



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2012

Program - Beavers and the Story of Unexpected Wildlife Refuge

Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Sarah Summerville, Refuge Director Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

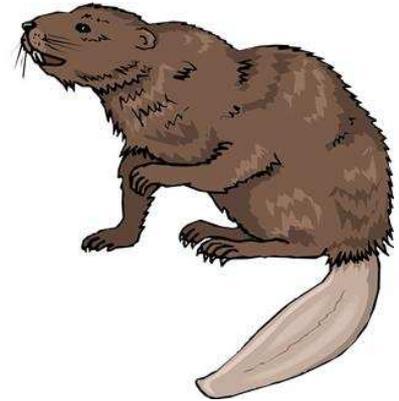
I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.

-Abraham Lincoln

Beavers are as much a part of the waterway as the water itself.

-Motto of The Beaver Defenders

In rural South Jersey where Gloucester County's Franklin Township borders Buena Vista Township in Atlantic County, there is a remarkable and truly unexpected place. The Unexpected Wildlife Refuge (actually named for Unexpected Road that leads to it), a place of forest, swamps, bogs, lakes, streams and even a Bluebird meadow, is a refuge for all the species of wildlife that are native to our region. The Unexpected Wildlife refuge was founded in 1961 by Hope and Cavit Buyukmichi when they purchased an 85 acre tract to preserve as a haven for wildlife. Today the refuge has grown to over 767 acres with over 10 miles of walking trails.



Sarah Summerville has been the Director of Unexpected WR since 2001 and in addition to her hands-on duties managing and expanding Unexpected, she has been a dedicated and articulate advocate for the environment, land preservation and for Unexpected's most famous residents, the beavers. Sarah will tell us how beavers help create habitat for other wildlife, help conserve water and reduce flooding and soil erosion. Sarah will also talk about the creative solutions, that respect the needs of both people and wildlife, that can be applied when the activities of humans and beavers collide.

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).

Field Trip – Birding Wheelabrator and other local Hotspots

Saturday September 22, 2012 7:00 AM to Early Afternoon

Trip Leaders: Gary Lizzi and Lloyd Shaw

Meet in the Wheelabrator Refuge parking lot at 7:00 AM. This is a great location for early fall migrants along the Delaware River. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Wildlife Society.

Directions: See your guide to the Natural Places of Gloucester County. Or, from Interstate 295 Exit 23 (Route 130) take Route 130 North for about 0.8 mile. The entrance road for Wheelabrator is on the left. The parking lot is on the right side of the entrance road, just before the main gate.

Field Trip Report – Wheelabrator Butterfly Walk, August 11, 2012

Clouds were threatening, but seven participants joined us for a mid-morning butterfly field trip at Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge. We began the field trip by observing and identifying as many butterflies as we could in the small garden next to the parking area. This small garden, planted with three large butterfly bushes attracts a number of species including Monarchs, Spicebush Swallowtail, a Painted Lady, and a variety of grass skippers including Sachems and Broad-wing Skippers. Presenting an id challenge a large dark swallowtail turned out to be a dark form female Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. The days' list was off to a good start. The sun and humidity quickly warmed the morning. We also observed a Spicebush caterpillar in a folded leaf of a sassafras sapling and found an early instar Monarch caterpillar in one of the common milkweed patches along the trail. As we neared the river, a cooling



breeze brought some relief as did some of the shade provided by the trees outlining the trail. We totaled 26 species here. We also noted several Hummingbird Clearwing Moths nectaring on the butterfly bush and we had a Luna Moth perched on a wooden stacking crate inside the fence of the Wheelabrator plant. We concluded the trip with a walk at nearby Riverwinds Scenic Trail with 18 species adding an additional 4 species including American Copper, American Lady, Least Skipper, and Crossline Skipper. An Orange Sulphur was seen at the Community Center field on our way out with our final sighting total of 31 butterfly species seen. Thank you for the keen observations of all who attended.

- Chris Herz & Sandra Keller

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: September 2012

- September 8 (Saturday) – 10:00 AM – Mid-afternoon. **Botany of the Burden Hill Forest, Salem County, New Jersey.** Leaders; Ted Gordon and Joe Arsenault. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Botanical Club. For Information: www.philbotclub.org/.
- September 15 (Saturday) – **Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival.** 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the John Heinz NWR at 8601 Lindbergh Blvd in SW Philadelphia. Live Animals (including Raptor Show), Workshops, Music, Birding, Demonstrations on Nature Photography and Fly-Tying. Sponsored by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and friends of Heinz NWR. FREE. For info call 215-365-3118 or visit <http://heinz.fws.gov/>.

- September 16, 2012 (Sunday) **13th Annual Pond and Garden Tour** begins and ends at 702 Mid-Atlantic Parkway in West Deptford. The self-guided tour of local ponds and gardens begins at 4:00 PM. The tour concludes with a Wine and Cheese Finale (wine, ice tea, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts) at 6:00 PM. This is a major fundraiser for the GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford's Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$12. Call Ellen at 856-468-7012 for more information and tickets.
- September 22 (Saturday) – 10:00 AM – Mid-afternoon. **Introduction to the Aquatic Plants of the Trenton-Bordentown Marshes.** Leader- Mary Leck. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Botanical Club. For Information: www.philbotclub.org/.
- September 29 (Saturday) – Starts 10:00 AM. **Tour of (private) Local Butterfly Gardens.** Coordinator - Marilyn Patterson. Sponsored by the Salem County Nature Club. Advance registration is required. For information: <http://salemcountynatureclubnews.blogspot.com/>.
- September 30 (Sunday) – **8th Annual Jersey Fresh Dinner.** Old Pine Farm Lands Trust is having a "Jersey Fresh Dinner" from 4 PM to 8 PM at 340 Pine Ave., Deptford, NJ rain or shine. Dinner served at 5 PM. Music by the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society bring your own instruments and join in the music). RSVP by September 11th to: Carl 856-579-4441. Dinner is free courtesy of the trustees of Old Pine Farm. However, since this is a benefit, donations will be graciously accepted.

Apps to Help You Stay “Green” by Deborah Maka

Today many of us are not far from our smartphones. Whether that is a good thing or not is a matter of perspective. It used to be that you could look at someone’s bookshelf and find out a little about their interests. Now you just need to look at the apps they’ve loaded. If you look at my phone, you’ll see a medication reference, a scientific calculator, and an app to allow me access to my work email. However, there are also a number of other apps on my phone which include a flashlight, NOAA radio, and three different Audubon field guides.

Recently, the Orlando Sentinel published a story which highlighted a few apps that may be of interest¹.

1. Seafood Watch

- Produced by the Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Price: free
- Purpose: To provide a user-friendly guide to sustainable seafood choices in your region

2. iRecycle recycling guide

- Produced by Earth911
- Price: free
- Purpose: To assist you in locating a recycling center near you. Type in the name of the item you would like to recycle and the app will locate a recycling center near you.

3. Dirty Dozen: Shopper’s guide to pesticides

- Produced by Environmental Working Group
- Price: free
- Purpose: To provide a guide to shopping for organic produce. It rates the pesticide levels in a variety of fruits and vegetables to help guide you as to which produce you may wish to consider buying organic.

The number of apps available seems limitless and many are free or require only a small fee. If you are forced to take your phone with you when you go out hiking, you might want to consider adding some outdoor/“green” apps to your phone.

Reference:

1. Bennett, T. “5 smartphone apps to go green on the go.” *Orlando Sentinel* [Orlando, FL] 12 Aug. 2012:R4.

Natural Events for the month of September

- The last brood of monarch butterflies emerges and flies south to Mexico.
- Black gum foliage turns red - first tree to get its autumn color.
- Wild grapes ripen - not all of them are sour.
- Turtle eggs hatch and hatchlings emerge and head for the nearest water.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks
- Most hummingbirds depart by the end of the month
- Bats busy feeding - building fat reserves for hibernation and migration.
- Broad-winged hawk migration peaks in mid-month - plan a visit to a hawk lookout.

Looking Ahead:

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

September 13, 2012: **The Story of Unexpected Wildlife Refuge** – Sarah Summerville. See description above.

October 11, 2012: **Thoreau, Walden Pond and the Emergence of the Environmental Movement** – Erik Mollenhauer

November 8, 2012: (Joint meeting w/ SJLWT) **Overview of South Jersey Land & Water Trust Ongoing Projects** – Mike Hogan

December 13, 2012: **Terrariums, followed by a terrarium workshop** - Lorraine Keifer (Special Location: Triple Oaks Nursery, Franklinville, NJ)

January 10, 2013: **Orion The Hunter** - Erik Mollenhauer

February 14, 2013: **Valentine’s Day Pot Luck Dinner & program Worship-worthy Chocolate** – Marie Hageman

March 14, 2013: **Program TBD**

April 11, 2013: **Birding South Carolina** – Jeff Mollenhauer

May 9, 2013: **Pollinators: The Amazing Insects Among Us** – Susan E. Ellis

June 13, 2013: **Annual Picnic** (Location to be determined)

2012-2013 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have so far lined up for the next season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Karl Anderson at karlanderson6@aol.com or (856) 845-7075.

September 22 (Saturday) – **Wheelabrator and other Local Hotspots**. Leaders: Gary Lizzi and Lloyd Shaw. See description above.

October (Date to be determined) – **Mad Hatter's Tree Party**. Leaders: GCNC volunteers.

November 17 (Saturday) – **Location to be Determined**. Leader: Jonathan Stillwell.

December 15 (Saturday) – **Audubon Christmas Count**. Coordinator: Ron Kegel

January 19 (Saturday) – **Looking for Wintering Waterfowl on the Delaware River**. Leader: Sandra Keller. Joint trip with the Audubon Wildlife Society.

February – **To be determined**.

March 23 (Saturday) – **Birding the Delaware Bayshore**. Leader: Joe Esterly

April 27 – **Birding at Long Bridge Park**. Leader: Bob Duke.

April (Dates to be determined) – **Bird Quest Training Sessions**

May 4 – **Bird Quest**

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 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 or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The September Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 9th at the home of Barry Bengel. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

September brings with it membership renewals. This year we will once again be keeping the price the same as last year. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$15 for electronic mailings and \$20 for regular mail delivery. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the September Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

WAIVER

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you intend to discontinue on the route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2012-2013

- New Member Renewal
- Paper Membership(\$20) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership(\$15) - newsletter via email; ***please provide email address below

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ***Email Address: _____

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): _____

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how?

Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Individual ____ or Family ____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____