

Gloucester County Nature Club

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July-August 2002

Summer Activities

Back by popular demand, the GC Nature Club will host a variety of nature walks this summer. As always these events are open to the public and free of charge. Each field trip is scheduled to last roughly one hour but the details are left to the trip leaders so the time may vary. In case of bad weather the leaders will make the call at the time of the trip but follow your own comfort level. Remember to pack any or all of the following you might need: Suntan lotion, bug spray, rain gear, a hat or visor, binoculars, guidebooks, and plenty of fluids.

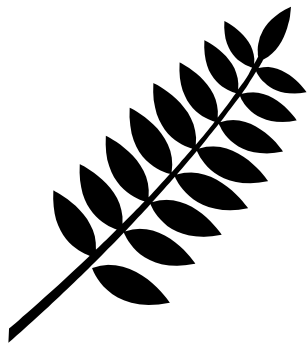
June 26 – Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 AM

West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford

Varied habitat makes this a great spot for nesting birds such as Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Indigo Bunting, and Redtail hawk. 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 the parking lot.

Leader: Dr. Ebert

Co Leader: Deb Maka



July 8 – Monday 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Elk Township

Mary will share her knowledge of ferns and wildflowers on this wood walk through Elk Township lands. Directions: Take Rt. 55 to 322 West to 2nd traffic light. Meet at the Richwood Wawa on Rt. 322 to carpool to Elk Township.

Leader: Mary MaGuire

Co Leader: Kris Mollenhauer

July 10 – Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Red Bank Battlefield National Park

Walk the dikes of the Army Corp of Engineers looking for water birds and other wildlife. Bob will be looking along the river and the dikes. Directions: From Red Bank Road (644) make a left on to Hessian Ave (642). Follow until entering the park. Meet in main parking lot.

Leader: Bob Duke

Co Leader: Karen Kravchuck

July 24 – Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Wenonah Trail Fern Walk

Tour the Wenonah trails continuing our fern training with Bill Schramm the WEC Chairperson. Directions: From Woodbury-Glassboro road (553) take Mantua Ave West towards Mantua. Make a left onto Princeton Ave (2nd left) and continue to Pine St. Park along street and meet at Eldridge Trail trailhead on Pine St.

Leader: Bill Schramm

Co Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

August 4 - Sunday 3:00 PM

Old Pine Farm and Big Timber Creek.

Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust has scheduled a walk through the nature preserve on the banks of Big Timber Creek on Sunday, August 4, at 3 PM. Get acquainted with who and what lives on the meadow, in the forest and in the wetlands as Michael Hogan, nature guide and photographer, takes you on a tour of the 32-acre land trust. Trail guidebooks will also be available to visitors to use during the walk. Entrance to the land trust is at the end of Rankin Street off Good Intent Road in Blackwood Terrace, Deptford. For more information, call George Willoughby at (856) 227-5723 or visit the website at www.bigtimbercreek.org

August 7 – Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 AM

Bob Cassel Garden Tour

Take a tour of this wildlife haven. Bob will personally show the group around his property. Bob provided a plant quiz last year so there is no telling what to expect this year. Directions: Meet at Bob's house at 407 Heritage Road, Sewell. For directions call Bob at 478-2496.

Leaders: Bob and Carol Cassel

Co Leader: Paula Hayes

August 17- Saturday Noon– Dusk

Purple Martin Festival

Cumberland County will be hosting their first annual Purple Martin Festival (many of you have enjoyed their Raptor Festivals in years past). In late August purple martins flock by the thousands to the marshlands of the lower Maurice River where the birds eat their fill of insects before they migrate to Brazil. The birds will fill the sky as dusk approaches and they return to their roosting sites. The festival will be based at the Mauricetown Fire House and will feature displays, vendors, speakers, and field trips. For more information you can call Pam Griner at 856-453-2177.

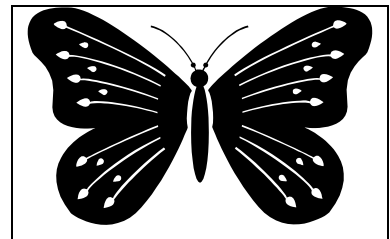
August 21 – Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Butterfly and Bat watch

Join Ron and Linda Kegel at their home to walk through their flower gardens looking for butterflies. As the sun goes down often over a dozen bats can be seen flying over the gardens. Registration is required for this trip so you call (856) 468-9272 to register and get directions. The trip is limited to the first 15 people to call.

Leaders: Ron and Linda Kegel

Co Leaders: Brian Hayes



Environmental Info/Nature Notes

Gloria Caccia, Environmental Coordinator, 582-0980

What Drought?

Gloucester County as well as all of New Jersey is still in a drought emergency. Although it may seem we have had plenty of rain in the past couple of months our water tables and aquifers are still below normal levels for this time of year. This is disconcerting news since we are just heading into the hottest and driest part of the year and already in June we have topped 90 degrees for a couple of days.

Even if the drought restrictions are lifted it is important to follow sound water conservation practices to ensure a good water supply for future generations.

Consider native plants when planning your landscape and yard. Native plants tend to be more drought tolerant but even natives you need to choose well for the location. Check requirements for each new plant you are adding to your yard. Lawns should not need to be watered, it is often better for the lawn to go dormant during the hot summer months.

Some additional steps you can take to reduce water consumption:

Replace leaky faucets and toilets.

Don't use a hose or water to clean sidewalks or driveways.

Install a rain barrel to use for watering outdoor plants

Mulch can keep soil moist and lessen evaporation for days

Only water in the early morning or late evening to prevent evaporation

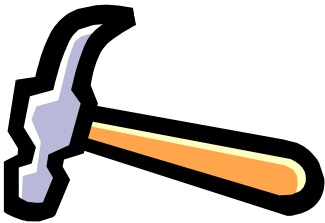
Reuse water from other places like a dehumidifier or air conditioner drippings

Only run full wash and dishwasher loads



For more information on the drought situation in Gloucester County or any part of the NJ go to <http://www.njdrought.org/>. This website even has the answers to some commonly asked questions about how the drought restrictions affect us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SUPAWNA MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsville NJ is looking for help in constructing a new wildlife observation trail. This universally accessible trail will begin at the parking lot on Lighthouse Rd. and lead to a wooden wildlife observation platform over a pond. The construction will begin on June 29, 2002 from 9-1. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Supawna Meadows NWR at 856-935-1487 and ask for Nyeema Harris, our Outdoor Recreation Planner.

**Community Events**

- Swedesboro Day, Saturday, October 5th, 10-4. Kings Highway, Swedesboro.
To help work this event, call Maria Keefe 856-627-7010 or e-mail Kityblu@juno.com

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 Co. Nature Club, call Brian Hayes, President 468-9272. Information for next month's newsletter should be sent, by the 15th of each month, to:
Erik Mollenhauer, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell NJ 08080, 582-7000 X128

Gloucester County Nature Club
c/o EIRC
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