NWR. 10:00 AM to mid-afternoon. Leader: John Courtney. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone (609) 261-2495.

- October 29 (Thursday) – **Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust Annual meeting.** 6:30 PM at Auletto’s Caterers, 1849 Cooper Street, Deptford. The board of trustees and members of Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust are holding their annual meeting. Following the meeting, a program on oil spill clean up will be presented by Scott Bossert, Mate on the Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) *Delriver*. His talk will include a PowerPoint presentation about oil spill prevention, response, and clean-up on the Delaware Bay and River. The public is invited to attend the short business meeting at 6:30 PM with refreshments at 7:00 PM and the program at 7:30 PM. For info: Call Joan at (856) 232-1109 or visit <http://www.bigtimbercreek.org>.

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 10/3 and 11/7 at 8:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Strolls: Wednesdays 10/7 and 11/4 at 2:30 PM
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 10/14 and 11/18 at 10:00 AM
- Family Nature Adventure: Saturday 11/21 at 10:00 AM
 - Turkey Time – We’ll search for turkeys and other wildlife along the nature trail.
- Canoeing & Kayaking on Wilson Lake: Saturday 10/10 at 11:30 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:

Upcoming GCNC Programs

November 12, 2009: **Exploring the Pedricktown Marsh** – Mike Hogan and members of the South Jersey Land & Water Trust

December 10, 2009: **The Maurice River: A River Worth Protecting** – Renee Brecht, Assoc. Dir. of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River

January 14, 2010: **Turtles** – Cindy Pierson, the "Turtle Lady"

February 11, 2010: **Pot Luck Dinner and Cargo for Conservation**

March 11, 2010: **Gaviotas** – Hollister Knowlton

April 8, 2010: **Hawks of Southern New Jersey** – Don Freiday, NJ Audubon Society

May 13, 2010: TBD

June 10, 2010: **Annual Picnic** (location TBD) and **Awakening Spirits: The Art of Tracking** – Bill Marple, Instructor, Tom Brown Tracker School

2009-2010 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the next season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead a field trip, please contact Karl Anderson at karlanderson6@aol.com or (856) 845-7075.

November 14 (Saturday): **Forsythe Wildlife Refuge (Brigantine)** – Karl Anderson & Gale Cannon

December 19 (Saturday): **Audubon Christmas Bird Count** – Ron Kegel

January 16 (Saturday): **Eagles and Gulls at Conowingo Dam** – Jonathan Stillwell

February 28 (Sunday) (Rain date February 29): **Full Moon Hike at Alcyon Park** – Kris Mollenhauer

March (date TBD): **Manasquan Reservoir** – Jonathan Weir

April 17 (Saturday): **Bike the Glassboro Woods Trail** – Brian and Paula Hayes

May 9 (Sunday): **Wildflowers at Ridley Creek State Park** – Richard Dilks

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 4th at a location TBD. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

September brought 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 2009-2010

- 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: _____