



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

February 2007

Pot Luck Dinner & Program:

Sharing Our Culture: From A Native American Perspective?

Thursday, February 8th at 6:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Presenter: Jean Red Raven Kilian

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks

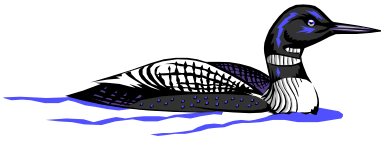


We will again be celebrating winter with our traditional February Pot Luck Dinner. Please bring either an entrée or dessert and a plate and utensils for yourself. Also please note the dinner begins at 6:00 P.M. Our dinner will be followed this year by a formal program.

“Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children.” *-Indian Proverb*

Native Americans are not a people. They are many peoples. There are over 500 federally recognized tribes in the United States and approximately 200 Native American languages are still spoken in North America today. The richness, beauty, ways of life and beliefs of these diverse Native American cultures have much to teach us. Jean Red Raven Kilian, a Mi'kmaq Native American and GCNC member, will take us into the world of Native American cultures and traditions, and explore the arts, crafts, dress, customs, beliefs and legends of Native American peoples. Dressed in full regalia, Jean will demonstrate and explain various Native American objects and artifacts. She will tell us how she got her name and how names are given in native cultures. What is a tribe and how do the many Native American tribes differ? What is family life like in Indian cultures? How do Native American cultures view the Earth and nature? This will be an entertaining, enriching and enlightening program that will focus not only on the values of Native American cultures, but on the meaning those values have for us all.

Field Trip – Cumberland County Birding
Saturday February 24th 9:30 AM until mid-afternoon
Trip Leader: Bob Baruzzi (856) 582-1411



Join us for a winter birding field trip to Cumberland County on Saturday, February 24th. We'll meet at the Wawa at 3904 Rt. 47, Dorchester, NJ (seven miles past the end of Route 55; bear right at the Rt. 347/47 split), at 9:30 AM. See raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and more.

Eagles, loons, and owls may also be spotted. Bring lunch and warm clothes. For more information call Bob Baruzzi at (856) 582-1411.

Field Trip Report - Backyard Feeder Field Trip by Emily Golinski

The Backyard Feeder Field Trip on January 20 was a wonderful way to spend a cold Saturday morning. Many of you would agree that birders and Nature Club members in particular are as delightful as the birds. It was tempting to linger over a cup of coffee and enjoy the feeder activity at each stop on the tour.

The backyards ranged from small lots in developments to properties with many wooded acres. Our Gloucester County winter birds were feeding happily in all of them. Common to each yard were many feeders of various types. Sunflower seeds, millet, corn, peanuts, peanut butter, thistle seed and several kinds of suet were being used to attract the different species. Good shelter and water were also provided. Some folks had heated birdbaths or running water for their birds. I hope that the other club members who made the trip were as inspired as I was to put up more feeding stations.

A big thank you to the hosts for their hospitality to the birds and to all of us.

Conservation Corner – Radioactive Dump in Our County? by Loretta Dunne

New Jersey has no radioactive waste dumps and the state hopes to keep it that way. The state has filed a lawsuit against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to stop them from reviewing and approving a plan to allow Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corp., centered in Swedesboro, from burying more than 50,000 tons of radioactive slag and dust in its backyard.



The company wants to close its operation in Newfield, Gloucester County and continue business more cheaply with a sister company in Brazil. For more than 40 years, the metal-making factory in [Newfield, Gloucester County](#), has thrown its trash out back, creating a six-acre, 35-foot-high pile of radioactive rock called slag, according to Monica Yant Kinney of the Philadelphia Daily News on September 23, 2006

They claim that a full cleanup of the site would cost \$58 million. For more than 40 years, the company has thrown its trash out back, creating a six-acre, 35-foot-high pile of radioactive slag. They claim that burying it, fencing off the property and monitoring the area for 1000 years would cost about \$5 million. I don't need to remind you how ineffective tracking of toxic sites have been to date in New Jersey. This plan is simply unfeasible.

The Department of Environmental Protection is opposed to the plan and says it presents a threat to the groundwater and public health.

Most of our elected officials oppose this plan, including Governor Corzine, Senator Menendez and Senator Lautenberg.

Please contact your elected officials and support the lawsuit against NRC. Also, contact NRC and let them know what you think of allowing a company to operate 50 years in New Jersey and not be responsible for their radioactive wastes:

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Inconvenient Truth out on DVD by Loretta Dunne

The movie "An Inconvenient Truth" is now out on DVD. If you haven't seen it yet, I urge you to take the time to view it soon. Global warming is one of our most urgent environmental issues. Even if you feel you are knowledgeable about this issue, the movie is worthwhile. It provides new insights and some startling data.

Other Nature Notes

Natural Places Guide Update:

We're currently in the home stretch as far as soliciting sponsors and making final edits to our book, "Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ". The book includes descriptions of 36 important county natural sites, seasonal information, directions, maps, and visitor information. Our projected publication date is early March 2007.

Natural Places of Gloucester County NEW JERSEY

A publication of the Gloucester County Nature Club

Marketing the book: The book is now a reality, and now we want to get it out to the public. We are looking for a volunteer who can take over responsibility for the marketing of the book. You don't need to be a marketing expert, just someone who has a few ideas and some time to follow through on them. There will be many people to assist in this process, but having one person organizing this effort will be very effective. Please contact Loretta Dunne or Deb Maka if you are interested in this role.

Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival

On Saturday, February 3, Cumberland County, NJ will be hosting its annual Winter Eagle Festival (formerly known as the Raptor Festival). This is a great chance to see Hawks, Vultures, and Eagles, and there are plenty of knowledgeable volunteers around to help you spot and identify them.

The Festival will start with a 7am Sunrise Walk at Turkey Point, lead by NJ Audubon's Pete Dunne. Various viewing sites will be staffed by the NJ Audubon Society and Cape May Bird Observatory from 10am to 5pm. At 5pm, Pat Sutton will lead a Sunset Owl Watch at Turkey Point. There will also be exhibits, lectures, and food in the Mauricetown Fire Hall from 8am to 4pm. Natural Lands Trust will be one of the exhibitor - be sure to stop by and say hello! Lecture topics include: "Endangered and Nongame Species Program," "The Crucible of Migration," "Identifying 'em Far, Far Away," "How to Spot an Owl," and "Raptors of the Bayshore."



The cost of admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. For more information about the Festival, or for directions, call 856-453-2177.

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

Wild Birds Unlimited has a discount agreement with the GCNC executive board and is pleased to offer GCNC members an everyday 10% discount on all purchases excluding optics and food or sale items. Sharon Oakes, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, appreciates the many volunteer contributions made by GCNC members and hopes members can benefit from this discount. Members are requested to identify themselves as GCNC members before their sales are finalized. Questions? Please call Sharon at 218-2973.

Volunteer Needed – Bird Quest 2007

A volunteer is still needed to work with Erik Mollenhauer to coordinate Bird Quest 2007. If you are interested in helping Erik coordinate this wonderful educational event, please contact him at 589-4387 for details.

Vulture Festival News Update

If you were unable to attend the January Club meeting, we now have colorful “save the date” cards available to help promote the March 3, 2007 East Coast Vulture Festival in Wenonah. We’re looking for Club members to get these cards into the hands of people in your area and throughout the Delaware Valley. If you can use some cards, either by passing them on to friends or family... or by stacking some at a friendly store, post office, nature center, etc... please call Erik Mollenhauer at (856) 582-7000 x128. Leave a message of how many cards you need and where to send them.

Also, forms and other information can be downloaded from www.eastcoastvulturefestival.org/ or at the Club’s website www.gcnatureclub.org . Included on the Vulture Festival website is TV footage that aired on December 12 on Channel 6 Philadelphia Evening news, with Cathy Gandolfo.

Looking Ahead:

Programs - (All occur on Thursdays)

- March 8th Natural Wonders of The Jersey Pines and Shore: Presentation and book signing (Michael Hogan)
- April 12th Tropical Rainforests and New Jersey’s Extraordinary Songbirds - Emile DeVito
- May 10th Gardening Naturally: Native Plants in gardening and landscaping (Lorraine Kieffer) plus Annual Plant Sale
- June 14th Annual Picnic

Field Trips -

- March 11th (Sunday) Conowingo Dam (Bob Duke)
- April 22nd (Sunday) Assunpink WMA Wildflowers and Birds (Karl Anderson)
- May 19th (Saturday) Wenonah Woods (Richard Dilks)
- June 16th (Saturday) Chestnut Branch (Kris Mollenhauer)

Club Notes:

- The March Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 4th at Karen Kravchuck's house.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborah71@msn.com or call 863-0330.
- 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 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.