



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

[www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2012

### **Program - Thoreau, Walden Pond & the Emergence of the Environmental Movement**

**Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Wenonah Community Center, Wenonah, NJ (directions below) \*\*\*NOTE NEW LOCATION\*\*\***

**Presenter: Erik Mollenhauer**

**Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342**

In 1845, an amateur naturalist built a toy house on the edge of a ravaged woodlot haunted by freed slaves... and became the founding saint of the modern environmental movement. Today Walden Pond is a symbol of profound significance, having influenced and inspired some of our finest artists and authors: NC Wyeth, Annie Dillard, Don Henley, Joseph Wood Krutch, Henry Beston, Jack Kerouac and Arlo Guthrie to name a few. Thousands of people make a pilgrimage to Walden every month (in the 1990's, 10,000 people a month visited Walden in winter, more than 100,000 in July). But seeing Walden Pond and understanding Thoreau is not as easy as going there. Join us as we explore the legacy of Henry Thoreau and Walden Pond.

*"My life is like a stream that is suddenly dammed and has no outlet; but it rises the higher up the hills that shut it in, and will become a deep and silent lake." --- Thoreau, Journals, Feb 8, 1857*

*"The greater part of what my neighbors call good I believe in my soul to be bad, and if I repent of anything, it is very likely to be my good behavior. What demon possessed me that I behaved so well?" --- Thoreau, Walden*



**Directions to the new meeting location:** The Wenonah Community Center (historic train station) is located at the RR crossing at the corner of E. Mantua Avenue and N. East Avenue, Wenonah, NJ.

**From the east, north or south,** take Woodbury-Glassboro Rd (Rt. 553), and turn west at the light onto Mantua Avenue. The Community Center is approximately 1/2 of a mile ahead on the right (at the railroad crossing).

**From the west,** take Wenonah Ave. in Mantua east for approximately a mile (becomes Mantua Ave. when you enter Wenonah) to the RR crossing. The Community center is on the left. There are small parking lots near the Community Center along East Ave and West Ave, plus additional parking is available along the surrounding streets.

## **Trip Report – Birding Wheelabrator and other local Hotspots, September 22, 2012**

The day was bright and sunny and the temperature was in the sixties – a perfect day for fall birding. A combined group of about 25 Gloucester County Nature Club, Audubon Wildlife Society, and NJ Audubon members birded at three locations: Wheelabrator Refuge, Red Bank Battlefield, and Riverwinds. The birds recorded are listed below (thanks to Jay Hoeffcker!). Scarlet tanager, blue-headed vireo, peregrine falcon and magnolia warbler were some of the less common species sighted. Thanks to Gary Lizzi and Lloyd Shaw for providing excellent leadership on another great trip!

**Birds seen on 10/22 field trip:** Carolina wren, robin, blue jay, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, pigeon, mourning dove, cardinal, house finch, catbird, turkey, red-winged blackbird, double-crested cormorant, red-eyed vireo, goldfinch, scarlet tanager, ruby crowned kinglet, redstart, great blue heron, northern parula, black duck, Forster's tern, herring gull, laughing gull, blue-headed vireo, osprey, yellow-billed cuckoo, red-breasted nuthatch, white-breasted nuthatch, common yellowthroat, chimney swift, bald eagle, tree swallow, magnolia warbler, titmouse, eastern wood peewee, peregrine falcon, canada goose, turkey vulture, american crow, great egret, american widgeon, mallard, blue-winged teal, pied billed grebe, eastern towhee, flicker, red tailed hawk, starling, common grackle, brown thrasher, Cooper's hawk, field sparrow and a willow or alder flycatcher.

### **Conservation Corner – Sustainable Habits for Back-to School** by Jayne Rhynard

It's fall and for most families some member is getting ready to go back to school after summer vacation. As kids get ready to return to school in the fall, it's a good time to teach sustainable habits to help support a healthy environment... and wholesome kids!

- **Start with the basics** and remind kids to turn off the lights in the bathroom or any unoccupied room at home and at school. Encourage them to throw away any trash they find on the school playground & tell them to use both sides of their notebook paper.
- **Take turns carpooling** with other parents in the neighborhood to drop off and pick up the kids. You'll each save time, energy, and fuel. Visit [Carpooltoschool.com](http://Carpooltoschool.com) for help!
- **Pack kids' lunches** in lunch pails or canvas bags instead of throwaway paper bags.
- **Check out your school's recycling programs** and find out whether recycling bins are available and accessible -- and if the kids are encouraged to use them. Make sure your child/grandchild knows what can be recycled and what can't.
- **Make smart shopping decisions** and buy school supplies with less packaging and made with organic or recycled materials.
- **Re-use school supplies in good condition.** In the middle of the back-to-school shopping frenzy, it's sometimes easy to forget about all those items you have at home that are still in good working condition. Binders, loose leaf paper, pencils and scissors should be re-used so you save money & resources by buying only what's really needed! Donate products that can't be reused to a school or daycare.
- **Keep children in touch with nature** by encouraging your kids get outside for an hour or two each day. Good times out in the neighborhood have changed dramatically in the digital age with children less connected to nature, which can cause them to care less about its condition. Not much daylight left after the homework's done? Take a family walk after dinner, include outdoor activities like biking and hiking on weekends, or have a family nature club. Studies show children who spend more time outside are less likely to suffer from obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder, and depression.

Here's a non-obvious one – jeans. They're always on kids' back-to-school shopping list & are a fashion staple for all ages. Thrift stores, vintage, and consignment shops are usually well stocked with

denim. You'll save money & leave a much smaller carbon footprint. And don't forget to donate your gently used but still wearable jeans.

- **Opt for organic.** Cotton is the most pesticide-intensive crop out there with non-organic cotton accounting for 11% of global pesticide usage. One pair of jeans made from conventional cotton, = 2/3 pound of fertilizer and pesticides. Many brands including Levi's & Patagonia offer eco-chic options.
- **Launder responsibly** by only washing them when absolutely necessary to keep them looking sharp. Manufacturers recommend turning them inside out, washing them in cold water, and try a chemical-free detergent. Line dry to save a lot of energy and the fabric by sparing clothes the heat of the dryer.

Lastly, our fall days are now noticeably shorter. With darker days we turn lights on earlier & leave them on longer each day. Lighting accounts for about a quarter of all U.S electricity consumed. Clean fixtures, shades and glass globes to maximize fixtures' light & use compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. One CFL avoids replacing up to 13 incandescent bulbs & uses 75% less energy! Use technology to conserve - outside photocell lights turn lights on and off in response to natural light levels (on at dusk, off at dawn). Occupancy sensors activate lights when you enter a room and turn them off after you leave. Dimmers offer ambience & can reduce the output of light bulbs & increase their life, however, not all new energy efficient bulbs are dimmable so check the package. Go easy on kitchen & bathroom ventilation fans, if on too long they can pull much of your heated air outside.

## Nature Notes

### **Events by other Organizations: October 2012**

- October 20-21 (Saturday and Sunday) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM each day. **29th Annual Chatsworth Cranberry Festival.** Benefits restoration of the historic White Horse Inn. Admission free, donation for parking. For information: [www.cranfest.org/](http://www.cranfest.org/)
- October 26 (Friday) - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. **South Jersey Land and Water Trust Wine and Cheese for Land Preservation and Silent Auction** featuring Heidi Winzinger, Music Artist and SJLWT Supporter. Heritage Vineyards, Rt. 322, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. \$Fee: \$20 SJLWT members, \$25 nonmembers. Enjoy wine, cheese, desserts and bid on raffle baskets while chatting with like-minded friends of all ages. Come enjoy the music of Heidi Winzinger, a New Jersey and nature-themed folk artist with a country twist who is donating her gig time in support of SJLWT efforts. Support this green local cause and join us and enjoy a great time! Mail checks to P.O. Box 233 Glassboro, NJ 08028. Online Ticketing available at [www.sjlandwater.org/](http://www.sjlandwater.org/) in October.
- October 27 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. **Fall Birding at Bombay Hook, Delaware.** Leader: John Courtney. \$Fee. Sponsored by the Rancocas Nature Center. For information phone 609-261-2495.
- October 28 (Sunday) 10:00 AM. **Walk in the Woods: Oldmans Creek Walk and Work Day.** Leader: Michael Hogan. This 40-acre preserve has 3,000 feet of stream frontage along the Oldmans Creek in Auburn, NJ. It also includes nature and hiking trails, a circa 1790 homestead, an historic log cabin, and a large post-and-beam barn dating from the 1800s. The land is covered by an old-growth deciduous forest with specimen trees of beech, oak, white pine, and a variety of other endemic upland and wetland flora. This provides valuable habitat for significant migratory songbird populations. We will continue removing English Ivy and other invasive vines from the large oak and tulip poplar trees. Michael will discuss the area's flora and fauna and SJLWT projects in the Oldmans Creek Watershed. After removing vines we will walk through the preserve's trail system. Call SJLWT at 856-332-6202 for directions.

**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 Walks: Saturdays 10/6 and 11/3 at 8:00 AM
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 10/17 and 11/7 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesdays 10/24 and 11/14 at 2:30 PM
- Scout Saturday: Saturdays 10/20 and 11/17 at 10:00 AM
- Nature Explorers: Saturday 10/13 at 10:00 AM
- 4H Kids Nature Club: Saturdays 10/6 and 11/3 at 10:30 AM

#### **Natural Events for the month of October**

- Pine barrens gentian in bloom in the Pinelands.
- Goldenrods, asters, bonesets, and blazing star in bloom.
- Cranberry harvest in the Pinelands.
- Autumn colors peak in late October.
- The greatest variety of raptor migration comes in mid-October, with golden eagles, red-shouldered hawks and more.
- Fox sparrows, one of the largest sparrows, are often seen under seed feeders during their autumn migration
- Wood ducks are migrating south
- Green-winged teals, one of the smallest dabbling ducks, are passing through the area as they migrate to the shore.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the rest of the club year. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

November 8, 2012: (Joint meeting w/ SJLWT) **Overview of South Jersey Land & Water Trust Ongoing Projects** – Mike Hogan

December 13, 2012: **Terrariums, followed by a terrarium workshop** - Lorraine Keifer (Special Location: Triple Oaks Nursery, Franklinville, NJ)

January 10, 2013: **Orion The Hunter** - Erik Mollenhauer

February 14, 2013: **Valentine's Day Pot Luck Dinner & program Worship-worthy Chocolate** – Marie Hageman

March 14, 2013: **Program TBD**

April 11, 2013: **Birding South Carolina** – Jeff Mollenhauer

May 9, 2013: **Pollinators: The Amazing Insects Among Us** – Susan E. Ellis

June 13, 2013: **Annual Picnic** (Location to be determined)

## **2012-2013 GCNC Field Trips**

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Karl Anderson at [karlanderson6@aol.com](mailto:karlanderson6@aol.com) or (856) 845-7075.

November 17 (Saturday) – **Location to be Determined.** Leader: Jonathan Stillwell.

December 15 (Saturday) – **Audubon Christmas Count.** Coordinator: Ron Kegel

January 19 (Saturday) – **Looking for Wintering Waterfowl on the Delaware River.** Leader: Sandra Keller. Joint trip with the Audubon Wildlife Society.

February – **To be determined.**

March 23 (Saturday) – **Birding the Delaware Bayshore.** Leader: Joe Esterly

April 27 – **Birding at Long Bridge Park.** Leader: Bob Duke.

April (Dates to be determined) – **Bird Quest Training Sessions**

May 4 – **Bird Quest**

### **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](mailto:blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com) 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 [sharkeyes@comcast.net](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The September Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of Elaine Dzeima. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

### **Reminder - Membership Dues**

It's the time of year for membership renewals. This year we will once again be keeping the price the same as last year. 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 September Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

**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 intend to discontinue on the route.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2012-2013**

- 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_