



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

November 2016

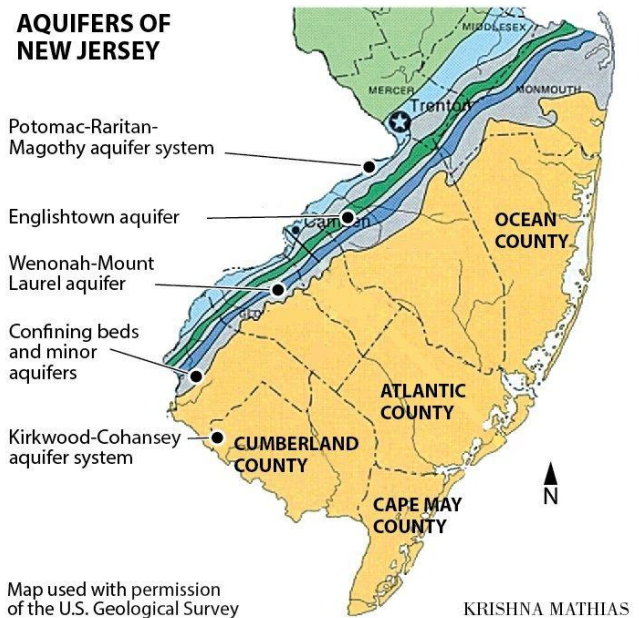
Program - Protecting South Jersey's Waters : The Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer
Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ
Presenter: Richard Bizub, Director of Water Programs, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

The streams, wetlands and aquifers of South Jersey are the "green infrastructure" without which the ecosystem would not survive, agriculture would become impossible, and millions of residents would lose their water supply. This presentation illustrates the region's surface and groundwater resources, and the challenges we face in maintaining clean abundant sources of water.

The Kirkwood-Cohansey is the life blood of the Pine Barrens. Ninety percent of the water in streams, rivers and wetlands is supplied by this aquifer system in the form of baseflow. In addition, since water in this aquifer often occurs less than a few feet beneath ground surface, it directly supplies water to the roots of Pine Barrens trees, shrubs and plants. Some of which are rare, threatened or endangered.

Join Richard Bizub for a detailed look at the shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer with a focus on groundwater quality, the interactions between this shallow aquifer and our streams & wetlands, its importance to agriculture, potential impacts from excessive groundwater withdrawals, saltwater intrusion and what the future holds for this aquifer and all who depend on it

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 – Drum Circle at Tall Pines Preserve

Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 6:30pm

Trip Leaders: Paula & Brian Hayes

Looking for something to do on this first night of early darkness? Many cultures around the world and throughout history have based their calendars on the moon, not the sun... Celtic culture, Jewish traditions, and many Asian cultures are all based on the movements of the moon. In that calendar, the day starts as the moon rises. The sun provides life but the moon chases the dark and softens the night. We will welcome the moon while we listen to the heartbeat of the earth.

Come join the Gloucester County Nature Club for a fun filled evening of percussion. You don't need to be a drummer or even a musician to participate. We will set up our circle in a natural area a short walk from the parking lot. This event will include guided activities as well as time for improvisation and exploration of sound during the evening.

It is recommended that you bring a camp style or folding chair and a drum if you have one. We will have lots of different styles of drums and other percussion instruments to share. While we welcome musicians this activity is designed to be fun for novices and families.

Directions: Tall Pines State Preserve is located at the corner of Woodbury-Glassboro Road (Route 553) and Bank Bridge Road, just south of the borough of Wenonah. The entrance to the parking lot is off Bank Bridge Road, just west of the intersection with Woodbury-Glassboro Road.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: November 2016

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.

- Nature Tots - Sensory Walk: Tuesday 11/1 at 9:00am
- Bird Walk: Saturday 11/5 at 9:00am.
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 11/12 at 10:00am
- Nature Tots - Eco Music: Tuesday 11/15 at 9:00am
- Nature Explorers - Turkey Time: Saturday 11/19 at 10:00am
- Nature Tots - Turkey Time: Tuesday 11/22 at 9:00am
- Nature Tots - Skinny on Animals: Tuesday 11/29 at 9:00am



Natural Events for the month of November

- 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.



Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

The National Audubon Society is asking birders and all those who enjoy watching birds to send a letter to President Obama urging him to strengthen the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This act came into being 100 years ago because of the trade in feathers that threatened to wipe out many bird species. According to Audubon, the law needs to be updated to protect birds from '21st century threats such as oil pits, power lines, communications towers and other deadly hazards.' There is still time for President Obama to do this. Sign and send the letter at <https://action.audubon.org/onlineactions/rXX3GXqnmEGeiqP9erh9qA2>

IT'S ELECTION YEAR – DO YOU KNOW YOUR PRESIDENTS?

The Sierra Club has a short online quiz on the environmental legacies of our presidents. One of the questions is:

Which president signed the first piece of legislation to preserve Yosemite Valley and the Sequoia groves of California?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a. Abraham Lincoln | c. William Howard Taft |
| b. Ulysses S. Grant | d. Harry S. Truman |

You can find the whole quiz at http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-1-january-february/green-life/which-presidents-have-eco-cred?suppress=true&utm_source=greenlife&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter.

Answer at bottom of Conservation Corner.

WEBSITES FOR BIRDERS AND GARDENERS

Cornell offers websites to enhance the enjoyment of birds year-round. On www.yardmap.org you can map your garden and create a bird friendly habitat. www.ebird.org allows the birder to keep track of checklists while contributing to citizen science. During the fall and winter, you can record the birds at your backyard feeders with Project Feeder Watch located at <http://feederwatch.org/> (the only site with an annual fee).

"Jersey-Friendly Yards – Landscaping for a Healthy Environment" (www.jerseyyards.org) is a project of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Barnegat Bay Partnership and Ocean County Soil Conservation District. The goal of Jersey-Friendly Yards is clean water for drinking, fishing, swimming as well as for wildlife and the

environment. It has a Jersey friendly plant database, a Jersey friendly interactive yard tool, information on rain barrels, lawn care, pollinators, pest management, and much more.

THE RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE

At the beginning of this month, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced the listing of seven Hawaiian bees to the endangered species list. This was a first for any bees in the US. The listing followed years of study by the Xerces Society, state officials and independent researchers. Responding to information provided by the Xerces Society and other groups, the Fish and Wildlife Service now has proposed listing a bee that was once common in New Jersey as an endangered species. This bee is the rusty patched bumble bee.



The rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) was once common throughout the east and the upper Midwest but it is estimated that they have disappeared from 87% and possibly more of their former range. The worker bees have a rust-colored patch in the middle of their second abdominal segment. This bee is an excellent pollinator of wildflowers, cranberries, apples, plums and other important crops. All wild bumble bees face several threats including fragmentation of their habitat, use of highly toxic pesticides containing neonics, use of herbicides like Round Up that contain glyphosate which kills nectar plants, and the loss of native plants (which our bees co-evolved with) due to invasive non-native plants. Commercially bred bumble bees, which have been shown to carry a high pathogen load, interact with wild bees near greenhouses and spread the diseases to the wild bees. Finally, climate change may also have a negative effect.

One third of US crops are pollinated by bumble bees. The Xerces Society believes that endangered species protection is the only way to give the rusty patched bee a chance to survive. You may express your support for the proposal by signing a petition at https://environmental-action.webaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18757&utm_source=Salsa&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=EAC4-FCNS:WILDLIFE-1016&utm_content=EM0:01A:0BH-AAP&uid=515381. For more information on the rusty patched bee and all pollinators go to <http://www.xerces.org/rusty-patched-bumble-bee/> Additional source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-bumblebee-idUSKCN11R2T>

Also, there is a 20 minute video at <http://www.rustypatched.com/> called "A Ghost in the Making: Searching for the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee" which follows the quest of one man to find and photograph the bee.

Answer to above – A. Lincoln

Looking Ahead:

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

December 8 2016: **An Amazon Expedition with EarthWatch** – Larry Lyons

January 12, 2017: **A Practical Guide to Plant Propagation** - Ron Kegel

February 9, 2017: **Pot Luck Dinner (6:00pm) & Program:Adventures in Paddling for Clean Water and a Healthy Ocean** - Margo Pellegrino

March 9, 2017: **Vulture Culture: A Face Only a Mother Could Love** - Jane Morton Galetto, President, Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River

April 13, 2017: **Birds of Gloucester County and Tips on Photographing Them** - Dennis DiMarco & Marilyn Henry

May 11, 2017: **Annual Plant Sale (6:00pm)** and **Program: A Green Legacy: John Burroughs and the Catskill Mts (6:45pm)** - Erik Mollenhauer

June 8, 2017: **Annual Picnic (6:00pm) at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ** followed by **Program: Surfskis, Outrigger Canoes, Kayaks, Lifejackets, Rescue Throw bags, Paddles - Up Close & Personal** - Glen Forest Green, P.E., U.S. Canoe Assoc. Safety Committee Chairman

2016-2017 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the remainder of the club year. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@gmail.com.

December 17, 2016 - **Christmas Bird Count**

January 2017 - **Winter Ducks**

February 11, 2017 - **Scotland Run Full Moon Hike**

March 2017 - **TBD**

April 2017 - **BirdQuest Training Sessions**

May 6, 2017 - **BirdQuest**

June 2017 - **Horseshoe Crab Walk**

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 609-617-6693 (cell).
- 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 Monday November 7th at the home of Erik and Kris Mollenhauer. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.