



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

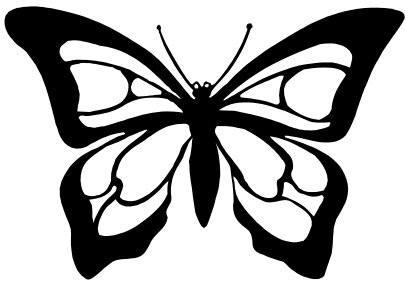
Nature Club meetings are open to the public
September 2003

Program- Monarchs' Magic Migration- Thurs., September 11 at

7:00pm at EIRC in Sewell Program Coordinator- Bob Cassel 478-2496

Join Kris Mollenhauer and Paula Hayes as we discuss the monarchs' journey to the mountains of Mexico. Each fall one generation of beautiful orange and black monarchs that live in NJ are programmed not to mate here in NJ but to migrate 3000 miles to Mexico and wait approximately five months in large clusters. These clusters

contain all of the eastern monarch population. After these monarchs survive five months with limited forays a field for water and nectar they will finally mate. This is the beginning of that summer's monarch population here in NJ. The females will migrate to the gulf coast area and lay eggs before they die in the spring. The program will feature a slide show of photos from our trip to the sanctuaries last February and should give you a better understanding of the dangers these delicate creatures face in New Jersey, along the way, and in Mexico.



Field Trip- Warblers and Butterflies in Cape May- Sun., September 7

8:00 AM and 11:00 AM Field Trip Coordinator- Kris Mollenhauer 589-4387

We will be looking for the mass migration of passerine birds on their way South for the winter. It isn't unusual to see over twenty species of warbler and many other birds passing through Cape May. We will meet at Higbee Beach for passerines. If anyone is still interested we will be heading over to the point later for Butterflies at the Circle or Hawks at the Park. Bring a lunch or pick one up at the various Wawa's in the area. You can join us for either one or both of these local phenomena.

Directions to Higbees Beach: Take NJ Parkway South into Cape May. Stay on Laffayette until it ends. Make a right onto Sunset Blvd. and continue to Bayshore Rd (607). Make a right onto Bayshore. Travel over a mile and make a left onto New England Rd (641). Go to the parking lot at the end, if there is no room you may have to travel back out this road to one of the parking lots up the street and walk down to the end. Meet in the Parking lot at 8:00AM.

Directions to the Point: Take NJ Parkway South into Cape May. Stay on Laffayette until it ends. Make a right onto Sunset Blvd at Lighthouse Ave (about two miles) make a left. Follow this to the Park on your left. Meet in the Parking lot by the Hawk Platform at 11:00AM.

Leaders: Brian Hayes

Co Leader: Paula Hayes

Field Trip Report- Medford Nursery on July 12

On Saturday, July 12, a small group of nature club members were treated to a tour of Medford Nursery led by Ron Kegel. We started walking around the area where the plants are propagated. There were shrubs, small trees, flowers, and ornamental grasses. We then drove down the road to a larger part of the nursery where the plants are grown to a size suitable for sale. Ron said the process is planned based on a two year time frame, from start to sale.

Our tour of this larger area was enjoyed atop a flat bed wagon, sitting on straw bales, pulled by a tractor. There were different kinds of rhododendron, azaleas, spirea, hostas, grasses, and a variety of colors of beautiful roses.

We saw many tree swallows, bluebirds, flickers, robins, turkey vultures soaring above us, and were serenaded by a song sparrow nearby. At the end of the tour we were treated to ice cold juice and take home plants of sweet basil and salvia. It was a good tour enjoyed by Ed and Millie Cleary, Bob Bevilacqua, Shelia McCullough, Marge Dolente, and Ron Kegel.

Conservation

Fire Prevention or Commercial Logging?

Editorial by Paula Hayes

After another summer of watching countless wildfire fires burn out of control in our forests I was amazed to read about the solution that emerged from the House of Representatives recently. The bill was sponsored by Scott McInnis of Colorado, one the states hit hard by fires last summer. However, his constituents and many others around the country are questioning its ability to protect communities. Most of the fuel-reduction projects are located far from communities. The New York times commented in an editorial that this bill seemed to be aimed more at opening up parts of our national forests to timber companies than at protecting woodland communities and the people who live within them.

I feel we need a bill that focuses on protecting people and homes without stripping the trees from national forests in remote areas. Fire does belong in nature and for too long we have tried to keep it out. The homes in areas prone to wildfires need to adhere to fire safe practices such as clearing brush and debris from within 15 feet of structures. The way to protect these communities is not through government subsidized logging in remote forests.



Looking Ahead:

September 11th- Program on Monarch Butterflies and their Amazing Migration

October 9th- Program on Unexpected Wildlife Refuge

Reminder:

September is the start of our new Club year so we will again be collecting dues for the 2003 – 2004 year. The membership renewal form is included in this newsletter. Please complete the membership form below and either mail it along with your payment to Treasurer Karen Kravchuck (25 Barlow Avenue; Mantua, NJ 08080) or bring it along with you to the September meeting. You don't want to miss any of our fall events, so be sure to renew your membership this September.

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 discontinue on route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2003-2004

___ New Member ___ Renewal
___ Individual (\$13) ___ Family (\$15)

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

___ I'd like to receive the newsletter electronically at the email address listed above

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 _____

Butterfly Gardens at Area Schools



Many schools in our local area have installed or are in the process of installing butterfly gardens on their school grounds. As you thin your garden this fall why not consider contacting one of the schools listed below or another one in your area. Schools I know of in the area with active gardens are Pitman Memorial School, Pitman; Sewell School, Mantua Twp.; J Mason Tomlin School, Mantua Twp; Samuel Mickle Elem. School, E. Greenwich Twp.; Main Rd. Elem. School, Franklin Twp; Radix Elem. School, Monroe Twp.; West Deptford Middle School, and West Deptford.

If you'd like to make a donation you should contact the teacher in charge to see if they would be interested in the plants you have available. Butterfly gardens typically consist of good nectar sources such as Joe Pye weed, Coreopsis, Zinnia, Cosmos and others. In addition, food plants for caterpillars are required such as parsley; milkweed, spicebush, etc. are needed. If you need assistance contacting a school or teacher you may contact Paula Hayes at 468-9272.

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Brian or Paula at pnbhayes@aol.com or call 468-9272.
- 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 Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@aol.com or 413 North Stockton Avenue; Wenonah, NJ 08090 by the 15th of each month.

Gloucester County Nature Club
c/o EIRC
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Sewell NJ 08080