



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

April 2007

Program - Tropical Rainforests and New Jersey's Extraordinary Songbirds

Thursday April 12th, 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Presenter: - Dr. Emile D. DeVito, Ph.D.

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks



"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before."

-Robert Lynd

Each spring our songbirds return. The vireos, the many species of warblers (over 50 in North America), Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Bunting and more arrive at just the right time at just the right place to feed on the emergent insect populations and play their vital role in maintaining healthy forests. Have you ever wondered where they go when they've "gone south" and what their lives are like in the far off tropics? You will learn this evening how these amazing birds exist in and travel between two worlds and live their lives in two ecosystems: the lush and exotic neo-tropics and the forests and meadows of temperate North America. We are very fortunate to have as our presenter for this program Dr. Emile D. DeVito, Manager of Science and Stewardship at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Dr. DeVito's breadth of knowledge of these truly extraordinary birds and his enthusiasm for telling their story promise to make this an unusually enriching and rewarding evening.

Field Trip – Assunpink WMA Wildflowers and Birds

Sunday April 22nd, 10:00 AM until mid-afternoon

Trip Leaders: Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon

We could see a good variety of early spring flowers, plus early migrant passerine birds and a few lingering waterfowl, in this 6,200-acre Wildlife Management Area in Monmouth County. Time permitting, we will also check a few sites in the historic town of Roosevelt. Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot on the south side of Assunpink Lake. Bring lunch, beverage, and binoculars.



Directions: Route 295 north to Route 195 eastbound. Get off Route 195 at Exit 11; take Imlaystown-Hightstown Road (your only choice) north for about 2.5 miles to the lake. Note that the last mile of this road is unpaved. Travel time from Woodbury is about 1 1/4 hours. For more information, phone (856) 845-7075.

Field Trip Report: Conowingo Dam – by Bob Duke

Our trip to the Conowingo Dam on March 11 turned into a study of Eagles. At first we were only able to locate 1 eagle around the towers, but as we started to walk the old railroad bed, we spotted many more (matures and adults). We had nice views of them interacting.

We only saw 19 species of birds, with all but the water fowl flying directly over our heads at one point or another. Our list included Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Osprey (one was perched directly on a power line), and both species of Vultures.

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. There is NO rain date for the Quest.**

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. If you want to ride the bus, **YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE BUS IN ADVANCE. Room on the bus is limited. Once the bus is full, that's it. (First come, first served.)**

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.**

A registration form is included at the end of this newsletter. 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 – Step It Up by Loretta Dunne

April is upon us, the time to get out into the yard and into the wild. This month is a reminder of all that we love about the earth. Therefore, it should also be the time to think about protecting it, so that the prospect of Spring will always mean enjoying the natural world.



Earth Day is April 22nd. This year, there is another day that is being dedicated to the Earth. It is April 14th and it is called Step It Up 2007 (<http://www.stepitup2007.org>), a day dedicated to communities organizing for climate change. Rather than attempting one large rally, this is a grassroots effort to encourage small groups all over the country to rally for climate change. If you go to the website and enter your zip code, you will receive a list of local events. One rally will be

held on Independence Mall from noon to 2PM. But you don't have to join a rally. Invite friends for a walk. Have a climate change dinner. Send a letter to the editor.

It is going to require personal lifestyle changes as well as laws to reduce greenhouse gases. Laws such as these don't happen unless the people want them and realize how vital they are. Now is the time to put those laws into place if there is any hope of controlling global warming.

Rededicate yourself this April. Step up and out to make your voice heard. And enjoy the beauty of the spring.

Open Space by Loretta Dunne

The Garden State Preservation Trust Fund, which has been the source of money for land preservation in New Jersey, is out of money. This was a major force of funds for preservation of open space, parks, and water resources is gone.



Assemblyman Fisher has introduced bill ACR10 that will provide \$175 million from the sales tax to the renewal of the Garden State Preservation Trust. Contact your NJ state senators and assembly people to let them know that you want the fund replenished. These funds will provide the ability for more land preservation in our state.

Other Nature Notes

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)

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|-----------------------|--|
| May 10 th | Gardening Naturally: Native Plants in gardening and landscaping (Lorraine Kieffer)
plus Annual Plant Sale |
| June 14 th | Annual Picnic |

Field Trips -

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| April & May (various dates) | Bird Quest Training Sessions |
| May 19 th (Saturday) | Wenonah Woods (Richard Dilks) |
| June 16 th (Saturday) | Chestnut Branch (Kris Mollenhauer) |

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.

Election of Trustees

The May Nature Club meeting is when we annually hold elections for our Board of Trustees. The Trustees hold the ultimate governing power of the Club. The Trustees elect the members of the Executive Committee (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and chairpersons of the standing committees). The Trustees' other primary responsibility is to provide direction to the Executive Committee because our by-laws specify that the Board of Trustees authorizes power to the Executive Committee for the day-to-day operations of the Club. Trustees meet annually at a joint meeting with the Executive Committee in June.

There are a total of 12 members of the Board of Trustees. Elected Trustees agree to serve a 3 year term and one third of the Trustees are elected by the Club's membership at the May meeting. The current Trustees are as follows:

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| 2006 – 2009 term: | Brian Hayes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Carol Cassel |
| 2005 – 2008 term: | Erik Mollenhauer, Robert Cassel, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge |
| 2004 – 2007 term: | Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Deb Maka |

We will be electing Trustees for the term of 2007-2010. If you are interested in running for election, please contact Deb Maka at 856-863-0330 or deborah71@msn.com

Bird Quest Registration

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 (\$12 per person) payable to Gloucester County Nature Club to: GC BirdQuest 2007, 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 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #4 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #5 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #6 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #7 _____ T-shirt size _____

Attach extra sheet with additional names and T-shirt sizes

Also available is a set of 35 training flash cards depicting Birds of Gloucester County, as well as additional T-shirts at \$12.95 each and our new book "Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ" at \$12.00.

Fill in here for additional items:

Additional T-shirts: Qty _____ (\$12.95 each)

Birds of Gloucester County Flash Cards _____ (\$4.00/set)

Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ book _____ (\$12.00 each) **(Excellent for scouting out new sites!)**

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 Youth (medium, large) and Adult (small, medium, large, X large, XX large). Receiving a shirt on the day of the event cannot be guaranteed if you register after April 27th.**
- A series of free trainings is being offered from April 16 - May 3 before the Quest. See schedule for details.
- If you want to ride the bus, **YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE BUS IN ADVANCE. Room on the bus is limited. Once the bus is full, that's it. (First come, first served).** Bus leaves at 7 am from Atkinson Park. Please provide a list of people, if any, who wish to ride a bus.