

Gloucester County Nature Club

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

April 2002

REGULAR MEETING – Thursday, April 11, 2002 – 7:00 pm – EIRC, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell

Bob Cassel, Program Coordinator, 478-2496



“How to Purchase Binoculars and Telescopes” – Brent Burke

Thinking of purchasing or upgrading your binoculars? Need information on telescopes? The April program will be led by Brent Burke, experienced bird field trip guide and graduate of Stockton University’s environmental program. Members who attended the Raptor Festival in February will recall this vigorous young ornithologist who manned the Turkey Point post from where an active bald eagle nest could be viewed. Brent’s enthusiasm and caring assistance was outstanding. He will bring binoculars and telescopes by numerous manufacturers. He suggests those who own binoculars and telescopes bring them to the meeting. He’ll explain details about your piece you did not already know. Brent has made a study of how lenses work. This is an opportunity to tune up for the BIRD QUEST on May 4th!

Also Monday May 6 (7-8:30pm) Raptor Project – Pitman High School Auditorium, 225 Linden Ave., Pitman

The Raptor Project: a close encounter with 15-20 different kinds of LIVE EAGLES, HAWKS, OWLS and FALCONS. Raptor Project stars include “Cody” (a Golden Eagle with a seven foot wing-span), “Snowman” (an Arctic Snowy Owl), “Paragon” (a Peregrine Falcon) and “Tiny Tina” a Saw-whet Owl. This is the largest and most varied collection of traveling raptors in the world. The presenter and Project Director, Jonathan Wood, is a Master Falconer and Wildlife Rehabilitator, bringing unique insights, observations and humor to this nationally acclaimed show. His program emphasizes awareness of the vital role of raptors in the environment, their conservation, rehabilitation (of injured birds) and captive breeding programs (to re-establish endangered species). Great for families. Last year this program drew an audience of 350! (**back by popular demand!**)

FIELD TRIP – Sat., April 13, 2002 - Leaving 9:00 am from Timberline Shopping Ctr., Mantua Twp.

Kris Mollenhauer, Field Trip Coordinator, 589-4387



Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve



Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope PA, is a botanical collection of native plants in a natural setting. Over two dozen trails lead you through beautiful woodlands and bright meadows with more than 1,000 species of native plants: Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Bellworts, Wood Anemone, Spicebush, Trillium and many more plants in bloom. You can purchase seeds or native plants at a visitor center. We will divide into two groups. One group will go to Bowman’s Hill to walk the trails. The other group will start at Washington’s Crossing and do a 12-mile bike ride along the river, stopping at Bowman’s Hill to walk the trails. The two groups will eat lunch together at a picnic area near the river. Bikers need to bring a bike and bike lock. Please call to register. Free admission. Bring binoculars, picnic lunch & beverage. Their website is www.bhwp.org.

Upcoming Field Trips:**June 13:** Annual Picnic, at Red Bank Battlefield Park

Environmental Info/Nature Notes – April, 2002

Gloria Caccia, Environmental Coordinator, 582-0980

Crucial Energy Bill in Hands of Senate

The House has passed an energy bill that would open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and provide incentives for drilling in other ecologically fragile areas. It would also encourage increased production at dirty, outdated coal-burning facilities. The bill has been passed on to the Senate. An alternative bill (S1766) has been introduced by Senators Daschle and Bingaman. It would emphasize energy efficiency and development of clean, renewable sources of energy. It would protect special places such as the Arctic Refuge and help curb global warming.

Nature Club members signed a petition in support of S1766 at our March meeting and sent it to our Senators, Jon Corzine and Robert Torricelli. If you would like to contact these Senators to express your support of S1766 as a frame for a sound energy policy, call them at (202) 224-3121 or write to them at U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.

**Encouraging Remarks by NJ's New Commissioner of the DEP**

Brad Campbell is the new commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. When interviewed by NJPIRG (NJ Public Interest Research Group) for their winter publication, he stated that the following were his priorities: "We will work to protect open space, reduce the impact of sprawl on air and water quality, reverse recent failures in our clean water policies to ensure New Jersey's waterways are protected, and restore an ethic of strong environmental standards and enforcement. Finally, I will work to make the DEP decision-making process transparent and open to the public." May he have success in all of these areas!

Ways Motorists Can Save Gas

The Natural Resources Defense Council, in their "Nature's Voice" publication for Nov/Dec 2001 listed the following ways motorists can save gas: 1) Keep tires properly inflated. 2) Follow the speed limit. 3) Reduce idling. 4) Keep car tuned up. 5) Use car-pools and public transportation. 6) Buy the highest mileage car that meets one's needs.

Election of Trustees – from the President

May is our Annual meeting to elect Trustees. In the May newsletter we will be including a ballot which you can use to vote for the Trustees of your choice. Trustees are responsible for electing and providing direction for the Executive Committee members. When elected, Trustees serve a three-year term at which time the seat is up for election. All voting is final at the close of the May meeting with the results to be included in the June newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a Trustee please contact me Brian Hayes at (856) 468 – 9272 or email me at pnbhayes@aol.com before April 15 to have your name on the ballot.



2002 Bird Quest Expected to Draw More Participants than Last Year

The **2002 Gloucester County Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat., May 4, 2002 from 7 AM to 12 NOON in Gloucester County**. During this time, teams of people visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County and find as many different bird species as they can. The purpose of the Bird Quest is to discover the natural areas of Gloucester

County, to learn how to identify birds by sight and sound, and to have fun with friends, colleagues and family. **The Quest is an educational event, novices are encouraged to participate.** At 12 NOON, all participants gather at Atkinson Memorial County Park on Delsea Drive to report results, and for a **free lunch, t-shirts and prizes.**

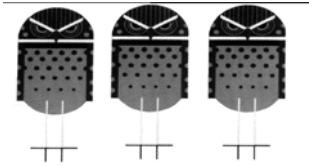
The organizers want to significantly increase the number of teachers who participate in this year's Quest. **To that end, they are hiring a school bus that teachers can ride on, at no cost.** (A second bus will be provided for other participants who wish to ride it.) Several knowledgeable birders will ride the bus, guiding groups of teachers when the bus stops at selected sites. In addition to 5 hours of professional development credits for all teachers, each teacher who rides the bus can bring another teacher for free (the \$8 registration fee will be waived for the colleague). **Free refreshments will be provided at the first stop of the morning (with free lunch and T-shirts at noon.)**

Last year's **Gloucester County Bird Quest** attracted nearly 300 participants, including teachers, school groups, scout troops, environmental commissions, families and residents of Gloucester and neighboring counties. This year the organizers are planning for at least 400 participants.

The **2002 Gloucester County Bird Quest** highlights the importance of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), a nation-wide effort to draw attention to the plight and needs of migratory birds. The 2002 IMBD theme, "*A Celebration of Special Places*", stresses the importance of stopover sites habitat to migratory birds. The colorful IMBD T-shirt showing 42 different bird species migrating at night is given free to all participants.

A county map and other materials are provided to each registered team. Participants can also attend any of a series of twelve free field trainings (listed below) in the two weeks before the Quest. An \$8. fee per participant covers the cost of lunch, T-shirt, prizes etc. To obtain more information and a team registration form, or to join a team or to ride the bus, contact Anne Rossell at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080. Information can also be requested by phone (856-582-7000 X110) FAX (856-582-4206) or e-mail at anner@eirc.org.





Bird Quest 2002 Training

Sessions

April 15 - Monday 6:00 - 7:00 PM Birding Basics

Alcyon Lake Park, Pitman

This session is great for the beginning birder. We will discuss the tools of the trade from field guides, binoculars, scopes, to clothing, footwear, and repellants. We will discuss general techniques and helpful hints on identifying that bird. *Directions: From 322 take Lambs road to W. Holly Ave. Take Track Ave. past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

Leader: Brian Hayes

CoLeader: Mimi Glass

April 18 - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM Birding by Ear Part I

EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive

This is a classroom training session, the first of two parts, which will help you identify bird songs and calls. The second part of this training is in the field where you can use your recently learned skills. *Directions: On Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp. located next to the Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

CoLeader: Kris Mollenhauer

April 19 - Friday 6:00 - 7:00 AM Birding by Ear Part II

Greenwich Lake Park, Greenwich

This is the second part to the classroom training of Birding by Ear. This training is in the field where you can use your recently learned skills. *Directions: From Kings Hwy take Tomlin Station Rd (607) North. Meet in the parking lot off of Tomlin Station Rd (607) just north of 295/130 overpass.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

CoLeader: Deb Maka

April 21 - Sunday 8:00 - 9:00 AM BirdQuest Training

Wheelabrator Wildlife Management Area, Westville

Directions: Access is from Rte 130, opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet in parking lot on the right just before the guard station.

Leader: Ron Kegel

CoLeader: Loretta Dunne

April 23 - Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 PM BirdQuest Training

Scotland Run Park, Clayton

Directions: From Delsea Dr. (47) in Clayton take 610 Clayton-Williamston Rd. East towards Williamston. Meet at park headquarters on the right across from Wilson Lake.

Leader: Bob Duke

CoLeader: Doris and Dwight Weir

April 24 - Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 AM BirdQuest Training

Ceres Park, Mantua

Directions: Access from 553A(Pitman-Barnsboro Rd.) Watch for Ceres Park sign on W. side of road after you cross Rt. 55. Meet in parking lot.

Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel

CoLeader: Karen Kravchuck

April 25 - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM BirdQuest Training

Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua

Directions: Access from 553A (Main St. Barnsboro). Meet at wildflower gardens.

Leader: Jeff Holt

CoLeaders: Doris and Dwight Weir

April 28 - Sunday 8:00 - 7:00 AM

BirdQuest Training

Floodgate Road

Directions: Access from Rt. 44 South of Gibbstown. Turn right onto Floodgate road (at the racetrack) meet all the way down at the gate by the river.

Leader: Dr. Ebert

CoLeader: Marge Dolente

April 28 - Sunday 6:00 - 7:00 PM

BirdQuest Training

Washington Lake Park - Backend

Directions: Take Larson Lane off the North side of Chapel Hts. Rd(639), East of Gloucester Co. Community Church. Meet at the parking area.

Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel

CoLeader: Maria Keefe

April 29 - Monday 6:00 - 7:00 AM **BirdQuest Training**

West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford.

Directions: From 130/295 take exit 21 Delaware St (640) west. Trailhead starts about 300 yards North of the intersection of Grove St. and Delaware St. (640). Meet in parking lot.

Leader: Dr. Ebert

CoLeader: Loretta Dunne

April 30 - Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 PM **Birding by Ear Part I**

EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive

This is a classroom training session, the first of two parts, which will help you identify bird songs and calls. The second part of this training is in the field where you can use your recently learned skills. *Directions: On Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp. located next to the Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

CoLeader: Brian Hayes

May 1 - Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 AM **Birding by Ear Part II**

Lake Narraticon, Swedesboro

This is the second part to the classroom training of Birding by Ear. This training is in the field where you can use your recently learned skills. *Directions: Access from Park Ave. in Swedesboro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

CoLeader: Deb Maka

May 2 - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM

BirdQuest Training

Wheelabrator

Directions: Access is from Rte 130, opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet in parking lot on the right just before the guard station.

Leader: Bob Duke

CoLeader: Marge Dolente



Community Events

Please contact our Community Events Coordinator, Maria Keefe, at Kityblu@juno.com or 856-627-7010 if you might be willing to help staff a Nature Club exhibit at one of the following events.

- **Saturday, April 6**, 11-3 pm, Daminger's Country Store Carnival Day, Main St. Barnsboro
- **Saturday April 20**, 9-1 pm, Pitman Earth Day Celebration. Free seedlings, animal encounters and more.
- **Saturday, April 20**, 10 –4 pm Washington Lake Park, Earth Day Celebration. Better every year.
- **Saturday, June 1**, 11-4pm – Mantua Day, Chestnut Branch
- **Sunday, June 9**, 11-4pm Gloucester County Water Fest, Scotland Run Park, Clayton. Features the NJ State Aquarium "Creature Feature" show, displays, kayaking and canoeing, music, food.

Executive Committee Meeting: The next Board of Trustees/Executive Committee Meeting will be held immediately following the April 11 Nature Club meeting. Members are invited to attend the Executive Meetings.

Club News: The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program and/or field trip coordinators with your ideas. For information about the Gloucester County Nature Club, call:

Brian Hayes, President 468-9272

Mimi Glass, Membership Chair, 589-6435

Information for next month's newsletter should be sent, by the 15th of each month, to:

Erik Mollenhauer, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell NJ 08080, 582-7000 X128

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c/o EIRC
606 Delsea Dr.
Sewell NJ 08080