



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

[www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

January 2012

### **Program - Trickster Makes This World**

**Thursday January 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ**

**Presenters: Erik and Kris Mollenhauer and Brian Hayes**

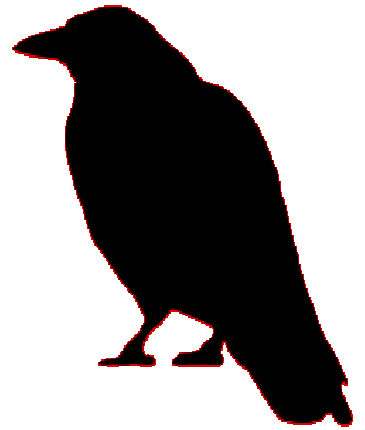
**Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856-468-6342)**

Stories are fundamental to human existence. They help us understand the world... who we are... where we came from and where we are going. Since earliest times people have told stories. "Trickster" stories were common to many cultures.

A notorious shape-shifter and cultural hero, Trickster was also a constant wanderer. In ancient Greece, Trickster was Hermes... messenger of the gods and guide to boundaries and the travelers who cross them. In West Africa, Trickster was Anansi... the spider. North American Indians saw Trickster as The Raven, Old Man Coyote, The Rabbit... and more. The fact that Trickster stories appear in widely separate and very different cultures suggests Trickster stories may serve an important role in human development. What do Trickster stories tell us? What do Trickster stories say about people, and the natural world? Is the Trickster message still important?

Join Erik and Kris Mollenhauer and Brian Hayes for a very different program... as they use and tell stories to reveal the world of the Trickster.

**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 – Winter Waterfowling at Local Hot Spots**

**Saturday January 28, 2012 Starts 10:00 AM**

**(Note: Changed from original January 21 date)**

**Leader: Sandra Keller**

Our trip this month will be a joint Audubon Wildlife Society - Gloucester County Nature Club venture. We will meet at 10:00 AM at the upper parking lot for the Red Bank Battlefield in Gloucester County. This is the lot on your right as you drive toward the Delaware River. We will be birding several local Delaware River spots in our tri-county region – ending in Burlington County. I will be scouting the week before to determine which spots will have the most waterfowl for us. The trip won't go in bad weather – if in doubt, please call Sandra Keller a day or two before at 856-383-2756. Bring many layers of clothing as the temperature close to the river can be a lot cooler than just half a mile inland! Participants can bring a lunch, but there will be plenty of opportunities during the day to buy something. There will also be many restroom opportunities.

## Nature Notes

### Events by other Organizations: January 2012

- January 1 (Sunday) – **Moorestown Christmas Bird Count**. Contact Mark Pensiero at 856-235-0171 or e-mail [ywpassat99@verizon.net](mailto:ywpassat99@verizon.net) to participate.
- January 5 (Thursday) – Starting time will be given upon registration. **Winter Birding at Amico Island. Park**. Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Commission. Free, but registration is required; phone 609-265-5858. Bad weather cancels.
- January 6 (Friday) – Starts 6:30 PM. **Moonlit Walk at the Smith Woods Section of Smithville County Park**. Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Commission. Free, but registration is required; phone 609-265-5858. Bad weather cancels.
- January 9 (Monday) - Starts 9:30 PM. **11th Annual Moonlight Hike on the Wenonah Trail**. Sponsored by the Wenonah Environmental Commission. For information: [www.wenonahenvironmentalcommission.org/](http://www.wenonahenvironmentalcommission.org/).
- January 15 (Sunday), 2:00 PM – **Walk in the Wild**. Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Experience a casual stroll on the trails of the land trust with a knowledgeable leader to observe the plants, animals, natural features and processes, and just plain magic that make this place very special. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. For more information call Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.
- January 26 (Thursday) – 6:30-8:30 PM. **Owl Prowl**. Sponsored by the Palmyra Cove Nature Park. \$Fee. Reservations required. For info: 856-825-1900 x 270.

**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 Walk: Saturdays 1/7 and 2/4 at 8:00 AM
- 4H Kid's Nature Club: Saturdays 1/7 and 2/4 at 10:30 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 1/11 and 2/8 at 10:00 AM
- Scout Saturday: Saturdays 1/21 and 2/11 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesdays 1/18 and 2/15 at 2:30 PM

### Natural Events for the month of January

- Earthworms burrow below frost line and become dormant.
- Newly fallen snow makes it easy to find and study animal tracks.
- First mating season for gray squirrels.
- Look for flocks of robins eating holly berries in your backyard.
- Great horned owls, America's earliest nesting owl, may be on eggs by the end of the month.
- As days lengthen, tufted titmice and cardinals start singing.

## **Conservation Corner – Changes for Lawn Fertilizer Use in NJ** (from NJ.gov website)

On January 5, 2011, Governor Chris Christie signed into law the most restrictive fertilizer content standards in the nation for nitrogen and phosphorus. The law also requires specific fertilizer application practices. These standards and practices will help reduce pollution from nutrients in all of New Jersey's waters.

Specifically, the law decreases the total amount of nitrogen in fertilizer and increases the amount of slow release nitrogen to 20 percent. In addition, it requires no phosphorus in fertilizer unless a soil test indicates it is needed.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus are nutrients required for plant growth. A limited amount of these nutrients is important for healthy plant life. An overabundance, however, not only can harm lawns, but when washed into our waterways, stimulates excessive algae and weed growth. This in turn depletes oxygen from the water and reduces the sunlight needed for healthy aquatic life.

Other key components of the new law include: the creation of a fertilizer application certification program for professional fertilizer applicators and public education on correct fertilizer use.

The timeframe for implementation of the law is:

**Phase I:** Effective immediately, fertilizer may not be applied from November 15 through March 1 by residential consumers and from December 1 through March 1 by professionals. Application of fertilizer is restricted during winter months when the ground is frozen and not able to be absorbed allowing it to be washed away when it rains. Fertilizer application is prohibited during – or just before – heavy rainfall, and on impervious ground. Fertilizer containing phosphorus or nitrogen can not be applied within 25 feet of any water body except when applied with a drop spreader or targeted spray – then the buffer may be reduced to 10 feet.

**Phase II:** Effective January 5, 2012, all professional applicators will be required to undergo training and become certified through the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University. Rutgers University is in the process of developing the training program in consultation with the department's Healthy Lawns Healthy Water workgroup.

**Phase III:** Effective January 5, 2013, all fertilizer product for turf must contain at least 20 percent slow-release nitrogen, and zero phosphorus unless a soil test demonstrates a need for more.

For more information on the New Jersey's fertilizer law visit:

[www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater/)

### **Looking Ahead:**

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

February 9, 2012: **Pot Luck Dinner & Favorite Nature Books** - various GCNC members

March 8, 2012: **Dragonflies** - Mary Lenahan

April 12, 2012: **Birding Trails of Florida** - Joe Baur

May 10, 2012: **Rare Plants of Southern New Jersey** - Renee Brecht

June 14, 2012: **Annual Picnic** (Location to be determined)



## **2011-2012 GCNC Field Trips**

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the rest of the year. A February trip has not yet been scheduled. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Karl Anderson at [karlanderson6@aol.com](mailto:karlanderson6@aol.com) or 856-845-7075.

### **Saturday March 24, 2012: Birding the Delaware Bayshore**

Drive some of the roads along the bay in Cumberland County, looking for waterfowl and raptors including bald eagle, northern harrier, and short-eared owl. Leader: Joseph Esterly.

### **Sunday April 22, 2012: Wildflowers Along the Wenonah Trail**

An easy walk to see some of the early spring wildflowers along the trail. Leader: Richard Dilks.

### **Saturday May 5, 2012: Gloucester County Bird Quest**

Form a team, join a group, or go on your own to visit natural places in Gloucester County to identify as many birds as you can between 7:00 AM and Noon. Pre-registration is required.

### **Saturday June 9, 2012: Kayaking and Birding**

At a local park. With luck we might see bald eagle, osprey, beaver, and possibly river otter. Leader: Jay Hoffecker.

## **Club Notes:**

- Check out our **NEW FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gcnatureclub/>. Note: You will need to have a Facebook membership, and new group members will need to be added by the administrator. Join today and share your nature information!
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at [blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The January Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jayne Rhynard. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.