

# Gloucester County Nature Club

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

May 2002

Note: Change of date and location for this meeting only!

**REGULAR MEETING – Monday, May 6, 2002 – 7:00 pm – Pitman High School Auditorium, 225 Linden Ave. Pitman NJ**

Bob Cassel, Program Coordinator, 478-2496

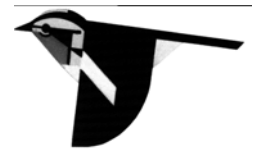
**Raptor Project – Pitman High School Auditorium, 225 Linden Ave., Pitman**

The Raptor Project: a close encounter with 15-20 different kinds of LIVE EAGLES, HAWKS, OWLS and FALCONS. Raptor Project stars include “Cody” (a Golden Eagle with a seven foot wing-span), “Snowman” (an Arctic Snowy Owl), “Paragon” (a Peregrine Falcon) and “Tiny Tina” a Saw-whet Owl. This is the largest and most varied collection of traveling raptors in the world. The presenter and Project Director, Jonathan Wood, is a Master Falconer and Wildlife Rehabilitator, bringing unique insights, observations and humor to this nationally acclaimed show. His program emphasizes awareness of the vital role of raptors in the environment, their conservation, rehabilitation (of injured birds) and captive breeding programs (to re-establish endangered species). Great for families. Last year this program drew an audience of 350! **(back by popular demand!)**

**June 6: Annual Picnic**, at Washington Lake Park, Pavilion B (across from amphitheater) Park in Lot F. **Note: This is a change of date and location**

**FIELD TRIP – Gloucester County Bird Quest – May 4, 2002 – 7am to 12 noon**

Kris Mollenhauer, Field Trip Coordinator, 589-4387



### **2002 Bird Quest Expected to Draw More Participants than Last Year**

The **2002 Gloucester County Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat., May 4, 2002 from 7 AM to 12 NOON in Gloucester County**. During this time, teams of people visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County and find as many different bird species as they can. The purpose of the Bird Quest is to discover the 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 County Park on Delsea Drive to report results, and for a **free lunch, t-shirts and prizes.**

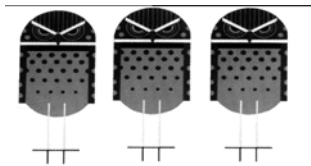
**Free refreshments will be provided at the first stop of the morning (with free lunch and T-shirts at noon.)**

Last year's **Gloucester County Bird Quest** attracted nearly 300 participants, including teachers, school groups, scout troops, environmental commissions, families and residents of Gloucester and neighboring counties. This year

the organizers are planning for at least 400 participants.

The **2002 Gloucester County Bird Quest** highlights the importance of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), a nation-wide effort to draw attention to the plight and needs of migratory birds. The 2002 IMBD theme, "A *Celebration of Special Places*", stresses the importance of stopover sites habitat to migratory birds. The colorful IMBD T-shirt showing 42 different bird species migrating at night is given free to all participants.

A county map and other materials are provided to each registered team. Participants can also attend any of a series of twelve free field trainings (listed below) in the two weeks before the Quest. An \$8. fee per participant covers the cost of lunch, T-shirt, prizes etc. To obtain more information and a team registration form, or to join a team or to ride the bus, contact Anne Rossell at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080. Information can also be requested by phone (856-582-7000 X110) FAX (856-582-4206) or e-mail at [anner@eirc.org](mailto:anner@eirc.org).



## Bird Quest 2002 Training

## Sessions

### **April 23 - 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

CoLeader: Doris and Dwight Weir

### **April 24 - Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 AM BirdQuest Training**

Ceres Park, Mantua

*Directions: Access from 553A(Pitman-Barnsboro Rd.) Watch for Ceres Park sign on W. side of road after you cross Rt. 55. Meet in parking lot.*

Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel

CoLeader: Karen Kravchuck

### **April 25 - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM BirdQuest Training**

Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua

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

Leader: Jeff Holt

CoLeaders: Doris and Dwight Weir

### **April 28 - Sunday 8:00 - 7:00 AM**

### **BirdQuest Training**

Floodgate Road

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

Leader: Dr. Ebert

CoLeader: Marge Dolente

### **April 28 - 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.*

Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel

CoLeader: Maria Keefe

**April 29 - 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. Trailhead starts about 300 yards North of the intersection of Grove St. and Delaware St. (640). Meet in parking lot.*

Leader: Dr. Ebert

CoLeader: Loretta Dunne

**April 30 - Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 PM Birding by Ear Part I**

EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive

This is a classroom training session, the first of two parts, which will help you identify bird songs and calls. The second part of this training is in the field where you can use your recently learned skills. *Directions: On Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp. located next to the Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

CoLeader: Brian Hayes

**May 1 - Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 AM Birding by Ear Part II**

Lake Narraticon, Swedesboro

This is the second part to the classroom training of Birding by Ear. This training is in the field where you can use your recently learned skills. *Directions: Access from Park Ave. in Swedesboro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

CoLeader: Deb Maka

**May 2 - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 PM****BirdQuest Training**

Wheelabrator

*Directions: Access is from Rte 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

CoLeader: Marge Dolente



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**Environmental Info/Nature Notes – April, 2002**

Gloria Caccia, Environmental Coordinator, 582-0980

**Preserved Lands Tour**

South Jersey Land Trust (SJLT) is holding its first annual Preserved Lands Tour on Saturday, June 1, 2002. The tour of two sites will be led by eminent naturalist/author Clay Sutton. Clay has served on the Board of Trustees of the South Jersey Land Trust since its inception in 1990. Both locations offer opportunities for birding and botanical experiences.

Cedar Lake Preserve is a 114-acre property in the Great Egg Harbor Watershed within Monroe and Buena Townships. It was preserved in 1997 through the joint efforts of SJLT and Green Acres. NJ Fish and Wildlife manages the land. SJLT is presently in the last phase of a wetlands restoration project to revert two lake habitats to wetlands. The second site, the MacKannan Property (previously Camp Kimble Boy Scout Camp), is a forty-acre woodland on Oldman's Creek, and is a preservation effort in progress. SJLT recently received a Green Acres grant to preserve habitats within the Raccoon and Oldman's Creek Watersheds and is actively pursuing several sites.

The Cedar Lake tour will run from 9:30 to 11AM. The MacKannan tour will run from Noon to 1:30PM. A brown bag lunch is suggested while we learn about the Raccoon and Oldman's Creeks Watersheds Project under the shade of old beech trees. Please call Janet Eisenhauer at 589-2049 to register, car pool and for directions!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
at Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge  
Salem County, NJ**



Located along the Delaware and Salem Rivers in Salem County, Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is the closest national wildlife refuge to Gloucester County. The refuge consists primarily of brackish tidal marsh and adjacent upland woodlands and fields. The refuge needs volunteers for a number of special projects listed below. It is also helpful for people to come in once a week or once a month to help with office work (e.g., photocopying, typing, filing, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering call the refuge office at 856-935-1487, ask for Linda Ziemba for the biological program and Pat DiDomizio for the maintenance program.

### **Songbird Nest Box Surveys**

*Check the refuge's 25 songbird nest boxes April through August! We will train volunteers in nest/egg identification and proper completion of field data sheets.*

### **Wood Duck Nest Box Survey**

*There are 110 wood duck nest boxes on the refuge that need to be checked each winter. You can check all of them or just a few. We will train volunteers in nest/egg identification and proper completion of field data sheets. We also need handy people to repair and maintain these boxes.*

### **Pea Patch Island Flightline Surveys**

*We need volunteers to stand at the end of the pier at Fort Mott State Park and identify and count the wading birds flying between New Jersey and Pea Patch Island one evening per month from February to August.*

### **Purple Loosestrife Control**

*We need volunteers to help control the invasive plant purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) by cutting and removing*

*the plants during late June, July, and August.*

### **Trail Construction**

*During the Spring and Summer of 2002, we are building a universally accessible trail from the parking lot on Lighthouse Road to a wooden wildlife observation platform over a pond with a universally accessible ramp. We need volunteers to assist with all aspects of trail construction.*

### **Trail Maintenance**

*We need volunteers to maintain trails on the refuge by filling in low areas of stoned trails, removing overhanging branches, weed wacking, replacing rotted lumber, and nailing decking boards.*

## Grounds Maintenance

We need volunteers to:

- I. Paint, repair, and maintain wildlife observation platforms.
- II. Mow grass, weed wack, and trim and prune shrubs and trees.
- III. Assist staff members with boundary posting along the river.
- IV. Assist with road maintenance and trash removal.

## General Maintenance

*We need volunteers to assist with small engine repairs and equipment maintenance.*

***To volunteer, call Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge at 856-935-1487.***

## Community Events



Please contact our Community Events Coordinator, Maria Keefe, at [Kityblu@juno.com](mailto:Kityblu@juno.com) or 856-627-7010 if you might be willing to help staff a Nature Club exhibit at one of the following events.

- **Saturday, June 1**, 11-4pm – Mantua Day, Chestnut Branch
- **Sunday, June 9**, 11-4pm Gloucester County Water Fest, Scotland Run Park, Clayton. Features the NJ State Aquarium “Creature Feature” show, displays, kayaking and canoeing, music, food.



## The Plant sale is moving.....

We are moving the Plant sale this year to our June meeting. We hope you can wait another month and join us for the plant sale in June at our club picnic. As a reminder, while getting your gardens ready this spring please save those extra plants, seedlings, or bulbs. Many plants grow better if they are split or thinned so bring your extras to the plant sale in June. In addition, the sale is a great place to pick up some extra plants for the garden and help the Club at the same time. All proceeds from the sale go to the Club.

## Election of Trustees

May is our Annual meeting to elect Trustees. Please use the ballot below to vote for the Trustees of your choice. Trustees are responsible for providing the direction of the Executive Committee members and the Club in general. When elected, Trustees serve a three-year term at which time the seat is up for election. All voting is final at the close of the May meeting with the results to be included in the June newsletter.

**Gloucester County Nature Club 2002 Official Ballot  
Board Of Trustees (Term for 2002 - 2005)**

Mark and X in the Box to the left of the candidates of your choice.  
(Please vote for no more than four (4) candidates)

Mimi Glass

Erik Mollenhauer

Bob Cassel

Marge Dolente

Write in (other than above)  Write in (other than above)

Voting must be received by 9:00 PM on May 6, 2002.

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**Executive Committee Meeting:** There will be no Board of Trustees/Executive Committee Meeting this month.

**Club News:** The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program and/or field trip coordinators with your ideas. For information about the Gloucester County Nature Club, call:

Brian Hayes, President 468-9272

Information for next month's newsletter should be sent, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, to:  
Erik Mollenhauer, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell NJ 08080, 582-7000 X128

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