



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

[www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July 2005

### Summer '05 Nature Club Activities

Once again the Nature Club will host a variety of activities this summer. Listed below is a brief description of the activities which are free and open to anyone, yes even nonmembers, so bring a friend. Please be prompt since the events will start on time. Keep checking the website: [www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org) for updates on the latest fieldtrips and outings.

#### **Watercolor Workshop (Signup required!) - Wednesday July 13, 6:30 PM**

Leader: Millie Cleary

Co leader: Deb Maka

A new ground breaking fieldtrip: we are offer a change from the normal. In this fieldtrip you will visit a local park to learn some watercolor basics. Pick up some technical pointers from our leaders or simply express yourself at this artistic outing. **Directions:** If you would like to participate in this fieldtrip please contact Millie Cleary at (856) 228-6890. The location and directions will be provided on the call and all art materials will be provided on the day of the event. Please leave your name and number (or contact info) in case of inclement weather.

#### **Bird Walk at Scotland Run Park, Clayton - Tuesday July 19, 6:00 PM**

Leader: Bob Duke

The varied habitat of this park enables a great number of different species of birds to co-exist. There are usually bluebirds at the nest boxes, kingbirds in the tops of the trees, and orioles along the lake. **Directions:** From Rt 47 (Delsea Drive) heading South in Clayton turn left onto Academy Ave (Rt. 610). Just past Fries Mill Road you will see the lake on your left and the HQ on your right. Meet at the park HQ on route 610 (Clayton-Williamstown Rd.).

#### **Nature Walk at Ceres Park, Mantua - Tuesday July 26, 6:00 PM**

Leader: Jayne Rhynard

Co Leader: Barry Bengel

The Gloucester County Nature Club has a long history with Ceres Park. The Club was instrumental in helping save the land and a Club member won the honor of naming the Park. Now, we have helped add more land to the park on the other side of the creek. Join Jayne, a local who lives right next door, as we visit some of the special places and see some of the local birds like woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds and more. **Directions:** From 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553A). Make a left onto 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over route 55.

**Kayaking/Canoeing trip on Mantua Creek, Wenonah - Wednesday August 3, 6:00 PM**

Leader: Deb Maka

Co leader: Bob Bevilacqua

Join us for a leisurely trip down one of the local Gloucester County waterways. You will need your own canoe or kayak and transportation to the launch site. Experienced people only please! This is a great way to see the “other” side of our streams. **Directions:** From Woodbury-Glassboro Road (Rt 553) turn onto Mantua Blvd at the Wachovia Bank. Go through town making a right onto Hayes Ave just before you cross the Mantua Creek and enter Mantua. Make a left at the pump station (just past the ball fields) and follow the primitive road to the boat launch. Parking is by the ball fields if needed.

**Digiscoping at Scotland Run Park, Clayton – Tuesday August 9, 6:00 PM**

Leader: Bob Baruzzi

Co leader: Ed Cleary

This is another of our ground breaking fieldtrips this summer. Digiscoping is digital photography through a spotting scope. Learn the basics of the equipment and techniques. Explore the limitations and the benefits of digiscoping as well as a live demonstration.

**Directions:** From Rt 47 (Delsea Drive) heading South in Clayton turn left onto Academy Ave (Rt. 610). Just past Fries Mill Road you will see the lake on your left and the HQ on your right. Meet across from the park HQ on route 610 (Clayton-Williamston Rd.).

**Fern & Native Plant Walk at Wenonah Woods - Wednesday August 17, 6:00 PM**

Leader: Richard Dilks

Co leader: Ed Cleary

Take a tour of this fairly new trail around the Wenonah Lake with one of Wenonah’s Environmental Commission members. Rich knows a great deal about the wonderful native plants and a great variety of ferns along this ½ mile loop. The habitat is varied which increases the diversity of the flora and fauna. **Directions:** From Rt. 45 Mantua, take Ogden Road (ShopRite and Friendly’s restaurant are on the corners) which becomes Maple Road in Wenonah to the first stop sign. The lake should be on your left. Make a left into the trail head facilities.

**Field Trip Report**

**Pine Barrens Orchids and Amphibians (June 11) - by Karl Anderson**

Sites visited during the daytime portion of this "Pine Barrens Orchids and Amphibians" trip included the Cedar Swamp Natural Area in Brendan Byrne State Forest, Reeves' Cranberry Bog, Whitesbog, Webb's Mill, and the edge of the "East Plains" in Warren Grove. A few of the many plants seen in bloom included two species of bladderworts, pitcher plant, goat's rue, pine barrens sandwort, dragon's mouth orchid (Arethusa), swamp azalea, orange milkwort, cranberry, sweet bay magnolia, sheep laurel, and great abundance of mountain laurel. Also seen, but not in bloom, were curly-grass fern, adder's tongue fern, three species of sundews, bog asphodel, rose pogonia, broom crowberry, goldcrest, and Pickering's morning glory. Birds, dragonflies, butterflies, and spiders also entertained us. In the evening, we visited several wetlands, including a cedar clearcut near Mount Misery where we were able to hear and see the rare pine barrens tree frog. Also seen or heard during the evening were green frog, Fowler's toad, southern leopard frog, carpenter frog, and whippoorwill.



## Gloucester County Nature Club Field Trips '05 –'06

Good news! The field trips for the new year starting in September all have been planned, and will be as follows:

Sept. 10th (Sat.)	Pennypacker Park 7 AM (Gale Cannon)
Oct. 16th (Sun)	Tree Trip (Karl Anderson and Karen Kravchuck)
Nov. 5th (Sat.)	Avalon Sea Watch/Hawk Watch (Jeff Holt)
Dec. 17th (Sat.)	Christmas Bird Count
Jan. 14th (Sat.)	Full Moon Walk Alcyon Park (Kris Mollenhauer)
Feb. 11th (Sat.)	Driving Trip to west Barnegat Bay Shore (Gale Cannon & Karl Anderson)
March 12th (Sun.)	John Audubon's house: Mill Grove (Jeff Holt)
April 12th (Sat.)	Fossil Trip (Erik Mollenhauer)
May 6th (Sat.)	Bird Quest
May 21st (Sun.)	Mullica Hill Quaker Friends School (Karl Anderson & Erik Mollenhauer)
June 24th (Sun.)	Batsto Trip (Karl Anderson)

## Conservation Corner – Valuable NJ Environmental Organizations by Loretta Dunne

When I want to find information about environmental concerns in New Jersey, there are a number of groups that I regularly rely on for relevant news, action ideas and events. The following are a few of the most helpful organizations and websites that I've discovered. As active, concerned citizens, these sites will provide you with useful information, help you get more engaged, and will lead you to other sites that address more localized issues or special areas of interest. Why not check out some of my favorites:

**Garden State EnviroNet (GSENET)** <http://www.gsenet.org/> gathers New Jersey environmental news and information. The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) honored GSENET with a 2004 Environmental Achievement Award. At their website you can sign up for a daily summary of newspaper articles concerning environmental issues in the state. There is also an archive of back articles. Sign up for the latest New Jersey news.

**New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club** <http://njsierra.org/> is a branch of the national Sierra Club. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the environment and has 20,000 members in New Jersey. The chapter is very active in the state and has been prominent in many issues that we have discussed this year, such as Petty's Island and Fast Track. They also have an activist section <http://www.sierraactivist.org/> where you can register to receive action emails, whether you are a member of the Sierra Club or not. To reach the Sierra Club by mail contact:

Sierra Club Member Services  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441

**New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG)** <http://www.njpirg.org/> is part of a national network of public interest research groups. As indicated on their website, when consumers are cheated, or our natural environment is threatened, or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, NJPIRG speaks up and takes action.” NJPIRG has been very active in fighting Fast Track, and works on such issues as clean energy for New Jersey, the cost of utilities for the state’s citizens and reducing global warming pollution from New Jersey. They usually track important issues in the state and work to influence legislators to do the right thing. In addition, there are links on the site that enable you to send emails to your legislators on the issues that they are tracking. They can be reached by mail at:

The New Jersey Public Interest Research Group  
Citizen Lobby and Law & Policy Center  
11 North Willow Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**New Jersey Audubon Society** <http://www.njaudubon.org/> I am sure you are familiar with this organization due to its great outdoor events, particularly birding. They are also very active in the state in protecting bird populations and habitats. Recently, they were part of a coalition that worked for a moratorium on horseshow crab harvesting due to the drastic decline of the red knot population. They also send out occasional action requests. Sign up at <http://ga1.org/njaudubon/join>. Contact them via mail:

New Jersey Audubon Society Headquarters  
9 Hardscrabble Road  
PO Box 126  
Bernardsville, New Jersey 07924

**The Buzzzzz** – by Brian Hayes

If you are not familiar with the Executive Committee you are missing out on a dynamic group of dedicated volunteers. The success of the Nature Club is directly related to this great team of people who are willing to volunteer their time and talents in promoting the Nature Club. That is why it is with great pleasure I would like to announce the following officer changes to take affect July 2005:

**President - Deb Maka**

**Vice-President – Karen Kravchuck**

**Treasurer – Ed Cleary**

**Secretary – Currently Open**

All the people above have been active in the Club for some time and are very dedicated to ensuring the health of the Gloucester County Nature Club. It is an exciting time and I look forward to the new ideas and energy they will bring to the Executive Committee and the rest of the organization. I hope you will join me in wishing Deb, Karen, and Ed all the best in their new roles.

## **An Exciting Time – by Paula Hayes**

I would like to share with everyone the exciting opportunity I have in the next school year. I have been awarded a Fulbright Teacher Exchange scholarship. This means I will be swapping classrooms with a teacher in the UK (her name is Andrea). I will step into Andrea's classroom and teach the British children and the Andrea will come here and teach in my third grade classroom in Millville. Brian and I will be moving to the UK (just outside of London) for one year after which we'll return to our friends and family here in the US.

## **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.

## **Club Notes:**

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at [deborahann@backpacker.com](mailto:deborahann@backpacker.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](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Also - if your email address changes, please inform Barry.