

Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public
Summer 2004

Summer '04 Nature Club Activities

Once again the Nature Club will host a variety of activities this summer. Listed below is a brief description of the activities which are free and open to anyone, yes even nonmembers, so bring a friend and attend as many as possible. Please be prompt since the events will start on time. Remember to pack – Suntan lotion, bug spray, rain gear, a hat, binoculars, guidebooks, and lots of water if it is hot. Keep checking the website: www.gcnatureclub.org for updates on the latest fieldtrips and outings.

June 30, Wednesday 6:00 PM

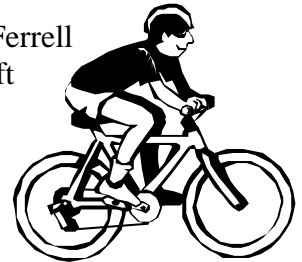
Elephant Swamp, Elk Twp. Bicycle Trip

We once again travel this local rail trail into Salem County. The group will ride to Elmer and possibly beyond. This is the same trail discussed at the May meeting with Rail-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) Northeast Regional Director, Tom Sexton. Bring a bike that can handle off road terrain and water. We may stop at Dodges' Market but bring plenty of water since it can get quite hot on this old railroad bed.

Directions: Meet at the Elk Twp Municipal Building. You can get there from Rt 55 (Ferrell Exit... first exit south of Rt 322). Go NW on Ellis Mill Rd to first crossroad. Turn left on Porchtown Rd (Rt 667). Go one-plus mile and turn right onto Rt 619-623 (Whig Lane). Municipal bldg is on your left.

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

Co leader: Jackie and Dave Partridge



July 15, Thursday 6:00 PM

Greenwich Lake Park, East Greenwich Twp. Bird Walk

This is a great place to see kingbirds, orioles, yellow warblers, common yellow-throated warbler, red-winged blackbirds, herons, and egrets. We should be in time to see the profuse mallow in bloom in this watery park. **Directions:** From 295/130 take exit 15. At the top of the ramp make a left onto Tomlin Station Road (607). Parking lot is on your right less than a mile.

Leader: Bob Duke

Co leader: Doris and Dwight Weir

July 21, Wednesday 6:00 PM

Lake Narraticon Park, Swedesboro. Bird Walk

If you have not visited this little known park you are missing a gem. This park has a lake, low wetlands, high upland mixed forest, and farm field edges. There are usually lots of woodpeckers, wood thrushes, and orioles. Often you can watch the chimney swifts from the parking lot as you exit your car. **Directions:** From Kings Highway (551) in Swedesboro, turn left onto Lake Ave and then turn left onto Park Ave (just before the bridge). Access is from the end of Park Ave.

Leader: Loretta Dunne and Jonathan Stillwell

Co leader: Ed and Millie Cleary

July 29, Thursday 6:00 PM

Ceres Park, Mantua. Nature Walk

The Gloucester County Nature Club has a long history with Ceres Park. The Club was instrumental in helping save the land and a Club member won the honor of naming the Park. Now, we have helped add more land to the park on the other side of the creek. Join Jayne, a local who lives right next door, as we visit some of the special places and see some of the local birds like woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds and more. **Directions:** From 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553A). Make a left onto 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over route 55.

Leader: Jayne Rhynard

Co Leader: Barry Bengel

August 11, Wednesday 6:00 PM

West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford. Bird Walk

Why did we want to save this area from a dog park? On this walk you will see some of the many birds that call this trail home. Towhee's, both orioles, red-tail hawks, brown thrashers, and lots of different sparrows all can be found in good numbers along this trail. **Directions:** From South on 130/295 take exit 21; make a left at the light onto Crown Point Road. At the next light make a right onto Grove St. At the next light, the intersection of Grove St. and Delaware St (640), make a left into Riverwinds. Meet in the parking lot on your right about 300 feet.

Leader: Dick Ebert

Co Leader: Ed and Millie Cleary



August 18, Wednesday 6:00 PM

Mantua Creek, Mantua. Stream Walk

Plan on getting your feet (and more) wet for this event. We will be exploring a local waterway by walking up the creek itself looking for anything this new perspective can offer including fish, frogs, turtles, animal prints, mussels, flowers, and more. The actual location will be determined on walk day based on current conditions. **Directions:** Meet at Chestnut Branch Park. Access is from 553A (Main St. Barnsboro). From Barnsboro the Park will be on your right before you get to the Mantua Municipal building and Tomlin Mason School. Meet at wildflower gardens behind hockey rink for instructions.

Leader: Brian Hayes

Co leader: Karen Kravchuck

August 21, Saturday 11:00 AM

Ceres Park, Mantua. Fern and Orchid Walk

Join Karl Anderson, expert botanist, as we scour this local park for ferns and orchids. Karl will show us many different species of ferns. Do you know your ferns and how many species are out there? Join us as we all learn the difference between cinnamon, New York, ostrich, sensitive and bracken ferns. Adding to the treat there are several species of orchids in the park and some should be in bloom at this time. **Directions:** From 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553A). Make a left onto 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over route 55.

Leader: Karl Anderson

Co Leader: Barry Bengel

August 21, Saturday 2:30-8:30

Purple Martin Festival, Cumberland County

This festival is held by the same group that organizes the Cumberland Raptor Festival in February. The martin festival is held at Maurice River Township School on Rt. 47 in Port Elizabeth. The event features lectures, vendors, exhibits, and as evening approaches an opportunity to observe the large number of martins that gather in Mauricetown as they stage for their southward migration. The festival costs \$5 and you should call 453-2177 to get directions, etc. form the Cumberland County Improvement Authority. This trip is on you own, we provide the information here for club members that wish to attend.

September 1, Wednesday 6:00 PM

Riverwinds, West Deptford. Kayaking/Canoeing trip

Join us for a trip down one of the local

Gloucester County waterways. You will need

your own canoe or kayak and transportation to the launch site. Experienced people only please!

This is a great way to see the “other” side of our streams. **Directions:** From South on 130/295 take exit 21; make a left at the light onto Crown Point Road. At the next light make a right onto Grove St. At the next light, the intersection of Grove St. and Delaware St (640), make a left into Riverwinds. Meet at the boat ramp by the river.

Leader: Deb Maka

Co leader: Paula Hayes



The year in review – June ‘04:

by Brian Hayes

At the June picnic we were asked to share thoughts on the past year at Bird Quest. As I reflected on this great event I found myself looking past Bird Quest to what the Nature Club as a whole accomplished this past year. Yes, this is a little unusual but occasionally I do think. And No, we don’t usually talk about what we have accomplished but when you see the list I think you will be impressed. It was a good year built on the hard work of so many people.

- We held 10 monthly meetings from September through June
 - November was a combined meeting with SJLT and the Federation of Gloucester County Watersheds
 - February was bring a book or poem and dessert to share night
 - June was our annual picnic which doesn’t have a formal program but a social touch
- We conducted 10 monthly fieldtrips from September through June
 - Which included a very popular home feeder visit
- We produced 11 newsletters from September through July
 - Moved many people from paper to electronic newsletters which saves trees
- The fifth annual Bird Quest with our second largest participation
 - 15 unique training sessions for Bird Quest
 - The second year for our team the “Ruffs” participating in the World Series of Birding

- Again we coordinated the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count for Gloucester County
- Our Annual Plant Sale – continues to get bigger and better
- Our third Environmental Commission Conference for Gloucester County and quite possibly our best.
 - Our speaker for the day, Joe Orleans, is a professor at Rowan University
- Many of our members were instrumental in saving the West Deptford Scenic trail from becoming a large stadium sized dog park
- The Nature Club helped facilitate the acquisition of land adjacent to Ceres Park which greatly increases the saved acreage in that area
- Revitalized the Website from the initial pages to a newer design and easier flow
 - New feature added which highlights a species found in Gloucester County
 - New graphics based on old stationary and increased information

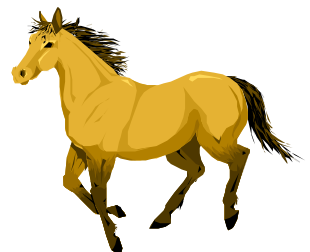
The Nature Club would like to thank Paula Dearlove for her donation of time and energy as secretary this past year while we welcome Bonnie Hart as our new secretary starting in September. Just a reminder, we are always looking for people willing to contribute to the Nature Club. If you are not sure how you can help, tell us you are interested and we will find a role for you that you find interesting and enjoy.

September 2004 Program- Cape May, A Journey Through the Looking Glass

Our September program will feature Kevin T. Karlson, a professional wildlife photographer and avid birder from Cape May County. Kevin's work is widely published in numerous birding magazines and journals, as well as in field guides, calendars, and CD ROM's. Kevin recently contributed over 800 photographs to a major revision of the CD ROM "The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Guide to Birds of North America." Kevin has traveled the world photographing birds but still finds his home Cape May among his favorite places. This program will feature slides and include lots of Natural History illustrating the magic of Cape May.

Wild Horse Herd in Trouble

Many of you probably are aware that there are wild horses living in the United States, but that may be all you know. The last remaining wild horse herd in Montana is now facing regulations that will allow fencing within their range and put an end to the migration pattern they have followed for over 200 years. Most people believe that if these fences are erected and their population size is reduced their ability to survive will be undermined. The US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are the groups that will ultimately determine whether the herd is able to survive. The proposed fencing will also affect many other free ranging species that live in the Pryor Mountains (also known as the Arrowhead Mountains of Montana). If you are interested in this topic you can visit www.savewildhorses.org to learn more or find out how you can speak out against the fences.



Membership Dues

September brings with it membership renewals. This year we will be raising dues for most members in order to accommodate rising costs of printing and publishing the newsletter. 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. I 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 new dues will be \$15 for electronic mailings and \$20 for regular mail delivery. Please do not send your renewal now, we will provide a form in the September newsletter for this purpose.

Club Notes:

- -If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Brian or Paula at pnbhayes@aol.com or call 468-9272.
- -Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Barry Bengel by August 15th at sharkeyes@comcast.net or 6 Greenwood Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of April.