

Gloucester County Nature Club

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2001

REGULAR MEETING – Thurs., September 13, 2001 – 7:00 pm – EIRC, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell

Bob Cassel, Program Coordinator, 478-2496

Sept. 13 (2nd Thursday): On Golden Wings - Pete Dunne, noted naturalist and author from Cape May Bird Observatory

“Once there was a boy who climbed Swede Hill and touched a bird he thought dead, but burst into life at the touch of his finger and interaction between the two living things changed the earth. But what about heaven? As Roger Tory Peterson approached heaven, there was no room. Negotiations were needed.”

Pete Dunne, Director of Research and Education of the Cape May Bird Observatory, reknowned ornithologist, will bring a program of fascinating stories about his friend, Roger Tory Peterson, and other stories most fascinating about our avian friends.

Pete is the author of several books you may be familiar with including The Wind Masters, Tales of a Low-rent Birder, and Hawks in Flight to name just a few. Often credited with making Cape May synonymous with birding, Pete has proven ecotourism, in this case birding, can have a huge affect on local economy by asking birders who visit the area to estimate how much they spend and how long they stay in the area. This has encouraged businesses to work with CMBO to protect the birds and the critical habitat. He is a skilled birder (obviously) but few people realize he was the first hawkwatch counter in Cape May and the father of the World Series of Birding. Pete has a wonderful way of sharing his wealth of knowledge and is an excellent storyteller.

FIELD TRIP –Sat., September 29, 2001

Kris Mollenhauer, Field Trip Coordinator, 589-4387



Maurice River Canoe Trip

Paddle down the Maurice River with naturalist Steve Eisenhauer for a tour of the Peek Preserve. This fresh water tidal section of the river has Bald Eagles nesting nearby, abundant wild rice, sweet flag, and flying squirrels. The tour will last about two hours. Canoes will be provided. Limited number of spaces, sign up early. Please call Kris at (856) 589-4387 to sign up, get time of departure, directions.

Looking ahead:

October 14 - Sunday 7am **Palmyra Cove**

Join us for an early morning walk and some fall birding. Palmyra Cove Nature Park is a 350-acre area of mostly state-owned land along the Delaware River, north of Pennsauken Creek and south of the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge. Habitats include dredge spoil areas in varying stages of ecological succession, remnants of original forest, floodplain, freshwater tidal marsh, and riparian intertidal zones. The area is administered by the Burlington County Bridge Commission. **Meet at the Timberline Shopping Center in Mantua Twp. at 7am.**

November 17 - Saturday 7 am **John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, PA**

Environmental Info/Nature Notes - June, 2001

Gloria Caccia, Environmental Coordinator, 582-0980

Customized Environmental Information on New Web Site

A first-of-its-kind web site has been created by Environmental Defense, National Wildlife Federation, and other non-profits, Environmental Defense announced in their March 2001 newsletter.

“Simply by entering a zip code at www.formyworld.com, visitors can obtain practical advice on a wide array of environmental topics, ranging from neighborhood pollution, recycling and wildlife to gardening tips on what plants thrive in their region. The content, provided by our partners,” Environmental Defense says, “is customized by location and interests....Visitors to ForMyWorld have the option to contact experts, join discussion groups or receive action alerts on issues of importance. . . Wildlife enthusiasts can access a live video camera aimed at elephant seals off California or find tips on creating a backyard wildlife habitat. Homeowners can consult the latest information on energy-efficient appliances and cars. ForMyWorld carries no paid advertising.”

Choosing fish for dinner that have not been overharvested



Some types of fish have been commercially overharvested to the point that their populations can no longer be sustained. Environmental Defense, in their January 2001 newsletter, lists a number of fish that it would be best to avoid to give these populations a chance to recover:

Best to avoid: American lobster, Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut, Chilean sea bass/Patagonian tooth fish
Farmed salmon, Grouper, Monkfish, Orange roughy, Pacific rockfish, Shark, Shrimp/prawns (farmed & most wild), Skate, Snapper, Swordfish

Message from the President: by Brian Hayes

Just Say “No”!

We say it everyday. It’s often the first word we learn as a child. In the eighties it was a mantra taught to the kids. We use it on those pushy salespeople who call on the phone while we are trying to salvage some family time around the dinner table. Let’s face it, it is easier to just say no. Safer. What we need to do as a person who enjoys the natural world, as a friend of the environment and as a concerned citizen is to say yes. Yes, I am willing to donate my time. Yes, I am willing to donate my experiences. Yes, I am willing to learn. And yes, I am willing to help. The Nature Club needs volunteers. We have been growing as a Club at a rapid pace. We have expanded our fieldtrips and activities but we need more people to support the people who seem to do everything. Any time or effort you can provide, even with the small things, can make a big difference for someone who is overwhelmed. Simple tasks such as manning a table at a local community event, helping to organize or lead a fieldtrip, help organize or establish a program, provide assistance at special events, or some of the many little tasks that need to be performed each month can help greatly. So when you are filling out your enrollment form in September please take a moment to say yes and let us know in what way you would be willing to help the Club.

Non-profit Update:

Last November the general membership voted to pursue official non-profit status for the Gloucester County Nature Club. I’m happy to report, thanks to the assistance of member, Wayne Streitz; we are well on our way. First we needed to become incorporated by the State of NJ. This was completed in March 2001. The second and more time-consuming part of the process was to submit to the Federal government our request. This has been accomplished and we are waiting to be notified.

One of the requirements of becoming a legal nonprofit is to establish a board of trustees. Trustees of the

organization are necessary to fill the requirements of the special status. Trustees will serve a three-year term, and will be elected by a vote of the general membership. This vote will be taken at the Annual meeting in May. The original 12 trustees were selected from the Executive Committee.

Mimi Glass, Marge Dolente, Bob Cassel, and Erik Mollenhauer will be serving a one-year term as trustees and will be up for re-election in May of 2002. Serving a two-year term and up for re-election in 2003 is Gloria Caccia, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, and Brian Hayes. Completing the current trustees is Bill Connison, Maria Keefe, Deb Maka, and Paula Hayes who will all be serving a three-year term.

A special note of "thanks" again to Wayne Streitz for the donation of his time, office, and legal services.

Community Events

The Nature Club is partnering with local environmental commissions to do joint exhibits/displays at community events. Please contact our Community Events Coordinator, Maria Keefe at kityblu@juno.com or 856-627-7010 if you are able to help or if you know of another event where the Club should exhibit.

- Saturday, September 29th: Swedesboro Day. Time TBA. Help is needed to staff the booth.

Dear **Green Neighbor**,

I order a lot of products from mail order companies and I find myself saving boxes and plastic peanuts. Do you know how I can safely dispose of them? Signed, Kathy

Dear Kathy,

First, you should contact your local recycling center to find out if they recycle corrugated cardboard. If they do, flatten the boxes and bundle them according to what the recycling center requires. Plastic peanuts are a major cause of CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons) being released into the atmosphere resulting in diminishing the ozone layer which protects Earth from the harmful rays of the sun. Plastic peanuts that are reused will reduce landfill waste as well as the need to use energy to produce more plastic peanuts. You can contact the Plastic Loose Fill Counsel to find out where you can take the peanuts for recycling/reuse. The Plastic Loose Fill Counsel has drop off areas throughout the New Jersey area. The phone number is 1-800-828-2214. When you call, have paper and a pen ready because the telephone system will list local areas you can take the peanuts to. For more information, check out their website at: <http://www.loosefillpackaging.com/>. You can also contact the company that shipped the peanuts and ask them to use a more "eco-friendly" packaging products in the future.

Thank you for writing,

Your **Green Neighbor** If you have a question for your **Green Neighbor**, send an e-mail to: GreenNeighbor@juno.com



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

A reminder that it is now time to renew your membership in Gloucester County Nature Club. Individual membership is \$13, Family membership is \$15. In order to continue receiving the newsletter and notice of upcoming activities and events, please renew now!!

Executive Committee Meeting: The next Board of Trustees/Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 9 at 6:30 pm at the home of Brian & Paula Hayes, 413 N. Stockton Ave, Wenonah. Call if you need directions.

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 Mimi Glass, Membership Chair, 589-6435

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
606 Delsea Dr.
Sewell NJ 08080