

Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

April 2005

Program – The Raptor Project

Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 PM at the Pitman High School Auditorium

Program Coordinator - Bob Cassel 478-2496

This popular program for all ages is the largest and most varied collection of traveling birds of prey in the world. Over 15-20 live hawks, owls and eagles from around the world will be shown. The Raptor Project has been seen on Good Morning America, The Today Show and PBS. Jonathan Woods (a Master Falconer), discusses the role of raptors in the environment, their conservation, the rehabilitation of injured birds...and flies some of his friends as part of the program. Educational materials available.



This program is co-sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited (Washington Township) and the Nature Club through donations in memory of Loretta Campbell (Loretta Dunne's Mother).

Field Trip – Guided Tour of the Mt. Cuba Center

Saturday, April 23rd, 1:00 to 3:00 PM and Sunday April 24th, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Trip Leader: John Gyer

Co-leader: Kris Mollenhauer

Our April field trip will be two guided tours of the magnificent wildflower gardens on the 230 acre estate of Mrs. Lamont du Pont Copeland in Greenville, DE. These woodland gardens provide the largest and most spectacular display of wildflowers under cultivation in the mid-Atlantic region. Our two hour tour will be guided by Nature Club member, John Gyer. He has been a long-time volunteer at Mt. Cuba. Our tours are limited to 30 people each. There is a \$5.00 charge to be collected before the trip. Please see Kris Mollenhauer for the sign-up sheet at the April club meeting. Choose the day that best fits your schedule!

Driver's Directions: Take I95 South to "Delaware Ave; Route 52North" exit. As you exit, stay in far right lane, and turn right at first light. Immediately get in the left lane and stay on the left as the road splits. You will be on Pennsylvania Ave.(Route 52North). Take Rt. 52 North for about 5 miles to Rt.41 South (right on ramp). At first traffic light, turn right onto Cedar Road/Barcey Mill Rd; Turn right at the "T" onto Center Rd. which will automatically turn into Barley Mill Road, and proceed approximately 3.9 miles from that light. The entrance to the estate is on the right and marked only by white painted rocks. Proceed up the main drive and turn into the parking area at the fourth right. DO NOT drive into the forecourt in front of the Main Residence. Please arrive at or before 12:45 PM. Groups must arrive 15 minutes prior to

the tour. Restroom facilities are extremely limited. Portable toilets are available; however, it is recommended that accommodations be made prior to your arrival.

Conservation Corner – Eating in New Jersey by Loretta Dunne



The snow has finally melted and it is not too early to think of those first Jersey crops - asparagus, spinach, and green leafy vegetables. But what if it was the middle of April and there were no New Jersey crops to look forward to because of the end of the New Jersey Farm?

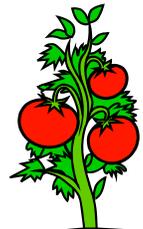
How many times has it been the height of the Jersey tomato season or the time for ripe corn on the cob and you walked into your supermarket only to find California or Florida vegetables? Today, the average produce item purchased in the supermarket has traveled 1,500 miles. Think of the energy spent and the vitality lost as your apples and cabbage travel around. You can help “keep the Garden in the state” by eating from the Garden state. To support the Jersey farm, you need to eat from the Jersey farm. And there are a number of ways to do that:

- Go to your local fruit and vegetable stand that is either connected to a farm or sells local farm products, if you have one available.
- Shop at one of the farmers markets that have been appearing around the area. Collingswood has a very good market on Saturday mornings with produce from a number of local farms. Woodbury also has a farmer’s market.
- Try picking your own. There are still a number of South Jersey farms where you can go, get out into the fields and pick your own. One of my personal favorites is the Fehlaur Farm on Swedesboro Road in Gibbstown where you can pick your own blueberries. Jersey Fresh (<http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh/>) is a website that has a number of listings for farmer’s markets and pick-your-own.

Want to have a share in a farm? Join a Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) farm. A CSA is a farm where people pay up front for a share of the farm’s produce during the season. Many times these farms use organic gardening methods. Once a week, on your chosen day, you go to the farm and pick up your weekly share. Sometimes CSAs deliver to a single house in a neighborhood and you can pick up your share there. There are not many CSAs in South Jersey, however, the Muir Farm (<http://www.localharvest.org/farms/M7248>) in Williamstown is one.

If you need to shop at a supermarket for fresh produce, talk to the manager of the produce department and indicate that you want to buy local New Jersey-grown food.

Of course, you can always grow your own. It doesn’t take a large plot or a lot of plants to raise your own New Jersey tomatoes. If you do have your own vegetable garden, why not go organic?



Next time you reach for a sad looking head of lettuce at the grocery store, think twice. A tastier, fresh local option may be just around the corner. Why not give it a try and help keep New Jersey green in the process?

Other Nature Notes

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

Wild Birds Unlimited has recently entered into a discount agreement with the GCNC executive board and is pleased to now 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.

Preserving New Jersey's native plants – Free Conference

“Preserving New Jersey’s Native Plants” is the theme of the New Jersey Teachers for Biodiversity (NJT4B) Spring Gathering at the EIRC facility on Saturday, April 30, 2005 from 9:00 am to 1:45 pm (registration 8:30-9)

NJT4B is a network of kindergarten through 12th-grade New Jersey educators dedicated to preserving and restoring global biodiversity. Each Spring they hold a Saturday conference at no cost to teachers and their guests. Members of the Gloucester County Nature Club are welcome to attend the April 30 Gathering. The keynote speaker will be Karl Anderson, Nature Club member, well-known field naturalist and co-author of Plant Communities of New Jersey. Karl’s keynote address will be followed by workshops and field experiences presented by The *Native Plant Society of NJ*, *Partnerships for NJ Plant Conservation*, *Triple Oaks Nursery* and other groups and individuals. *EarthWatch Institute* expeditions will have information about opportunities for people to join a scientific research team in various parts of the world. EIRC will have information about their *Hands Across the Water –Costa Rica* program and *Monarch [Butterfly] Teacher Network*.

Workshops and field experiences scheduled include:

“**Botany on the Net**”: hands-on exploration of the best botany sites on the web.

“**The Top Ten Plant Families**”: how to recognize the major groups of plants.

“**Invasive Plants of the US**”: case histories and guest appearances for some of the 97 invasive plants of our area.

“**The Rain Garden**” – Constructing a garden as a filter for stormwater and for wildlife.

“**Native Plant Society Field Trip**” – explore a local native plant community.

“**Experience Native Plants Naturally**” - strategies for students including school gardens, terrariums, field trips and more

“**Triple Oaks Ramble**”: Join Lorraine Kiefer for a look at native plant production in a local nursery and walk along the Maurice River.

“**Roadside Botany**”: Meet roadside plants and hear their stories.

Attendance is free (bring your own brownbag lunch) but Nature Club members MUST preregister by Wednesday April 27. Call Anne at 582-7000 x110; or email anner@eir.org. Give your name, return phone number, and mention “Spring Gathering” registration.

Washington Township Earth Day 2005

Everyone is invited to help Washington Twp. Environmental Commission and Washington Twp. Park Rangers celebrate Earth Day on April 23, 2005 at Washington Lake Park between 10 am and 4 pm. The day's events will be held outdoors (rain or shine) including exhibits, seminars, demonstrations, music, live animals and many more fun things to promote conservation, preservation, environmental education, and an enjoyment of being outdoors. Visit the web page <http://www.sjwatersheds.org> for more info.

The 2005 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 7

The Gloucester County Nature Club and many area businesses, industries and local environmental commissions invite people of all ages to participate in the **2005 (sixth annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest. The 2005 Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat., May 7, 2005 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 purpose of the Quest is to discover natural areas of Gloucester County, to learn 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 noon, all participants gather at Atkinson County Park on Delsea Drive to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, posters 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.

The **2005 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 2005 IMBD theme, "*Collisions: Clear the Way for Birds* ", examines the obstacles birds encounter in flight (cell towers, home and office windows, moving vehicles) and explores the ways we may minimize those impacts. The colorful IMBD T-shirt and poster, designed by world-famous wildlife artist David Sibley, a former NJ resident, can be viewed at www.birdday.org/imbd.htm. A county map and other materials are provided to registered teams. **A \$10 fee per participant covers the cost of lunch, T-shirt, posters, prizes etc.**

For more information and registration forms, go to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at www.gcnatureclub.org To join a team or to ride a bus, fill out the registration form below or contact Anne Rossell at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080 or 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; see the list that follows the registration form:

To register a team, **complete the form below**. Registering as an individual/couple? **Be sure to include your name, address, phone # and T-shirt size on the form**. Mail the form (or deliver it in person to **EIRC on Rt. 47 near Wacker's Trading Post, north of Pitman**) ASAP with a check (\$10 per person) payable to *Gloucester County Nature Club* to: **GC BirdQuest 2005, c/o EIRC, 606 Delsea Dr., Sewell NJ 08080, Attn: Erik Mollenhauer** If you have questions, call 582-7000 X128 or X110.

Name of Team (ex: Costello's Cardinals) _____

Name of Team Leader (contact person) _____ T-shirt size _____

Leader's address _____ Telephone _____

Person #2 (name) _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #3 (name) _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #4 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #5 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #6 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #7 _____ T-shirt size _____

Attach sheet of additional names and T-shirt sizes

Notes:

- At least half of the team must be rank novices. If your team includes persons under the age of 18, we recommend that you obtain parental permission and include two adults as part of your team.
- **T-shirt sizes are small, medium, large, X large, XX large. Receiving a T-shirt on the day of the event cannot be guaranteed if you register after April 29th.**
- A series of free trainings is being offered from April 18 - May 5 before the Quest. See schedule for details.
- If you want to ride the bus, you must reserve a seat in advance. **Room on the bus is limited, first come, first served.** Bus leaves at 7 am from Atkinson Park.

List names of people, if any, who wish to ride a bus:

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. Included in this year's training series is the Raptor Project - a renowned program of 15-20 live hawks, owls and eagles which will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM in the Pitman High School Auditorium, 225 Linden Ave, Pitman, NJ.

BirdQuest 2005 Training Sessions

- April 18 – Monday 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Birding Basics**
Alcyon Lake, Pitman Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade.
Leader: Brian Hayes CoLeader: Ed and Millie Cleary
- April 19 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua
Leader: Jeff Holt CoLeader: Barry Bengel
- April 20 – Wednesday 7:00 – 8:30 PM** **GCNC Event – Jonathan Wood**
The Raptor Project, Pitman High School
A fantastic program with over 15 live hawks, owls, and eagles in attendance.
- April 24 – Sunday 7:00 – 8:30 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford
Leader: Jeff Holt CoLeader: Gary Lizzi and Arlene Beebe
- April 25 – Monday 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Birding Basics**
Alcyon Lake, Pitman Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade.
Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel CoLeader: Paula Hayes
- April 26 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Greenwich Lake Park, East Greenwich
Leader: Dick Ebert CoLeader: Loretta Dunne & Jonathan Stillwell
- April 27 – 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.
Leader: Brian Hayes CoLeader: Karen Kravchuck
- April 28 – 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 CoLeader: Kris Mollenhauer
- May 1 – Sunday 7:00 – 8:30 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Flood Gate Road, East Greenwich
Leader: Dick Ebert CoLeader: Karen Kravchuck
- May 1 – Sunday 6:00 – 7:30 PM** **Bird Quest Training**
Washington Lake Park, Washington Twp
Leader: Bob Duke CoLeader: Doris and Dwight Weir
- May 2 – Monday 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Wheelabrator, Westville
Leader: Bob Baruzzi CoLeader: Deb Maka
- May 3 – 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 CoLeader: Ed and Millie Cleary
- May 4 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM** **Birding by Ear Part IV**
Ceres Park, Mantua Take the skills learned in the classroom out in the field.
Leader: Jayne Rhynard CoLeader: Barry Bengel
- May 5 – Thursday 6:00 – 7:30 AM** **Bird Quest Training**
Old Pine Farm, Deptford
Leader: Gale Cannon CoLeader: Joan Tracy

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING: The Ruffs...Will The Third Time Be The Charm



For the third year in a row, the Gloucester County Nature Club will sponsor a team in the prestigious, New Jersey Audubon Society's *World Series of Birding* on May 14, 2005. The Ruffs will again compete in the Limited Geographic Area (LGA) competition, pitting their birding skills against other County only birding teams. The Ruffs will be searching the fields, wetlands, forests, lakes, rivers, streams and creeks of Gloucester County in an attempt to identify as many birds by sight & sound in a span of 24 hours. This year's team will again consist of Gale Cannon, Dick Ebert, Bob Baruzzi and Jeff Holt. The last two years, the Ruffs have placed fifth in the LGA competition. They think this year they can do better, but they need your help. While a competition, the World Series of Birding serves a more important purpose, to raise money and awareness for environmental causes. Each competing team raises money through pledges based on the number of birds correctly identified (e.g. \$1.00/species). Flat pledges are also welcome. Last year, over \$1800.00 was raised in pledges by the team which was given to the South Jersey Land Trust at the November, 2004 meeting. By your generosity, you can encourage the Ruffs to embrace sleep deprivation and forego creature comforts and push harder for that one last bird. Each additional bird identified will add to the amount we will again give to the South Jersey Land Trust.

If you would like further information on making a pledge, contact Marge Dolente at 384-6214. A pledge form is also available on the website at www.gcnatureclub.org. Club members are encouraged to collect pledges from family and friends on behalf of the team. Checks should be made payable to the Gloucester County Nature Club and mailed to Marge Dolente at 1001 Stonybrook Drive, Deptford, NJ 08096. Individuals can also help the team by providing them with information on the location of any unusual or nesting birds by calling Jeff Holt at 429-1802 (day) or 845-8925 (evening).

Looking Ahead:

Programs-

- May – Stories from Lilliput: Exploring the World of Insects (plus Annual Plant Sale!)
- June – Club Picnic

Field Trips-

- May – BirdQuest '05 (6th Year!)
- June – Amphibians in the Pinelands
- Summer '05 - Several summer field trips to be announced soon

Club Notes:

- **Annual Plant Sale** - Just a reminder to all the gardeners in the Club that our annual plant sale will be held just before the start of our regular May meeting at EIRC. Much of what is offered at the sale comes from our own gardens. As you make your way to your flower beds now that spring has finally arrived, keep an eye out for those perennials that need dividing; so bring any "volunteers" in not quite the right spots, extra seeds, trees and shrubs are all welcome. Whatever you can share, bring it with you and be part of the plant sale. The sale will start at 6:30 PM and the proceeds will benefit the Nature Club and its programs. Questions? Call Karen Kravchuck at 468-6536.
- **Election of Trustees** - 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 Brian Hayes at (856) 468-9272 or email at pnbhayes@comcast.net before April 15 to have your name on the ballot.
- A vote on the club logo was held at the March meeting, and the winner will be announced at the April meeting.
- The April Executive Committee meeting will be at 7 PM on April 10th at Karen Kravchuck's house.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Brian or Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@comcast.net 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 Barry Bengel at sharkeyes@comcast.net or 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month. Also - if your email address changes, please inform Barry.