

Gloucester County Nature Club

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

June 2002

REGULAR MEETING – Thursday, June 6, 2002 – 6 pm Washington Lake Park, Washington Twp.

Bob Cassel, Program Coordinator, 478-2496

Annual Picnic



The Thursday, June 6 meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be the annual spring picnic. This year's picnic will be held at Washington Lake Park in Washington Township (at the picnic pavilion) and will be a covered dish dinner. Attendees should bring a food item of their choice to contribute to the fare, and perhaps a lawn chair to supplement the picnic tables available. Bring your own utensils, plates and cups to cut down on disposables. The picnic will begin at 6:00 PM. Informal discussions about past and future activities will occur. A guided nature walk of the park's extensive passive area (woods, wetlands, meadows) will occur so bring binoculars and field guides. Like all Nature Club activities, the picnic is open to the general public.

Location is Pavilion B (across from amphitheater) Park in Lot F.

The June Picnic will also be host to this year's traditional plant sale. We count on members to bring some cullings from their own gardens to be offered for sale as a fundraiser for the Club... and for members to purchase a few new plants to take back to your garden. We also receive plants from an area nursery. So come prepared--and **don't come late or you will find the best plants are already sold!** A schedule of upcoming summer nature walks and activities sponsored by the Club will be available.



FIELD TRIP – Gloucester County Bird Quest – Sat. June 1, 2002

Kris Mollenhauer, Field Trip Coordinator, 589-4387

Preserved Lands Tour

South Jersey Land Trust (SJLT) is holding its first annual Preserved Lands Tour on Saturday, June 1, 2002. The tour of two sites will be led by eminent naturalist/author Clay Sutton. Clay has served on the Board of Trustees of the South Jersey Land Trust since its inception in 1990. Both locations offer opportunities for birding and botanical experiences.

Cedar Lake Preserve is a 114-acre property in the Great Egg Harbor Watershed within Monroe and Buena Townships. It was preserved in 1997 through the joint efforts of SJLT and Green Acres. NJ Fish and Wildlife manages the land. SJLT is presently in the last phase of a wetlands restoration project to revert two lake habitats to wetlands. The second site, the MacKannan Property (previously Camp Kimble Boy Scout Camp), is a forty-acre woodland on Oldman's Creek, and is a preservation effort in progress. SJLT recently received a Green Acres grant to preserve habitats within the Raccoon and Oldman's Creek Watersheds and is actively pursuing several sites. The Cedar Lake tour will run from 9:30 to 11AM. The MacKannan tour will run from Noon to 1:30PM. A brown bag lunch is suggested while we learn about the Raccoon and Oldman's Creeks Watersheds Project under the shade of old beech trees. Please call Janet Eisenhauer at 589-2049 to register, car pool and for directions!

Bird Quest 2002 A Success!

A total of 260 people participated in this year's Quest and we believe the 2002 Quest was better than ever. Each of the eleven individual Pre-Quest trainings was attended by 15 to 50 people, even those trainings that were held as early as 6:00 AM! The winning team of the Quest, The Geococcyx of Glassboro, located 86 species. But nearly everyone felt like a winner, as they learned more about Gloucester County natural areas and the diversity of bird life that frequents it. Many thanks to the 17 area businesses/industries and state/county agencies who co-sponsored the event, along with thirteen local environmental commissions. Thanks also to the many Club members who volunteered to lead trainings and keep everything running smoothly the day of the Quest.

Environmental Info/Nature Notes

Gloria Caccia, Environmental Coordinator, 582-0980

Keeping Gas Lawnmowers Tuned Up Helps Environment, Saves Fuel

Well-maintained gas-powered lawn mowers help reduce mower emissions and save fuel, according to an article in National Wildlife Federation's April/May magazine, "National Wildlife." They state that you can "tune up your mower in about 30 minutes with an easy-to-use- maintenance kit or take it to a service dealer. For more information visit www.tuneupmonth.com."

**Gloucester County to be Spraying for Mosquito Control**

Gloucester County Parks & Recreation have announced in the Gloucester County Times that they are spraying a pesticide containing malathion to reduce adult mosquito populations. This will be done by truck-mounted ultra low volume or hand-held spraying equipment from April 29 through Nov. 18, 2002.

If you wish to be notified at least 12 hours prior to the application, call (856) 468-0100 and ask for Lee Bougges, Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation who can also give you updated information on time & location of application. (Requested 12-hr. notice may not be given when conditions require pesticide applications sooner than that time.) For information on pesticide regulations, pesticide complaints & health referrals, contact the NJ Pesticide Control Program at 1-609-984-6507.

Forest Protection Rule Not Being Implemented

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was adopted on Jan. 12, 2001 after overwhelming support being expressed during the public comment period. It is the most significant forest conservation measure adopted in our lifetime. If implemented, it would protect some 58.5 million acres of wild forest from roadbuilding, nearly all logging and all new oil, gas & mineral leasing. These areas are important sources of clean water, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

Unfortunately, the present administration has failed to defend the rule against a timber industry lawsuit and logging, drilling and coal mining are being planned in areas that would have been protected under the rule. Especially targeted is Alaska's magnificent old-growth Tongass rainforest. The administration appears to be trying to dismantle the rule.



An urgent appeal is being made for people to contact their Congressional Representatives. Please write or call your Representative and ask him to send a letter to the President urging him to listen to the millions of Americans who support the Roadless Rule and to protect these important areas. Depending on which area of the county you live in, your Representative is either Rob Andrews or

Frank LoBiondo. Both can be reached at the U.S. House of Representatives at (202) 224-3121, or by mail at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515. (NJ phone number for Rep. Andrews is 848-3900, for Rep. LoBiondo it is (609) 625-5008.)

New Jersey's Wildlife Are Dying of Thirst

New Jersey Audubon Society today announced that New Jersey's wildlife populations are dying from lack of water, and urged residents to become part of the solution. Eric Stiles, the Society's Vice President of Conservation and Stewardship, said a drought this time of the year has a heavy impact on wildlife, from wood frogs and spotted turtles to the state endangered blue-spotted salamander.



“Humans aren't the only ones to be impacted by the drought,” Stiles said. “There is no water in vernal pools, those areas of water created in spring that are essential for these species to reproduce and survive. In turn, their loss of habitat impacts other wildlife in the food chain, such as raccoons, who feed on these species.”

Many vernal pools breeding amphibians have short life expectancies. Stiles noted that wood frogs rarely live to be four years old. Prolonged severe droughts have the potential to decimate entire populations. “We're facing our second silent spring,” said Stiles. “The drought is sure to silence breeding choruses of frogs and toads; some local populations may be gone forever.”

He added trees also are dangerously affected. “During a drought, trees stop producing chemicals that keep gypsy moths and other insects from eating their leaves and destroying them. They can also become diseased. This, coupled with the severe increase in the potential for forest fires, severely imperils our woods. We have to face it: we're in the dustbowl of droughts.”

Drought is sure to affect the Noah's Ark of wildlife. Less water means fewer fruits, berries and nuts on trees and shrubs--which ripples up the food chain. Also, less water available to ponds, streams and freshwater wetlands means higher, potentially harmful concentrations of nutrients and the “chemical cocktail” from lawns.

To help curb the drought's impact, Stiles urged residents to take the following simple conservation measures:

- Work with town planning boards and environmental commissions to produce ordinances safeguarding wetlands and wildlife. You can get more information on municipal planning through the NJ Association of Environmental Commissions – <http://www.anjec.org>
- Help map the location of vernal pools statewide through the NJ Vernal Pool project. More information can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.njkfishandwildlife.com/vpoolart.htm>
- Reduce or eliminate your use of lawn chemicals. People should convert lawn into “wildlife gardens:.” These gardens provide endless hours of wildlife entertainment, as you can watch wintering birds, hummingbirds, butterflies and other wildlife in your backyard. In addition, wildlife landscapes require less chemicals and long-term maintenance. These areas also help feed our water supply by allowing for water percolation. Sod lawns are almost as impermeable as concrete and are a wasteland for most wildlife!
- Reduce your personal consumption of water through better technologies (e.g., low flow toilets and shower heads and alternate day showers). For ideas on reducing water consumption, visit the Department of Environmental Protection's site: <http://www.njdrought.org/ideas,.html>





Community Events

Please contact our Community Events Coordinator, Maria Keefe, at Kityblu@juno.com or 856-627-7010 if you might be willing to help staff a Nature Club exhibit at one of the following events:

- **Saturday, June 1**, 11-4pm – Mantua Day, Chestnut Branch
- **Sunday, June 9**, 11-4pm Gloucester County Water Fest, Scotland Run Park, Clayton. Features the NJ State Aquarium “Creature Feature” show, displays, kayaking and canoeing, music, food.

Election Results



Eric Mollenhauer, Mimi Glass, Bob Cassel, and Marge Dolente have been elected as Trustees to the Gloucester County Nature Club for a three year term starting in July 2002. Congratulations to Marge, Bob, Mimi, and Erik.

Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, June 2 at 6:00 pm at the home of Brian & Paula Hayes. Call for details or directions.
Club News: The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program and/or field trip coordinators with your ideas. For information about the Gloucester Co. Nature Club, call Brian Hayes, President 468-9272. Information for next month’s newsletter should be sent, by the 15th of each month, to:

Erik Mollenhauer, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell NJ 08080, 582-7000 X128

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