



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

January 2014

**Program: John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts and California's Central Coast:  
A Tale of Symbiotic Friendship and Love of the Natural World**

**Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Wenonah Community Center,  
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

**Presenters: Erik Mollenhauer and Brian Hayes Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342**

The Central Coast of California is home to the coast redwoods, gray whales, sea otters and sea lions, elephant seals, monarch butterfly colonies, the San Andreas fault and more. But in the 1930's and 40's, the Central Coast was also the setting for a remarkable friendship between two men, John Steinbeck and "Doc" Ricketts. Steinbeck is well-known for his many books including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Cannery Row* and *East of Eden*. Less well-known is the fact that many of Steinbeck's most important works explore the relationship between man and nature.



"Doc" Ricketts, a highly complicated individual, was a pioneering ecologist. At the time Aldo Leopold envisioned a land ethic in Sand County, Wisconsin, Ricketts was uncovering his own environmental truths in the tide pools of Monterey County, CA. People who knew both men regarded Ricketts as Steinbeck's "Merlin figure", the wise seer, the man of vision. Some people have even suggested that Steinbeck would have been a second-rate writer without Ricketts, pointing to the decline of Steinbeck's writing after Ricketts' untimely, tragic death in 1948. Steinbeck recalled of Ricketts: "After the first moment I knew him... and for the next 18 years... I knew him better than I knew anyone... Everyone near him was influenced by him, deeply and permanently. Some he taught how to think, others how to see or hear." "His mind..." said Steinbeck "...had no horizons. He was interested in everything." Yet as much as Steinbeck depended on Ricketts, Ricketts' closest friend, collaborator and sponsor... was John Steinbeck. A highly complicated individual, Ricketts' thoughts about science, the scientific process and nature are as relevant today as they were in the 1940's.



Join Erik Mollenhauer and Brian Hayes as they reveal the natural wonders of the Central California Coast and the symbiotic relationship between a visionary ecologist and a Nobel prize-winning author. [Erik and Brian have guided trips to California's Central Coast for the past three years.]

**Directions:** 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.

### **Field Trip: Winter Birding in Rancocas**

**Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 9:00 am**

**Trip Leader:** Lloyd Shaw

Come join experienced birder Lloyd Shaw in one of his favorite birding spots. You will enjoy great looks at winter resident birds while searching for the northern rarities that make winter birding exciting. On this trip we will visit the Rancocas Nature Center Woods and Rancocas Woods Wildlife Management Area. We will do extensive walking as we explore these natural areas. The trip will last about 3-4 hours. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather, as only severe weather or heavy rain will cancel. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Wildlife Society.

**Directions:** Take I-295 North to exit 45. Head east on Rancocas Rd. (becomes Mt. Holly Road). Entrance will be on your right in approximately 1.5 miles.

Address for GPS: 794 Rancocas Road; Westhampton, NJ 08060

### **Audubon Christmas Bird Count – A quick snapshot** - by Ron Kegel, compiler

Hi folks! Just wanted to give you a quick update on the status of results from the count. With 2 areas yet to report we are at 86 species for the count. Unusual highlights would include the Osprey and Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw, I like this name better) found by Ed Komczyk and his cohorts and a female Wilson's Warbler reported by Bob Duke and his gang, picture as well! There were some other parties that were the only area to report one species but I will include this in the comprehensive report. Fortunately a few Harriers were reported, as well as species like Eastern Meadowlark (1), Canvasback Ducks, Woodcock (1), and Pine Warbler (1). Some misses so far include Pied-billed Grebe, Swans, a number of Duck species, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin, Snipe, Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Siskin.



Would like to thank each of you again for your hard work and dedication. You make it happen and make the job of compiler a very pleasant one. Much obliged!

A more detailed report will be presented in next month's newsletter.

## **Family Fun Walk at Timber Creek Park, Gloucester Township.**

**Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 11:00 am**

**Trip Leader:** Maria Keefe (cell/text: 609-315-4759 or [mariakeefe19@comcast.net](mailto:mariakeefe19@comcast.net))

Ring in the New Year with us by taking a walk in the cold air on Sunday, January 12 at 11:00 am at the Timber Creek Park in Gloucester Township. **\*\*Note this there are two parks with the same name, see the directions\*\*** Timber Creek Park is 128 acres in Lindenwold and Gloucester Township.

**All ages are welcome.** These walks are for anyone that enjoys seeing the wonder of the natural world through a child's eye. You don't need children to join these walks with active, excitable, and enthusiastic children. Bring a baby in a backpack, a toddler in tow, grade schoolers, parents, or grandparents along for a walk. We will walk at child's pace stopping to look at anything interesting we find. The walk will last an hour or so. Dress in layers according to the weather. Bring your sense of adventure and join us for a morning outdoors.

**Directions:** Entrance to the park is on Chews Landing Road, Gloucester Township. From the Deptford Mall head south on Almonesson Road toward Deptford Center Road. Turn left at Deptford Center Road. Turn left at Hurffville Rd/ Rt 41 (signs for Runnemede/Haddonfield/State Hwy 41N). Continue to follow Hurffville Road. Continue on Clements Bridge Road. Slight right at W Evesham Road. Turn right at South Black Horse Pike/Rt 168. Turn left at Chews Landing Road. The park is at the intersection of Chews Landing Road and Taylor Road.

## **Conservation Corner – Phasing Out Incandescent Lamps**

As of January 1, 2014, the 60-watt and 40-watt incandescent light bulbs will no longer be manufactured. This is the final phase of the multi-year incandescent phase out - which began with the 100-watt bulb in 2012.

LED bulbs are the latest innovation in lighting. LEDs use up to 85 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and up to 50 percent less energy than CFL bulbs. In addition to being extremely energy-efficient, an LED bulb's life is exceptionally long, cutting down both operating costs and the inconvenience of maintenance. LED bulbs also come in dimmable options now and produce color similar to incandescent alternatives.

### **BULB TECHNOLOGIES**

**LED:** Replacing incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs leads to immediate savings on the electric bill. LED bulbs supply just as much light as incandescent bulbs but require far less electricity. LEDs use up to 85 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and up to 50 percent less energy than CFL bulbs. The lights are reliable, safe and durable with no moving parts and generate a high level of brightness. LED bulbs also have an exceptionally long life expectancy lasting up to 25,000 hours or 23 years.

**\*\*Standard white LED bulbs produce light that resembles daylight. You can buy LEDs in warmer colors to produce a similar quality of light as incandescent light bulbs in other rooms. Additionally, like regular incandescent bulbs many LEDs are dimmable to create various types of light.**

**CFL Light bulbs:** CFLs, compact fluorescent lights, are another good energy-efficient option for consumers looking to save money on their energy bills. CFL bulbs emit the same amount of light as traditional bulbs, but use 75 percent less energy and last up to 9 years longer. CFL bulbs usually pay

for themselves in just three to six months. CFL bulbs can help consumers cut energy costs - up to \$55 per electricity bill - depending on the bulb type and wattage. CFLs are available in a wide range of wattages from 5-watts to 68-watts (or 25 to 300-watt equivalents) and are an affordable lighting option. A 14-watt (60-watt equivalent) CFL bulb costs about \$1.74/per bulb and lasts 10,000 hours. CFL bulbs are available in three color temperatures (soft white, bright white and daylight) as well as both dimming and non-dimming options.

**Halogens and High-Efficiency Incandescent Bulbs:** Halogen and high-efficiency incandescent bulbs are another energy-saving bulb option. High-efficiency incandescent bulbs cost on average \$1.50 each and last two to three years, and are 28 percent more efficient. In fact, researchers have been able to produce some incandescent light bulbs with up to 50 percent efficiency.

### **MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT**

- Upgrading your bulbs is a great first step to making your entire home more energy efficient, which can lead to substantial savings
- ENERGY STAR® certified CFLs can save you \$125 a year - and pay for themselves in only 6 months when used to replace incandescent light bulbs.
- CREE LED light bulbs cost only \$1.14 a year in energy - that's a lifetime energy savings of \$139, and they last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- Also, ceiling fans with lights that are ENERGY STAR® certified are 60% more efficient than conventional units
- Change out your bulbs: Replacing five traditional incandescent bulbs in your home with more energy-efficient versions can save up to \$200 over the life of the bulbs. New innovations in lighting offer an affordable option for energy savings.
- LED light bulbs last 25 percent longer than incandescents, while using 85 percent less energy without sacrificing light quality. They also come in dimmable options, emit great color and do not contain mercury.
- By replacing the incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs, such as the new and affordable Cree LED bulbs in a home's five most frequently used light fixtures, consumers can save \$61 per year on electric bills.
- Simply put the Cree bulb is the most affordable LED on the market today, while being the highest quality as well.
- LED bulbs can pay for themselves quickly and then pay consumers year after year.
- Consumers should check with their local utility company for additional rebates on energy-efficient bulbs that can provide even more savings.

Incandescent bulbs are no longer being manufactured after January 1, 2014. However, retailers may continue to sell their supply of incandescent bulbs until the supply is gone.

For more information, The Home Depot has a specific area on its website [www.homedepot.com/lightingfacts](http://www.homedepot.com/lightingfacts) to answer consumers' questions and show the various bulb options.

## Nature Notes

### Events by other Organizations: January 2014

- January 19, 2014 (Sunday), 2:00 pm – **Walk in the Wild: Hibernation.** Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Experience a casual stroll on the trails of the land trust with a knowledgeable leader to observe the plants, animals, natural features and processes, and just plain magic that make this place very special. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. Please check at [www.oldpinefarm.org/](http://www.oldpinefarm.org/) for changes to the schedule and directions. Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ." Further details available by calling Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.

### Natural Events for the month of January

- Earthworms burrow below frost line and become dormant.
- Newly fallen snow makes it easy to find and study animal tracks.
- First mating season for gray squirrels.
- Look for flocks of robins eating holly berries in your backyard.
- Great horned owls, America's earliest nesting owl, may be on eggs by the end of the month.
- As days lengthen, tufted titmice and cardinals start singing.

### Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs and field trips we have lined up for the rest of the season. Current schedule is subject to change. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

### 2013-2014 GCNC Programs

February 13, 2014: **Pot Luck Dinner** (Program TBD)

March 13, 2014: **Splendors of the Sierra Nevadas: Hiking the John Muir Trail** - Kris Mollenhauer

April 10, 2014: **Birding Adventure in Costa Rica** - Marilyn Henry

May 8, 2014: **Spiders** - Eugene Fuzy

June 13, 2014: **Annual Picnic** - Location TBD

### 2013-2014 GCNC Field Trips

February 15, 2014: **Scotland Run Moonlit Hike and Campfire**

March: TBD

April: **Bird Quest Trainings** including a junior birder training

May 3, 2014: **Bird Quest**

June: TBD

## **Club Notes:**

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at [president@gcnatureclub.org](mailto:president@gcnatureclub.org) 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 [newsletter@gcnatureclub.org](mailto:newsletter@gcnatureclub.org) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The December Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 4<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jayne Rhynard. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.
- **Join Our Meetup Group!** The Gloucester County Nature Club is now using the online tool, Meetup.com to advertise our field trips. We strongly encourage you to give it a try. By signing up you will be able to see up to minute information related to field trips (weather, changes or cancellations if needed), communicate with the leaders and others going on trips of interest. Simply sign up with an email address to join the group and you will be informed of upcoming trips and Nature Club events. It's a great way to be reminded of the trips you didn't want to forget and meet new members! Check out the link and sign up!! <http://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/>