



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July / August 2012

This is an abbreviated version of our newsletter with all of the club's summer activities listed. The next newsletter will be the September issue. Enjoy the remainder of your summer! And a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has generously supported **Maple Ridge Preservation**. We'll know soon!

- Barry Bengel, Newsletter Editor

### **Field Trip – Summer in the Pines – Whitesbog to Lebanon**

**Sunday July 22, 9:30 AM to Early Afternoon**

**Leaders: Karl Anderson and Gale Cannon**



We will begin the trip at historic Whitesbog Village, then head west for six miles to Brendan Byrne State Forest (a.k.a. Lebanon, after the old Lebanon Glassworks). We should see a variety of habitats, some interesting plants, a few birds, perhaps some reptiles and amphibians, and (weather permitting) some dragonflies and butterflies. Have insect repellent and ample beverage. Lunch is optional.

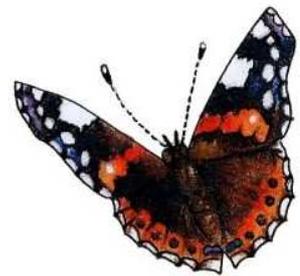
**Directions:** Route 295 to Route 70, Route 70 east for about 28 miles, make a sharp left onto Route 530, go about 1.2 miles to the Whitesbog Village entrance on left. Meet in the parking area. Distance from Woodbury is about 41 miles. Any questions, call 856-845-7075.

### **Field Trip - Butterfly Walk – Location to be Determined.**

**Saturday, August 11, 9:30 AM to Noon**

**Leaders: Chris Herz and Sandra Keller**

Trip location, once set, will be e-mailed to nature club members. Trip is cancelled if rainy. Any questions, call 856-546-5471 prior to the 13th, or my cell 856-534-5597 day of the trip.



### **Family Fun Stream Walks** - all ages are welcome!

**Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe & Paula Hayes (856) 468-9272 Email: [pnbhayes@comcast.net](mailto:pnbhayes@comcast.net)**

We'll explore what is in, on, under and around the creek as we walk in the water. We'll look for fish, frogs, turtles, mussels, animal prints, flowers, birds and more. Wear appropriate water shoes or old sneakers to walk in the water and bring repellent. We will get wet!! **See below for dates, times, and locations.**

## **Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in Pitman**

This stream walk is an old favorite, we do this one most years and it is always filled with a surprise or two.

**Directions:** From Broadway in Pitman go west on Holly Avenue. Turn right at Elm Street (the 4th street on the right; before Alcyon Lake). Make the 2nd left onto Albert Ave. Proceed to end of Albert. Parking is on left, behind Memorial School. We'll meet in the parking lot.

## **Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in Ceres Park, Mantua**

This park is a great one for summer hikes since its tall trees provide lots of shade. There is easy access to a stream after a short hike to the corner of this lovely park.

**Directions:** From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Turn left onto Rt553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. We'll meet in the parking lot.

## **Nature Notes**

### **Events by other Organizations: July / August 2012**

- July 1 (Sunday) – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. **Finding Fungi at Rancocas.** Leader: Glen Boyd of the New Jersey Mycological Society. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For information phone 609-261-2495.
- July 14 (Saturday) – 8:00 AM – mid-afternoon. **Birding Pea Patch Island and Fort Mott.** Leader: Lloyd Shaw. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For information phone 609-261-2495.
- July 15 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, **Walk in the Wild.** 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. For more information call Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.
- August 19 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, **Walk in the Wild.** 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. For more information call Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.
- August 28 (Tuesday) or August 31 (Friday) – Meets 9:00 AM. **Butterfly and Wildflower Walk at Boundary Creek Natural Area, Moorestown.** Sponsored by the Burlington County Park Department. Free, but registration is required. Phone 609-265-5858 to register. Bad weather cancels.

**The following events 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 except Nature Detectives.

- Bird Walks: 7/17 and 8/14 at 6:00 PM
- Nature Explorers: Wednesdays 8/8, 8/15, 8/22 and 8/29 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Watch Programs: Thursdays 8/9, 8/16, and 8/23 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Detectives: Monday through Friday 7/9 - 8/3 9:00 AM to 12 Noon (\$35 fee)

### **Natural Events for the month of July**

- Blueberries ripen in early July.
- Bog asphodel, now found only in New Jersey, blooms in early July in Pinelands fens.
- The first brood of monarch butterflies is emerging from their chrysalis.
- Raccoons, skunks, and opossums are digging up and eating turtle eggs.
- Breeding and nesting season for birds ends this month except for goldfinches and late bluebirds
- Thistle plants are beginning to seed; goldfinches gather thistledown for nesting materials
- Listen for the feeding calls of young barred and great horned owls.
- Yellow warblers begin to head south in July; migration is complete in August

### **Natural Events for the month of August**

- Perseid meteor shower - August 12.
- Sweet goldenrod, early goldenrod, cardinal flower, and other late-summer flowers bloom.
- Sweet pepperbush in bloom.
- Purple martins begin roosting in phragmites along the Maurice River near Port Elizabeth in preparation for their southern migration. Peak numbers usually occur around the third week in August.
- Red knots pass through New Jersey again on their southward migration to Chile. Adults are still in breeding plumage.
- Fall raptor migration begins in mid-August with small numbers of several species, including American kestrels, ospreys and bald eagles.
- Gray squirrels give birth to second brood.
- Early warblers migrating south through New Jersey.
- American goldfinches finish nesting late in this month
- Second brood of hummingbirds begin to appear at feeders.
- Birds are feeding on fruits of flowering dogwood trees.

### **Club Notes:**

- Check out our **FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gcnatureclub/>. Note: You will need to have a Facebook membership, and new group members will need to be added by one of the administrators. Join today and share your nature information!
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at [blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com) 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 [sharkeyes@comcast.net](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the **15<sup>th</sup>** of the preceding month.