



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

November 2012

Program - The South Jersey Land & Water Trust: Preserving Our Natural Lands & Protecting Our Waters (Annual Joint Meeting With The South Jersey Land & Water Trust)

Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Wenonah Community Center, Wenonah, NJ (directions below) *NOTE NEW LOCATION*****

Presenter: Michael Hogan, SJL&WT Habitat Assessment Coordinator
Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342



We are pleased to welcome the South Jersey Land & Water Trust to our annual joint meeting. The SJL&WT has taken up as its mission the preservation and protection of the water resources and land within the watersheds of southern New Jersey through public education, advocacy, increased scientific understanding, and habitat preservation. Among its recent achievements are the preservation of the ecologically sensitive Daniels property along Oldmans Creek and the Andaloro Farm on Big Timber Creek. The SJL&WT has preserved over 1,360 acres in our region and is actively working to preserve an additional 334 acres in Gloucester and Salem Counties. The work of the SJL&WT has been absolutely essential in the effort to save Maple Ridge. In addition, the SJL&WT presents educational programs, performs stream assessments and invites the public to explore our natural areas in its "Walks In The Woods:" programs.

Tonight Michael Hogan, noted nature photographer and the SJL&WT's Habitat Assessment Coordinator will give us an update on the many and varied projects the Land Trust has undertaken. We are indeed fortunate to have an organization, such as the SJL&WT, working to keep our environment healthy and making sure that natural areas and open space will be an important part of our region's future.

Directions: The Wenonah Community Center (historic train station) is located at the RR crossing at the corner of E. Mantua Avenue and N. East Avenue, Wenonah, NJ.

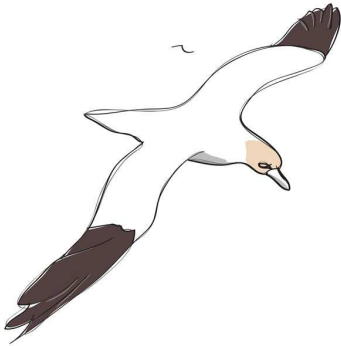
From the east, north or south, take Woodbury-Glassboro Rd (Rt. 553), and turn west at the light onto Mantua Avenue. The Community Center is approximately 1/2 of a mile ahead on the right (at the railroad crossing).

From the west, take Wenonah Ave. in Mantua east for approximately a mile (becomes Mantua Ave. when you enter Wenonah) to the RR crossing. The Community center is on the left. 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 – Middle Cape May County Seabird, Shorebird & Songbird Migration

Saturday November 17, 2012, 10:00 AM to Mid-Afternoon (Carpool 8:30 AM)

Trip Leader: Jonathan Stillwell



Besides the Cape May Hawkwatch, there are other spots to view migrating birds in the autumn in Cape May County. We will meet at Stone Harbor Point to take a short hike amid the dune foliage, and peruse the ocean views and salt ponds for song birds, shore birds and ducks. Next we will stop to view the Nummy Island salt marsh from cars and then proceed to the 48th Street Dune Walk. Finishing at the Avalon Seabird Watch to view Southbound seabirds navigate past this point of land. Expect to see Scoters, and other possibilities include Loons and Gannets. Dress for windy conditions, bring scopes and binoculars and a lunch. Trip will last until mid-afternoon.

Meet at 10:00 AM at Stone Harbor Point. (Exit 10 on GSP), turn left onto Stone Harbor Blvd and go to 2nd Avenue, turn right and go South past 122nd Avenue, Turn left in to parking lot.

Carpool at 8:30 AM at Deptford Mall near the Rt. 42 on-ramp to go South.

Phone Numbers: Weekdays: 609-485-6524

Night before the trip: 856-848-1324

Morning of the trip: 609-437-4387

Family Fun Walk at Wenonah Lake Loop

Sunday, November 18, 2012, 11:00 AM

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe cell/text 609-315-4759 Email: mariakeefe19@comcast.net

Fun walks are back!! Wenonah Lake Loop. Join us on a nice fall day for a ramble through the woods and around the lake. We will walk at a toddler's pace stopping to look at anything interesting we find. Walk will last an hour or so. Families with kids, seniors and all are welcome.

We will meet at the Wenonah Lake parking lot at W. Maple St. and N. Jefferson Ave.

Directions: From Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553) - Go west on Maple St., crossing the railroad tracks. At the stop sign at the bottom of the hill, turn right into the Wenonah Lake parking lot.

From Rt. 45 – Take Ogden Station Rd. east through the Oak Valley section of Deptford Twp. (If approaching on Rt. 45 from the north, use the jug handle just past the West Deptford Shop Rite.) After approximately one mile, Ogden Rd. becomes Maple St. You will pass Wenonah Lake on your left. At the stop sign, turn left into the Wenonah Lake parking lot.



Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: November 2012

- November 2 (Friday) – 10:00 AM - Noon. **Fall Foliage walk at the Smith Woods Section of Smithville County Park, Eastampton.** Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Commission. Free, but registration is required; phone 609-265-5858. Bad weather cancels.
- November 10 (Saturday) 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. **Birding at Taylor's Refuge and Amico Island for Sparrows, Migrants, Winter Visitors.** Leader: Lloyd Shaw. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For information phone 609-261-2495.
- November 10 (Saturday) 10:00 AM. **SJL&WT Walk in the Woods: Maurice River Bluffs** Leader Michael Hogan; please RSVP to 609-476-2086 or hoganphoto@verizon.net. NO COST to SJLWT members, \$3 per nonmember. The Nature Conservancy's Maurice River Bluffs is a 535-acre preserve that stretches nearly 2.5 miles along the west bank of the Maurice River, south of Millville. The site contains old farm fields, forested wetlands and pine oak uplands. The trail follows spectacular 35 feet tall bluffs along the banks of the Maurice River. The large tidal wetlands along the river are a wintering site for many kinds of waterfowl, and bald eagles are a common sight. The site also features a dock/viewing platform on the Maurice River.

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: Saturday 11/3 at 8:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 11/7 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 11/14 at 2:30 PM
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 11/17 at 10:00 AM
- 4H Kids Nature Club: Saturday 11/3 at 10:30 AM

Natural Events for the month of October

- Persimmons ripen - they are delicious when fully soft-ripe, astringent when unripe.
- Witch hazel in bloom.
- Woodchucks and chipmunks go into hibernation.
- Bats seek their hibernating sites in caves and abandoned mines.
- American tree sparrow, sometimes called the "winter chippy", is a regular winter bird feeder visitor.

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the rest of the club year. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

December 13, 2012: **Terrariums, followed by a terrarium workshop** - Lorraine Keifer (Special Location: Triple Oaks Nursery, Franklinville, NJ)

January 10, 2013: **Orion The Hunter** - Erik Mollenhauer

February 14, 2013: **Valentine's Day Pot Luck Dinner & program Worship-worthy Chocolate** – Marie Hageman

March 14, 2013: **Program TBD**

April 11, 2013: **Birding South Carolina** – Jeff Mollenhauer

May 9, 2013: **Pollinators: The Amazing Insects Among Us** – Susan E. Ellis

June 13, 2013: **Annual Picnic** (Location to be determined)

2012-2013 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the season. 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.

December 15 (Saturday) – **Audubon Christmas Count**. Coordinator: Ron Kegel

January 19 (Saturday) – **Looking for Wintering Waterfowl on the Delaware River**. Leader: Sandra Keller. Joint trip with the Audubon Wildlife Society.

February – **To be determined**.

March 23 (Saturday) – **Birding the Delaware Bayshore**. Leader: Joe Esterly

April 27 – **Birding at Long Bridge Park**. Leader: Bob Duke.

April (Dates to be determined) – **Bird Quest Training Sessions**

May 4 – **Bird Quest**

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 November Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 4th at the home of Bonnie Dann. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Too late to include in the printed newsletter: Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The annual Northwestern Gloucester County Audubon Christmas Bird Count is coming up on Saturday, December the 15th. Please join us for a great day of birding. Once again groups will be heading out into the count circle trying to see and hear as many birds as possible. The count circle (15 miles wide) is divided into sections and each section has an area leader. The area leader is responsible for canvassing the area, coordinating the participants within their area, and reporting what the results are.

The day can start with 'owling' if you wish or for those not quite as keen on that early a start, anytime thereafter. One can volunteer for as long as you wish. Merely let the section leader know how long you would like to participate so details can be worked out please. For those new to the count, you may contact a leader if you wish. If you need to find a group to go out with, I can help with this too. Warm clothing, a lunch (and snacks), binoculars, and a birding guide would likely be in order. Some folks say "Well I don't know the birds that well!" This is a great opportunity to learn. Your leader and other members can help walk you through it. It's a wonderful time to see and learn the winter birds, maybe beyond what we see at our feeders!

This year again we will be trying to get as many folks feeder watching too! This portion of the count has been very successful and is great for those folks unable to get out and beat the bushes or only have a short time by which to devote. If you are in the count circle and can spare some time we would appreciate your input. You may either see me at the meeting or I can mail you a copy of the form and technique if you wish, please help.

I'm kind of happy to announce Audubon has changed 2 things this year (as noted in the American Birds publication). #1) There is no \$5.00 fee to participate. For years we have been paying an entrance fee to help defer cost to get results published. This leads me to #2), which is that we will no longer be getting a paper copy of the results. All results will now need to be ascertained through the internet/Audubon website. It eliminates need to produce more paper, but there is something about having that hard copy to view (old school compiler I guess).

Again, we hope you will join us. Event goes on rain or shine (unless we have a blizzard like we had a couple years ago, then there will be discussion). Kirk and Donna Strohmeier have extended an invitation to meet at their home again after the count so please join us there. Feel free to contact me at 856-881-9262 or ronaldk51@comcast.net, if you have questions. Join us please, I don't think you will be disappointed. And it's free! Ron Kegel compiler