



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

May 2015

Program - An African Adventure & 2015 Annual Plant Sale

Thursday May 14, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Larry A. Lyons

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

Reminder: Starting time for the plant sale is 6:00pm, for the program 7:00pm.

Join in a photographic safari and explore the diversity and behavior of wildlife that two South Jersey photographers, Larry Lyons and Patricia Worley, captured during a six-week African adventure. Lions, leopards, elephants, zebras, wild dogs, and rhinos are just some of the magnificent wildlife that was photographed while roaming free in game reserves of South Africa.

This visual presentation will reveal close-up photography of cheetahs and lions stalking their prey, lion cubs playing, buffaloes fighting, elephants dueling, giraffes necking, and much, much more including a video of a pride of lions stalking and killing a wildebeest.

The overriding message of this presentation will reveal the importance that conservation and management of game reserves has upon preserving these amazing and vulnerable wildlife populations on the African continent.

SPEAKER / PHOTOGRAPHER

Larry A. Lyons

Larry has been an Environmental Scientist for more than 30 years, investigating and helping to protect aquatic and terrestrial environments. His love of all types of environments and the diversity of the living organisms that depend on these environments has extended to his love of capturing their beauty with his photography.



Larry uses his photography to reinforce the need for the protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitats. Larry's website (<http://enviroquest.me>) regularly posts write-ups along with his photography providing environmental messages about the beauty of the natural world and the organisms that we need to protect.

Larry is a board member for the South Jersey Camera Club and a member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. His photography continues to be displayed at a number of exhibits and he has won several regional and international awards.



PHOTOGRAPHER

Patricia S. Worley

Pat, president of Twilight Blue Photography, is the resident artist and curator at the Hansen Warner Building in Medford, NJ.

She earned a B.A. in communications from Seton Hall University and enjoys putting her years of experience to use by teaching photography, judging and giving presentations and workshops. Pat serves on the Board of the South Jersey Camera Club as Field Trip Coordinator. Having won many local and international awards, Pat is listed in Who's Who of Photography for Photographic Society of America. Pat's website can be found at www.twilightbluephotography.com.

Annual Plant Sale!

It's that time again! Spring is here and it's 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. 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 at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church. It is open to the public so please tell family and friends.

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).



Invasive species Removal Work Party, Wenonah Conservation Area **Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 9:00am**

On Saturday, May 16th starting at 9:00am, the Gloucester County Nature Club in cooperation with the Wenonah Environmental Commission will have a work day to remove invasive species from the Wenonah Trail area. This is needed to protect trees in the conservation area from fast-growing, invasive plants like English Ivy and Wisteria. We will be mainly clipping vines, then leaving them to rot naturally, in-place. Meet at the Wenonah Community Center (Train Station). Useful tools to bring would be clippers, loppers, and work gloves.

Field Trips – Remaining Bird Quest Training Sessions

April 29 (Wednesday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. Delaware River Riparian Habitat.

Wheelerator Refuge — 600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, 08093

At the intersection of the Delaware River and Big Timber Creek, the wide-open space behind the Wheelerator plant is great habitat for swamp, meadow and river birds. Trails and old roads make access easy. Bobwhite can be heard here. *Directions: Access from Rt. 130 (Crown Point Rd,) opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet at the pavilion in parking lot.*

Leaders: Kris Mollenhauer and Marilyn Henry

April 30 (Thursday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. RiverWinds Park

1000 Riverwinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086

Riverside shrubs and forested areas along the Delaware River make for great birding here. Start at the West Deptford Scenic Trail and, if time allows, continue along the Delaware River. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle! *Directions: Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx. 1000 ft, then turn right onto the first dirt road. Park in the lot.*

Leaders: Gary Lizzi and Gale Cannon

Family Fun Walk at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust, Deptford

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2015 at 10:00am

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (cell/text: 609-315-4759 or mariakeefe19@comcast.net)

Join us for a walk with family and friends on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2015 at 10:00am at the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust in Deptford. All ages are welcome. These walks are for anyone that enjoys seeing the wonder of the natural world through a child's eye. You don't need children to join these walks with active, excitable, and enthusiastic children... Bring a baby in a backpack, a toddler in tow, grade schoolers, parents, or grandparents along for a walk. We will walk at child's pace stopping to look at anything interesting we find. The walk will last an hour or so. Dress in layers according to the weather. Bring your sense of adventure and join us for a fun walk outdoors. Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust is one of the few remaining natural and protected areas along the highly-developed tidal portion of Big Timber Creek. It is located in the Blackwood Terrace section of Deptford. It offers a variety of terrain, including a meadow, woodlands and wetlands, while being surrounded on three sides by many acres of fresh water in Big Timber Creek. There are several trails to walk and a picnic table near the creek.

Directions: *From Woodbury:* Drive east on Cooper Street towards Blackwood. Cross Delsea Drive. At the next traffic light, go straight. At the fork, bear right to go down Good Intent Road. As you go through the second traffic light you have crossed Route 41. The fourth street on your left is Rankin Avenue. Make a left turn (you cannot make a right) and drive to the end of the street where you will see a parking lot.

From Pitman/Glassboro/Clayton: Drive North on Delsea Drive towards the Deptford Mall. At the Five Points intersection, go straight which puts you on Route 41. At the second traffic light you are at the intersection of Route 41 and Good Intent Road. Make a right turn. The fourth street on your left is Rankin Avenue. Make a left turn and go to the end of the street where you will see a parking lot.

Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ."

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: May 2015

- May 14-18 - **CAPE MAYgration Spring Birding Festival**. Sponsored by NJ Audubon. Cost is determined by number of "daily" fees. For more information and registration, go to www.njaudubon.org/SectionCapeMayBirdObservatory/SpecialEvents/CapeMAYgration.aspx.
- May 17, 2015 (Sunday), 2:00 pm – **Walk in the Woods: Plant Eaters**. 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. Please check at www.oldpinefarm.org/ for changes to the schedule and directions. Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ." Further details available by calling Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.

The following events also 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.

- Nature Tots: Wednesday 5/6 at 10:00am. For preschoolers and their caregivers. Make a craft then take a walk on the trail.
- Nature Explorers - Lake Study: Saturday 5/9 at 10:00am. Fun for the entire family. Take part in a lake study and see who calls Wilson Lake their home.
- Bird Walk: Tuesday 5/12 at 6:00pm. Enjoy viewing our feathered friends while taking a leisurely walk. Bring binoculars.
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 5/16 at 10:00am. A great way for scouts to earn their naturalist and forestry badges.
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 5/20 at 2:30pm. Enjoy a leisurely walk on a warm spring afternoon.

Natural Events for the month of May

- Jack in the pulpit, pink lady's-slipper, and mayapple bloom by mid-May in the County's remnant woodlands.
- Early spring flowers such as spring beauty fade rapidly, as trees leaf out and shade the forest floor.
- Princess tree, or Paulownia (named after an 18th-Century Russian princess) blooms with large clusters of pale purple flowers. It's an invasive species but still very pretty.
- By late May, monarch butterflies arrive from the south and begin laying their eggs on newly emerged plants of common milkweed.
- Young rabbits, gray squirrels, and other small mammals are leaving their home nests. Drive carefully.
- Horseshoe crabs spawn on Delaware Bayshore beaches from late May to early June.
- Red knots arrive for their stop-over at the Delaware Bay area to double their weight on horseshoe crab eggs in preparation for their nonstop journey to Arctic breeding grounds.

Conservation Corner – Stop Ocean Blasting – courtesy of Bonnie Weiskittel

Seismic Testing Threatens NJ Marine Life in Summer of 2015

Rutgers University, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and the University of Texas, seek to conduct a seismic ocean blasting survey off the coast of New Jersey for 30 days between June and August 2015 to study changes in sea level from 6- million years ago to the present. If allowed to proceed, survey will use of four-air guns that will fire 246 decibels, every 5-6 seconds, 24 hours a day for 30 days in a small area off Long Beach Island, NJ. The summer is the peak season for marine life off the Jersey shore including. Most of the species of the region are breeding, spawning, or migrating. The area is thriving with marine life.

Seismic testing is of great concern for marine life, the following are recent comments, reports, and letters from top marine scientists and government agencies.

The importance of sound in the ocean

Many marine species rely on their ability to produce and interpret sounds in communication and locating prey. Increased human use of the ocean for a variety of industrial, commercial, recreational, research, and military purposes have contributed to rising ambient sound levels. This means that marine life must deal with a cacophony of man-made sounds when trying to communicate with one another - imagine the frustration you feel when shouting to a friend in a crowded room in order to be heard. Sources of human-caused noise in the ocean are many, and include military sonar, vessel traffic, construction activities like pile driving, and seismic airgun blasting.

What is seismic airgun blasting?

Seismic airgun blasting is a practice commonly used by the oil and gas industry to locate potential deposits deep beneath the seafloor; it is also used for research applications to map buried sediments. It involves an array of airguns being towed for up to several miles behind a vessel and blasting extremely loud pulses of compressed air into the water column and deep into the seabed. The reverberations that return to the vessel can then be interpreted to understand what lies beneath the seafloor. In order to obtain a comprehensive "picture," vessels blast seismic airguns every few seconds for days or weeks at a time.

Why should we care?

Seismic airgun blasting creates one of the loudest sounds in the ocean - on the order of 250 decibels. A decibel is a measure of the intensity of a sound, and uses a logarithmic scale (so, a sound that increases by 10 decibels is actually 10 times more intense). To put 250 decibels into context, the threshold at which humans feel pain is 130 decibels; a jet aircraft at takeoff is about 140 decibels! Noise travels faster and farther in seawater than in air - airgun noise has been recorded over 1,800 miles from its origin, which is almost double the distance from Cape May to Miami.

What can we do?

To learn more and sign the online petition, go to <http://www.CleanOceanAction.org> and <http://www.StopRutgersOceanBlasting.org>.

Looking Ahead:

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

June 11, 2015: **Annual Picnic** (Alcyon Lake Park)

June Field Trip (Date TBD) - **Horseshoe Crab Walk**

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at president@gcnatureclub.org 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 newsletter@gcnatureclub.org or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The May Executive Committee meeting will be held on Monday May 4th at the home of Ed and Millie Cleary. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

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:

2012 – 2015 term: Brian Hayes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Rich Dilks

*The term of the Trustees listed above will end June 2015.

The names of K. Kravchuck, K. Mollenhauer, and R.Dilks will be on the ballot for re-election to a 2015-2018 term. Scott Barnes has been nominated to replace Brian Hayes on the ballot.

2013 – 2016 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Dave Partridge

2014 – 2017 term: Erik Mollenhauer, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard

We will be electing Trustees for the term of 2015-2018. If you are interested in running for election, please contact Karen Kravchuck at 856-468-6536 or at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com.

Gloucester County Nature Club 2015 Official Ballot

Board of Trustees (Term for 2015 – 2018)

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

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

Scott Barnes

Karen Kravchuck

Kris Mollenhauer

Richard Dilks
