



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2014

Program - The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural

Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Tom Dunn, Development Office Assistant, The Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Surrounded by over 20 million people, the New Jersey Pine Barrens occupies nearly one million acres in one of the most developed areas of the world. The remarkable geology of the region has created a place that is unique on Earth.

The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural is an exploration of the plants and animals that live in the extraordinary ecosystem of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. It is a celebration of a wilderness in the most urbanized state in the United States. The New Jersey Pine Barrens is a wilderness that plays host to magnificent orchids, tenacious carnivorous plants, secretive snakes and other rare and endangered plants and animals. Through stunning aerial and beautiful close-up photography, the New Jersey Pine Barrens is shown as a rich and colorful region with a high level of biodiversity and fascinating natural history.



Pine Barrens Tree Frog

This presentation will include the showing of the PPA's nature film, *The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural*. The film is 30 minutes in length. Following the film Tom will discuss the ecology of the region and efforts to protect its forests, streams and wetlands

Our presenter, Tom Dunn, is the Development Office Assistant for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Tom has worked for PPA since 2009. In addition to helping run PPA's outreach programs, Tom prepares PPA's membership reminders and thank you letters. Tom spent 37 years as a teacher and technology director in the Little Egg Harbor School District. He received his undergraduate degree from Bloomsburg University and his Masters Degree from Rowan University. Tom is an avid photographer and spends a great deal of time hiking in the Pine Barrens, practicing his botany skills and searching for the perfect picture..

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 – Beach Plum Farm Tour

Sunday October 5, 2014 at 10:00am.

Trip Leader: Paula Hayes (609)-221-5195 (Cell # for day of the trip) or pnbhayes@gmail.com

Regular visitors to Cape May are used to being spoiled with the freshest seafood. Our 62-acre Beach Plum Farm, will spoil you with farm-fresh produce. The Ebbitt Room, Blue Pig Tavern and Rusty Nail are all served by the farm, which is less than 2 miles away from the restaurants. More than 100 varieties

of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers are grown and harvested for local restaurant kitchens. Fruit and vegetables are hand-picked at the farm and sold at the farm stand or delivered to local chefs. Our Guided tour will begin at 10:00 am Sunday, October 5th. Come explore every corner of the Beach Plum Farm's beautiful 62 acres while learning about sustainable farming. Tours last approximately one hour and are \$3 per person. This is a beautiful time to visit the Cape. Why not consider planning to stay after the field trip ends and check out of one of the following on your own: visit Cape May State Park Hawk Watch, walk the beach (no tags needed in October!), take a bike ride or trolley ride through Cape May to see the beautiful homes, stroll the Washington Street Mall, or have lunch at one of the restaurants supplied from the farm. For those wishing to explore the area, local maps will be provided. Please note as stated above there is a \$3 cost for the tour.

Directions: If you would like to car pool meet at Timberline Plaza (across from Target) on Woodbury/Glassboro Rd. at 8:15am or follow the directions to meet at the farm at 10:00am - Take the Garden State Parkway south to the end, Exit "0". Turn right onto NJ-109 N. Turn left onto U.S. 9 S/Lincoln Blvd. Continue to follow U.S. 9 S. Turn left onto Seashore Rd. and keep left to continue on NJ-162/Seashore Rd. Continue to follow Seashore Rd then turn right onto Stimpson Ln. and left onto Bayshore Rd. Slight right onto Stevens St.

Address for GPS: 140 Stevens Street, West Cape May, New Jersey 08204

Family Fun Walk at Black Run Preserve in Evesham.

Sunday, October 26th, 2014 at 12:00 noon

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

On Sunday, October 26 at 12:00 we will be visiting the nearly 1,000 acre Black Run Preserve in Evesham. We will follow the well-marked trails and see this beautiful natural area.

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 295 north, exit at route 73 and head south 5-6 miles to Braddock Mill Road. Braddock Mill Road is south of The Promenade. You will pass The Promenade and then a Target store, at the next light turn left onto Braddock Mill Rd (it's called Kresson Rd. to the right), there is TD Bank on the corner. Go about ½ mile and make the first right as you pass a pond also on your right. Then make a quick left. You will still be on Braddock Mill Rd. Continue to the stop sign at Kettle Run Road. Turn right and travel 50 feet beyond the stop sign, then turn left at the large white "open space" sign into a parking area.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: October 2014

- October 19 (Sunday), 2:00 PM – **Walk in the Wild (Fall Colors).** 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.

- October 24 (Friday), 6:00pm – 11:00pm – **Benefit for the Birds.** Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, the internationally-recognized wildlife rehabilitator and oil spill responder in Newark, DE, is holding its annual Benefit for the Birds on Friday, October 24, 2014 from 6:00-11:00 pm at Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. This year's theme is Trick or Tweet: Black & Orange Benefit for the Birds. We want to provide increased event awareness to avian organizations in the region that may be interested in joining us for a fabulous evening to help raise money to support our operations to help native wild birds. You can visit www.tristatebird.org for all the details on this year's Benefit for the Birds.

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 Walk: Saturday 10/4 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.
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 10/15 at 10:00am
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 10/18 at 10:00am



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

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.

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 2nd

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 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 or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The October Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 5th at the home of Elaine Dzeima. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Reminder - Membership Dues

October 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.