



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

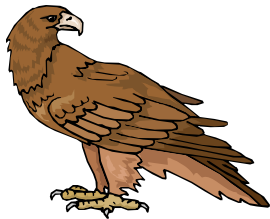
November 2006

Program – Birds of the Caucasus

Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Presenter: Rafael Antonio Galvez

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks



Georgia is a mountainous country in the Caucasus region, and is considered to be one of the “world’s 25 biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial ecosystems”. Georgia has an extremely varied landscape ranging from semi-desert to humid subtropical forests. Within a few hundred miles, travelers may cross over Black Sea wetlands, mountain steppes, pistachio savannahs, alpine meadows, and the high peaks of the Caucasus mountain ranges. Rafael Antonio Galvez has co-authored and illustrated a field guide to “Raptors and Owls of Georgia.” He has prepared a presentation on birds of the Caucasus and their relation to the dynamic landscape of the region. This audio-visual discussion will address the impact of humanity on raptors. This program is an uncommon opportunity to explore with an expert guide the rare and exotic bird life of this far-off land.

37 species of raptors are recorded in Georgia. Among the most breathtaking natural spectacles in the Caucasus is the fall raptor migration, which brings together up to 100,000 birds every year. Over 400 species of birds are found in the Caucasus, and many are extremely rare in Europe. Specialties and endemics include Caucasian Grouse, Caucasian and Caspian Snowcocks, Great Rosefinch, Fire-fronted Serin, Kruper’s Nuthatch, Eastern and Western Rock Nuthatches, White-winged Redstart, Menetrie’s and Mountain Warblers, Red-tailed Wheatear and Radde’s Accentor.

Field Trip – Pine Barrens Nature Hike

Sunday, November 5th, 10:00 AM to Mid-Afternoon

Trip Leaders: Gale Cannon and Karl Anderson

Co-leader - Deb Maka

Note: This trip occurs BEFORE the Club’s regular meeting!

Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking lot by Pakim Pond in Brendan Byrne State Forest for a leisurely four-mile hike through pine forests, cedar swamps, and cranberry bogs. Autumn foliage should still be colorful, and we have a chance of seeing some early migrant waterfowl and other birds. Walking will be level and dry, on sand roads and maintained trails. Dress to suit the weather, have binoculars, and bring lunch and beverage and something in which to carry them on the trail. Hike will be cancelled for bad weather; if

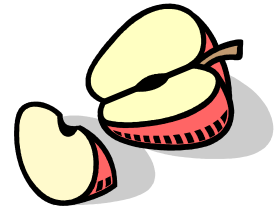


conditions are doubtful, phone 856-845-7075 on Sunday, November 5, before 8:30 AM. If hike is cancelled for bad weather, rain date will be November 12.

Directions: From western Gloucester County, take Route 295 north to Route 70; and Route 70 east for about 22 miles to its intersection with Route 72 at the "four mile" traffic circle. Go east on Route 72 for about one mile and turn left into the forest just past a fire tower. There is a sign. At the first intersection (near the forest office), turn right, and follow signs to Pakim Pond. Travel time from Woodbury is about one hour.

Conservation Corner – Thankful for Farms by Loretta Dunne

I was in a grocery store the other day and the apples that they were selling were from Virginia. Where are the New Jersey apples, I wondered? I did a bit of research and discovered that as I prowled through that grocery store, I was right in the middle of the peak season for New Jersey apples. Why would I want to buy apples that were from a location hours from here if I could get freshly picked apples from an orchard nearby?



Yes, it might be convenient to pick up the supermarket apples. But if you want good taste, you want local fruit. I went to the New Jersey state website for the Jersey Fresh initiative www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh and entered “apples” in the search box. I found 15 farmstands listed in Gloucester County that sell apples.

This Thanksgiving is a great time to eat local and support the farmers of our county. There are still plenty of pumpkins, winter squash, apples, sweet potatoes, greens and other fall/winter crops available that will fit well with any feast. There are so many reasons to eat local – you can support farming in our community, cut down on the practice of shipping produce thousands of miles, increase the quality of the food you eat and begin to know the farmers, so that you can be more comfortable with the safety of the produce.

Start a family tradition of thanks for all of the local products and farms that we still have in the county. Fighting for open space and farmlands needs to be done on both the political front and within your own home.

And speaking of farms...

Local Farmer featured on Farm Aid Website by Loretta Dunne

Farm Aid, an organization formed by a number of entertainers, supports and promotes local farmers. They have a yearly concert to raise funds and this year's concert was held at the Tweeter Center in Camden. **Bob Muth**, the farmer who spoke to the Nature Club last year, was one of their featured farmers and he is their October farmer of the month on their website www.farmaid.org.

Our Officials Oppose the Transport of VX Never Gas to NJ by Loretta Dunne

Part of the defense spending bill recently signed by President Bush includes an amendment that requires a detailed review of the Army plan to dump neutralized VX gas into the Delaware by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The current Army plan involves trucking the chemicals from Newport, Indiana to the Dupont plant in Deepwater, New Jersey. The VX Gas would be treated by Dupont and then dumped into the Delaware River. Three New Jersey Congressman, Robert Andrews, James Saxton and Frank Lobiondo wrote the amendment that now requires a GAO investigation into the plan.

The GAO will determine if treating the chemicals at their current location in Newport, Indiana is significantly more expensive than the potential cost and risk of transporting the dangerous chemicals through four states. The Army has indicated that it is less expensive to ship it by train or truck to New Jersey for treatment.

According to a Philadelphia Inquirer article of October 20, 2006, entitled "Another Hurdle for VX Disposal", written by Jacqueline L. Urgo, N.J. Gov. Corzine also praised the measure, saying it sends the Army a message: "New Jersey is no dumping ground. The Delaware River should be treasured and protected, not harmed and mistreated."

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.

Volunteers Needed - Backyard Feeder Trip in February

Do you have bird feeders in your yard that have regular visitors? If so maybe you'd like to be a part of our "Feeder Tour." The idea is to allow club member's to stop in during a designated time period to watch the birds that come to your feeders. In the club's 57 years of field trips this has been a popular one that has been repeated many times. This field trip will be self guiding with two time slots on January 20th for open houses. If you'd like to volunteer your house for part of the tour please call Paula or Brian Hayes at 468-9272. More information on this trip will appear in the January Newsletter.

Volunteer Needed – Bird Quest 2007

A volunteer is needed to work with Erik Mollenhauer to coordinate Bird Quest 2007. If you are interested in helping Erik coordinate this wonderful educational event, please contact him at 589-4387 for details.

Reminder - Membership Dues

The Gloucester County Nature Club's memberships run from September to September. If you haven't renewed your membership, do so as soon as possible. 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 October Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: Ed Cleary, 1874 McKee Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096.

Looking Ahead:

Programs- (All occur on Thursdays)

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|---------------------------|--|
| December 14 th | Ecological Art: The Goldsworthy Lesson (Kate LeMay or Lee Whitehead) |
| January 11 th | Fossil Legends of Native Americans (Erik Mollenhauer) |
| February 8 th | Pot Luck Dinner & Program - Sharing Our Culture: From A Native American Indian Perspective (Jean Red Raven Kilian) |
| March 8 th | Natural Wonders of The Jersey Pines and Shore: Presentation and book signing (Michael Hogan) |
| April 12 th | Tropical Rainforests and New Jersey's Extraordinary Songbirds - Emile DeVito |
| May 10 th | Gardening Naturally: Native Plants in gardening and landscaping (Lorraine Kieffer) plus Annual Plant Sale |
| June 14 th | Annual Picnic |

Field Trips-

December 16 th (Saturday)	Christmas Bird Count (Ron Kegel)
January 20 th (Saturday)	Backyard Bird Feeder Tour (Brian and Paula Hayes)
February 24 th (Saturday)	Cumberland County Birding (Bob Baruzzi)
March 11 th (Sunday)	Conowingo Dam (Bob Duke)
April 22 nd (Sunday)	Assunpink WMA Wildflowers and Birds (Karl Anderson)
May 19 th (Saturday)	Wenonah Woods (Richard Dilks)
June 16 th (Saturday)	Chestnut Branch (Kris Mollenhauer)

Club Notes:

- There is no Executive Committee meeting scheduled for December.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborah71@msn.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 or 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.

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 discontinue on route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2006-2007

- 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: _____