

Gloucester County Nature Club

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2002

**REGULAR MEETING – Thursday, Sept. 12, 2002 7:00 pm, EIRC Building, 606 Delsea Dr. Sewell
(next to Dairy Queen)**

Bob Cassel, Program Coordinator, 478-2496



The Epic Migration of the Monarch Butterfly

Each fall, monarch butterflies that emerged in NJ begin an epic 2,000 mile journey to their overwintering sites in the 9,000 ft TransVolcanic Mountains west of Mexico City. The following spring, their great-great grandchildren return.* How do they do it? Will this amazing migration survive? What can we do to help?*** This program will be presented by several classroom teachers who have raised, fed, mated, tagged, lived with and loved monarchs, developed butterfly gardens, conducted monarch parades and visited the overwintering sites. Included in the presentation will be video footage from Mexico, live material and a tagging demonstration.

**“You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round... The sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours... Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to adulthood, and so it is in everything where power moves.”*

– Black Elk, Oglala Sioux Holy Man

****“The conservation of these butterflies clearly depends on the cooperation of three nations... and on the individual actions of people throughout North American who chose to care about the fate of these beautiful and intriguing creatures.”*

--- Eric Grace

FIELD TRIP – Saturday, Sept. 21 – Franklinville NJ – 8:45 am

Kris Mollenhauer, Field Trip Coordinator, 589-4387

Triple Oaks Nursery, on Rte 47 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, NJ Starting at 8:45 AM

Leader: Lorraine Kiefer, Triple Oaks Nursery CoLeaders: Ed and Millie Cleary

How about an early morning walk along the Maurice River, discovering native plants, butterfly and bird habitat and other interesting flora and fauna? See the new display grass garden as well as plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds and other plants at the Triple Oaks Nursery. Handouts and door prizes as well as complimentary refreshments at the end of program. Triple Oaks was one of the very first home backyard wildlife refuges recognized by the National Wildlife Federation way back in the 70 's. The stream that runs through the property originates in the 'C C' woods in Glassboro, spills into Franklinville Lake just north of Triple Oaks and continues on to Willow grove Lake, then Union Lake and eventually the Bay. It is part of the Maurice River system. Led by South Jersey naturalist and owner of Triple Oaks, Lorraine Kiefer. **Gathering at 8:45, walk starts at 9:00 AM. Meet at Triple Oaks in Franklinville.**

Directions: 1 block south of the Franklinville town center traffic light. If using Rt 55, get off at exit 43. It's a few blocks to the turn south on Delsea Dr. Bring binoculars and field guides. No RSVP needed.

Looking Ahead

October 19 A Bike ride Through The Elephant Swamp 10:00 AM-2:00

November Date to be announced. Tour of MacArthur Woods, Haddon Twp.



Environmental Info/Nature Notes

Gloria Caccia, Environmental Coordinator, 582-0980

ALERT!!!!

In the March Newsletter we included an article about the 30 acre MacArthur tract of old growth forest in Haddon Township, Camden County. It is one of the last remaining old growth forests in this region, a tiny stand only six miles from Philadelphia but a find of tremendous scientific value. It is still threatened by development, to be cleared for numerous athletic fields. You can help. Learn more about its current status by going to the website at www.macarthurwoods.com There is a petition on the website that you can fill out, calling for preservation of the tract.



“This stream floweth wimping and laughing down to the great sea which it knoweth not; yet it doth not fret because the future is hidden; and doubtless it were wise in us to accept the mysteries of life as cheerfully and go forward with a merry heart, considering that we know enough to make us happy and keep us honest for the day. A man should be well content if he can see so far ahead of him as the next bend in the stream. What lies beyond, let him trust in the hand of God.”

■ Henry Van Dyke, *The Ruling Passion*.

Plant Rescue

Thanks to Gloria Caccia, who noticed that a vacant lot on East Woodland Ave in Pitman was about to be built on. The house is next to a home where the front yard is replete with Trailing Arbutus, a lovely wild flower. Bob Cassel talked to the owner to let him know of the rarity and beauty of this gem. The owner cooperated by reducing the amount of yard to be landscaped and by allowing members of the Club to save specimens for transplanting. Thanks to Bob and Carole Cassel who, with Brian Hayes, dug out and distributed the transplants; thanks to Martha Brandriff, Cathy Carter, Bob Cassel, Peter Cupit, Susan Delozier, Frank Eggert, Mimi Glass, Brian Hayes, Ron Kegel, Ed Komczyk, Karen Kravchuck, Kathy MacGregor, Erik and Kris Mollenhauer, Paul Stankard and Kirk Strohmeier for receiving the transplants.





Community Events

Please contact our Community Events Coordinator, Maria Keefe, at Kityblu@juno.com or 856-627-7010.

Land Preservation

The Board of Trustees of the Gloucester County Nature Club hopes to place the Club in a position where it can be a helpful partner in facilitating the preservation of open space in Gloucester County, and beyond. At the June Executive Committee/Board of Trustees meeting, a representative of the National Land Trust Alliance, Jennifer Adkins, spoke about how her organization can assist groups like ours. And earlier this spring, four Club members were sent to the annual Land Rally sponsored by the NJ Conservation Foundation, to gain more knowledge and experience of the land preservation process. Club member Bob Bevilacqua was one of the four sent to the Rally. Bob is an active member of the Wenonah Environmental Commission (Wenonah has the envious distinction of having, percentagewise, more preserved land than any other municipality in NJ). Bob wrote the following comments:

Some months ago I had the opportunity to participate in the NJ Conservation Land Rally. This was a sincere effort of many individuals and groups gathering to discuss the ideas and efforts to promote land preservation. Honestly I was very apprehensive. I thought my technical skills would hinder me, since I was not familiar with Green Acres or Farmland Preservation programs. Was I mistaken!

I came back with the feeling that I could make a difference, however small it might be. I felt that contacts are there to be made to assist and to offer the technical expertise to the many people who, like me, have an interest in preservation. I learned that my questions, however naïve, were answered with sincere help and guidance. Go to the next "Land Rally", bring back information and enthusiasm; attend your next planning, zoning, town council or environmental meeting. Remember each small voice...at the planning or zoning board.... asking about buffers, trails or preservation before a project is started... can make a difference.

Almost a quarter of the world's mammals face extinction within 30 years

The United Nations Environment Programme report identified more than 11,000 endangered animal and plant species – including more than 1,000 mammals, nearly a quarter of the world's total. One in eight bird species is also in danger of extinction, and more than 5,000 different plants.

The destruction of habitats and the introduction of alien species from one part of the world to another are blamed for the threatened loss to biodiversity.

Human Encroachment

The species likely to vanish within three decades include well-publicized cases such as the black rhinoceros and the Siberian tiger, and less well-known animals such as the Philippine eagle and the Asian Amur leopard.

The UN report is a review of the past 30 years in terms of environmental damage. Based on that assessment, the UN says that all the factors which have led to the extinction of species in recent decades continue to operate with “ever-increasing intensity”.



The encroachment of human settlement into wilderness regions, rainforest and wetlands destruction, and the impact of industry, have had a dramatic impact on the survival of threatened animals and plants.

The report says many problems could be rectified if governments implement the treaties and conventions passed since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. These include the Kyoto protocol on climate change and the Convention on Biodiversity. United Nations Environment Programme: <http://www.unep.org/>

Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, Sept. 8 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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c/o EIRC
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