



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

June 2010

****Note the time and location change for this meeting****

Program – Picnic at Scotland Run Park (Clayton) & Awakening Spirits: The Art and Science of Tracking

Thursday, June 10th at 6:00 PM at Scotland Run Park, Clayton (directions below)

Presenter: Bill Marple, Instructor at the Tom Brown Tracking School and Director for Tracker Search and Forensic Investigation

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342

The June 10th meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be our annual spring picnic. The picnic will be held this year at the Scotland Run Park in Clayton. Attendees should bring a food item to share, and their own utensils, plates, and cups to cut down on the waste of disposables. As with all club functions, the picnic is open to the public so why not bring a friend? We hope you will join us for the picnic.



“When we track, we pick up a string. At the far end of that string a being is moving, existing, still connected to the track that we gaze upon. The animal's movement is still contained in that track, along with the smallest of external and internal details. As we follow these tracks, we begin to become the very animal we track”

- *The Art & Science of Tracking*



The Tracker School was founded in 1978 by Tom Brown Jr, one of America's most renowned trackers, and wilderness survival experts. Bill Marple will speak about the philosophy of tracking which is offered at Tracker School, and its origins and evolution from the Apache scouts of the past. He will examine the art and science of tracking in its naturalist and philosophic contexts and also discuss the use of tracking in forensic investigations and his work as director of Tracker Search and Forensic Investigation, a non-profit that offers the service of tracking to the community, and offers instruction in tracking to law enforcement, SAR, homeland security, and military organizations. The program will also offer some hands on tracking instruction and experience.

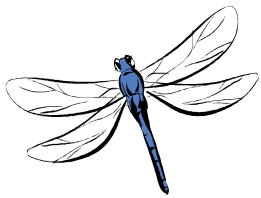
Reminder: Picnic begins at 6:00 PM with the program following at approximately 7:00 PM

Directions to Scotland Run Park From Delsea Drive (Rt. 47) in Clayton turn east on Academy Street (Rt. 619). Continue for 2.2 miles and cross Fries Mill Road. The entrance to the park will be on your left.

Field Trip – Brendan Byrne State Forest, Burlington County NJ

Saturday, June 12th, 9:00 AM to mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Karl Anderson



Visit several plant communities of the Pine Barrens, including cedar swamps, upland pine and oak forests, and lakeshores, for general nature study including plants, birds, and dragonflies, and to learn something about the ecology of the region. If time permits we will make a brief botanical foray to Whitesbog. During the course of the day we should see half a dozen species of carnivorous plants, and perhaps an orchid or two.

Directions: Meet at the forest office, which is about one mile east of the intersection of Routes 70 and 72 at the “Four Mile” traffic circle. From Woodbury, take Rte. 295 north to Route 70. Go east on Route 70 for approximately 22 miles to the intersection with Route 72. Go about 2/3 of the way around the circle, and continue east on Route 70 for another mile. Look for a Brendan Byrne State Forest sign on the right. Turn in and continue a short distance to the office. Bring binoculars, lunch, beverage, field guides, insect repellent. Have sufficient fuel in your car to drive about twenty miles during the day, some of it on unpaved (but good) sand roads. For additional information phone the leader at (856) 845-7075.

Bird Quest 2010 (11 years) Wrap-Up by Brian Hayes

When I think about the World Series of Birding I’m struck by the longevity of that event. For 27 years they have consistently produced one of the top birding events in the world. While the Gloucester County Bird Quest isn’t in the same league as the World Series of Birding, it is impressive none the less.

As we start our second decade, Bird Quest continues to provide a wonderful value to the residents of Gloucester County and the South Jersey area with the additional benefit of highlighting the wonderful diversity of bird species we have in Gloucester County.

Why do we have this impressive array of avian species? Because we still have some of the habitat needed to support these flying colors of spring. But, I am worried. We lose more and more habitat here in Gloucester County and the Country each year. I’m hoping in the next year we can preserve another small area in Gloucester County – the old Maple Ridge golf course. If we don’t succeed then we will have lost just one more piece of open space but I think we need to draw the line somewhere. What we can gain is the knowledge that the same birds we see today will be around for our children and grand children.

Everyone knows the saying from the movie “Field of Dreams” – “If you build it, they will come.” But I would turn this saying around and say – “If you build it, the birds will be gone.” Help us preserve it. But more to come on that in future newsletters ... For now, here is the update on Bird Quest.

We had another fantastic Bird Quest!!

Our winning team saw 74 species while the event’s combined participants saw 122. We had 250 people registered for the event and Woodford Cedar Run Refuge with their live birds back at the park was a great cap to a wonderful day.

Everyone received our Bird Quest t-shirt, a poster on bird migration in Gloucester County and had a nice lunch. This poster is a great addition to the t-shirt and another helpful educational tool. In addition, we had three full buses this year; with one bus filled with girl scouts who had a wonderful time.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year – May 7, 2011 at our 12th annual Bird Quest. We hope to keep the momentum going from this year and make next year’s Quest even better.

Thank you to all the sponsors and to all the people who helped to make this event a success.

If you would like to help or be a part of the planning committee please contact Brian Hayes at pnbhayes@comcast.net or call (856) 468-9272.

Family Fun Stream Walk

Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 10:00AM In Wenonah

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (856) 627-7010

Email: walkingwith4boyz@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.

Directions: From Woodbury-Glassboro Road (Rt. 553) turn onto Mantua Ave at the traffic light in Wenonah. Go approximately 3/10 mile and turn left on Princeton Avenue, then go 4 blocks until it ends at Pine Avenue. Park near the intersection of Pine Street and Princeton Ave. We will head into the woods on the Eldridge trail and walk a gentle stretch of the Monongehela Brook.



Events by other Organizations: June 2010

- June 19 (Saturday) – Meets 7:30 AM. Breeding Birds of Glassboro Woods. Leader: Lloyd Shaw. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For info: phone (609) 261-2495.
- June 19 (Saturday) - 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Burlington County Earth Fair, at Historic Smithville Park, Eastampton. Free. Sponsored by the Burlington County Parks Department. For info: <http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/> and go to the Parks Department home page, or phone 609-265-5068.
- June 19 (Saturday) – Beginning Birding for Adults. 9:00 AM – noon. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Palmyra Cove Nature Park. For info: <http://palmyracove.org/>

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.

- June 6 (Sunday) 13th Annual Gloucester County Water Fest; 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Scotland Run Park, Clayton . Crafts, Music, Exhibitors and Food. FREE Event - Held rain or shine
Crafts, entertainment, food and more...bring the whole family for a day of fun!
Bwana Jim's Wildlife Show - "Have Alligator Will Travel" An amazing show featuring weird and exotic animals. Shows at 12:00 noon, 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM
Face Painting: 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Canoeing and Kayaking : 12:30 to 3:30 PM
- Bird Walk: Tuesdays 6/15, 7/13, and 8/10 at 6:00 PM
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 6/9 at 10:00 AM
- Family Nature Adventure: Saturday 6/19 at 10:00 AM. We will be going on safari to search for weird and mysterious insects..
- Nature Explorers: Wednesday 8/11 & 8/25 at 10:00 AM

Natural Events for the month of June

- During courtship, a cedar waxwing pair may repeatedly pass a flower petal or insect back and forth.
- White-tailed deer are giving birth. The young fawns lie down and "freeze" when threatened.
- Longest day of the year is June 21.
- Pond turtles are digging nests and laying eggs, which will hatch in 80 to 90 days.
- Mountain laurel in bloom.
- Herons can be found roosting with young in marshes at the shore.
- Wood duck and mallard ducklings hatch and venture forth.
- Canada geese begin molting.

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount to GCNC members!

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an everyday 10% discount (for non bird food items) to GCNC members! *Due to the current volatile market for bird food, the 10% discount for these items has had to be discontinued.* However, members will still receive credit for their purchases towards the Frequent Seed Shopper Program. WBU offers the GCNC discount on all other items in the store. Members are requested to identify themselves as GNNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please contact Sharon at (856) 218-2973 or sillybird348@comcast.net.



Looking Ahead:

Upcoming GCNC Field Trips

A series of summer field trips will be announced in a special summer newsletter. If you would be able and willing to lead a field trip, please contact Karl Anderson at karlanderson6@aol.com or (856) 845-7075.

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.