



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

June 2013

Program – Annual Picnic and Nature Walk at Wenonah Lake

Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:00 PM at Wenonah Lake (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342



The June 13 meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be our annual spring picnic. The picnic will be held this year at the Wenonah Lake. 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. After the picnic, we will enjoy a walk on the trails along the lake. Wenonah Lake was dammed in 1762 by Abraham Dilks to provide power for his grist mill that once stood on Maple St on the lake's southern end. The lake is one of the few remaining swimming lakes in South Jersey. The woodlands

surrounding the lake are part of the Wenonah Conservation Area. After the picnic we will stroll the woodland trails to look at the plant life and look and listen for birds. The area is botanically rich and diverse, and a haven for wildlife, including many song birds and a resident pair of Barred Owls.

Directions: Directions to Wenonah Lake are from our normal meeting place at the Wenonah Community Center: From the Community Center, go west on Mantua Ave. for 2 blocks. Turn right (north) onto Jefferson Ave and continue for ½ mile to the lake parking lot. Wenonah Lake is located at the northeast corner of N. Jefferson Ave. and Maple St.

Inversand Field Trip Notice

The Gloucester County Nature Club will not be able to conduct the field trip to the paleontological dig at the Inversand quarry in Sewell that was scheduled for Monday June 17, 2013. We are working with Dr. Lacovara and Mantua Township in hopes of scheduling an alternate date in June. If an alternate date can be arranged, participants will again need to register with the club to take part. Specific information will be posted on our web site, gcnatureclub.org, our Facebook page and sent out in an email blast once we know what arrangements are possible.

Mantua Township will be conducting an Inversand Dig Day, an RSVP event open to the public on Sat. Sept. 28, 2013. This will offer an additional opportunity for interested persons to visit the site, meet Dr. Lacovara and view the fossil exhibit of Inversand finds. For more information, please contact Mantua Township closer to the date of the event.

Stream Walk in Pitman NJ

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (cell/text: 609-315-4759 or mariakeefe19@comcast.net)

Join us on Wednesday, June 19 @ 6:00 pm in Pitman for a Stream Walk. 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 and bring insect repellent. Please no flip flops.

Directions: From Broadway in Pitman go west on Holly Avenue. Turn right at Elm Street (the 4th street on the right; before Alcyon Lake). Make the 2nd left onto Albert Ave. Proceed to end of Albert. Parking is on left, behind Memorial School.



Bird Quest - May 4, 2013 (14 years)



May 4th, 2013 may enter into the record books of the Bird Quest Annuals as the most perfect weather – ever – for a Bird Quest. Slightly cool in the morning, the bright sun shone all day with very few clouds to contrast the azure sky. The gentle breeze brought tantalizing smells of lilacs and ornamental pear tree while strong enough to keep the few bugs at bay. All agreed the weather was perfect all of nature was in balance. Well, almost all...

This year the birds seemed to prefer to stay to the South. It became clear to me when most groups in Bird Quest heard white-throated sparrows singing that the birds had not heeded the call of spring. There were fewer migrants to be found but that didn't stop anyone from enjoying the day and having some wonderful looks at some wonderful birds.

Over the past few years Bird Quest has raised over \$6,000 to be used to help with preservation of Maple Ridge – an old golf course. Many groups visited Maple Ridge on Bird Quest and the number of species there is impressive because of the open space that has become rare and valuable in Gloucester County. I'm happy to report that it looks like there will soon be a park at Maple Ridge. It isn't final but it seems to be very close. Everyone who participated in Bird Quest over the past few years has had a part in preserving Maple Ridge. So when you go out bird watching at Maple Ridge, know that the birds you see are there because you cared. Know that you had a part in saving the indigo buntings that build their nest all over the site and you had a part in freeing the land from houses, roads, and telephone poles. I thank you but so will the children of Gloucester County for many years to come.

Our winning team, the Wenonah Warblers, this year saw 77 species. This is the first time the Wenonah Warblers participated in Bird Quest and the team spans three generations making it a perfect example of what Bird Quest and the Nature Club hope to promote – families spending time in nature. They certainly knew their birds and where to find them. Pulling all the lists of birds seen from all participants a total of 109 bird species were seen in the five hours that day.

Everyone received our Bird Quest t-shirt with the theme as "Hungry Birds" a clever twist on the Angry Birds game. As part of the theme each participant received a simple bird feeder and a pack of seeds with

some information about feeders, seeds, and how to feed the birds. All participants (walks, teams, and the two buses) met at Scotland Run Park for lunch and some wonderful prizes.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year – May 3, 2014 at our 15th annual Bird Quest. Yes, for 15 years we have been welcoming the spring with our first glimpses of the birds returning to Gloucester County. We would like to make 15 years special. Join us and spread the word.

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

If you would like to be a part of the planning committee please contact Brian Hayes at pnbhayes@gmail.com or call 856.468.9272.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: June 2013

- June 2 (Sunday), 9:00AM - **Nature Talks and Walks at the Camden County Environmental Center – Invasive Plants**, 1301 Park Blvd. Cherry Hill NJ. Learn about the invasive plants of Cooper River Park, how they affect the stream and how to identify them. 45 minute presentation followed by 1.5 hour walk along Cooper River. Please RSVP with Michael Hogan, SOS Camden County, 609-476-2086.
- June 2 (Sunday), 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM - **Water Fest 2013** at Scotland Run Park in Clayton. The 16th Annual Water Fest is the County's largest environmental fair featuring B'Wana Jim's Live Animal Show (shows at 12:00 Noon, 1:30, and 3:00 PM). Kayaking, Cnoeing, Face Painting, Music, Crafts, Food, Exhibits. The event is FREE and is held rain or shine.
- June 16 (Sunday), 2:00 PM – **Ticks & Ferns**. Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Experience a casual stroll on the trails of the land trust with a knowledgeable leader to observe the plants, animals, natural features and processes, and just plain magic that make this place very special. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. Please check at www.oldpinefarm.org/ for changes to the schedule and directions. Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ." Further details available by calling Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.

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.

- Bird Walk: Tuesday 5/16/11 at 6:00 PM
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 6/12 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 6/19 at 2:30 PM
- Canoe / Kayak Rentals: Saturday 6/15 at 9:00 AM.
- Nature Explorers: Friday 6/21, at 10:00 AM
- Nature Explorers: Monday 6/24, at 10:00 AM (Insect Safari)
- Nature Explorers: Tuesday 6/25, at 10:00 AM (Lake Study)
- Nature Explorers: Wednesday 6/26, at 10:00 AM (Canoe/Kayak)

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.

GCNC Summer Field Trips

Date TBD - **Field Trip to Inversand** - Dr. Kenneth Lacovara

The revised date of the above trip as well as a listing of additional Summer Field Trips should be provided in the next newsletter.

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at president@gcnatureclub.org 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 newsletter@gcnatureclub.org or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.

Election 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 annually. The current Trustees are as follows:.

2010 – 2013 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Dave Partridge

2011 – 2014 term: Erik Mollenhauer, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard

2012 – 2015 term: Brian Hayes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Rich Dilks

We will be electing Trustees for the term of 2013-2016. If you are interested in running for election, please contact Karen Kravchuck at 856-468-6536 or at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com.

Gloucester County Nature Club 2013 Official Ballot

Board of Trustees (Term for 2013 – 2016)

Mark an X in the box to the left of the candidates of your choice.

(Please vote for no more than four (4) candidates)

Barry Bengel

Paula Hayes

Elaine Dzeima

Dave Partridge
