



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2011

Program - Iceland

Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Karl Anderson

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Like Hawaii, Iceland is a volcanic island that floats over a hot spot in the earth's crust. The resemblance ends there. This island, about five times the size of New Jersey, is just a few miles south of the Arctic Circle. It was uninhabited till the middle of the ninth century, when it was discovered by a group of Norwegians whose ship had been blown off course while steering for the Faeroe Islands. The population today is about 300,000 people, two-thirds of whom live in or near Reyjavik.



Icelandic scenery runs to extremes. Views of fjords, mountains, and distant glaciers are spectacular. Green valleys dotted with an occasional farmstead, and bordered by high cliffs that are laced with waterfalls, are unlike anything in North America. Seabird colonies may have millions of puffins, fulmars, and kittiwakes. There are places in Iceland that make Yosemite look like a crowded slum. At the other extreme, areas such as the high fells, glacial outwash sands (sandur), and ash fields and lava flows are seriously bleak and almost completely lifeless.

In 2008, Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon spent two weeks driving the 2000-mile circumference of the nation, looking at scenery, thermal features, wildflowers, and birds (but not mammals or reptiles). They will share some of their experiences and photographs with us at this program.

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 – Birding at Amico Island Park

Saturday October 8, 2011 9:00 AM to Mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Gary Lizzi

Amico Island Park is a 55-acre peninsula featuring a diverse collection of habitats and terrain. With upland forests, freshwater ponds and wetlands, river shoreline and meadows, we will enjoy a rustic natural setting at the confluence of the Rancocas Creek and Delaware River. The various paths are fairly short and are paved and level. Adequate parking and restrooms are available. The park recommends wearing light colored clothes and bringing insect repellent. Bring a lunch as plenty of picnic areas are available.

Fall migration will be underway and hopefully we will see migrating southbound warblers; fresh water ponds and wetlands will offer glimpses of egrets, herons, and shore birds. We will try our hand at identifying various butterflies in the park.

We will be meeting at Timberline Shopping Center on Woodbury Glassboro Rd in Sewell at 8:00AM to carpool north for about an hour to Amico Island Park. If you would rather travel on your own, you can meet us there at 9:00AM by following these directions:

Directions: Take Rt. 130 North to Chester Ave. in Delran. Take Chester Avenue west to St. Mihiel Dr. (which is also called River Rd.). Turn Left onto St. Mihiel Dr. Take the third right onto Norman Ave.

Field Trip – Mad Hatter’s Tree Party

Sunday October 30, 2011 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Trip Leaders: GCNC Volunteers



Join us for The Mad Hatter's Tree Party! This will be a fun, 45-minute educational walk in the woods of Wenonah, NJ on the Eldridge Trail. It ends with refreshments, music and the Mad Hatter himself...at a historic, open-air Tea House on the trail. Eldridge Trail (and the walk) begin at the end of Princeton Avenue where Princeton intersects Pine Street...and end on Princeton Ave where it intersects Willow Street. Street parking is available nearby. The Mad Hatter's Tree Party will be held 1-4 PM, rain or shine. Unlike last year, no pre-registration is required.

Directions: From Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd.), turn onto Mantua Avenue at the traffic light. Make the second left onto South Princeton Ave. Proceed 4 blocks to the intersection with Pine Street.

Field Trip Report – Pine Barrens, September 24

Despite predictions for bad weather, this day dawned only slightly overcast, and stayed that way except for an occasional burst of bright sunshine. Several Pine Barrens forest types were studied. Walter's greenbrier and smooth winterberry were found growing near Shinn's Branch. A stroll along the shore of Pakim Pond produced pitcher plants, three species of sundews, striped bladderwort, and zig-zag bladderwort, this last species being represented only by its tiny cleistogamous flowers. Dwarf clubmoss, foxtail clubmoss, and curly grass fern were found. Perhaps the best find of the day was the beautiful pine barrens gentian, a signature plant of the Pine Barrens. The trip was led by Karl Anderson.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: October 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.
- October 4 (Tuesday) – Meets 9:00 AM. Nature Walk at the Rancocas Pointe Trail, in Mount Laurel. Free, but registration is required; phone 609-265-5858 to register and get more information.
- October 16 (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.

- October 22 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – Noon. Fall Foliage Nature Walk at Smithville Park. Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Commission. Free, but registration is required; phone 609-265-5858 to register and get more information.
- October 29 (Saturday) – 10:00 AM – Mid-afternoon. Fall Birding at Bombay Hook NWR. Leader: John Courtney. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For information phone 609-261-2495, Tuesday – Saturday.
- October 29 (Saturday) Cooper River Walk & Environmental Center Tour 10:00 a.m. Please join South Jersey Land and Water Trust staff member Michael Hogan for a tour of the Cooper River and the new LEED-certified Camden County Environmental Center. All attendees invited to tour Flying Fish Brewery after walk. Cooper River Walk no cost SJLWT members. \$3 per nonmember. Meet at the Camden County Environmental Center 1301 Park Blvd. Cherry Hill, NJ. To RSVP and for more information, please contact Mike at hoganphoto@verizon.net . sjlandwater.org. We also recently launched our blog: <http://sjlandwater.wordpress.org>

The following events take place at the Scotland Run Nature Center in Clayton. For details and to register for programs, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- Bird Walks: Saturdays 10/1 and 11/5 at 8:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 10/12 and 11/9 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesdays 10/19 and 11/16 at 2:30 PM
- Scout Saturday: Saturdays 10/22 and 11/19 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Explorers: Saturday 10/15 at 10:00 AM
- 4H Kids Nature Club: Saturdays 10/1 and 11/5 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.

Maple Ridge Public Meeting: Tuesday, October 11 at 7 PM:

All are welcome at the Wenonah Community Center (historic train station). We will have brief presentations on the status of preservation efforts. Find out which public officials you can contact and other actions you can take to help the project. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

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.

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 October Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 9th at the home of Elaine Dzeima. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

It's the time of year for 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 October 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: _____