



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2010

Program – The Animal Kingdom

**Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

Presenters: The Cape May Zoo

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342



“An animal’s eyes have the power to speak a great language.”

- Martin Buber.

“Being asked what animal you’d like to be is a trick question; you’re already an animal.”

- Doug Coupland

The Gloucester County Nature Club begins its new season of programs with a visit from the Cape May Zoo’s ZOO-2-U team. The spacious and beautifully landscaped Cape May Zoo, situated on 80 acres just outside Cape May Courthouse, NJ, is considered one of the best small zoos in the country, attracting over ¾ of a million visitors a year. This evening the Cape May Zoo is coming to us with a program that will explore the diverse realms of The Animal Kingdom, with live animals from all four classes of land dwelling vertebrates: *Amphibia* (Amphibians), *Reptilia* (Reptiles), *Aves* (Birds) and *Mammalia* (Mammals). We all know that animals exist with an incredible diversity of size, shape and color, but the diversity here is far more than just skin deep. Learn how these animals are different and how they have evolved unique bodies, abilities and behaviors for survival. Join us for a close encounter with the Animal Kingdom and for a program that will be fascinating and educational for young people and adults alike.

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 – Morning Nature Walk at Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 18, 8:00 AM to Lunchtime

Trip Leaders: Gale Cannon and Karl Anderson

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Wheelabrator parking area. This will be a leisurely walk, about one mile in each direction, on a wide, level trail to a viewpoint on the Delaware River. The focus will be on birds and butterflies, but dragonflies and flowers will not be ignored.



Directions: See your guide to the Natural Places of Gloucester County. Or, from Interstate 295 Exit 23 (Route 130) take Route 130 North for about 0.8 mile. The entrance road for Wheelabrator is on the left. The refuge parking lot is on the right side of the entrance road, just before the main gate. For additional information contact the leaders at 856-845-7075.

Family Fun Walk

Thursday, September 23 at 10:00 AM at Alcyon Lake Park, Pitman

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe 856-627-7010 Email: maria_mk@comcast.net

It's back to school and back to nature on the first day of Autumn. Join us on a kid friendly walk on Thursday, September 23 @ 10am. We will explore Alcyon Lake Park, Pitman. Bring your own backpack and/or a stroller. We can walk the paved path around the wildflower garden and then will walk along the wooded path. We usually do this walk again in January so we will see the difference in the seasons. We will walk at a toddler's pace exploring as we go. Dress in layers according to the weather. Bring your own backpack and/or a stroller that is able to be pushed on unpaved paths. Everyone welcome.



Directions: From Rt 55 Exit 53A (or Exit 53 if coming from the south) take RT 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Road) south for about 1.5 miles to Holly Avenue. Turn right (west) on Holly Avenue. Continue for 1.2 miles to the park entrance, which is on the left. There is a small sign. Drive past the sports fields; meet at the pavilion.

Conservation Corner – Biodegradable Timetable from Deb Maka

How long does it take for materials to biodegrade?

Orange peel:	2-5 weeks
Cardboard box:	4 weeks
Cotton rag:	1-5 months
Paper:	2-5 months
Rope:	3-14 months
Wool clothing:	1-5 years
Milk cartons (plastic coated):	5 years
Plastic coated paper:	5 years
Cigarette butt:	10 years
Lumber:	10-15 years
Painted wooded stake:	13 years
Plastic film container:	20-30 years

Nylon fabric:	30-40 years
Leather:	50 years
Aluminum can:	50 years (in seawater)
Rubber boot sole:	50-80 years
Tin cans:	50-100 years
Batteries:	100 years
Aluminum can:	200-500 years
Plastic 6-pack cover:	450 years
Disposable diapers:	500-600 years
Sanitary pads:	500-800 years
Monofilament fishing line:	800 years
Styrofoam:	5,000+ years
Glass bottle:	1,000,000 years

Reference: MetroNews Philadelphia; 2010 April 22, page 10 (www.metro.us)

Kid's Corner - Become a WebRanger for the National Park Service (NPS)* by Deb Maka

The WebRangers is the National Park Service's on-line Junior Ranger program for kids of all ages. You'll be able to learn about our National Parks and play over 50 games.

What you need:

- A computer with access to the internet. If you don't have a computer at home, you can go to a public library and use a computer there. Remember to ask your parents permission before signing onto the internet.

How to become a WebRanger:

- Go to the website: <http://www.nps.gov/webrangers>
 - Sign up to be a WebRanger
 - Select a WebRanger name (The NPS tells you not to use your real name.), pick a password, and select your location (the country is required, the state is optional). This is all the personal information that is required to sign up.
 - Select a secret question which is only needed if you forget your password
 - Take the WebRangers' Pledge: "As a National Park Service WebRanger, I, (your name), promise to learn about our national parks, to help care for them, and to care for my surroundings."
 - Print your WebRanger Identification card

Things you can do after becoming a WebRanger:

- Create your ranger station
- Play activities
- Send a postcard
- View park webcams

Other Nature Notes

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount to GCNC members!

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount (for non bird food items) to GCNC members! *Due to the current volatile market for bird food, the 10% discount for these items has had to be discontinued.* However, members will still receive credit for their purchases towards the Frequent Seed Shopper Program. WBU offers the GCNC discount on all other items in the store. Members are requested to identify themselves as GNNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please contact Sharon at 856-218-2973 or sillybird348@comcast.net.



Events by other Organizations: September 2010

- September 12 (Sunday) – 8:45 AM to Mid-afternoon. **Sodpipers at Pedricktown.** Leader: Lloyd Shaw. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone 609-261-2495.
- September 18 (Saturday) – **Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival.** 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the John Heinz NWR at 8601 Lindbergh Blvd in SW Philadelphia. Live Animals, Workshops, Music, Fly-Tying, Birding, Photography, Food. Sponsored by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and friends of Heinz NWR. FREE. For info call 215-365-3118 or visit <http://heinz.fws.gov>.
- September 19 (Sunday) – **Jersey Fresh Dinner.** Old Pine Farm Lands Trust is having a "Jersey Fresh Dinner " from 4 PM to 8 PM at 340 Pine St., Deptford, NJ rain or shine. Any questions contact Ed Cleary 856-228-6890.
- Also, Old Pine Farm Lands Trust is having a monthly "**Walk in the Wild**" every 3rd Sunday of the month from 1 PM to 3 PM, Free. The walk for September will be on 9/19.
- September 19 (Sunday). 4:00 PM. **11th Annual Parade of Ponds and Garden Tour** begins and ends at 702 Mid-Atlantic Parkway in West Deptford. The self-guided tour of local ponds and gardens begins at 4:00 PM. It is followed by a Wine and Cheese Finale (hors d'oeuvres and desserts) at 6:30 PM. This event is a major fund raiser for the GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford's Scholarship Fund. Tickets: \$12. Call Ellen at 856-468-7012 for more information and tickets.
- September 25 (Saturday) – 9:00 AM to Mid-afternoon. **Burlington County Trees.** Leader: Karl Anderson. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone 609-261-2495; or contact Karl directly at 856-845-7075.

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 Explorers: Wednesday 9/1 at 10:00 AM
- Kids Fishing Contest: Saturday 9/18. Contact Terri Dalton (856-881-0845) for details.
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 9/15, 10/13, and 11/10 at 10:00 AM
- Bird Walks: Saturday 9/11, 10/2, and 11/6 at 8:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Strolls: Wednesday 9/ 22, 10/20, and 11/17 at 2:30pm
- Canoeing and Kayaking: Saturday, 9/25 at 11:00 AM. Canoes and kayaks will be available for free to explore Wilson Lake, or you can bring your own. This is a great way to experience this outdoor adventure if you've never done so. Make sure you're here by 11:00 AM sharp!

Natural Events for the month of September

- The last brood of monarch butterflies emerges and flies south to Mexico.
- Black gum foliage turns red - first tree to get its autumn color.
- Wild grapes ripen - not all of them are sour.
- Turtle eggs hatch and hatchlings emerge and head for the nearest water.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks
- Most hummingbirds depart by the end of the month
- Bats busy feeding – building fat reserves for hibernation and migration.
- Broad-winged hawk migration peaks in mid-month - plan a visit to a hawk lookout.

Looking Ahead:

Upcoming GCNC Programs

October 14, 2010: **Teaching The Trees** - Joan Maloof

November 11, 2010: **Swamp Pink** – Mike Hogan

December 9, 2010: **The Tatshenshini River** – Erik & Kris Mollenhauer

January 13, 2011: **The Natural & Unnatural History of Dragons** – Brian Hayes & Erik Mollenhauer

February 10, 2011: **Fungus** - John Dighton

March 10, 2011: TBD

April 14, 2011: **Wild Journeys: Migration in New Jersey** - Don Freiday

May 12, 2011: **Landscaping With Native Plants** - Alan Koch

June 9, 2011: **Annual Picnic plus "Cargo For Conservation"**. Location TBD.

2010-2011 GCNC Field Trips

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

October 23 (Saturday) – **Mad Hatter’s Tree Party** – Erik Mollenhauer

November 6 (Saturday) – **Birding at the Riverwinds Trail** – Gary Lizzi

December 18 (Saturday) – **Audubon Christmas Count** – Ron Kegel

February 19 (Saturday) – **Looking for Wintering Waterfowl at the Jersey Shore** – Bob Duke

March 12 (Saturday) – **Early Spring Birding in Mannington Twp, Salem County** – Jonathan Stillwell

April 16 (Saturday) – **Biking Along the Delaware** - Brian Hayes

May – **Birdquest Training Sessions**

June – **To be determined.**

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 September Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 5th at the home of Ed and Millie Cleary. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

September brings with it 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 September Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: Ed Cleary, 1874 McKee Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096.

Field Trip Survey On the last page of the newsletter (on the back of the membership application), there is a brief survey regarding the club's field trips. If you could please fill this out and give it to Karl Anderson at the September meeting, it would be greatly appreciated. If you can't attend the meeting, please mail it to Karl at the address on the survey.

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 2010-2011

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: _____

FIELD TRIP MEMBER SURVEY

We would like to make our field trips more responsive to our members' preferences. Please fill out the questionnaire below.

Have you attended a GCNC field trip in the past three years? _____

If so, how often or how many have you attended? _____

What would make field trips more appealing to you? _____

Your primary interest in attending a field trip is or would be:

Birding _____

Wildflowers, ferns, etc. _____

Butterflies, etc. _____

General natural history _____

Socializing _____

Other _____

Would you attend three- to five-mile hikes? _____

Is your trip preference for:

Short (2-4 hour) local (within a half-hour drive?) trips _____

Or longer trips to perhaps more productive locations? _____

Do you have any suggestions for the field trip program? _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO KARL ANDERSON at the next GCNC meeting, or mail it to him at 46 North Childs Street, Woodbury NJ 08096.