



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2013

### **Program – Wildlife Safari in Tanzania**

**Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Wenonah Community Center,  
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

**Presenter: Scott Barnes**

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

*You know you are truly alive when you're living among lions.*

— Karen Blixen, *Out of Africa*

In November of last year, my parents and I were fortunate enough to spend a little over two weeks touring one of sub-Saharan Africa's iconic destinations: Tanzania. The country is home to large wildlife preserves and parks that total over 25 percent of its landmass. These areas encompass internationally famous destinations, including Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai Gorge, and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Tanzania and its northern neighbor Kenya host the annual migration of over a million wildebeest. We spent much of our journey exploring the area where this migration occurs: the high Serengeti plains in the north-central part of the country. If one imagines the wildebeest herds as buffalo herds, suddenly the American West of the 19th century is brought to life again, but only for a little while. Around the next bend is a lion, hyena, or cheetah resting for a while in the shade, or in the crook of an acacia tree, making ready to stalk those herds in search of another meal.



This presentation will cover the abundance of species we observed close-up, from the high and mighty (elephants, lions, and giraffes) to the small and lowly (dung beetles, warthogs, and bee-eaters). The people of Tanzania are also worthy of some discussion: hailing from 120 ethnic groups, they have used the Swahili language to stitch together a cohesive and peaceful country that is struggling to find its niche on the world stage. Finally, a little bit of the mechanics of a safari will be revealed: how one gets there, where one stays, and what a typical touring day is like. – Scott Barnes

**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.

## **Family Fun Walk at West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford.**

**Saturday, October 12th, 2013 at 10:00am**

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

Come take a walk with us on Saturday, October 12th at 10:00am, at the West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford. **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 Exit 21 on I-295, take Delaware Avenue west. In about 0.4 mile, cross Grove Street. Continue for another 0.3 mile, on what is then called Riverwinds Drive. Watch for a sign to the trail, on the right. Meet in the parking lot.

## **Field Trip – Duke Farms**

**Sunday October 20, 2013 at 9:00am (carpool) to mid afternoon**

**Trip Leader:** Jayne Rhynard



J.B. Duke, the RJR Tobacco scion, transformed more than 2,000 acres of farmland and woodlots into an extraordinary landscape which today includes 9 lakes, restored buildings (including one housing 1,500 orchids) and 18 miles of paved, gravel and mown-grass trails and pathways through a variety of habitats. Over 330 species of birds have been found on the property. It has been restored using sustainable restoration and management techniques to serve as a model of environmental stewardship and inspire people to start building a more sustainable future. Meet us at Timberline Shopping Center in Mantua (Santini's, Mandarin Court) at 9:00am to carpool. We anticipate

leaving no later than 9:15am from the parking lot so we can arrive about 11:00am at Duke Farms. You may pack a lunch and beverage, but there is also a café located on the grounds. For more info on this exciting location see [www.dukefarms.org/](http://www.dukefarms.org/).

For those driving, the address for GPS or MapQuest is: 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough, NJ.

**Driving directions:** NJ-55 N to Rt. 42 N to I-295 N towards Trenton; continue onto I-95 S; take Exit 8B for County Rd 583 N/Princeton Pike; continue and merge onto County Road 615/Mercer 615/Princeton Pike. Continue on County Road 615; turn left onto NJ-27 S; Take the 1st right onto US-206 N/Bayard Ln; Continue to follow US-206 N; make slight right toward Dukes Parkway W and then continue straight on Dukes Parkway W; turn left. (approx 1 ½ hr).

## **Conservation Corner – Light Pollution**

One of the least thought-about problems in our modern world (especially in densely populated areas such as NJ) is light pollution. It is often thought of as more of a nuisance than a serious problem, for instance making it difficult for astronomers to search the heavens. It is also regarded as a drain on resources such as electricity. However, it has become a genuine problem that affects humans and nature alike. With humans, light pollution disrupts our sleep cycle, or circadian cycle, which is linked to numerous illnesses such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, depression, insomnia. In addition, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is discovering a link between light pollution and an

increased risk of breast cancer, prostate cancer, early-onset diabetes, and obesity, among other things. Also, according to a 2006 study published in Pediatric Research, exposure to excessive artificial light (light pollution fits into that category) in early childhood can prevent young children from having a regular sleep routine (yes, you can blame your children waking you at 1 A.M. on light pollution) and lead to sleep and mood disorders later in life.

Light pollution also has a major impact on animals. Estimates on the number of birds dying yearly in North America as a result of collisions with brightly lit buildings and bright electric signs have reached one billion. Light pollution is accredited with a declining population of moths, bats, frogs, and turtles. Scientists are just now realizing the impact of light pollution on the large populations of other nocturnal animals throughout the world.

An 8th grade student in New Jersey has created a petition against light pollution. Please help out by signing it. The web address is <https://www.change.org/petitions/the-government-of-new-jersey-create-new-light-pollution-legislation>.

## **Nature Notes**

### **Events by other Organizations: October 2013**

- October 5, 2013 (Saturday), 10:00am - **Raccoon Creek WMA Walk in the Woods.** Please join South Jersey Land and Water Trust staff member Michael Hogan for a guided tour of the Raccoon Creek Wildlife Management Area, on Saturday, October 5th, at 10:00am. The 272 acre WMA is located along the north bank of the Raccoon Creek in Woolrich Township. It has trails that wind through old fields, forest and along the Raccoon Creek. There is an old stand of Chinese Chestnut trees. Basket oaks, an oak species not very common in southern NJ, is also found there. The site is a good location to view migrating birds and bald eagles and ospreys are common along the creek. We will also see the area's many asters and goldenrods in bloom. The trail may be muddy, please wear appropriate foot wear.

Directions: Take Route 322 West. Turn left at the traffic light onto Berkely Drive. Continue through the industrial park to the cul-de-sac end. A dirt road leads from the cul-de-sac into Raccoon Creek Wildlife Management Area. Look for my silver pickup truck.

Please RSVP. Michael Hogan, SJLWT, 609-476-2086

- **SJL&WT Nature Talks and Walks at the Camden County Parks Nature Center - 1301 Park Blvd. Cherry Hill, NJ:**
  - Sunday, October 6 at 9:00am - **Fall Wildflowers:** Learn about the fall wildflowers of Cooper River Park and how to identify them. Presentation followed by a walk.
  - Wednesday, October 16 at 6:00pm - **Wildlife Photography:** Learn how to photograph wildlife including techniques, equipment and demonstrations.
  - Wednesday, October 23 at 6:00pm - **Fall Birds of Cooper River Park:** Learn about the fall/winter birds of Cooper River Park and how to identify them.
  - Sunday, October 27 at 9:00am - **Fall photo walk of Cooper River Park and Hopkins Pond:** Bring your camera and photograph the colors of fall.

Please RSVP. For more information contact Michael Hogan at 609-476-2086 or [hoganphoto@verizon.net](mailto:hoganphoto@verizon.net)

- October 20, 2013 (Sunday), 2:00pm – **Walk in the Wild: Vultures & migrants.** 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 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 Walks: Saturdays 10/5 and 11/2 at 8:00 PM. Bring binoculars and discover the many species of birds that call Scotland Run Park home.
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 10/9 and 11/13 at 10:00 AM
- Afternoon Nature Strolls: Wednesdays 10/16, and 11/20 at 2:30 PM
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 11/16 at 10:00 AM
- 4H Kids Nature Club: Saturdays 10/5 and 11/2 at 10:30 AM



**Natural Events for the month of October**

- Pine barrens gentian in bloom in the Pinelands.
- Goldenrods, asters, bonesets, and blazing star in bloom.
- Cranberry harvest in the Pinelands.
- Autumn colors peak in late October.
- The greatest variety of raptor migration comes in mid-October, with golden eagles, red-shouldered hawks and more.
- Fox sparrows, one of the largest sparrows, are often seen under seed feeders during their autumn migration
- Wood ducks are migrating south
- Green-winged teals, one of the smallest dabbling ducks, are passing through the area as they migrate to the shore.

## **Looking Ahead:**

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

### **2013-2014 GCNC Programs**

November 14, 2013: **New Jersey Birds & Beyond, Presentation** and book signing (joint meeting w/ SJLWT) - Susan Puder

December 12, 2013: **Iron** - Karl Anderson

January 9, 2014: **John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts and California's Central Coast: A Tale of Symbiotic Friendship and Love of the Natural World** - Erik Mollenhauer & Brian Hayes

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**

November 9, 2013: **Heritage Vineyards - Tour & Talk followed by an Optional Tasting**

December 14, 2013: **Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

January 11, 2014: **Birding Rancocas with Lloyd Shaw**

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 October Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the home of Elaine Dzeima. 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/>.

## **Reminder - Membership Dues**

It's the time of year for membership renewals. 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 were able to maintain the same dues structure since 2004. However, 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. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members.

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 2013-2014**

- 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Individual \_\_\_\_ or Family \_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

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