



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public
October 2005



Program – Herpetology

Thursday, October 13th at 7:00 PM at EIRC, Sewell

Program Coordinator - Bob Cassel 478-2496

Herpetologist Ed Kowalski from the famous Philadelphia Zoo will bring us a fascinating and interesting program on the subject of reptiles on October 13, second Thursday in October. Even though such creatures would normally be considering hibernating for the cold seasons ahead, we trust that our speaker will illustrate his presentation with live specimens. We look forward to an evening of entertainment as well as a chance to learn about our soon-to-be hibernating friends.

Field Trip – Urban Trees of Wenonah and Woodbury

Sunday October 16, 9:00 AM to early afternoon

Trip Leader: Karl Anderson

Co-leader: Karen Kravchuck



This will be an eight mile driving-and-walking tour, from Wenonah to National Park, with stops to look at trees of streets, yards, and parks. Some will be exotics, including ginkgo, sawtooth oak, cedar of Lebanon, and monkeypuzzle tree; but we will also see some large and/or unusual native and near-native species such as shingle oak and Kentucky coffee tree. Trip will end at Red Bank Battlefield Park; where there are tables and rest rooms. Picnic lunch is optional.

Directions: meet at the Timberline Shopping Plaza on Woodbury-Glassboro Road (Route 553) for car pooling. If you have questions, please phone Karl Anderson at 856-845-7075.

Field Trip Report: Bird and Botany Walk at Greenwald Memorial Park (7/10/05) by Gale Cannon

We saw a nice variety of birds during this morning walk in an urban park, including eight species of warblers, warbling and red-eyed vireos, belted kingfisher, osprey, and others. Some plants in bloom were joe-pye weed, purple loosestrife, several species of knotweeds and smartweeds, spotted touch-me-not, and woodland sunflower. A pair of large snapping turtles were observed in a rather violent but mostly submerged interaction - probably mating. Caterpillars of monarch butterflies were found on their milkweed host plants, after Erik Mollenhauer showed us how to find them by looking for fresh frass. The weather was pleasant, and there were fifteen participants.

Conservation Corner – Save Energy Today by Loretta Dunne

One of the many fallouts of the Katrina disaster is the increasing price of fossil fuels. Of course, many in the club have been concerned about conserving energy for years but this is the time to reconsider how you can reduce your usage. There are many opportunities:

Travel

- When it is time to replace your auto, consider fuel efficiency as one of the most important criteria.
- When you do drive, string together your errands. It takes more fuel to start a cold car.
- Share rides with friends when you can.
- How about a bike for short trips to the post office or the bank? You do not need an expensive model, just a solid bike, a lock and a helmet. You can get a bit of exercise and save fuel.

The Home

- Make sure you purchase efficient appliances with high ratings from the energy-star rating program. Maybe it is time to bring back your clotheslines, at least for some of your laundry.
- Do an inventory of windows and doors to stop drafts now that winter is approaching.
- Move your thermostat back 1 or 2 degrees in the winter. Move your thermostat back at night. Turn your hot water heater down 1 or 2 degrees.
- Turn off lights and electric appliances that are not in use.
- Compact fluorescent lights use ¼ of the energy as regular light bulbs and last much longer.

Solar Energy

- Maybe now is the time to investigate solar energy for your house. There are both state and federal (available in 2006-2007) incentives for the installation of a solar energy system, either a photovoltaic system (the solar roof panels) and or/a solar-powered hot water system.

Take the time to inventory where you might be able to save. For example, I have a fuel-efficient car, but no bicycle. I am sure you will discover your own ways to save energy and money at the same time. Additionally, don't forget the big picture. Remind your representatives that the government must do its part in support of renewable energy.

Some useful websites:

A government site that tours a house and suggests ways to save energy:

http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/appliances.html

Check into the Alliance to Save Energy <http://www.ase.org/> for additional ideas.

Database of state and federal incentives for renewable energy:

<http://www.dsireusa.org/>

Site that compares the fuel efficiency of various automobile models:

www.fueleconomy.gov

Other Nature Notes

Chimney Swift Migration – It could be going on all around you in September and October, and you may not even notice. But if you happen to see a large flock of small black birds circling a location at around dusk, stop and take notice for a while. You may just be seeing one of nature's more interesting phenomena – migrating chimney swifts settling down to roost for the night.

Chimney swifts nest throughout eastern North America during the summer, and then spend the winter months in South America (Peru, Chile and the upper part of the Amazon basin). These birds normally spend the entire day in the air, and have voracious appetites - eating up to 25,000 mosquito-sized insects a day. Like their name implies, they like to roost and build their nests in chimneys.

In September and October, flocks of swifts will gather and form large flocks in preparation for their southern migration. While en-route, the flocks will roost for the night in large industrial chimneys. At dusk, the flock clusters above the roost chimney in a swirling mass before dropping one-by-one into the chimney. A flock may use the roost for a few nights before continuing its migration to South America. For more information, check out <http://www.chimneyswifts.org>.



Annual Trustees Meeting for Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust Wednesday, October 12, 6:30 PM

The public is invited to attend the annual meeting of the trustees of Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust on Wednesday, October 12, in the Terrace Room at Auletto Caterers, 1849 Cooper Street, Deptford. Following the meeting, the guest speaker, Dr. Emile DeVito, of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, will talk about “Ecological Restoration: The Real Work Starts After You Save The Land!” Alien Weeds, Invasive Earthworms, Destructive Insect Pests, Foreign Disease Outbreaks, Hyper-Active People, and Over-abundant Deer: These are just some of the worries facing land managers of protected land! But all is not lost! There are a few straightforward actions that land managers can employ, so that any preserve can better resist the onslaught of weeds, diseases, people, and herbivores. Preserves will even begin to heal themselves from past and existing problems.

The annual meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by free refreshments at 7 p.m. and the guest speaker. For more information please call Joan at (856) 232-1109.

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.

October Events at Wild Birds Unlimited - Washington Township

All events are on Saturdays and are free to the public.

- **October 8th: 1 - 3 PM: Visit with Squam**
Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge will be at the store with Squam - a live Barred Owl. Stop by for a visit with this wise bird and his handler. If you wish, bring a camera for a picture with Squam!
- **October 15th: 9 AM - 3 PM: Feeder Wash!**
Drop your bird feeders off between 9 and 3 pm and pick them up later when they are pretty and clean! Only \$3/feeder. Proceeds to benefit the Camden County Animal Shelter.
- **October 22nd: 11 AM - 3 PM: Wood Carver Extraordinaire**
Visit with Les Woolford who will be demonstrating his wood carving abilities. Les specializes in birds as his subjects and currently has an exhibit at Wheaton Village.
- **October 29th. 1 - 3 PM: Let's Go BATTY!**
Mercer County Wildlife Center will be at the store with LIVE BATS! Stop by and visit with the bats and learn a few bat fun facts!

Reminder –Vote on November 8th

Please remember to vote in the General Election on November 8th. It should be noted that due to their stance on the Fast Track legislation and other environmental issues, the NJ chapter of the Sierra Club has not endorsed any of the incumbents in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th legislative districts. In the 3rd district, the Sierra Club has endorsed Phil Rhudy and Jim Zee for Assembly. In the 4th District, the endorsement goes to Frank Winters. In the 5th district, there is no endorsement.

Reminder - Membership Dues

The Gloucester County Nature Club's memberships run from September to September. If you haven't renewed your membership, do so as soon as possible. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$15 for electronic mailings and \$20 for regular mail delivery. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the October Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to:

Ed Cleary, 1874 McKee Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096.

Looking Ahead

Programs-

November 10th - Water Quality with NJ American Water Company
December 8th - Organic Farming
January 12 – John James Audubon

Field Trips-

November 5th (Sat.) - Avalon Sea Watch/Hawk Watch (Jeff Holt)
December 17th (Sat.)- Christmas Bird Count
January 14 (Sat.) – Full Moon Walk at Alcyon Park (Kris Mollenhauer)

Club Notes:

- The November Executive Committee meeting will be on November 6th at Loretta Dunne's house.
- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Deb Maka at deborahann@backpacker.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.
- We're still looking for a field trip coordinator and secretary. If anyone is interested, please email Deb Maka at deborahann@backpacker.com or call 863-0330.
- 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.

WAIVER

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you discontinue on route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005-2006

- New Member Renewal
- Paper Membership(\$20) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership(\$15) - newsletter via email; ***please provide email address below

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ***Email Address: _____

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): _____

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how?

Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Individual ____ or Family ____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____