



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

May 2017

Thursday, May 11, 2017- Plant Sale & Program

6:00pm - GCNC Annual Plant Sale

6:45pm - Program : A Green Legacy: John Burroughs and the Catskill Mts.

Presenter: Erik Mollenhauer

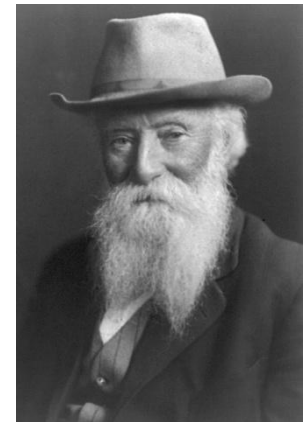
Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Reminder: Starting time for the plant sale is 6:00 PM, Starting time for the program is 6:45, 15 minutes earlier than usual.

"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order."

~ John Burroughs



The Delaware River has its source in the western Catskill Mountains of New York state...but the Catskills have been the source of more than just water. Associated with the stories of Rip Van Winkle and Natty Bumppo, the Catskills gave rise to one of the 19th century's most popular nature writers: John Burroughs. Burroughs, the "man who looked like Santa Claus", wrote over two dozen books of nature essays during the 'Robber Baron', industrial revolution period of late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Burroughs grew up on a farm in the western Catskills. Inspired by his Catskill experiences, he urged readers to get into the woods and develop a relationship with nature. He built a rustic Catskill summer retreat... 'Slabsides'... and another... 'Woodchuck Lodge'... where he entertained Theodore Roosevelt, Walt Whitman, John Muir, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. "Do not go to museums to find Nature", he warned children: "Have your mothers and fathers take you to the park or seashore. Watch the sparrows circle over you, hear the gulls screech, follow the squirrel to his nest in the hollow of the old oak. Nature is nothing at all when it is twice removed. It is only real when you reach out and touch it with your own hands."

As Burroughs looked east to the Catskill high peaks (now called "The Burroughs Range"), he wrote: "The works of man dwindle and the original features of the globe come out. Every single object or point is dwarfed; the valley of the Hudson is only a wrinkle on the earth's surface. You discover with a feeling of surprise that the great thing is the earth itself, which stretches away on every hand so far beyond your ken." Join us as we explore the Catskill Mountains and the world of John Burroughs.

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).

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 6:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church. It is open to the public so please tell family and friends.



2017 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 6, 2017



The Gloucester County Nature Club and co-sponsors invite people of all ages to participate in the **2017 (18th annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest**. This year Bird Quest will take place on **Sat. May 6, 2017 from 7 AM to 12 noon throughout Gloucester County**.

We are pleased to return to Scotland Run Park (Wilson Lake) in Clayton for our picnic and gathering. We hope to reach new families and continue to excite our legacy participants with a wonderful setting for our picnic. Scotland Run Park is located at 980 West Academy St., Clayton, NJ 08312 (directions below).

See the separate enrollment form on BirdQuest flyer

During this time, teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County to 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
- An opportunity to learn how to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat
- An opportunity to have fun with family, friends, and colleagues
- A light-hearted competition

The Quest is an educational event: novices are encouraged to participate.

How it works: Teams have 5 hours on Saturday (7am to noon) to visit sites in Gloucester County. Birds are identified by sight or sound. The goal is to find as many different species of birds as possible. At noon, all participants gather at **Scotland Run Park in Clayton** to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, and prizes**.

You can participate in one of the following ways:

- Form a team, plan your route (locations you will visit) for the day of the event and record all the bird species you see within Gloucester County. Hand in your results at Scotland Run by 12:30pm to be eligible for prizes.

- Join one of the buses led by a bird expert. These buses will visit a few locations in the County where bird experts will help you to identify the many bird species. The buses will meet back at Scotland Run Park at 12:30pm.
- Join one of three guided walks, each lasting between an hour and an hour and a half, in various natural places in Gloucester County lead by a bird expert who will help you identify the bird species present. These walks will be paced and placed so you can participate in all of the walks or just one or two while you spend the rest of the time birding on your own. Hand in your results at Scotland Run Park at 12:30pm to be eligible for prizes.
 - 7:00-8:45: Tall Pines Preserve (Maple Ridge): From the intersection of Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd) and Mantua Ave in Wenonah (and Holy Nativity Lutheran Church), travel .75 mile south on Rt 553 to the intersection with Bark Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Bark Bridge Rd then in 200ft turn left into the parking lot, meet there. There are no bathrooms at Tall Pines.
 - 9:30-11:15: Glassboro Wildlife Management Area: Meet at Carpenter Ave in Clayton. From the Intersection of 322 and Route 47 (Delsea Drive), take RT 47 South into Clayton. Make a left onto Carpenter Ave – about 1.6 miles south of Route 322. Meet in the parking / turn around area where the road turns to dirt.
 - 11:30-12:30: Scotland Run Park (also the picnic location): From Route 55 take exit 45 and proceed North on Route 553/ Buck Road. After 1.2 miles turn Right on CR 610/ Clayton-Aura Road. Continue on CR 610 for 3.8 miles. After the traffic light at Fries Mill Road, turn left into the parking lot for Scotland Run Park. You will meet in the bluebird field adjacent to the parking lot.

Last year's Gloucester County Bird Quest attracted participants from across the county organized in teams representing schools, scout troops, environmental commissions, families and friends. Each year the Club holds pre-Quest field and classroom trainings, attracting 15-30 persons each, in which local experts help new birders learn to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat. The winning team in 2016 located 109 species in 5 hours!!! A tremendous effort when you consider all teams saw a total of 151 species but everyone was a winner because of how much they learned about birds and the natural areas of Gloucester County through this fun, educational event.

This year we have developed educational materials including a Quest t-shirt with original artwork featuring a blue jay in an oak tree holding an acorn which we are using to discuss the old connection between Jays and oaks, birds and forests. Participants will learn about the importance of forests for some bird populations and the many unseen aspects of a forest that help birds thrive. These materials will have lasting educational value for teachers, students, and the general public. **The \$15 fee per participant helps to defray the cost of lunch, T-shirts, prizes etc.**

More information and registration forms are posted to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at www.gcnatureclub.org. For more information, join a team or reserve a seat on the bus, contact Brian Hayes at bkhayesoutdoors@gmail.com or 856.649.8723.

Participants are encouraged to attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest. Training sessions are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: May 2017

The following events are sponsored by the South Jersey Land & Water Trust. Maps, directions, and more information can be found at <http://sjlandwater.org/event-directory>.

- **Garden Fair & Nature Walks.** Saturday 5/6, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Join us for a Garden Fair & Nature Walks at the Camden County Environmental Center; wear comfy shoes, bring your camera & binoculars to explore this beautiful natural area in the heart of Camden County. Many GPS devices have difficulty finding this location. Follow the below directions:
 - From Philadelphia: •Take I-676 W, U.S. 30 E and NJ-70 E/Marlton Pike W to Grove St in Cherry Hill. •Turn right on Grove Street (located after Caffè Aldo Lamberti's) then turn left onto Park Boulevard. The Camden County Environmental Center will be on the right.
 - From I-295: •Take I-295 to Route 70 West. •Turn left on Edison Avenue, turn right on Jefferson Avenue, turn right on Park Boulevard. The Camden County Environmental Center will be on the left.
- **Cleanup at Berlin Park:** Saturday 5/13, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm North Park Drive, Berlin, NJ 08009. Join us for a Community Cleanup at Berlin Park, where we will pick up trash throughout the park. Bags, grabbers & gloves will be provided, please wear appropriate shoes, bug spray & sunscreen, and bring your own drinking water. This is a great opportunity to earn community service hours, complete a service project, or to simply do a good deed for your community while spending time outdoors. This event is FREE, please RSVP by emailing MHogan@SJLandWater.org
- **Native Orchid Walk in the Woods at Parvin State Park:** Saturday 5/20, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm., 701 Almond Rd. Elmer, NJ 08318 (FREE) Join us for a leisurely walk through the woods to see beautiful, native Pink Lady's Slippers orchids in Parvin State Park. Parvin Park is a 1,000-acre park in Salem County; we will walk the nature trail around Parvin Lake, which passes through pine-oak uplands, red maple wetlands, and Atlantic white cedar. The trail is an excellent birding location, so bring your camera and binoculars. The trail may be muddy; please wear appropriate footwear. This event is FREE for SJLWT members and \$3 per nonmember; please RSVP by emailing MHogan@SJLandWater.org

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

MONARCH WATCH CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

Monarch Watch is seeking immediate help with a new project – collecting observations of monarchs during specific time spans: April 1 thru June 10 and July 15 thru Aug 20. Please go to www.monarchwatch.org/blog for information needed to participate in this project. Monarch Watch needs hundreds of volunteers in order to make the data meaningful. Please consider donating some time. DO IT FOR THE MONARCHS.

MASS EXTINCTIONS IN EARTH'S HISTORY

A mass extinction is defined as a widespread and rapid decrease in biodiversity on earth. Since the great Cambrian explosion 540 million years ago when most major animal phyla appeared, there have been 5 major extinction events. Are we living in the sixth mass extinction?

Ordovician-Silurian	440 million years ago (mya)	The first great extinction had two peak dying times separated by hundreds of thousands of years. Since most life was in the sea, it was sea creatures like trilobites that were drastically reduced in number. This extinction is believed to have been caused by continental drift and by radiation from the collapse of a nearby massive star.
Late Devonian	370 mya	This extinction may have persisted over millions of years rather than being a single event. Life in the shallow seas was particularly affected especially

		marine reefs which did not return to their former health until the evolution of new corals over 100 million years later. The cause of this extinction remains unknown.
Permian	270 mya	The Permian mass extinction has been called 'the great dying'. It is the greatest of all extinctions wiping out 96% of life on earth. Marine life, insects (the only known mass extinction of insects) and other invertebrates were profoundly affected. Climate change, volcanic action and a possible meteorite impact are believed to have caused this largest extinction event. All life today is descended from the 4% of life that survived.
Triassic-Jurassic	225 mya	The Triassic-Jurassic extinction eliminated 80% of all quadrupeds, large amphibians and reptiles, and half of all marine invertebrates. This extinction lasted over 18 million years and had 2 or 3 extinction waves. The loss of these large animals opened the way for the dinosaurs. It is believed that climate change, basalt eruptions and a meteorite strike caused this event.
Cretaceous-Paleogene (aka the Cretaceous-Tertiary)	65 mya	This event, caused by an asteroid strike, is known for the extinction of the dinosaurs and nearly all large animal species. During this event, temperature rose as much as 57 degrees F. and sea levels rose as much as 300 meters. The loss of the dinosaurs opened the way for mammals.

How many species inhabit earth? Scientists have described 1.3 million species and it is suspected that millions more remain to be discovered – consider life teeming in deep Antarctic seas. A single gram of soil yielded 10,000 species of bacteria. There is historically a background extinction rate of about 1 to 5 species per year, however today literally dozens of species go extinct every day. As more and more scientific evidence is presented, it is evident that we are living in the Anthropocene (age of humans) extinction. This extinction began 100,000 years ago, a date that corresponds with the human dispersion from Africa. It is estimated that half of all plants, animals, and birds on the planet will disappear before 2100. Unlike past extinctions caused by natural events, this extinction is caused by a species – us. Some of the problems created by human behavior follow:

- Overexploitation – the killing of animals for food, clothing or pleasure.
- Habitat destruction and environmental fragmentation – species are cut off from food, water and prospective mates.
- Global warming – habitats become too dry or too wet, too hot, too stormy. Ocean becomes too acidic.
- Invasive species – brought on ships and in packing material, or bought as pets or as exotic plants. Invasive species have no natural predator and crowd out native species.
- Noise pollution – discussed in the October 2016 newsletter.
- Light pollution – discussed in the May 2016 newsletter.

All plant and animal species are affected by the 6th extinction but some more than others.

Amphibians - No other group has been hit as hard as amphibians. Over 1/3 (or 6300) of known species are at risk. Frogs, toads, salamanders suffer from habitat destruction, air pollution, climate change, uv light exposure, introduced exotic species. Because of their sensitivity to environmental change, they are the canary in the global coal mine.

Birds - Birds occur in nearly every habitat on the planet. In the US, 31 % of the 800 species are at risk, globally 12 % are considered threatened. Habitat loss and degradation, invasive species and capture by collectors are causes of decline.

Fish – Damming of rivers, dumping of pollutants, increasing demand for water, and spreading of invasive species are major factors of decline. In North America, at least 82 fish species are imperiled. Across the globe, over 2000 species or 21% of all fish species are at risk of extinction.

Invertebrates – from butterflies to mollusks to earthworms, they are severely affected by water pollution, groundwater withdrawal, water projects, destruction of the rainforest and coral reefs. About 30% of invertebrates are determined to be at risk.

Mammals – Almost half of the world's mammals (5400 species) are declining and a fifth including whales, dolphins, porpoises, and primates (monkeys, lemurs, apes) are clearly at risk.

Reptiles – Globally 21% of reptiles are at risk. Island species have been hit particularly hard with at least 28 reptiles lost since 1600. Island-like extinctions are creeping onto the mainland as habitats are becoming fragmented isolating interbreeding populations.

Plants – Of the more than 300,000 known species as many as 68% are at risk of extinction. Scientists are seeing the effect of global warming on plants in the quick and dramatic changes in the range and distribution of plants around the world.

Why should we care? As the National Geographic says “biodiversity provides climate stability, nutritiously varied and abundant foods, medicines, clean water, pollination of crops, disease-control, food-chain stability and oxygen.”

Sources: enviroliteracy.org/ecosystems/classifying-species/how-many-species-are-there/, <http://discovermagazine.com/2012/jan-feb/63>, www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction_events, voices.nationalgeographic.com/2012/03/28/the-sixth-great-extinction-a-silent-extermination/, biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity/elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis/, time.com/3035872/sixth-great-extinction/, www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/19/humans-creating-sixth-great-extinction-of-animal-species-say-scientists

NJ LEGISLATION

The following bills have been introduced into the NJ Legislature. You may call or email your NJ senator and assemblypersons and ask them to co-sponsor these bills.

AJR144 Establishes "Healthy Pollinators Task Force". The task force will develop a state-wide action plan to protect pollinators and to educate citizens about how they can take part in bolstering pollinator populations.

AR216 Encourages NJ homeowners to use native plants that support bee populations and create habitat for all pollinators. The bill asks the Departments of Environmental Protection and Agriculture to work with nurseries and develop lists of native plants that support these efforts. These lists would be posted on department websites. Nurseries and landscapers would be encouraged to post these lists on their websites.

A1069 and S1151 Establishes "Private Wildlife Habitat Certification Program". A property owner may create a wildlife habitat which will be inspected and certified if it meets the standards of a recognized conservation organization. The certification will give the property owner affirmative defense against municipal nuisance ordinances.

Go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/Default.asp> to identify your state senator and assemblypersons and to read the texts of these bills.

ADDITIONAL CITIZEN SCIENCE WEBSITES

Last month we listed several citizen science projects to which the private citizen may contribute. Here are 3 more sites asking for input from people who care about the environment.

- www.butterfliesandmoths.org Butterflies and Moths of North America
- www.naba.org/butter_counts.html North America Butterfly Association
- www.hummingbirds.net

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the remainder of the club year. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

June 8, 2017: **Annual Picnic (6:00pm) at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ** followed by **Program: Surfskis, Outrigger Canoes, Kayaks, Lifejackets, Rescue Throw bags, Paddles - Up Close & Personal** - Glen Forest Green, P.E., U.S. Canoe Assoc. Safety Committee Chairman

Remaining 2017 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the remainder of the club year. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@gmail.com.

June 10, 2017 - **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 blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- 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 GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, 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:

2014 – 2017 term: Marilyn Henry, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard

*The term of the Trustees listed above will end June 2017.

The names of Marilyn Henry, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard will be on the ballot for re-election to a 2017-2020 term.

2015 – 2018 term: Scott Barnes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Rich Dilks

2016 – 2019 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Dave Partridge

We will be electing Trustees for the term of 2017 - 2020. If you are interested in running for election, please contact Karen Kravchuck at 609-617-6693 or at president@gcnatureclub.org

Remaining Bird Quest Training Sessions 2017

May 1 (Monday) 6– 7:30 P.M. Birding by Ear - Part 2

“To Pish or Not to Pish, That is the Question.”

Jack Sheppard Community Center (historic train station)

E. Mantua Ave & N. East Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090

In a classroom setting, continue to learn mnemonics and “tricks of the trade” to identify birds by their songs and calls. Learn about Pishing - What is it? Who does it? Is it right for you?

Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer

May 3 (Wednesday) 6 - 7:30 P.M.

Wheelabrator Refuge

600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, 08093

At the intersection of the Delaware River and Big Timber Creek, the wide-open space behind the Wheelabrator plant is great habitat for swamp, meadow and river birds. Trails and old roads make access easy. Bob White 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

May 4 (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 left onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx.1000 ft, then turn right at the trail sign.*

Leaders: Gary Lizzi and Gale Cannon