



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2014

### **Program - Bats of New Jersey**

**Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

**Presenter: Charlene Smith, Wildlife Educator and Program Coordinator, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey**

**Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342**

*The baby bat  
Screamed out in fright,  
'Turn on the dark,  
I'm afraid of the light'.  
— Shel Silverstein*



Since 2013, Charlene Smith has been the Wildlife Program Coordinator for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New Jersey's endangered and threatened wildlife through research, education, conservation, and management. Charlene received her BS in Ecology & Natural Resource Management from Rutgers University. While working towards her degree, Charlene worked at Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ previously as a Park Naturalist at Allaire State Park and participated in field work on bats, American oystercatchers, ospreys, and other at risk species. Charlene has been connecting people to the natural world through hands-on field based programs, interactive classroom programs, and informative professional development workshops in subjects ranging from water and stream ecology to New Jersey's rare wildlife.

A world without bats would be a world without chocolate, tequila, and tropical fruits like bananas, mangoes, guavas, and avocados. It would be an environment off-balance, full of nuisance insects like mosquitoes and numerous agricultural pests.

Bats are one of the most beneficial animals to humans but are also one of the most misunderstood and feared. Bats play key roles in the environment, eating bothersome insects, pollinating flowers, and dispersing seeds. Unfortunately, across the world, and here in the Garden State, bats continue to face many threats including habitat loss and disease such as white-nose syndrome. White-nose syndrome, alone, can kill 90-100% of bats in affected caves. Come and learn about the habits and habitats of these incredible mammals and their importance in the environment, and learn what you can do to help bats here in NJ.

Please visit our website at [www.conservewildlifenj.org](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org). Thank you!

Charlene Smith, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

**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 Trip – Fall Migration at National Park Dredge Spoils**

**Sunday September 21, 2014 10:00am - 1:30pm.**

**Trip Leader: Dan Ceravolo**

Come join local birder, Dan Ceravolo at one of last fall's hottest migration spots. Expect to see a variety of shorebirds as well as migrating songbirds and other passerines. On this trip we will visit the National Park Dredge Spoils which is located on the Delaware river and has woods, marsh, fields and water, making it great for a wide variety of migrating species. Last fall some of the rarities seen there were Red-Necked Phalarope; Hudsonian Godwit; Pectoral, Stilt, White-rumped Sandpipers; Cape May, Nashville, Connecticut, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian Warblers and many others. 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.

**Directions:** Take route 295 North to exit 21. Go left at the bottom of the ramp onto Delaware Street. Make a right onto Grove Avenue and a left onto Hessian Avenue. Make left onto S. 2nd Street and park next to fields.

Address for GPS: Meet at fields on the corner of S. 2nd Street and Hessian Ave in National Park, NJ. The parking is on S. 2nd Street.

### **Family Fun Walk: Sunday, September 28 @ 12:00 noon at Ceres Park, Mantua Twp.**

Come join us for a walk at Ceres Park, Mantua Township on Sunday, September 28 at noon. We will take a nice walk in the woods and see what we can find. 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:** 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. We'll meet in the parking lot.

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

### **Save the date - October 5<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip to Beach Plum Farm in West Cape May**

This trip is in early October trip since it's to a farm, so we wanted to get the word out early. The date will be Sunday, October 5th. There will be a \$3 charge for the tour. Details will follow in the October newsletter.

## Nature Notes

### Events by other Organizations: September 2014

- September 5 (Friday), 5:00pm - **Sunset Walk in the Woods at Scotland Run Park.** Please join South Jersey Land and Water Trust staff member Michael Hogan for a 2 hour guided sunset tour of Scotland Run Park. Scotland Run Park is a 1,000 acre Gloucester County Park located on the Scotland Run Branch of the Maurice River, in Clayton NJ. We will walk the trails along the lake and view the sunset. The lake has a resident osprey family and bald eagles are common visitors at the lake. We will also see SJLWT's lake restoration and rain garden projects. Meet at the pavilion on the beach.
- September 20 (Saturday) – **Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival.** 7:00am - 3:00pm at the John Heinz NWR at 8601 Lindbergh Blvd in SW Philadelphia. Live Animals, Trolley Tours, Workshops, Live Music, Fly-tying, Fishing, Birding, Photography, Archery, Wildlife Origami, Guided Family Hikes, Exhibitors, Butterfly Walks, Food. The Philadelphia Zoo, Academy of Natural Sciences, Art Sphere, and Adventure Aquarium are only a few of the exhibitors that will be making an appearance with family-friendly activities that day! We'll also have free food, live music, and will be announcing the winner of the Nature Photography Contest that day! Dr. Dan Duran, world famous entomology professor from Drexel University, will also be the keynote speaker this year. Sponsored by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and friends of Heinz NWR. FREE. For info call 215-365-3118 or visit [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/John\\_Heinz/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/John_Heinz/).
- September 21 (Sunday), 2:00pm – **Walk in the Wild: Days Getting Shorter.** 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. For more information call Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.
- September 28 (Sunday) - **Hoot, Waddle & Stroll 5K Trail Run & 1 Mile Walk.** 10:00am. This will be a fun, family fundraising event on September 28 at Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (4 Sawmill Road, Medford). Participants are invited to form teams and fundraise via pledges. Team registration and fundraising are available by registering online through [www.Active.com](http://www.Active.com). \$25 until 9/24; \$30 thereafter.
- September 28 (Sunday) - **Autumn with the Animals.** Also at Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge from noon to 4:00pm, includes wildlife programs, live music by Branin Road, Naturalist led nature hikes, games, make and take crafts, guided tours of the Residential Wildlife Housing area, canoeing on Cedar Run Lake, and food available from Brother Bear BBQ. \$10 general public; \$8 Cedar Run members. For additional information on either event and directions, visit [www.cedarrun.org](http://www.cedarrun.org).

**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.

- Canoeing/Kayaking: Wednesday 9/3 at 10:00am and Saturday 9/6 at 11:00am. .Last chance to go on guided canoe and kayak excursion before the boats are put away.
- Volunteer Meeting: Friday 9/5 at 10:00am
- Bird Walk: Saturday 9/6 at 8:00am. A beautiful time of year for a leisurely morning walk. Bring your binoculars and discover the many species of birds that call Scotland Run Park home.
- Kids' Fishing Contest: Saturday 9/13 from 8:30 to 11:30am
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Tuesday 9/16 at 2:30pm
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 9/20 at 10:00am
- Campfire and Night Walk: Friday 9/26 at 6:30pm. Join our annual Campfire and Night Walk on Sept. 26; Bring food to share. No flashlights or blinking shoes during walk.

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

- The last brood of monarch butterflies emerges and flies south to Mexico.
- Black gum foliage turns red - first tree to get its autumn color.
- Wild grapes ripen - not all of them are sour.
- Turtle eggs hatch and hatchlings emerge and head for the nearest water.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks
- Most hummingbirds depart by the end of the month
- Bats busy feeding – building fat reserves for hibernation and migration.
- Broad-winged hawk migration peaks in mid-month - plan a visit to a hawk lookout.

### **Looking Ahead:**

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

October 9, 2014: **The Curing Fox** - Erik Mollenhauer

November 13, 2014: (Joint meeting w/ SJLWT) **A Journey Down the Mullica River Watershed & SJL&WT Projects Update** - Michael Hogan, SJLWT Habitat Assessment Coordinator

December 11 2014: **Galapagos** - Larry & Sue Smith

January 8, 2015: **Fossils of New Jersey's Coastal Plain** - Ned Gilmore, Academy of Natural Sciences

February 12, 2015: **Pot Luck Dinner & Nature Story Sharing** - Interactive member activity

March 12, 2015: **Sacred Landscapes** - Erik Mollenhauer

April 9, 2015: **Bird Identification Workshop** - Susan Puder

May 14, 2015: **TBD**

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

## 2014-2015 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the new 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).

October 5, 2014 - **Beach Plum Farm in West Cape May**

November - **Geology Trip to Wissahickon**

December - **Christmas Bird Count** (Ron Kegel)

January/February - **Conowingo Dam for Eagles** (tentative)

March - **Moonlight Hike & Campfire Saturday**

April - **Bird Quest Trainings**

May - **Bird Quest** May 2, 2015

June - **Horseshoe Crab Walk**

### Club Notes:

- **A note from GCNC President Karen Kravchuck:** September is, once again, upon us. I'm never sure how it gets here so quickly, but here it is — and with it the beginning of a new Nature Club season!

A great line up of summer field trips — wild beaches, watercolors, butterflies, the Blue Hole and stomping in the streams — helped to keep us connected through the summer. The Field Trip committee just kept the trips coming. The unusually beautiful weather made it even more of a joy to have reason to be outside.

The weather is still beautiful and our field trip season starts along the Delaware River at one of last fall's hottest migration spots — just the first in a line-up that will keep giving us reason to be outside.

Our programs this season begin with Bats and, as always, the list is varied, with something for everyone. Program Coordinator, Rich Dilks will let us know what is coming up when we meet.

If you have been wondering about what is happening with Maple Ridge/Tall Pines, we have news that you won't want to miss!

September is here. It's time to begin our new season. You remember — the second Thursday of the month! It will be great to see everyone again. Why not bring a friend — let's help this club to grow.

Please don't forget the change in meeting location. We are back at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church this season.

See you in September!

- Karen

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at [blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com) 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 [sharkeyes@comcast.net](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The September Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of Bonnie Dann. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

### **Reminder - Membership Dues**

September brings with it membership renewals. This year we will be keeping the price the same as last year. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$20 for electronic mailings and \$25 for regular mail delivery. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the September Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

You may also sign up and pay your membership dues electronically via PayPal. Just go to <http://gcnatureclub.org/membership.php> and fill out the online form.

**WAIVER**

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you intend to discontinue on the route.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014-2015**

- New Member  Renewal
- Paper Membership (\$25) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership (\$20) - newsletter via email; \*\*\*please provide email address below

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Paper  or Electronic

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

-----

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form with payment to GCNC, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 or bring to a meeting.