

# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

Nature Club meetings are open to the public  
March 2003

### **Regular Program- Celebrating 100 Years of National Wildlife Refuges** **with Linda Ziemba- Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at EIRC, Sewell** **Program Coordinator, Bob Cassel 478-2496**

Linda Ziemba, a wildlife biologist who resides on Supawna Meadows Wildlife Refuge in Salem County, will join us as the refuge system celebrates its 100 anniversary. She will discuss the National Wildlife Refuge System, including the origins of the NWR System 100 years ago and why the System is so important to wildlife conservation. She will also talk about some of the ways Supawna Meadows will celebrate the centennial. Supawna is located along the Delaware River, north of the Salem River in Pennsville Township and is our closest National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge hosts a large variety of flora and fauna and is being featured this month as one of our field trips. It will also be a part of our Bird Quest training program.



### **Field Trip- Silver Lake Trail Hike - Sunday, March 16th at 1:00 pm** **Field Trip Coordinator, Kris Mollenhauer 589-4387**

Join us for a two mile hike along Silver Lake and the property owned by the lake association. At least three Nature Club members (Connie Streitz, Sally and Gordie Myers) who live at Silver Lake have offered to lead a hike and tour of these privately owned woods. We will be looking for signs of spring and the remnants of winter. This trail was created in the 1950's and one of the original trailblazers will be with us. The trail crosses through low areas of cedars and higher areas of oak and laurel. Deer, turkey,



fox, mink, otter, muskrat, ducks, geese and many other birds live there. Silver Lake is part of the headwaters of the Maurice River. Bring along your field guides and binocs. **Driver's Directions:** From Rt. 55 take Exit 45 towards Clayton, at the exit ramp go left, at the first crossroad go right(Academy Street), at the fork go left, pass thru a gate, the Caretaker's Cottage will be on your right. You may park in the field just beyond the cottage.

### **Woodcock and Frog Walk- Friday, March 14th at 5:30 pm**

Join Linda Ziemba at Supawana Meadows National Wildlife Refuge to look for sky dancers, woodcock, and listen for a variety of frog calls. Dusk is the best time to witness both of these impressive natural phenomena. Woodcock are upland shorebirds that have a spectacular display ritual in which the males come out of the wet woods where they spend most of their time and do aerial displays in open fields. The male will utter a nasal "peent" for about one minute. This is followed by a 45- 60 second sky



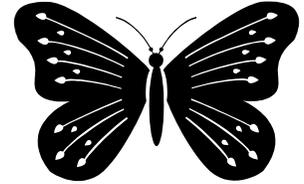
dance in which the male spirals 30 - 90 meters above the ground while making a twittering sound. Then suddenly he rockets with a melodic warbling call to the ground. The second half of our field trip will be listening for spring peepers. Many people are able to identify frogs by their calls and this trip will work to unlock the mystery of calling frogs for you. Directions: Take RT. 295 south to Rt. 49 south. Follow 49 south through Pennsville to Mott Road (you will see signs for Fort Mott) and make a right on Mott Road, then turn left onto Lighthouse Road. The refuge will be on you right. Maps will be available at the March meeting, for additional directions call Paula or Brian at 468-9272.

### **Conservation Notes**

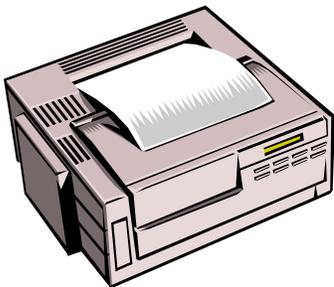
#### **Monarch Sanctuaries in Mexico**

An international team, including American biologist Dr. William Calvert, recently completed a census of monarch butterflies in the mountains of Mexico. The count found that the monarch roosts cover nearly 20 acres of oymel fir trees. This is close to the ten year average of 24 acres. The news is unexpectedly positive after a winter storm last January which killed over 200 million butterflies. In the winter of 2002 the roosting area was reduced to five acres.

The monarchs that spend the winter in Mexico are the same ones that flitted about our yards and parks this past summer. The monarch butterfly has the longest migration of any insect. The butterflies that survive the winter in Mexico will be the great, great-grandparents of the monarchs that return here in New Jersey this July.



#### **Recycle Empty Ink Cartridges**



You can save valuable landfill space and raise money for the Sierra Club at the same time. Inkjets for Charity will send you postage paid mailing labels for you to use to mail them your empty HP, Cannon or Lexmark inkjet cartridges. They will pay the postage and donate \$1 to the Sierra Club for every empty they receive. All you need to do is visit [www.donateinkjet.com](http://www.donateinkjet.com) and request mailings labels the postage paid mailing labels. They also recycle toner cartridges and cell/ mobile phones.

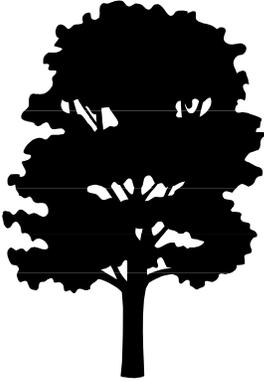
#### **Plant Rescues**

Bob Cassel wanted to remind club members and friends to be alert for coming housing developments in their neighborhood. Many times the developer will allow plant rescues that may involve desirable plants such as laurels and other wildflowers. These plants would be a welcome addition to member's gardens.

#### **Standing Tall in GCNC**

**by Bob Cassel**

I have been entertained, educated, and fascinated over the years I have known the various members of the Gloucester County Nature Club. In the coming lines I'll list a few and tell you why I remember them. The first is gone now, yet remains powerful in my memory. Carl Bresler was an expert on wildflowers as well as birds. His kitchen window never knew him to feed the birds with anything other than cracked corn. He had



a bird heaven on Wolfert's Station Road. The white crowned sparrows knew all about it. They were present every year. Willard Cowell led the club members to Washington State Park and I'll never forget standing on top of the stone tower above the tree tops. There in the trees you could see the sky blue back of cerulean warblers.

Our super birder Bob Duke leads weekly nature walks at Scotland Run Park. He has an ear for birds and a way of entertaining the group on many nature subjects. Mimi Glass, everyone knows her. For years she educated the passing school children who go to the Kindle School next door to her home. Her backyard is really a nature center. Over in East Greenwich John Gyer is the member who alerted us to the fabulous wildflower preserve at Shenk's Ferry along the Susquehanna River below Lancaster. Ravines full of trilliums, Virginia bluebells, Dutchman's breeches, and a galaxy of other gems. Mary Hawthorne was our steady newsletter writer for many springs and falls. She was mother of Ruth VanVeenendaal, president over and over, she was loved so much.

Our president now, Brian Hayes, is so well versed in bird identification; he participates in annual bird counts. He's our courageous leader with a mission to jump start the Nature Club. Ron Kegel, another president, is always alert, whether on one of the four Christmas Bird Counts he does or on the way to work. East of Clayton in the spring he had a scissor tailed flycatcher fly in front of his car. I will never forget the amphibian field trip he ran one evening within a mile of his home in Clayton. We also had a president Will Middleton who helped found the club. He was a stickler on any bird identity you reported to him. He was a researcher, birder, and then some.

Cathy and David MacGregor, mother and son, have both been at the helm of the Nature Club. They have a bird sanctuary in the back of their home. Cathy is justifiably excited when the red-headed woodpecker stops at their feeder. Gloria Caccia, our environmental sleuth will start a petition going to promote a just cause for protecting wildlife anywhere. Eric Mollenhauer and wife Kris had their honeymoon at Hawk Mountain Raptor Sanctuary. They spent a time there when it was truly being wrenched from the hawk shooters. Truly my life has been enhanced, and I have been fascinated by folks in our club. And, my fascination derives from the fellowship with fine people.

### **The Gloucester County Nature Club now has a Website**

Thanks to the efforts of our president Brian Hayes we are now on the world-wide web. Our address is [www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org). We hope that you will visit the site often for information in the coming months. Brian is seeking input and comments on ways to improve the website, you may email him at [pnbhayes@aol.com](mailto:pnbhayes@aol.com).



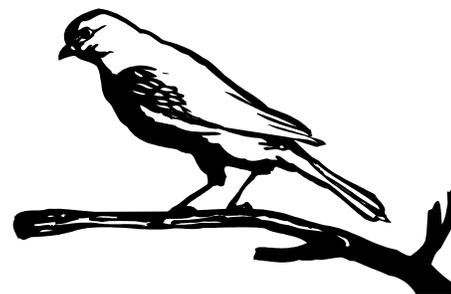
### **Craft Night a Huge Success**

The crafts were delightful, useful, and fun. The desserts were fantastic and plentiful. All who attended enjoyed the food, crafts, and company. A special thanks to all those who helped with craft ideas- Bob Cassel, Paula Dearlove, Bob Bevilacqua,

Ginny Webb, Marge Dolente, Deb Maka, Erik and Kris Mollenhauer. And to everyone who brought desserts! Check out the photos of this fun event on our website.

### **2003 Gloucester County Bird Quest Is Coming!**

The 2003 Gloucester County Bird Quest will take place on Saturday May 3 from 7 AM to 12 NOON in Gloucester County. During this time, people visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County and find as many bird species as they can. The purpose of the Bird Quest is to draw attention to the remaining natural areas of Gloucester County, to learn how to identify birds by sight and sound, and to have fun with friends, colleagues and family. The Quest is an educational event; novices are encouraged to participate. At 12 noon, all participants gather at Atkinson Memorial Park on Delsea Drive to report results and for a free lunch, t-shirts and prizes. This year's Quest is being supported by many local environmental commissions, businesses and industries. Participants are encouraged to form teams of friends and family or join one of the buses (see below).



With cosponsor support, two buses (guided by "reasonably knowledgeable birders") will be provided for individuals to ride on, at no cost. The buses will stop at selected sites to look for birds. Last year's bus riders were treated to some wonderful looks at birds and we expect the same to happen again. **We expect the buses to fill this year so please register early to guarantee a seat.** Teachers who participate will be eligible for five hours of professional development credits. Free refreshments will be provided at one of the morning's stops for bus riders (**with free lunch and t-shirts at noon for everyone**). Last year's Quest attracted close to 300 participants, including teachers, school groups, scout troops, environmental commissions, families and residents of Gloucester and neighboring counties.

The theme of the 2003 Gloucester County Bird Quest is "Catalysts for Conservation", and highlights ten birds that have served as catalysts for the conservation movement in the US at different times, for different reasons. These birds will be featured on the t-shirt and include the Passenger Pigeon, Osprey, Brown Pelican, Thick-billed Parrot, Green-winged Teal, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Snowy Egret, American Golden Plover, Black-throated Green Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

A county map and other materials are provided to each registered team. Participants can also attend any of a series of 12 free field trainings (listed below) in the two weeks before the Quest. An \$8 registration fee per participant helps cover the cost of lunch, t-shirt, prizes etc. To obtain more information and a team registration form, or to join a team or ride a bus, contact Anne Rossell at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080. Information can also be requested by phone at 856-582-7000 x110, fax 856-582-4206 or email at [anner@eirc.org](mailto:anner@eirc.org). The forms will also be available at the Nature Club's new website: [www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)



## **BirdQuest 2003 Training Sessions**

**April 14 – Monday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Birding Basics**

Alcyon Lake Park, Pitman

This session is directed towards the beginning birder but all are welcome. We will discuss the tools of the trade from field guides, binoculars, field scopes, clothing, footwear, and repellants. In addition, we will discuss techniques and helpful hints on identifying that bird and enjoying your outdoor experience. *Directions: From 322 take Lambs road to W. Holly Ave. Take Track Ave past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

Leader: Paula Hayes

Co Leader: Mimi Glass

**April 15 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Birding by Ear Part I**

EIRC Building, 606 Delsea Drive

This classroom training session is the first of three trainings with a focus on identifying bird song and calls. *Directions: On Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp. Located next to the Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Brian Hayes

Co Leader: Ed Komczyk



**April 22 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Scotland Run Park, Clayton

*Directions: From Delsea Dr (47) in Clayton take 610 Clayton-Williamston Rd. East towards Williamston. Meet at park headquarters on the right across from Wilson Lake.*

Leader: Bob Duke

Co Leader: Doris and Dwight Weir

**April 23 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Glassboro Woods, Clayton

*Directions: Meet at Carpenter Ave. off Rt. 47. Carpenter Ave. is about 1.7 miles south of Rt. 322 on Rt. 47. Carpenter Ave. is a dirt road.*

Leader: Dr. Ebert

Co Leader: Kris Mollenhauer

**April 24 – Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua

*Directions: Access from 553A (Main St. Barnsboro). Meet at wildflower gardens behind hockey rink.*

Leader: Jeff Holt

Co Leader: Doris and Dwight Weir

**April 25- Friday 6:00- 7:00 AM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

*Directions: Directions will be provided in the next newsletter or call 468-9272.*

Leader: Linda Ziemba

Co-leader: Paula Hayes

**April 27 – Sunday 8:00 – 9:00 AM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Floodgate Road

*Directions: Access from Rt. 44 South of Gibbstown. Turn right onto Floodgate road (at the racetrack) and meet all the way down at the gate by the river.*

Leader: Dr. Ebert

Co Leader: Loretta Dunn and Jonathon Stillwell

**April 27 – Sunday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Washington Lake Park - Backend

*Directions: Take Larson Lane off the North side of Chapel Hts. Rd(639), East of Gloucester Co. Community Church. Meet at the parking area (end of street).*

Leader: Ron Kegel

Co Leader: Marge Dolente & Paula Dearlove

**April 28 – Monday 6:00 – 7:00 AM**

**BirdQuest Training**

West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford

*Directions: From 130/295 take exit 21 Delaware St (640) west. Meet in parking lot about 300 yards north of the intersection of Grove St. and Delaware St (640).*

Leader: Jeff Holt

Co Leader: Deb Maka

**April 29 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Birding by Ear Part II**

EIRC Building, 606 Delsea Drive

This classroom training session is the second of three trainings with a focus on identifying bird song and calls. *Directions: On Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp. Located next to the Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

Co Leader: Marie Hageman

**April 30 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM**

**Birding by Ear Part III**

Lake Narraticon, Swedesboro

The last of the Birding by ear series, this session applies the knowledge gained through classroom and independent study. A great time to ask questions about bird song.

*Directions: Access from Park Ave. in Swedesboro.*

Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel

Co Leader: Ed and Millie Cleary

**May 1 – Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**BirdQuest Training**

Wheelabrator, Westville

*Directions: Access from 130, opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet in parking lot on the right just before the guard station.*

Leader: Bob Duke

Co Leader: Karen Kravchuck

### **The World Series of Birding Comes to Gloucester County**



That's right, on May 10, 2003, for the first time ever; the Gloucester County Nature Club will compete in the New Jersey Audubon Societies prestigious World Series of Birding. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this competition and fund-raising event. The rules are simple. To identify, by sight or sound, as many species of birds as you can within 24 hours. For some teams, the playing field is the entire State of New Jersey. Others, such as our team, will compete in the Limited Geographic Area (LGA) category. We will confine our search to Gloucester County. According to the NJAS, this will be the first time a LGA team has competed in Gloucester County. Teams that compete in the LGA category are assigned a "par" for their area. The organizers determine the "par", by calculating from the historical

records the most number of species remotely possible in each LGA. That team who achieves the highest percentage of its assigned “par” determines the winner. Thus, a team competing in an area with a “par” of 150, who identifies 120 species of birds, would beat a team who’s “par” is 200 and identifies 150. (The first team will have scored 80% of “par” to the 75% scored by the second team.)

While the World Series of Birding is a competition, it also serves another, more important, purpose. Each competing team is required to obtain a corporate sponsor and/or to raise money through pledges based on the number of birds correctly identified by the team. (e.g. \$1.00/species) You may also do a flat pledge. In the case of corporate sponsorship, the monies raised go to the New Jersey Audubon Society. The monies raised through pledges will be donated to the Natural Resource Defense Council.

If you’d like to make a pledge there will be opportunities at regular club events in the coming months or please contact Jeff Holt at 429-1802 (day) or 845-8925 (evening). Stay tuned as the Gloucester County Nature Club’s team prepares to compete in the World Series of Birding.

### Time Capsule

Supawna Meadows NWR will be dedicating a time capsule in honor of the National Wildlife Refuge System which turns 100 on March 14. Representative LoBiondo will be attending the ceremony and light refreshments will be served. For the time and location of the ceremony you can call the Supawna Meadows NWR office at 856-935-1487 for information.

### Current Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Listed below you will find your club officers and committee chairs. These are the people who work to make the field trips, programs, and many other events happen. There are many others who also help to keep the club going.

Brian Hayes	President	468-9272	Marge Dolente	Education	
Deb Maka	Vice Pres.	863-0330	Paula Hayes	Newsletter	468-9272
Bob Cassel	Programs	478-2496	Gloria Caccia	Conservation	582-0980
Mimi Glass	Membership	589-6435	Erik Mollenhauer	Special Proj.	589-4387
Kris Mollenhauer	Field Trips	589-4387	Carol Cassel	Hospitality	478-2496
Karen Kravchuck	Treasurer	468-6536	Jackie Partridge	Comm. Events	848-4852
Maria Keefe	Publicity	627-7010	Bonnie Dann	Comm. Events	845-4650
Paula Dearlove	Secretary		Elaine Dzeima	Comm. Events	227-0839

### Looking Ahead-

#### **Programs**

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>- Catalysts for Conservation

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>- Plant Sale & Program on Beekeeping

#### **Field Trips**

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> Wildflowers along the Susquehanna River with  
Karl Anderson

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>- Bird Quest



**Club Notes:**

- Executive Committee Meeting: March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Maria Keefe's House, 107 Holyoke Ave., Somerdale, call 627-7010 for directions
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program or trip coordinators if you have ideas or would like to help.
- As spring approaches we will be looking for members willing to help out at community events. If you are interested please give one of our Community Events Coordinators a call to volunteer a few hours,
- For information about the Nature Club call Brian Hayes at 856-468-9272.
- Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Paula Hayes at [pnbhayes@aol.com](mailto:pnbhayes@aol.com) or 413 North Stockton Avenue; Wenonah, NJ 08090 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



Gloucester County Nature Club  
c/o EIRC  
606 Delsea Drive  
Sewell NJ 08080