



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

June 2017

GCNC Annual Picnic & Program

Thursday, June 8 at 6:00pm at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

(Please note earlier starting time)

The June 8 meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be our annual spring picnic. The picnic will again be held this year at Alcyon Park on the shores of historic and scenic Alcyon Lake. Attendees should bring a food item to share, and their own utensils, plates, and cups to cut down on the waste of disposables. As with all club functions, the picnic is open to the public so why not bring a friend?



Program: Surfskis, Outrigger Canoes, Kayaks, Lifejackets, Rescue Throw bags, Paddles - Up Close & Personal

Presenter: Glen Forest Green

Come pick up and examine a 21 foot 17 pound outrigger canoe, an 18 foot 20 pound surfski, and a 21 foot 22 pound kayak. Take a look at a state-of-the-art 23 ounce adjustable length carbon-fiber wing kayak paddle; and check out an 18 ounce Hawaiian double-bent "wacky" shaft outrigger canoe paddle. Try on the latest lightweight breathable comfortable ISO compliant lifejackets; and try on both a belt-pack manually inflatable PFD, and an over-the-shoulder automatically inflatable PFD. Try tossing four styles of rescue throw bags which can be thrown from the shore to someone in trouble. There will unique prizes given to the three GCNC members who come closest to hitting a target placed in the grassy field

Glen Forest Green is a long time nature club member, United States Canoe Association Safety Committee Chairman, New Jersey State Competition Director for the American Canoe Association, Commissioner on the Garden State Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Chairman of the American Swan Boat Association.



Directions: Directions to Alcyon Lake Park.

From points south : From Broadway in Pitman, turn west onto W. Holly Ave. Go .6/10 of a mile, passing Alcyon Lake on your left. Turn left onto Carr Ave. and proceed to the park entrance.

From points north: From Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553) turn west onto Lambs Rd. and continue for 1.6 miles. Turn east (left) onto W. Holly Ave. and go 3/10 of a mile to Carr Ave. Turn right onto Carr Ave. and proceed to park entrance.

Celebrate National Trails Day at Tall Pines State Preserve

Saturday June 3, 2017

The Friends of Tall Pines State Preserve invite the public to join us in celebrating National Trails Day at Tall Pines State Preserve, New Jersey's newest and Gloucester County's first state park.

Events Schedule

10:00am - Milkweed Planting at Tall Pines- Helping the Monarchs! In cooperation with the Gloucester County Certified Gardeners and volunteers from the Gloucester County Nature Club, we will plant a milkweed meadow. The monarch butterfly population has crashed in recent years. Milkweed is the only plant the monarch can breed on and is critical for its survival. In creating a habitat for these remarkable butterflies, Tall Pines will be doing its part in this important conservation effort. Additional volunteers are welcome. Please bring your own garden trowel.

12:00pm - Tall Pines Litter Patrol by West Deptford Boy Scout Troop 295. The Friends will be joined by Troop 295 to clean up, spruce up and remove trash and litter from our trails.

2:00pm - A Walk Through Tall Pines State Preserve. The Friends of Tall Pines invite the public to join us on a free guided walk through the Preserve. The walk will be hosted by Friends naturalists who will talk about the wildlife, plant life and history of Tall Pines.

We hope to see you at Tall Pines on National Trails Day.

To find out more about Tall Pines State Preserve and the Friends go to: <http://friendsoftallpinespreserve.org/>

To learn more about National Trails Day 2017 go to: <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/>

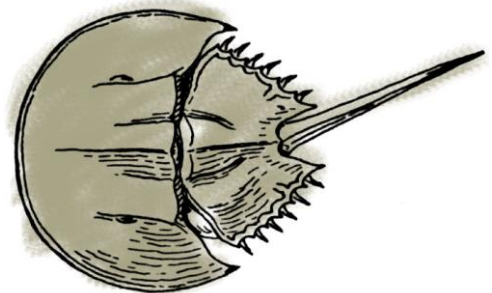
Field Trip – Horseshoe Crab Walk

Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 7:30pm

Leaders: Paula and Brian Hayes (Paula's cell for the day of the walk questions 609-221-5195)

Join us for a walk along the beach in the Villas, a Bay Shore community near Cape May. On this night, beaches all around the Delaware Bay host spawning horseshoe crabs as they have for many millions of years. We will begin our walk as the tide begins to rise and the sun sinks low in the sky. The horseshoe crabs time their egg laying for the high tide on new and full moons in May and June, this allows them to lay their eggs high on the beach. It is believed the crabs seek these conditions to make the climb up the beach easier and to lay their eggs above the rising tide on subsequent nights. As the tide rises up the Bay Shore beaches we will begin to see the male crabs gather along the edge of the surf awaiting the larger females. The males "cruise" along the surf waiting to latch onto a female (using a special claw) for a ride up the beach. The female will crawl up the beach to lay her eggs while the males, in tow, fertilize the eggs. We will walk about 2 miles along the beach, bring appropriate footwear or plan to go barefoot. We will stop often to see what treasures the tide brings in. Though the wind usually keeps the mosquitoes away you may want to bring bug spray. You may also want to bring a camera or binoculars. This walk is open to all but will have special appeal to families. If you are bringing children it is likely they will get wet and sandy "walking," please plan for this eventuality and bring a towel and change of clothes for your child so they don't need to ride home wet.

Directions: Meet at the beach on Walnut Avenue. Park near the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Delaware Avenue in the Villas (Lower Township). If you need an address for your GPS use 301 Walnut Ave, Lower Township, NJ 08251, this is the last house on the beach.



Summer Field Trips!

Field Trip – A Hike in the Union Lake Wildlife Management Area, Millville, NJ

Sunday, August 6, 2017 10:00am to 12:00pm

Trip Leader: Rich Dilks

We will be taking a leisurely hike along trails that follow the shores of Union Lake and meander through the edge of the pinelands woodlands of the 5,000 acre Union Lake Wildlife Management Area in Millville, NJ. Union Lake, the largest lake in southern New Jersey, is over four miles long and 1.2 miles across at its widest point. The lake was created in the 1790's with the damming of the Maurice River to form a small mill pond. In 1868 the Millville Manufacturing Co. constructed a new dam that brought the lake to its present size. Bald eagles and ospreys can be seen at the lake as well a variety of waterfowl and song birds. We will also be looking at the plant and insect life at the water's edge and on the woodland trails.

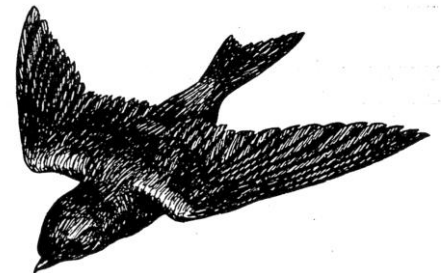
The hike should last about two hours. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather and terrain. Long pants and good walking shoes are recommended as is insect repellent and water, particularly if it is a warm day. Feel free to pack a lunch. We will meet at the boat ramp parking lot off of Carmel Rd.

DIRECTIONS: Take Rte. 55 south to exit 29 then turn right onto W. Sherman Ave and continue west for 3 miles to Carmel Rd. (Rte. 608). Make a left onto Carmel Rd and continue another 3 miles. Turn left onto the access road to the boat ramp. Driving time from Rte. 55 entrance at Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. is about 35 minutes.

Field Trip – Purple Martin Cruise

Thursday, August 17, 2017, 6:15pm.

Join us to witness a true nature spectacular right here in SJ. Take a relaxing cruise on the beautiful Maurice River with friends and experts to view the Purple Martins as they stage for migration to South America. We should also see Osprey, Bald Eagles, a beautiful sunset and a variety of other animal life. The Bonanza II will leave the dock at 2800 High St., Bivalve-Port Norris at 6:15; cost is \$40 per person and total cruise time is 3 hours. Desserts, fruit, non-alcoholic beverages and water are included, but you may also bring your own food and alcoholic beverages. 20 spaces are reserved for GCNC and **need to be filled and paid for by 7/31/17**. Please reserve early so if we cannot fill our spaces they can open them to the waiting list.



3 easy ways to register and pay:

Credit Card Online

- 1) Go to www.cumauriceriver.org and click on the oval in the lower right hand corner that says “**Donate or Join Us**”.
- 2) Complete your information on the registration page. Click “**Other amount**” and fill in the box with the cost of the cruise using only the numerals 4 and 0. In the **Designation** box type “Gloucester County Nature Club 8/17/2017 Purple Martin cruise”.
- 3) Confirm your info is correct and Continue.
- 4) Provide your credit card information and click Pay with Credit Card box.

You will get a thank you screen and will receive an email confirmation. Each person must register individually.

Personal Check Mail a check payable to Citizens United in the correct amount (\$40/person) to Citizens United, PO Box 474, Millville, NJ 08332. Include the name(s) of the persons attending and a contact email and/or phone number.

Pay in Person Register at the Nature Club June meeting and picnic. Provide a check payable to Citizens United in the correct amount (\$40/person) and the name(s) of the person(s) attending and a contact email and/or phone number.

Field Trip – Butterfly Walk – Details to be Determined

Date TBD, 10:30am to Noon

Trip Leader: Chris Herz

In cooperation with Chris Herz and the Audubon Wildlife Society we will be offering a walk focused on butterflies and their identification. The location and date for this trip were not finalized as of our publication date. Please check back on our MeetUp site or watch for an email blast later in June with the details. This is always an interesting trip with a great leader, we hope you'll join us in learning more about these winged jewels.

Field Trip – Riverwinds Beachcombing

Thursday, July 6 at 6:30pm

Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe (609-315-4759) and Paula Hayes

Join us on Thursday, July 6 at 6:30 PM as we walk along the Delaware River. Bring your sense of adventure and join us for a fun walk outdoors. Planes will be taking off and landing, taking people to their own adventures as we comb the sandy beach to see what we can discover. We will stop to look at anything interesting we find and some may dip their toes in the Delaware River. The walk will last an hour or so. Dress in layers according to the weather and bring water, snacks, and insect repellent as needed.

Directions: From Exit 21 on I-295, take Delaware Avenue west. In about 0.4 mile, cross Grove Street. Continue on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Follow the road all the way to the end and meet in the parking lot to the right of the Riverwinds Restaurant by the water.

Family Fun Stream Walk #1- all ages are welcome!

Tuesday, July 25 at 6:30pm

Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe (609-315-4759) and Paula Hayes (cell 609-221-5195 Email: pnbhayes@gmail.com)

Meet at Pitman Memorial School. This stream walk is an old favorite, we do this one most years and it is always filled with a surprise or two. We'll explore what is in, on, under and around the creek as we walk in the water. We'll look for fish, frogs, turtles, mussels, animal prints, flowers, birds and more. Wear appropriate water shoes or old sneakers to walk in the water, shoes that offer some protection are best (not flip flops). We will get wet!! You may want to bring insect repellent.

Directions: From Lambs Road turn onto Hudson Avenue (near Total Turf Experience). Turn into Pitman Memorial School parking lot on the right.

Family Fun Stream Walk #2- all ages are welcome!

Tuesday, August 8 at 6:30pm

Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe (609-315-4759) and Paula Hayes (cell 609-221-5195 Email: pnbhayes@gmail.com)

Meet at Ceres Park, Mantua. This park is a great one for summer hikes since its tall trees provide lots of shade. We'll explore what is in, on, under and around the creek as we walk in the water. We'll look for fish, frogs, turtles, mussels, animal prints, flowers, birds and more. Wear appropriate water shoes or old sneakers to walk IN the water, shoes that offer some protection are best (not flip flops). The walk to the stream is a bit longer than some of our past stream walks, but it's a beautiful spot. We will get wet!! You may want to bring insect repellent.

Directions: From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553 Alt). Turn left onto Rt 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. We'll meet in the parking lot.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: June 2017

The following events are sponsored by the South Jersey Land & Water Trust. Maps, directions, and more information can be found at www.sjlandwater.org/event-directory.

- **Guided Walk at Oldmans Creek Preserve** - Saturday 6/3/1 10:00am – Noon. Meet in the OCP parking area at 10:00am and take a 2-hour hike along the trail system through this 39-acre property. Please RSVP by emailing pmarsenault@gmail.com Wear sturdy shoes and bring your binoculars/camera, as OCP is a great place for birdwatching! Address for GPS: 21 Main St., Auburn, NJ 08085
- **Spring Birding Walk at Timber Creek Park** - Saturday June 17, 10:00am – 1.00pm. Timber Creek Park is the former site of Slims Ranch in Gloucester Township. The 60-acre park is located along the upper, tidal portion of the North Branch of the Big Timber Creek, which flows through a wide valley in this area and contains a mature hardwoods forest with large oaks, American beech and tulip poplar trees and tidal and forested wetlands. There are also stands of mountain laurel that bloom in late spring. The trail follows the south bank of the Timber Creek. The tidal wetlands along the creek provide habitat for waterfowl and bald eagles and red tailed hawks are occasional visitors. The woodlands along the creek provide habitat for nesting songbirds and spring migrants. Walk leader, Michael Hogan, will identify the park's flora and fauna including pink azaleas and very rare American chestnut trees. The trail may be muddy, please wear appropriate foot wear. Bring your camera and binoculars. FREE for SJLWT members, \$3 per nonmember. Payment may be made in cash on the day of the event. Please RSVP by emailing MHogan@SJLandWater.org. **Directions:** We will meet at the parking lot. Entrance is off of Chews Landing Road. Take Rt. 168/Black Horse Pike to Chews Landing Road, turn left into Timber Creek Park approx. 3/10ths of a mile from Rt. 168.

The following events 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.

- **Waterfest!** Sunday 6/4, 11:00am – 4:00pm. Celebrate one of our most important resources – Water! Canoeing/Kayaking, Environmental exhibits, Crafts for sale, Live animal shows. Concert on the Beach starts at 3:30pm. Free event (no registration needed). Rain or Shine
- **Afternoon Nature Stroll:** Wednesday 6/14 at 2:30pm
- **Sunset Paddle:** Wednesday 6/21 at 6:00pm

The following events are sponsored by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. More information and additional events can be found at <http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/>.

Pine Barrens Hampton Furnace Family Walk - Sunday, 6/11 at 1:30pm.

Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Road, Shamong, NJ 08088

This Pine Barrens introduction is perfect for everyone who wants to learn about Pinelands history, ecology and culture. Explore a serene Atlantic White Cedar swamp and discover life in a Pine Barrens stream, step back into the history of Hampton Furnace, use dip nets to look for aquatic life and examine unique carnivorous Pine Barrens plants. This is a guided walk. Pre-registration required. Call 609-268-0189. Adults \$25, Children (6 through 15 years old) \$15. More Information: 609-268-0189

Pine Barrens Journey Between Two Rivers Hike - Saturday, 6/17, 9:00am to 2:00pm

Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Road, Shamong, NJ 08088

Join Pinelands Adventures Naturalist, John Volpa, for a four-mile hike at an easy pace between the Mullica and Batsto Rivers. Explore the uplands and river edges for native plants and animals while learning about the unique features of the Pine Barrens. Bring a picnic lunch!

Pre-registration required. Call 609-268-0189. Adults \$35, Children (8 through 15 years old) \$20

Pine Barrens Batsto River Naturalist Guided Tour (Paddle) Sunday, 6/18, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Road, Shamong, NJ 08088

This trip begins at Quaker Bridge on the Batsto River. You'll explore on water and land while learning about Pine Barrens habitats, history, plants and animals. Once on the river we'll make stops along the way to investigate unique Pine Barrens plants along the river's edge, learn about the role of fire in Pine Barrens ecology, and history of bog iron in the pines. This trip ends at Batsto Lake.

This is a guided tour. Pre-registration required. Call 609-268-0189. \$60 per person canoe or kayak. \$50 per person bring your own canoe or kayak. (Ages 8 and up.)

Pine Barrens Mullica River 101 Guided Tour (Paddle) - Sunday, 6/25, 1:30pm (3 hours)

Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Road, Shamong, NJ 08088

Take a 3 hour trip down the Mullica River from Atsion Lake Dam to Beaver Dam with guide and naturalist John Volpa. Participants will get a Pine Barrens Primer by exploring the river for an overview of Pine Barrens habitats, history and plants and animals. This tour is guided by naturalist John Volpa. Pre-registration required. Call 609-268-0189. \$45 per person canoe or kayak. \$35 per person bring your own canoe or kayak. (Ages 8 and up.)

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

NEW JERSEY AND ITS WILDLIFE

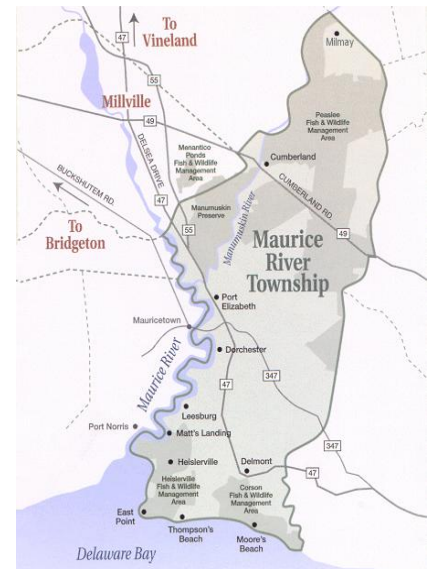
Increasingly wildlife is living in isolated islands of habitat, which impacts on the health and diversity of animal species because it inhibits an animal's ability to find food, shelter and a mate. In New Jersey, 30% of our land resources are now urbanized making that the dominant land use pattern in the state. It is expected that by the middle of the century we will reach build-out in NJ. That is a lot of people and more and busier roads. In 2012, Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ) was formed by the State Division of Fish and Wildlife. The goals of CHANJ are (1) to identify cores (large areas of habitat) and corridors which animals can use to travel from one core to another and (2) to use this information to develop methods to restore and/or reconnect habitats. This information is intended for use by conservationists, land-use managers and transportation specialists. But ultimately it is the bobcats, frogs, salamanders, turtles and many others who stand to benefit from habitat planning and preservation.

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/chanj.htm> and Conserve Wildlife Foundation's winter 2017 issue of *Tracks*.

THE MAURICE RIVER WATERSHED

Do you know what a watershed is? Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River's guide *Protecting Down Jersey Rivers* tells us that a watershed is "an area that drains all the rainfall from elevated terrain to a common outlet at a lower altitude". A watershed contains surface water and underlying ground water and its quality is dependent on land use practices of people in the area.

- The Maurice River watershed in Cumberland County is a sub-watershed of the Delaware River which is a sub-watershed of the Atlantic Ocean.
- The river's ground water comes from the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer which is also the aquifer beneath the Pinelands. The aquifer is the lifeline of southern NJ. See the Pinelands Preservation Alliance's website www.savethesource.org.
- The river's surface water includes waterways such as Muddy Run, Menantico River, Muskee Creek, and Manumuskin River which are all sub-watersheds of the Maurice River.
- There are excellent birding areas in the Maurice watershed for both woodland birds and shorebirds. See <http://www.discoverdelawarebay.org/top-ten-birding-sites/>
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EXECUTIVE ORDERS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

In the last month President Trump has signed many executive orders among which were (1) undo permanent protections of the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans (2) review 20 years of national monument designations with an eye to opening them up to drilling. Petitions opposing these orders may be found [here](#) and [here](#).

THE SENSE OF AWE AND YOU

I was 14 when I first saw the night sky over Sequoia National Park. So beautiful, beyond words. Thirty years later I had the same soaring yet humbling feeling when I visited the park with my husband. That feeling of awe in the presence of something vast, something beyond comprehension is good for us say scientists and psychologists. Experiencing awe causes us to redirect our thoughts and concerns from ourselves and instead focus outward on something bigger than ourselves. It is called the "small self" perspective. People who experience awe together have a feeling of commonality that transcends description. According to one study, just spending time in the awe-

inspiring outdoors causes people to be “more generous, ethical, and willing to help others”. This is another powerful reason to keep our air and water clean, our national, state and local parks healthy and our wildlife secure.

http://sierraclub.org/sierra/green-life/scientists-learn-more-about-state-awe?suppress=true&utm_source=greenlife&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

THE AWE-INSPIRING MONARCH

Monarchs have been spotted in Cape May and according to Journey North have made an appearance in southern New York. This generation is the offspring of the monarchs that wintered in Mexico. There will be two or three more generations before those butterflies that emerge mid-August to late September begin the journey back to Mexico – a little butterfly flying thousands of mile! Awesome! Monarchs lay their eggs only on milkweed plants, so plant *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed) and *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed) along with nectar plants. Check out <http://xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants/> for nectar plants for this area.



Along with our monarch, the swallowtail is experiencing a decline. Black swallowtails lay eggs on parsley, fennel, Queen Anne’s Lace, dill and common rue. Please keep both the monarch and swallowtail in mind when planning your garden.

Club Notes:

- Congratulations to Marilyn Henry, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge and Jayne Rhynard, who were re-elected as Trustees at our May meeting.
- If you’d like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- 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 sharkeyes@comcast.net or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.