



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

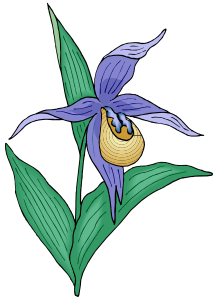
March 2007

Program - Landscapes of The New Jersey Pinelands and Delaware Bay

Thursday March 8th, 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Presenter: Michael Hogan

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks



A photographer not only captures the world in his lens, he enables you to see the world through his eyes. Celebrated New Jersey nature photographer, Michael Hogan, will take us on a journey this evening to some of his favorite places to photograph and explore in the New Jersey Pinelands and Delaware Bayshore. Michael will share with us his knowledge and enthusiasm for these special places of great natural beauty and ecological diversity that are so near and so extraordinary. We will visit the vast grass marshes of the Bayshore with their abundant bird life and we will wander through the Pinelands with its quiet streams, rare Orchids and unique flora and fauna.

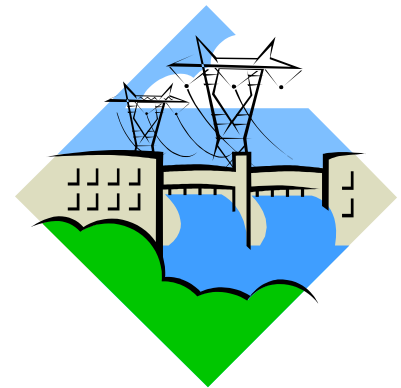
Michael has also graciously consented to hold a book signing for us of the recently published *Natural Wonders of The New Jersey Pines and Shore*. The book contains nearly 200 of Michael's photographs and informative text by the late Robert A. Peterson. Michael's stunningly beautiful images serve to remind us on page after page of the precious natural heritage of New Jersey. We truly do live in a place of natural wonders.

Field Trip – Conowingo Dam

Sunday March 11th, 8:00 AM until mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Bob Duke (856) 848-7012

Join us on a field trip to Conowingo Dam, which straddles the Susquehanna River near Port Deposit, MD. Possible sightings at the dam include bald eagles, osprey, several different types of gulls, cormorant, some early migrants, great blue herons and a few species of ducks.



Meet at the Timberline Shopping Center in Mantua at 8:00 AM in order to carpool. **For those who drive directly to Conowingo Dam, we plan to arrive there at about 9:30AM.**

Directions to Conowingo Dam:

Take one of the bridges to PA and proceed SOUTH on I-95 through DE and into MD. Take EXIT 93, for Port Deposit/Rt222. Go NORTH on Rt 222 for about 8 miles until you come to the intersection with Rt 1. Turn LEFT onto Rt 1 and go across the dam. After crossing the dam, proceed up the hill and take the first LEFT. Proceed about a mile and make another LEFT turn (a very sharp turn) onto Shures Landing Road. This road goes down to the parking areas at the dam. Bring a lunch or snacks. I plan to be there until early afternoon.

Any questions - call Bob Duke @ 848 7012

The 2007 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 5, 2007

The Gloucester County Nature Club and many area businesses, industries, and local environmental commissions invite people of all ages to participate in the **2007 (eighth annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest. The 2007 Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat., May 5, 2007 from 7 AM to 12 noon in Gloucester County.**

During this time, teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County and find as many different bird species as they can. The Quest is:

- A way to discover Gloucester County's parks and natural areas
- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and through our county
- A chance to learn how to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat
- A chance to have fun with friends and colleagues
- A light-hearted competition



The Quest is an educational event: novices are encouraged to participate. At noon, all participants gather at Atkinson County Park on Delsea Drive to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, and prizes.**

Most people organize their own Quest team with colleagues, friends, and/or family. Last years Gloucester County Bird Quest attracted several hundred participants made up of teachers, school groups, scout troops, environmental commissions, families, friends... residents of Gloucester and neighboring counties. This year with support from Wheelabrator, LP of Gloucester County, the club will operate two (free) guided buses for teachers and other persons unable to form their own team and who are willing to join a larger group.

This year we are proud to announce that we have our own colorful "Raptors of Gloucester County" T-shirt designed by the club's own Gary Lizzi. A county map and other materials are provided to registered teams. **A \$12 fee per participant covers the cost of lunch, T-shirt, prizes etc.**

More information and registration forms will be posted to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at www.gcnatureclub.org To join a team or to ride a bus, contact Anne Rossell at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080. Registration forms can also be requested by phone (856-582-7000 X110) FAX (856-582-4206) or e-mail at anner@eirc.org.

Participants can attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest. These training sessions are listed on the following page.

Bird Quest 2007 Training Sessions

- April 16 (Monday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Birding Basics**
Alcyon Lake, Pitman Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade.
Leader: Deb Maka Co-leader: Valerie Paust
- April 17 (Tuesday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua
Leader: Kris Mollenhauer Co-leaders: Cindy Lieby, Bob Cassel
- April 18 (Wednesday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Bird Quest Training**
Greenwich Township Walking Trail, Greenwich
Leaders: Brian & Paula Hayes Co-leader: Barry Bengel
- April 19 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Red Bank Battlefield Park, National Park
Leader: Gale Cannon Co-leader: Karl Anderson
- April 22 (Sunday), 7:00 – 8:30 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford
Leader: Jeff Holt w/ DVOC to dredge spoils after
- April 23 (Monday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Birding Basics**
Alcyon Lake, Pitman Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade.
Leader: Deb Maka Co-leader: Valerie Paust
- April 24 (Tuesday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Greenwich Lake Park, Greenwich
Leader: Gale Cannon Co-leader: Karl Anderson
- April 25 (Wednesday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Birding by Ear Part I**
EIRC building, Washington Twp This is an intro to bird calls in a classroom setting.
Co-leaders: Brian & Paula Hayes
- April 26 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Birding by Ear Part II**
Glassboro Woods, Clayton Take the skills learned in the classroom out in the field.
Leader: Bob Baruzzi Co-leader: Elaine Dzeima
- April 29 (Sunday), 7:00 – 8:30 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Floodgate Road, Greenwich
Leader: Ron Kegel Co-leader: Loretta Dunne
- April 29 (Sunday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Bird Quest Training**
Washington Lake Park, Washington Twp (Chapel Heights Road entrance)
Leader: Bob Duke Co-leaders: Dwight & Doris Weir
- April 30 (Monday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Wheelabrator Refuge, Westville
Leader: Gary Lizzi Co-leader: Arlene Beebe
- May 1 (Tuesday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Birding by Ear Part III**
EIRC building, Washington Twp This is an intro to bird calls in a classroom setting.
Leader: Erik Mollenhauer Co-leader: Jayne Rhynard
- May 2 (Wednesday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Birding by Ear Part IV**
Ceres Park, Mantua Twp Take the skills learned in the classroom out in the field.
Leader: Barry Bengel Co-leader: Jayne Rhynard
- May 3 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:30 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Old Pine Farm, Deptford
Co-leaders: Ed & Millie Cleary

Conservation Corner – 15 Minutes a Week by Loretta Dunne



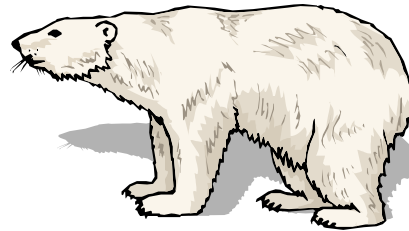
I frequently read about issues and make plans to contact an elected official or a corporation to express my concerns. In spite of my best intentions, I sometimes find that weeks have gone by without taking actions on any of the issues I planned to address. I am sure that many of you find yourself in the same situation.

Therefore I urge everyone (myself included) to set a goal of one letter a week. Take 15 minutes and a topic that has bubbled up in your list of concerns. If you take 15 minutes once a week and write a letter, by the end of the year, you will have expressed yourself directly to someone of influence 52 times. That is a lot. And knowing that you will put in at least those 15 minutes a week will be reassuring. As involved nature lovers, we owe it to the world around us and to ourselves to set aside a little time dedicated to protecting the earth. Maybe Sunday evening before the week begins is best for you, or early one morning, whatever fits into your life. Having a time slot identified and dedicated to your activism will make you more successful.

Polar Bear Protection by Loretta Dunne

You have until April 9th to send comments in support of classifying polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. If you write a supporting letter, be sure to indicate that recent evidence has shown that the sea ice habitat is melting due to greenhouse gas pollution. To protect the polar bears, steps must be taken to reduce global warming. Send comments to;

Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Marine Mammals Management Office
1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage
Alaska 99503, USA
Re: Polar Bear Finding



Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to Polar_Bear_Finding@fws.gov , and the submission must include “Attn: Polar Bear Finding” in the beginning of the message, and also include your name and return address.

Cloned Food Products by Loretta Dunne

The FDA has completed its review of food from animal clones and will likely approve the sale of cloned foods this year. There will be no labeling required, therefore it will not be possible to determine if a meat or dairy product came from a cloned source. You will not have the freedom to avoid cloned foods. The FDA is now taking comments on this decision. The comments must be received by April 2nd.

There is scientific concern about risks related to food cloning. According to the Organic Consumers Association, “Consumer, food safety, and animal welfare groups have condemned the announcement, pointing out that animal cloning is inherently unpredictable and hazardous, and that the practice of cloning has led to a high number of cruel and painful deformities in the experimental animals' offspring.”

Please send your official comments to the address below. You must mention the docket number and give your full name and address.

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket # 2003N-0573

Other Nature Notes

Natural Places Guide Update – PRINTED!!!

Our new book, “Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ” has been printed, and copies will be available for purchase at the East Coast Vulture Festival (see below), at club meetings, and at several retail locations soon to be announced.

Marketing the book: The book is now a reality, and now we want to get it out to the public. We are looking for a volunteer who can take over responsibility for the marketing of the book. You don't need to be a marketing expert, just someone who has a few ideas and some time to follow through on them. There will be many people to assist in this process, but having one person organizing this effort will be very effective. Please contact Loretta Dunne or Deb Maka if you are interested in this role.



East Coast Vulture Festival !

The second annual East Coast Vulture Festival will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 6:00 – 9:30 PM at the Wenonah School. Sponsored by the Nature Club and the Wenonah Environmental Commission, it will be an evening of food, live music, entertainment, education, and fun! Festival profits will be used to support environmental education.

Festival Activities Will Include:

6:00-6:30 pm.... Vulture flyover (observe vultures returning to their roost)

6:30-7:30.... Food will be served (finger sandwiches, vegetables and dip, hors d'oeuvres, fine desserts, coffee and tea), with time to socialize and view exhibits.

7:30-8:30.... A series of presentations including: "A Day in the Life of a Vulture", "Vultures of the World," vulture songs, vulture poetry and more.

8:30-9:30.... Live music performed by singer-songwriter Jim Six.

Call (856) 468-6536 for tickets.

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

Wild Birds Unlimited has a discount agreement with the GCNC executive board and is pleased to offer GCNC members an everyday 10% discount on all purchases excluding optics and food or sale items. Sharon Oakes, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, appreciates the many volunteer contributions made by GCNC members and hopes members can benefit from this discount. Members are requested to identify themselves as GCNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please call Sharon at 218-2973.

Looking Ahead:

Programs - (All occur on Thursdays)

- April 12th Tropical Rainforests and New Jersey's Extraordinary Songbirds - Emile DeVito
- May 10th Gardening Naturally: Native Plants in gardening and landscaping (Lorraine Kieffer)
plus Annual Plant Sale
- June 14th Annual Picnic

Field Trips -

- April & May (various dates) – Bird Quest Training Sessions
- April 22nd (Sunday) Assunpink WMA Wildflowers and Birds (Karl Anderson)
- May 19th (Saturday) Wenonah Woods (Richard Dilks)
- June 16th (Saturday) Chestnut Branch (Kris Mollenhauer)

Other Events-

Saturday Evening, March 3: *East Coast Vulture Festival* (at the Wenonah School)
Sponsored by the Wenonah Environmental Commission and the Gloucester County Nature Club
...a fun evening out...with live music, food, and educational activities.

Club Notes:

- The April Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 1st at Barry Bengel's house.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborah71@msn.com or call 863-0330.
- 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 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.