



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

May 2007

**Program – Gardening Naturally and Annual Plant Sale
Thursday, May 10th at 6:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell
Presenter: Lorraine Kiefer, horticulturist, Triple Oaks Nursery
Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks**

‘The true gardener is a lover of his flowers, not a critic of them. I think the true gardener is the reverent servant of Nature, not her truculent, wife-beating master.’

~Reginald Farrer, In a Yorkshire Garden, 1909

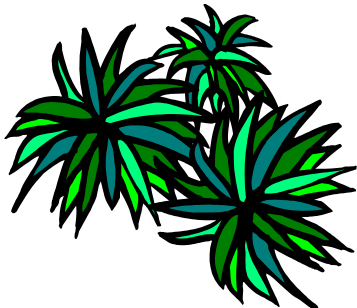


Gardens are a form of autobiography.

~Sydney Eddison, Horticulture magazine, August/September 1993

There are many reasons for using native plant species in our gardens and landscaping. The best reason is that they are wonderful plants - beautiful, diverse and esthetically pleasing. They are also adapted to our climate and conditions, disease resistant and require less watering and feeding to thrive than do exotics. “Gardening naturally” is an environmentally friendly way to add interest and variety to your garden while helping to preserve the botanical heritage of our region. Our program this evening will be presented by Lorraine Kiefer. Lorraine is a full time horticulturist at the family owned Triple Oaks Nursery in Franklinville, NJ, author of a weekly gardening column for over 35 years and co-author of the book, *Best Garden Plants for New Jersey*. She has an intimate knowledge and love of our native flora and is an articulate advocate of using native plants in our gardens and landscaping. Lorraine will not only explain the philosophy of gardening naturally but will offer a wealth of practical information on such topics as New Jersey’s garden zones, soil preparation, planting techniques and plant choices. Lorraine has kindly consented to do a book signing for *Best Garden Plants for New Jersey* this evening at the conclusion of her presentation.

We also wish to thank Lorraine Kiefer and Triple Oaks Nursery for their very generous donation of plants to the GCNC Annual Plant Sale this evening.



PLANT SALE! It’s that time again! Spring is here - even though the weather left us wondering for a while - time to be in our gardens, getting them ready for the warm weather season. This means it is also time for the Club’s annual plant sale. Hopefully, once again, we’ll have a wonderful combination of nursery grown plants and plants from our very own gardens.

Here’s where your part of this comes in. As you are in your gardens in the next couple of weeks keep an eye out for plants you can share.

Maybe it could be some of those perennials you have been meaning to divide or a volunteer shrub or tree that just has to be moved. Even some extra seeds that you collected in the fall would be great. Just pot them up or pack them up and bring them with you. Please mark them carefully, though, so we keep the mystery plants to a minimum. The Plant Sale will be held just before the May meeting. It will start at **6:00pm** in the EIRC parking lot. It is open to the public so tell family and friends.

Field Trip – Wenonah Woods

Saturday, May 19, 2007, 10:00 A.M. until mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342

Join us on a leisurely spring walk through the Wenonah Conservation Area. Wenonah is a historic one square mile borough of stately Victorian homes and quiet streets in northern Gloucester County. Surrounding the town is the Ring of Green - the 135 acre Wenonah Conservation Area, which consists of deciduous woodlands, lakes, streams, wooded swamp and fresh water marsh, all easily accessible by a six mile network of walking trails. Come and experience the diversity of plant and animal life along these winding trails. See late spring wildflowers such as the Pink Lady's Slipper, Canada Mayflower and Pixter Flower. Observe the evidence of our thriving beaver colony along Mantua Creek as Belted Kingfishers and Red-tailed Hawks patrol the marsh. Learn how we are controlling the invasive Purple Loosestrife in our wetlands. See specimens of the 68 species of trees in the Wenonah Conservation Area including stately Tulip Poplars, Chestnut Oak, America Sycamore, Kentucky Coffeetree, the Wenonah Shingle Oaks (the only native stand in New Jersey) and even a small Pawpaw patch. We will also see reminders of Wenonah's past: Wenonah Lake- a mill pond created over 200 years ago, Clay Hill, the ruins of an 1860's railroad trestle, the Green estate amphitheater and the restored teahouse at the north end of Comey's Lake. We will be ending our walk at the teahouse, a perfect place for a picnic lunch. Cold drinks will be provided.



We will meet at the Wenonah Lake parking lot at W. Maple St. and N. Jefferson Ave. at 10:00 A.M.

Directions: From Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553)- Go west on Maple St., crossing the railroad tracks. At the stop sign at the bottom of the hill, turn right into the Wenonah Lake parking lot. From Rt. 45 – Take Ogden Station Rd. east through the Oak Valley section of Deptford Twp. (If approaching on Rt. 45 from the north, use the jug handle just past the West Deptford Shop Rite.) After approximately one mile, Ogden Rd. becomes Maple St. You will pass Wenonah Lake on your left. At the stop sign, turn left into the Wenonah Lake parking lot.

Field Trip Report: Assunpink and Roosevelt (April 22) – by Karl Anderson

The 6200-acre Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Monmouth County takes its name from the Assunpink tribe of Native Americans who once lived in the area. During this field trip we looked for waterfowl on several lakes, walked a mile or two along roads and trails, and did a quick excursion to the historical town of Roosevelt (aka the Jersey Homesteads Historical District). About 40 species of birds were seen, including palm, pine, and yellow-rumped warblers. Wildflowers were scarce, cold weather earlier in the season having delayed their emergence by at least a week. But with some searching we did find spring beauty, trout lily, and wood anemone in bloom, and mayapple, dwarf ginseng and a few others in bud. There were 17 participants. Trip leaders were Gale Cannon and Karl Anderson.

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@irc.org.

Participants can attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest. The remaining training sessions are listed below:

April 30 (Monday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM

Wheelabrator Refuge, Westville

Leader: Gary Lizzi

Bird Quest Training

Co-leader: Arlene Beebe

May 1 (Tuesday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM

EIRC building, Washington Twp This is an intro to bird calls in a classroom setting.

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

Birding by Ear Part III

Co-leader: Jayne Rhynard

May 2 (Wednesday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM

Ceres Park, Mantua Twp Take the skills learned in the classroom out in the field.

Leader: Barry Bengel

Birding by Ear Part IV

Co-leader: Jayne Rhynard

May 3 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:30 AM

Old Pine Farm, Deptford

Co-leaders: Ed & Millie Cleary

Bird Quest Training

Conservation Corner – Cool Cities and Gloucester County by Loretta Dunne

The Sierra Club has a program, Cool Cities, (<http://www.coolcities.us/>) that encourages cities to commit to a reduction in their greenhouse gasses. Since there is little commitment from at the federal level, this is a crucial effort to mobilize change at the local level.

Under the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, participating cities commit to taking three actions, as reported by Wilford S. Shamlin in the Courier Post:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities by anti- sprawl land-use policies, urban forest restoration projects and public information campaigns.
- Urge their state and federal governments to enact programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the protocol, with 7 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2012.
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

Elk Township has committed to becoming a “cool city” and recently, the Gloucester County freeholders did the same. According to a Gloucester County Times article by Pete McCarthy, “the county has promised to make efforts to conserve energy by modernizing buildings for energy efficiency and encouraging residents to walk more and drive less. In the future, it could include everything from solar panels in buildings to hybrid vehicles in the county's fleet.”

The freeholders also announced that they will encourage all of the county’s mayors to become partners in the “Cool Cities” program.



As we are now officially, a “cool county”, I encourage all of you to contact your local mayors and urge them to join this program. Also, contact the freeholders and learn more about the specific efforts being made in the county. Make it clear how important this effort is and suggest ways that the county officials can make a difference in the reduction of global warming. It will take our personal commitments to see that the cool city efforts are successful.

Sources:

Courier Post, 4/4/07, “Gloucester County Will Act to Reduce Greenhouse Gases” by Wilford S. Shamlin.

Gloucester County Times, 4/4/07, “County Vows to Go Green” by Pete McCarthy.

Other Nature Notes

New Bike Path Coming to Gloucester County!

The county has begun a project to build a continuous bike trail from Monroe Township to Glassboro, and the 7.5-mile path should be ready by the end of June.



To kick off the project, Gloucester County officials held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 24th. The project is expected to cost \$811,000 to complete, and the county has secured state and federal grant money to fund the project.

Plans include expanding an existing trail in Monroe Township and running it parallel to Route 322, then extending it from Fries Mill Road to Delsea Drive in Glassboro. The trail will link with Scotland Run Park and the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area. The 10-foot-wide trail will be partially paved and include areas once used for a rail line.

Source:

Gloucester County Times, 4/25/07, "County breaks ground on bike path" by Pete McCarthy.

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)

June 14th Annual Picnic

Field Trips -

June 16th (Saturday) Chestnut Branch (Kris Mollenhauer)

Club Notes:

- The May Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 6th at Ed & Millie Cleary’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 each May meeting. When elected, Trustees serve a three-year term at which time the seat is up for election. You may use the ballot below to vote for terms starting this year. Ballots will also be available at the May meeting. Voting must be received by 9:00 PM on the day of the May meeting (May 10, 2007). Results will be available in the June newsletter.

Gloucester County Nature Club 2007 Official Ballot

Board of Trustees (Term for 2007 – 2010)

Mark an X in the box to the left of the candidates of your choice.

(Please vote for no more than four (4) candidates)

Barry Bengel

Paula Hayes

Elaine Dzeima

Dave Partridge

Write in (other than above)

Write in (other than above)

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 Paces 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.