



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

April 2015

### Program - Bird Identification Workshop

Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,  
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

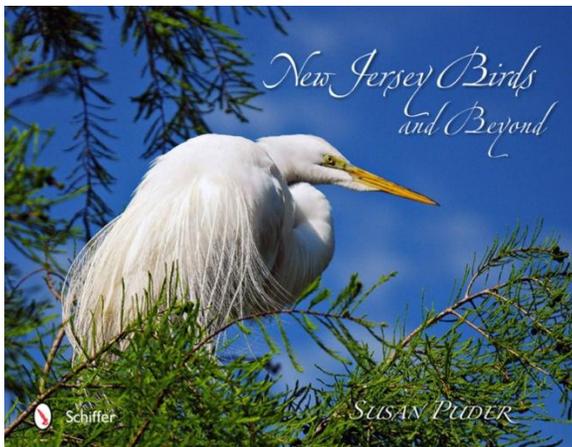
Presenter: Susan Puder

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342



Join Susan Puder, author of **New Jersey Birds and Beyond** and president of the Southern Ocean Birding Group, as she presents a Bird Identification Workshop. This PowerPoint program will help you learn techniques on how to identify birds, using size, shape, colors and patterns, and behavior. It includes information about field guides, habitats, body language, and other helpful tools you can use to identify the over 440 birds that can be seen in New Jersey. With Bird Quest 2015 coming up on May 2, this is a great opportunity to hone your birding skills, or if you're new to the world of birds, a wonderful introduction to these amazing creatures all around us.

Susan Puder has been a serious nature and wildlife photographer for over 30 years, using Nikon equipment. Her work has been exhibited in New York City and throughout New Jersey, winning many photo competitions, including the New Jersey Federation of Camera Club's TOPS in New Jersey. Her work has been published in Digital Imaging and AAA World magazines, local newspapers, and other local publications. She is a Field Contributor to **Nature Photographer Magazine**, with articles published in the Spring, Winter 2012 and Winter 2014 issues. She is both a judge and presenter for the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs. She was also a presenter this year for the Pinelands Short Course held at Stockton University in March.



Susan is a dedicated environmentalist who supports the preservation of open lands and wildlife. As an avid birder, she started the Southern Ocean Birding Group, located at the Tuckerton Seaport in Tuckerton, New Jersey, and is a member of the New Jersey Audubon Society. **New Jersey Birds and Beyond** is her first published book.

Her work can be viewed at her website

[www.eaglecreekphotos.com](http://www.eaglecreekphotos.com).

After the presentation, Susan will be selling and signing copies of her book.

**Directions:** The Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is located just off Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd.) immediately south of the traffic light at Mantua Ave. The church parking lot can be accessed by entrances on either Woodbury-Glassboro Road or Lenape Trail (first left off of Mantua Ave).

## **Field Trips – Various Bird Quest Training Sessions**

This month we hold a series of Bird Quest Training Sessions at various locations throughout the county. Feel free to attend any or all of them, even if you can't attend Bird Quest. Training sessions are listed at the end of this newsletter.

### **Gloucester County Bird Quest**

**Saturday May 2, 2015**

The Gloucester County Nature Club and co-sponsors invite people of all ages to participate in the **2015 (16th annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest. The 2015 Bird Quest** will take place on **Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 7 AM to 12:30 throughout Gloucester County.**

**We have been educating the community about Gloucester County birds through Bird Quest for 16 years. This year we have developed educational materials including a Quest t-shirt with original artwork featuring birds and their songs.** Participants will learn about common birds of Gloucester County and the unique songs each of these birds use to communicate.

**We will meet at Scotland Run Park (Wilson Lake) in Clayton for the picnic and prizes after the event. Scotland Run Park is located at 980 East Academy St., Clayton, NJ.**

**See the separate enrollment form.**

During this time, teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County to find as many different bird species as they can. The Quest is:

- A way to discover Gloucester County's parks and natural areas
- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and through our county
- An opportunity to learn how to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat
- An opportunity to have fun with family, friends, and colleagues
- A light-hearted competition

**The Quest is an educational event: novices are encouraged to participate.**

**How it works:** Teams have 5 hours on Saturday (7am to 12:30) to visit sites in Gloucester County. Birds are identified by sight or sound. The goal is to find as many different species of birds as possible. At 12:30, all participants gather at **Scotland Run Park in Clayton** to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, live animals, educational activities, and prizes. The \$12 fee per participant helps to defray the cost of lunch, T-shirts, prizes etc.**

We have three ways you can participate:

- Organize your own Quest team with colleagues, friends, and/or family and visit parks and natural areas as a team to find your bird species.
- Join a bus - with support from Wheelabrator, LP of Gloucester County, the club will again operate expert guided buses for individuals unable to form their own teams and are willing to join a larger group.
- Walk with our expert guides at locations around Gloucester County for those folks who are looking for a smaller group size but are not able to form a team.

**If you have participated in the past why not invite a friend or colleagues to join you for this year's Bird Quest!** Participants are encouraged to attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest. Training sessions are listed near the end of this newsletter.

More information and registration forms will be posted to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at [www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org). For more information, join a team or reserve a seat on the bus, contact Brian Hayes at [bhayes@eirc.org](mailto:bhayes@eirc.org) or 856.582.7000 x110.

## Nature Notes

### **Events by other Organizations: April 2015**

- April 19, 2015 (Sunday), 2:00 pm – **Spring in the Deep Woods**. 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.
- April 26, 2015 (Sunday), 7:30 am – **Franklin Parker Preserve**. Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Search for the elusive Jersey Devil and other unique animals and plants with Emile DeVito, Manager of Science and Stewardship at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Enjoy an early spring outing in the heart of the Pine Barrens not open to the general public, in what was a former cranberry farm. Meander with us along the Wading River through the pitch pine trees, blueberry bushes, and some of the most beautiful cedar swamps and wetlands in the Pine Barrens. Meet at the Old Pine Farm parking lot at the end of Rankin Avenue in Deptford at 7:30 am, carpools leave at 8:00 am and arrive at the preserve at 9:00 am. Lunch at Lucille's Country Cooking in Barnegat (Warren Grove) at 1:30 pm followed by a trip to the Pygmy Pines at 2:30 pm. Estimated return to Old Pine Farm between 3:00 Old Pine Farm and 4:00 pm. For more information, check out Facebook (Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust) or call Sally at 856-889-4160.

**The following events also 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 Walk: Saturday 4/11 at 8:00 am. Enjoy a leisurely stroll and observe the birds returning for spring. Bring binoculars.
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 4/18 at 10:00 am.
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 4/15 at 10:00 am
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 4/22 at 2:30 pm.

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

- Pond turtles emerge from hibernation and bask in the sun.
- Spring beauty, bloodroot, and trout lily bloom on the floor of deciduous woodlands.
- Spring peepers and wood frogs begin calling when vernal ponds warm to about 50 degrees F.
- Shad migrate up the Delaware River to spawn.
- Ruby-throated hummingbirds, purple martins, and warblers begin to arrive.
- Most juncos and white-throated sparrows have left by the end of the month.
- Rose-breasted grosbeaks show up at feeders for a few days before heading north.
- Prairie warbler, misnamed when it was first found in a barren area in Kentucky, returns late April - mid May.
- The peak of spring raptor migration is mid- to late-April. Consider a visit to a hawk lookout.
- Red-winged blackbirds return to marshes.

## **Looking Ahead:**

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

May 14, 2015: **An African Adventure** - Larry A. Lyons

June 11, 2015: **Annual Picnic** (Location TBD)

## **2015 GCNC Field Trips**

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the rest of the season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at [pnbhayes@gmail.com](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com).

May - **Bird Quest** May 2<sup>nd</sup>

June - **Horseshoe Crab Walk**

## **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 April Executive Committee meeting will be held on **Monday** April 6<sup>th</sup> at the home of Elaine Dzeima. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

# Bird Quest 2015 Training Sessions

Please note that there are AM and PM sessions!

## **April 13 (Monday) 6 – 7:30 P.M. Junior Birding**

**Alcyon Lake Park — Track Ave, Pitman 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue)**

This field trip is designed to introduce young birders to the "sport." Binoculars to borrow will be available to all participants on this trip. As they enjoy all the birds, young birders will be shown how to locate and identify birds through binoculars and in field guides. This is a great first field trip for a child that is interested in birding.

Depending on the age and size of the group of the birders we can divide the group by age or ability. This trip will be designed to be fun and engage children with the goal of introducing them to the activity. However, any level of interest is welcome. Questions are encouraged. *Directions: Drive past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

**Leaders: Paula Hayes and Maria Keefe**

## **April 18 (Saturday) 7 - 8:30 A.M. Forest Edge Habitat.**

**Chestnut Branch Park — 545 Main Street, Mantua, 08051**

Find the hidden habitat in any location. This multiple use park has some great birding spots around and among the ball fields. Find species that like the edge like indigo buntings, mockingbirds, and yellow-rump warblers.

*Directions: Meet at the wildflower garden, beyond the basketball courts.*

**Leaders: Bob Duke and Jay Hoffecker**

## **April 19 (Sunday) 6 – 7:30 P.M. Birding Basics.**

**Alcyon Lake Park — Track Ave. Pitman, 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue)**

Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade. Discover the world of birding from bird guides to binoculars, birding etiquette to bird song and of course bird identification. Any level of interest is welcome. Questions are encouraged. A walk around the park will let you use your newfound —or refreshed — skills.

*Directions: Drive past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

**Leaders: Rich Dilks, Mike and Suzan DeLozier**

## **April 20 (Monday) 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. Birding by Ear — An Introduction to Birdcalls in a Classroom Setting. — Part 1**

**Wenonah Community Center, (historic train station)**

**Corner of East Mantua Ave. and North East Ave., Wenonah, 08090.**

In an indoor setting, learn mnemonics and “tricks of the trade” to identify birds by their songs and calls. This is a great session for novices and those that would like to brush-up on their “Birding by Ear” skills.

**Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jayne Rhynard**

## **April 21 (Tuesday) 7 – 8 A.M. Birds Of Local Waterways**

**Old Pine Natural Lands Trust — 400 Rankin Ave., Deptford, 08096**

Open views of the water provide good opportunity for sighting water birds like ducks, herons, red wing blackbirds and mergansers. Wooded section could produce woodpeckers, nuthatches, warblers, chickadees, and tufted titmouse. *Directions: Access from Good Intent road (Rt.534), turn onto Rankin Ave. Follow to end and park.*

*Walk down woods road to the Big Timber Creek.*

**Leaders: Ed and Millie Cleary**

## **April 22 (Wednesday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. Birding at Glassboro Woods**

**Glassboro Wildlife Management Area, Carpenter Avenue, Clayton, 08312**

A deciduous wetland forest with streams and some cleared fields offers opportunities to view birds in different habitats. This is a good “birding by ear” destination most of the year because of the dense understory of mountain laurel and highbush blueberry. Look for migrating warblers, ovenbird, red-shoulder hawk, and white-eyed vireo.

*Directions: Carpenter Ave. is on the east side of Delsea Drive, just north of the Gloucester County Clayton Complex.*

**Leader: Dan Ceravelo**

**April 24 (Friday) 7 – 8:30 A.M. Woodland Birds and Birdcalls.**

**Ceres Park Nature Preserve, Main Street/Alternate Route 553, Mantua Township, 08080**

Learn your woodland birds like wood thrush, scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds, water thrush, black and white warblers, and pine warblers. Birds will be identified by sound, sight or both. *Directions: Meet in the Main Street parking lot.*

**Leaders: Barry Bengel and Jayne Rhynard**

**April 25 (Saturday) 7 - 8:30 A.M. Forest Edge and Riparian Habitat.**

**Triple Oaks Nursery, 2359 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, 08322**

Great access to Scotland Run riparian habitat and forest edge birding at Triple Oaks.

*Directions: Triple Oaks Nursery is on the west side of Rt. 47 (Delsea Drive,) half a mile south of the center of Franklinville.*

**Leaders: Bob Duke and Rich Dilks**

**April 26 (Sunday) 7:00 - 8:30 A.M. Forest Edge and Swamp Habitat.**

**Railroad Avenue, Elk Township — Meet at Elk Township Recreational Complex Park, Recreation Drive, Monroeville 08343**

Established trees line this quiet lane that follows the Elephant Swamp Trail, part of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Gnatcatchers, woodpeckers and some early warblers can usually be seen.

*Directions: Meet in the paved lot of the Recreational Complex.*

**Leaders: Ron & Linda Kegel**

**April 27 (Monday) 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. Birding by Ear — An Introduction to Birdcalls in a Classroom Setting — Part 2.**

**Wenonah Community Center (Historic Train Station)**

**Corner of E. Mantua Avenue and N. East Avenue, Wenonah, 08090.**

Learn more mnemonics and “tricks of the trade” to identify birds by their songs and calls. You need not have attended Part 1 to enjoy Part 2. This is another great session for novices and those that would like to brush-up on their “Birding by Ear” skills.

**Leaders: Brian Hayes and Erik Mollenhauer**

**April 29 (Wednesday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. Delaware River Riparian Habitat.**

**Wheelabrator Refuge — 600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, 08093**

At the intersection of the Delaware River and Big Timber Creek, the wide-open space behind the Wheelabrator plant is great habitat for swamp, meadow and river birds. Trails and old roads make access easy. Bobwhite can be heard here. *Directions: Access from Rt. 130 (Crown Point Rd,) opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet at the pavilion in parking lot.*

**Leaders: Kris Mollenhauer and Marilyn Henry**

**April 30 (Thursday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. RiverWinds Park**

**1000 Riverwinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086**

Riverside shrubs and forested areas along the Delaware River make for great birding here. Start at the West Deptford Scenic Trail and, if time allows, continue along the Delaware River. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle! *Directions: Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx. 1000 ft, then turn right onto the first dirt road. Park in the lot.*

**Leaders: Gary Lizzi and Gale Cannon**