



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

April 2009

Program – Sustainable World: Climate Change & the Future of Human Endeavor **(Note: Program & Location Change!)**

Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 PM at Mantua VFW Post #7679

Presenter: Brian Hayes and Erik Mollenhauer

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342



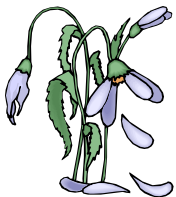
Join Brian Hayes and Erik Mollenhauer as they unveil a new educational simulation suitable for Grades 4-12 and adults. Sustainable World accommodates 50-150 participants and takes place in an all-purpose room with large floor maps of the continents. Participants represent different countries and regions, becoming immersed in the economic, social and environmental issues of their region. They interact across regions using conflict resolution and team-building skills to find solutions to their issues, with global warming and climate change serving as an overarching challenge to a future sustainable world. Participants create a carbon trading network requiring them to bargain and compromise using communication skills to seek a sustainable world. They use statesmanship and critical thinking to develop alternative energy plans, projects in energy efficiency and conservation, projects in rainforest preservation, reforestation plans and more. The simulation culminates in participants developing personal plans of action for their community/region.

IMPORTANT NOTE – MEETING LOCATION CHANGE: Due to construction at the Community Center and the unavailability of the Wenonah School as the announced location at the March meeting, our April meeting will be held at the Mantua VFW Post #7679, New York Avenue and Main Street (Rt 553Alt) Mantua. From the intersection of Rt 45 (Broad Street) and Cooper Street in Woodbury, go south on Rt 45 for 4.2 miles. Turn left (from right hand lane) onto Rt 553Alt (Main Street) in Mantua. Proceed south on Rt 553Alt (Main Street) for approximately .7 miles; the VFW post will be on the right, across the street from the police station.

Field Trip – Spring Wildflowers of Wenonah Woods

Sunday April 19th, 9:00 AM to mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Rich Dilks (856) 468-6342



Join us on a leisurely spring walk through the Wenonah Conservation Area. Wenonah is a historic one square mile borough of stately Victorian homes and quiet streets in northern Gloucester County. Surrounding the town is the Ring of Green - the 135 acre Wenonah Conservation Area, which consists of deciduous woodlands, lakes, streams, wooded swamp and fresh water marsh, all easily accessible by a six mile network of walking trails. Come and experience the diversity of plant and animal life along these winding trails. See early spring wildflowers such as the Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, Marsh Marigold, Wood Anemone and Dwarf Ginseng. Observe the evidence of our thriving beaver colony along Mantua Creek as Belted Kingfishers and Red-tailed Hawks patrol the marsh. Learn how we are controlling the invasive Purple Loosestrife in our wetlands. See specimens of the 68 species of trees in

the Wenonah Conservation Area including stately Tulip Poplars, Chestnut Oak, America Sycamore, Kentucky Coffeetree, the Wenonah Shingle Oaks (the only native stand in New Jersey) and even a small Pawpaw patch. We will also see reminders of Wenonah’s past: Wenonah Lake- a mill pond created over 200 years ago, Clay Hill, the ruins of an 1860’s railroad trestle, the Green estate amphitheater and the restored teahouse at the north end of Comey’s Lake. We will be ending our walk at the open air teahouse pavilion.

We will meet at the Wenonah Lake parking lot at W. Maple St. and N. Jefferson Ave. at 9:00 A.M.

Directions: From Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553)- Go west on Maple St., crossing the railroad tracks. At the stop sign at the bottom of the hill, turn right into the Wenonah Lake parking lot. From Rt. 45 – Take Ogden Station Rd. east through the Oak Valley section of Deptford Twp. (If approaching on Rt. 45 from the north, use the jug handle just past the West Deptford Shop Rite.) After approximately one mile, Ogden Rd. becomes Maple St. You will pass Wenonah Lake on your left. At the stop sign, turn left into the Wenonah Lake parking lot.

Field Trip – Babies in Backpacks / Toddlers in Tow
Monday April 13th, 10:00AM at Palmyra Cove Nature Park

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (627-7010) Email: walkingwith4boyz@comcast.net



Hop along with us on Monday, April 13 at 10AM at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, Palmyra, NJ. We will walk at a toddler's pace exploring as we go. Dress in layers according to the weather. Bring your own backpack and/or a stroller that can be pushed on unpaved paths. Everyone welcome.

Directions from the Palmyra Cove website, www.palmyracove.org. Take Route 73 North to the last traffic light before the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge Toll Plaza, turn right (corner of Souder Street and Route 73, a Gulf Gas Station and a Dunkin Donuts are on the right). Go two blocks to Temple Boulevard; turn left then make a right to the Toll Building parking lot, just before the Toll Plaza. (Note: Do Not Block Driveway sign). Travel through the parking lot behind the Toll Building on the left, continue on the narrow local access road and go under the bridge. The new Educational Discovery Center will be in front of you to the right. The parking area is to the left of the building. Meet in the parking area.

Kid’s Corner – An Alphabet Safari* by Deb Maka

Explore an area nearby and write a word that describes the things you are seeing, hearing, smelling, or feeling for each letter of the alphabet.

A	J	S
B	K	T
C	L	U
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z
I	R	

* adapted from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (<http://www.fws.gov/children>)

Natural Events for the month of April

- Pond turtles emerge from hibernation and bask in the sun.
- Spring beauty, bloodroot, and trout lily bloom on the floor of deciduous woodlands.
- Spring peepers and wood frogs begin calling when vernal ponds warm to about 50 degrees F.
- Shad migrate up the Delaware River to spawn.
- Ruby-throated hummingbirds, purple martins, and warblers begin to arrive.
- Most juncos and white-throated sparrows have left by the end of the month.
- Rose-breasted grosbeaks show up at feeders for a few days before heading north.
- Prairie warbler, misnamed when it was first found in a barren area in Kentucky, returns late April – mid May.
- The peak of spring raptor migration is mid- to late-April. Consider a visit to a hawk lookout.
- Red-winged blackbirds return to marshes.

The 2009 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 2, 2009

The Gloucester County Nature Club and many area businesses, industries, and local environmental commissions invite people of all ages to participate in the **2009 (Tenth Annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest. The 2009 Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat., May 2, 2009 from 7 AM to 12 noon in Gloucester County. This year we are celebrating our 10 year anniversary. We are going to have a special treat. We will have live birds at the Park and a demonstration from trained wildlife handlers.**

From 7am to 12 noon teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County and find as many different bird species as they can. The Quest is:

- A way to discover Gloucester County's parks and natural areas
- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and through our county
- A chance to learn how to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat
- A chance to have fun with friends and colleagues
- A light-hearted competition

The Quest is an educational event: novices are encouraged to participate. At noon, all participants gather at Atkinson County Park on Delsea Drive to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, and prizes and a presentation with live birds for our 10th anniversary. We are giving out a tote bag to commemorate the event as well (while supplies last). A \$12 fee per participant covers the cost of lunch, T-shirt, prize, live bird show, and tote (while supplies last), trainings, etc.**

Most people organize their own Quest team with colleagues, friends, and/or family. Last year's Gloucester County Bird Quest attracted several hundred participants made up of teachers, school groups, scout troops, environmental commissions, families, friends... residents of Gloucester and neighboring counties. This year with support from Wheelabrator, LP of Gloucester County, the club will operate two (free) guided buses for teachers and other persons unable to form their own team and who are willing to join a larger group. **New this year for the 10th Anniversary:** there will be three guided walks on the day of the event, each lasting between an hour and an hour and a half in various natural places in Gloucester County lead by a bird expert who will help you identify the bird species present. These

walks will be paced and placed so you can participate in all of the walks or just one or two while you spend the rest of the time birding on your own:

Guided Walks

7:00-8:30: Field of Dreams, West Deptford Township

Directions: From Interstate 295, Exit 21, take Crown Point Road (Rt 44) West . Drive for approximately .25 miles and take a right onto River Road. Park in the lot.

9:00-10:30: Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua Township

Directions: From the intersection of Rt 45 (Broad Street) and Cooper Street in Woodbury, go south on Rt 45 for 4.2 miles. Turn left (from right hand lane) onto Rt 553Alt (Main Street) in Mantua. Go south on Rt 553Alt for 1.6 miles. The park entrance will be on the left. There is a large paved parking area. Meet at the wildflower garden.

11:00-12:00: Washington Township Park

Directions: From the intersection of Rt 47 and Hurffville-Cross Keys Road (Rt. 654) in Hurffville, go southeast on Hurffville-Cross Keys Road for 1.2 miles. The park entrance will be on the right. Follow the main road past several playing fields and parking lots. Park in Lot E, just past the Amphitheater.

Guided Walk Leaders: Gary Lizzi, Marge Lizzi, Lloyd Shaw, Loretta Dunne, Jonathan Stillwell

More information and registration forms for Bird Quest will be posted to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at www.gcnatureclub.org. To join a team or to ride a bus, contact Brian Hayes at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080. Registration forms can also be requested by phone (856-582-7000 X110) FAX (856-582-4206) or e-mail at bhayes@eirc.org.

Participants can attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest. A complete list of training sessions is provided below.

Bird Quest 2009 Training Sessions

April 13 (Monday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM Birding Basics

Alcyon Lake, Pitman Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade.

Directions: From Rt 55 Exit 53A (or Exit 53 if coming from the south) take Rt 553 (Glassboro Road) south for about 1.5 miles to Holly Avenue. Turn right (west) on Holly Avenue. Continue for 1.2 miles to the park entrance, which is on the left. There is a small sign. Drive past the sports fields; meet at the pavilion.

Leader: Deb Maka Co-leader: Waltraut Paust

April 16 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM Bird Quest Training

Greenwich Township Walking Trail, Greenwich

Directions: From Interstate 295 Exit 16B, go north on Democrat Road (Rt 673) toward Gibbstown for about 0.2 mile to Swedesboro-Paulsboro Road (Rt 653). Turn right and go about 0.5 mile to the Nehaunsey Middle School, which will be on the left, just before the Greenwich Township Library. Turn into the school parking lot. The entrance to the trail is behind the school, and is marked with a small green sign.

Leader: Bob Duke Co-leaders: Doris and Dwight Weir

April 18 (Saturday), 7:00 – 8:30 AM Bird Quest Training

Old Pine Farm, Deptford

Directions: Access from Good Intent road (534), turn North onto Rankin Ave. Follow to end and park. Walk down woods road to the Big Timber Creek.

Co-leaders: Ed and Millie Cleary

April 19 (Sunday), 7:00 – 8:30 AM Bird Quest Training

Little Ease Park, Clayton This trip will include some travel to a few nearby spots.

Directions: From Rt 47 in Clayton, take Academy St. (Rt 610) east for one mile to East Ave. Turn right (south) on East Ave. The park is on the left in 0.3 mile. Meet in parking lot.

Leader: Ron Kegel Co-leader: Loretta Dunne

April 21 (Tuesday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM Bird Quest Training

Red Bank Battlefield Park, National Park

Directions: From Interstate 295 Exit 22, take Red Bank Avenue west for about 0.5 mile to Hessian Avenue. Turn left on Hessian Avenue, and continue for 1.2 miles to the park. Meet at the parking area on the left.

Leader: Gale Cannon Co-Leader Karl Anderson

April 22 (Wednesday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM Bird Quest Training

Field of Dreams, West Deptford

Directions: From Interstate 295, Exit 21, take Crown Point Road (Rt 44) West. In about .25 miles, take a right onto River Road. Park in the lot.

Leader: Gary Lizzi Co-leader: Margie Lizzi

April 23 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM Bird Quest Training

Chestnut Branch Park, Mantua

Directions: From the intersection of Rt 45 (Broad Street) and Cooper Street in Woodbury, go south on Rt 45 for 4.2 miles. Turn left (from right hand lane) onto Rt 553Alt (Main Street) in Mantua. Go south on Rt 553Alt for 1.6 miles. The park entrance will be on the left. There is a large paved parking area. Meet at the wildflower garden.

Co-Leaders: Kris and Erik Mollenhauer

April 25 (Saturday), 7:00-8:30 AM Step Up Your Birding

Glassboro Woods, Clayton Introduction to skills that can move you beyond beginning birding

Directions: From the intersection of Rt 47 (Delsea Drive) and eastbound Rt 322 in Glassboro, go south about 1.7 miles on Rt 47. Immediately after crossing the Clayton Borough boundary, an unmarked dirt road will branch off on the left. This is Carpenter Ave. Meet at the spot where the pavement ends.

Leader: Lloyd Shaw Co-leader: Gary Lizzi

April 26 (Sunday), 7:00-8:30 AM Bird Quest Training

West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford

Directions: From Exit 21 on I-295, take Delaware Avenue west. In about 0.4 mile, cross Grove Street. Continue for another 0.3 mile, on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Watch for a sign to the trail, on the right. Meet in the parking lot.

Leader: Jeff Holt Co-Leader: Ed Cleary

April 28 (Tuesday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM Birding by Ear Part I

Municipal Building, Wenonah (across Mantua Ave from Community Center - **note location change from last newsletter**)

This is an introduction to bird calls in a classroom setting.

Directions: From Woodbury/Glassboro Road (Rt 553) in Wenonah, turn onto Mantua Avenue. Proceed to the intersection of East Mantua Avenue and North East Avenue. The municipal building is across Mantua Ave from our regular meeting location.

Co-leaders: Paula Hayes and Kris Mollenhauer

April 29 (Wednesday), 6:00 – 7:00 AM Birding by Ear Part II

Ceres Park, Mantua Twp Take the skills you learned in the classroom into the field.

Directions: From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Make a left onto Rt553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55.

Leader: Barry Bengel Co-leader: Jayne Rhynard

April 30 (Thursday), 6:00 – 7:30 PM Bird Quest Training

Mantua Creek Trail, Wenonah

Directions: From Woodbury/Glassboro road (Rt 553) in Wenonah, turn onto Mantua Avenue. Drive .9 miles to Hayes Avenue Take a right. Meet in the parking lot next to Lisle Field

Leader: Rich Dilks Co-leader: Arlene Beebe

Events by other Organizations: April 2009

- April 14 Tuesday) – Salem County Nature Club meets at the Old Alloway School at 7:00 PM. The program will be “New Jersey Endangered Species” by Maria Grace from the NJDEP. For info: www.salemcountynatureclubnews.blogspot.com/.
- April 18 (Saturday) – Birding at Monds Island and at Floodgates Road. 9:00 AM to early afternoon. Leaders: Gary and Margie Lizzi. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. \$Fee. For info: <http://njudubon.org/centers/rancocas/>.
- April 18 (Saturday) - Spring Migrants at Bowman’s Hill and Washington Crossing State Park. Leader: John Maret. Sponsored by the Audubon Wildlife Society. For info: <http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org/>
- April 26 (Sunday) – Earth Day Celebration. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Sponsored by the Palmyra Cove Nature Park. For info: <http://palmyracove.org/>
- April 26 (Sunday) – New Jersey Conservation Foundation’s Franklin Parker Preserve in Chatsworth, Burlington County. 11:00 AM. Leaders: Michael Hogan and Dr. Emile DeVito. Sponsored by the South Jersey Land and Water Trust. Please RSVP. For more information and a map, contact Michael Hogan at (609) 476-2086 or hoganphoto@verizon.net.

The following events take place at the **Scotland Run Nature Center** in Clayton. For details and registration, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- Bird Walk: Saturday 4/4 at 8:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 4/15 at 2:30 PM
- Family Nature Adventure: Saturday 4/25 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 4/8 at 10:00 AM

Other Nature Notes

Annual Plant Sale next month – Get your volunteer plants ready!

It’s here! Spring is finally here! And for many of us that means time outside in our yards and gardens. It also means that our annual Plant Sale is right around the corner - before the start of our May meeting to be exact. A big part of our Plant Sale and the part that a lot of us especially look forward to are the plants that our members bring from their own gardens.

Here’s where your part comes in. As you are out and about in your gardens this next month, please keep the Plant Sale in mind. As you are planting those seedlings, dividing those perennials or trying to figure out what to do with those volunteers that just aren’t in the right place, please keep the Plant Sale in mind. Just pot some of them, mark them carefully and bring them with you to the sale.

One of the best things about gardening is being able to share some of the wonders of your garden. And our Plant Sale is a wonderful place to share them.

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:

2008-2009 GCNC Programs

May 14, 2009 – **Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife In Our Gardens** - Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, U. of Del

June 11, 2009 – **Annual Picnic at Red Bank Battlefield and The Art of Karen Paust**

2008-2009 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the rest of the season. Others may be added as opportunity permits and leaders become available. There will also be a series of Summer Field Trips.

May 16, 2009 (Saturday) - **Birding at Allaire State Park** - Jonathan Weir

June 6, 2009 (Saturday) - **Birding at Brightview Farm** - Bob Duke

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 468-6536.
- **Election of Trustees** - The May Nature Club meeting is when we annually hold elections for our Board of Trustees. The Trustees hold the ultimate governing power of the Club. The Trustees elect the members of the Executive Committee (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and chairpersons of the standing committees). The Trustees' other primary responsibility is to provide direction to the Executive Committee because our by-laws specify that the Board of Trustees authorizes power to the Executive Committee for the day-to-day operations of the Club.

Trustees meet annually at a joint meeting with the Executive Committee in June. There are a total of 12 members of the Board of Trustees. Elected Trustees agree to serve a 3 year term and one third of the Trustees are elected by the Club's membership at the May meeting. The current Trustees are as follows:

- 2006 – 2009 term: Brian Hayes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Carol Cassel
- 2007 – 2010 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Deb Maka
- 2008 – 2011 term: Erik Mollenhauer, Robert Cassel, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge

We will be electing Trustees for the term of 2009-2012. If you are interested in running for election, please contact Karen Kravchuck at 856-468-6536 or at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com.

- 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.
- The April Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 5th at the home of Jayne Rhynard. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Bird Quest Registration

Be sure to include your name, address, phone # and T-shirt size on the form. Mail the form with a check (\$12 per person) payable to *Gloucester County Nature Club* to: GC Nature Club, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080. Questions? Contact Paula Hayes at 468-9272 or pnbhayes@comcast.net. Entries must be received by April 25 for t-shirts to be guaranteed on day of event.

Name of Team (ex: Costello's Cardinals) _____

Name of Team Leader (contact person) _____ T-shirt size _____

Leader's address & Telephone _____

Person #2 (name) _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #3 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #4 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #5 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #6 _____ T-shirt size _____

Person #7 _____ T-shirt size _____

Attach extra sheet with additional names and T-shirt sizes.

Bus Space is limited: first come first served. You must reserve a seat in advance. Bus leaves at 7 AM from Atkinson Park. **Please attach a list of names of any people who wish to ride the bus.**

Fill in here for additional items: Additional T-shirts: Qty _____ (\$12.95 each)

Birds of Gloucester County Flash Cards _____ (\$4.00/set)

Natural Places of Gloucester Co. NJ book _____ (\$12.00 each)