



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July / August 2013

### SUMMER FIELD TRIPS!

Up-to date Field Trip information can also be found on our new Meetup website:

<http://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/>



#### **Field Trip – Birding and Kayaking in Greenwich** **Saturday, July 13, 2013, 8:00 AM until mid-afternoon**

**Trip Leader:** Jay Hoffecker 856-341-0980 (cell)

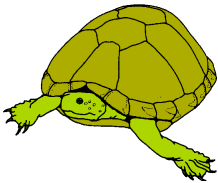
Join us for some birding and kayaking along Sand Ditch and White Sluice Race. Good kayaking trips are harder to find in Gloucester County with the increased beaver activity and all the winter storms (downed trees) this year. This waterway goes all the way to the Delaware River but has the benefit of not being tidal as it has flood gates on it making for an easy paddle downstream and back. We will look for eagles, osprey, muskrat, and keep a keen eye out for beaver too. Bring your own boat and a lunch, along with plenty of water, bug spray, and sunscreen.

**Directions:** From route 295, exit onto Tomlin Station Road (exit 14) and head west. You will pass the entrance to Greenwich Lake Park soon after exiting the highway. Continue a bit further 0.06 miles along Tomlin Station Road to a dirt parking lot on the left side of the road. This will be our put in for the trip.

#### **July 2013 Stream Walk**

**Wednesday, July 17 6:00 PM at Ceres Park, Mantua**

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



Come with us on a Stream Walk on Wednesday, July 17 at 6:00 PM at Ceres Park, Mantua. 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 and bring insect repellent. Please NO flip flops.

**Directions:** From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Turn left onto Rt553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. Meet in the parking lot..

#### **Field Trip – Ceres Park County-Side Walk**

**Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 6:00 PM**

Take a walk on the wild side of Ceres Park. Go on a walk guided by experts of this relatively unknown side of Ceres owned by Gloucester County that can be difficult to explore on your own. We will walk the park to

appreciate the natural wonders that Ceres offers as the “hidden gem” of Gloucester County parks -- abundant ferns, forest birds, wildlife and maybe even follow the rail bed of the now extinct West Jersey Mining Co. RR. Historically a marl mining site, this location shares a common heritage with the World Heritage green sand marl (glaucinite) pit mine in Mantua Township which is being called one of the most important paleontological locations on Earth. Sturdy shoes and bug spray are recommended.

**Directions:** From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Turn left onto Rt553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. Meet in the parking lot, where we will carpool to the county-owned land.

### **Field Trip – Butterfly Walk – Location to be Determined**

**Saturday, August 10th 9:30-12:30 or longer if butterflies are flying.**

**Trip Leaders:** Chris Herz and Sandra Keller

Note: bring binoculars, bug spray, sunscreen, hat, and water. Trip location, once set, will be e-mailed to nature club members. (If you have no email available, please call for location), Trip is cancelled if rainy. Any questions, call 856-546-5471 prior to the 10th, or Chris’s cell 856-534-5597 day of the trip.



### **August 2013 Beachcombing Walk**

**Monday, August 19 5:30 PM at Red Bank Battlefield / National Park**

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

Join us on August 19 at 5:30 PM at Red Bank Battlefield / National Park as we wander the banks of the Delaware River. Bring picnic food for dinner after the walk. All ages are welcome. This walk is 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. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen and your sense of adventure.

**Directions:** Red Bank Battlefield Park, 100 Hessian Avenue, National Park, N.J. 08063 meet in the parking lot on the left. Directions via the web...

<http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/p/parks/parkgolf/redbank/directions.asp>

### **Nature Notes**

#### **Events by other Organizations: July / August 2012**

- July 21 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, – **Walk in the Wild: Sunflecks.** 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.

- August 18 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, **Walk in the Wild: Songs of the Wild.** 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.

**The following events (with the exception of Ecotours) 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 except Nature Detectives.

- Bird Walks: Tuesday 7/16 and 8/13 at 6:00 PM. Bring binoculars and discover the many species of birds that call Scotland Run Park home.
- Nature Explorers: All programs begin at 10:00 AM.
  - Nature Hike - 8/7
  - Lake Study - Wednesday, 8/14;
  - Explore the Florio Property - Wednesday, 8/21;
  - Conservation Walk - Wednesday, 8/28.
- Nature Watch Programs: Thursdays 8/8, 8/15 and 8/22 at 10:00 AM. Enjoy these “Past time pastimes”:
- Be an Egyptian Explorer on 8/8
- Talk Like a Pirate Day on 8/15
- Pioneer Pastimes Activities on 8/22.
- Gloucester County Park Ecotours: August 26 through 30 at 10:00 AM. Check out the wild side of the County parks.
  - 8/26 - James G. Atkinson Park (meet at tennis courts);
  - 8/27 - Pitman Golf Course (meet in parking lot);
  - 8/28 - Scotland Run Park (meet in Nature Center);
  - 8/29 - Shady Lane Nature Trail in Clarksboro (meet at trail head behind complex);
  - 8/30 - Greenwich Lake Park (meet in parking lot).

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

- Blueberries ripen in early July.
- Bog asphodel, now found only in New Jersey, blooms in early July in Pinelands fens.
- The first brood of monarch butterflies is emerging from their chrysalis.
- Raccoons, skunks, and opossums are digging up and eating turtle eggs.
- Breeding and nesting season for birds ends this month except for goldfinches and late bluebirds
- Thistle plants are beginning to seed; goldfinches gather thistleseed for nesting materials
- Listen for the feeding calls of young barred and great horned owls.
- Yellow warblers begin to head south in July; migration is complete in August

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

- Perseid meteor shower - August 12.
- Sweet goldenrod, early goldenrod, cardinal flower, and other late-summer flowers bloom.
- Sweet pepperbush in bloom.
- Purple martins begin roosting in phragmites along the Maurice River near Port Elizabeth in preparation for their southern migration. Peak numbers usually occur around the third week in August.
- Red knots pass through New Jersey again on their southward migration to Chile. Adults are still in breeding plumage.
- Fall raptor migration begins in mid-August with small numbers of several species, including American kestrels, ospreys and bald eagles.
- Gray squirrels give birth to second brood.
- Early warblers migrating south through New Jersey.
- American goldfinches finish nesting late in this month
- Second brood of hummingbirds begin to appear at feeders.
- Birds are feeding on fruits of flowering dogwood trees.

## **Club Notes:**

- To help close a persistent deficit in the club's operations, the executive committee has found it necessary to increase membership dues by \$5 for the coming club year (September 2013 - August 2014). **Electronic (email) memberships will now be \$20 per household per year, while postal mail memberships will be \$25.** For this modest sum, you will be supporting our full slate of meetings and outings, as well as our efforts to preserve and promote the natural areas that make our local communities special. We have been able to keep all of these activities open to the public for almost 65 years thanks to your continued financial support.
- 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.