



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

November 2013

Program and Book Signing – New Jersey Birds and Beyond

(Annual Joint Meeting with the South Jersey Land & Water Trust)

**Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Wenonah Community Center,
Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

Presenter: Susan Puder

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Birds are the most popular group in the animal kingdom. We feed them and tame them and think we know them. And yet they inhabit a world which is...mysterious.

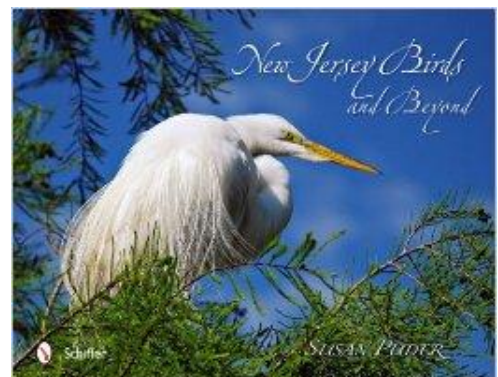
- David Attenborough

In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence.

- Robert Lynd

Join photographer Susan Puder as she takes an intimate look at the resident and visiting bird species that inhabit the shores, fields, and forests of New Jersey. The state's geographic position along the Atlantic flyway provides the opportunity to see a great variety of species at different times of the year. A natural haven for birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, New Jersey offers ample viewing opportunities for photographers and nature lovers alike. Whether a casual or serious birder or a photographer, this 40 minute multi-media slide show will give you a sense of the great diversity in habitats and species that can be found in New Jersey all year round. Susan will offer for sale and sign her books after the program.

Susan Puder has been a serious nature and wildlife photographer for over 30 years, using Nikon equipment. Her work has been exhibited in New York City and throughout New Jersey, winning many photo competitions, including the New Jersey Federation of Camera Club's TOPS in New Jersey. Her work has been published in Digital Imaging and AAA World magazines, local newspapers, and other local publications. She is a Field Contributor to Nature Photographer Magazine, with articles published in the Spring and Winter 2012 issues. She is both a judge and presenter for the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs.



Susan is a dedicated environmentalist who supports the preservation of open lands and wildlife. As an avid birder, she started the Southern Ocean Birding Group, located at the Tuckerton Seaport in Tuckerton, New Jersey, and is a member of the New Jersey Audubon Society. *New Jersey Birds and Beyond* is her first published book. Her work can be viewed at her website www.eaglecreekphotos.com.

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.

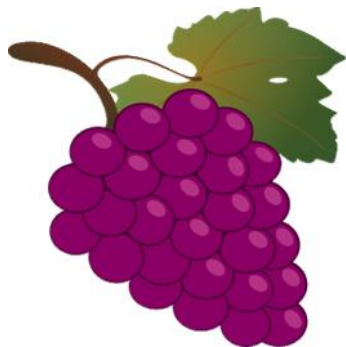
From the east, north or south, take Woodbury-Glassboro Rd (Rt. 553), and turn west at the light onto Mantua Avenue. The Community Center is approximately 1/2 of a mile ahead on the right (at the railroad crossing).

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.

Field Trip – Heritage Vineyards Tour and Optional Tasting

Saturday, November 9th 2013, 10:00am – approximately noon

Trip Leader: Jayne Rhynard



We will have a private tour of the Heritage Vineyards and Winery in Mullica Hill. Heritage was recently named New Jersey's "Winery of the Year" by the Garden State Wine Growers Association. We will walk the property with Penni Heritage, proprietor, and learn about the vineyard, land use, and winemaking in New Jersey. After touring, for those who wish to participate, there will be an optional tasting of Heritage wines (\$5) and the opportunity to purchase wines & do a little holiday shopping. Come on out, learn something, have some fun and share a glass of wine with your Nature Club friends! Meet at Heritage Winery, 480 Mullica Hill Rd., Mullica Hill, New Jersey 08062.

Field Trip – Special Inversand Fossil Pit Visit

Friday November 15th 2013, 9:30am – mid-afternoon

Trip Leader: Rich Dilks

To all members and friends of the Gloucester County Nature Club,

The Mantua Twp. Economic Development Office and Inversand have extended an invitation to the members and friends of the GCNC to attend the Fossil Day event at the Inversand fossil pit in Sewell on Friday, Nov. 15th. This is one of the richest and most scientifically significant sites in the eastern US and one of the few sites in the world that contains fossils from the time of the dinosaur mass extinction event 65 million years ago.

The program will include a talk by Dr. Kenneth Lacovara, fossil displays, an interactive fossil workshop and a visit to the dig at the bottom of the pit. Participants will be able to dig for fossils using plastic implements. The content of the program will be balanced for adults as well as young people. This is a structured program that lasts from 10 to 2. Although local students will also be participating, our interests will be accommodated and we will not need to participate in all activities. We can leave at any time and do not need to commit to being there until 2PM. We are slotted for 20 persons but if more wish to take part, they will be accommodated. **We should arrive at the site by 9:30 AM.**

All participants will need to be able to walk unaided into and out of the pit. There will be no shuttles or people movers. The terrain is a bit uneven, the walk out a bit steep and there is a small wooden bridge in the dig area where there is seepage. It is not extremely challenging but people need to be aware.

This is a free event but you need to RSVP with Rich Dilks by email **BY WED. NOV 13** at rad721@verizon.net to participate. (Call Rich at 856-468-6342 if you don't have email access.). Rich will send you a release form you must bring with you to Inversand and additional info on the event.

Field Trip Report - Duke Farms 10/19/13-

Six nature lovers ventured north just above Princeton and visited Duke Farms on a spectacular October day. Our visit started at the visitor's center watching a beautifully done short movie explaining the site's history and evolution from merely a stipulation in Doris Dukes' will to establish a nature preserve in the face of suburban sprawl in the nation's most densely populated state to embracing a vision to be a model of environmental stewardship to inspire people to start building a more sustainable future. The displays and video told the story of how the property has used sustainable restoration and management techniques. These include: buildings architecturally designed to use natural light effectively and collect rainwater to recycle; solar and geothermal energy that provide all the power the property needs; plantings of native plants, rain gardens, grasslands and pollinator habitat.

On our self-guided tour we alternately walked the trails and rode the tram (to most efficiently use our time -there is much more to explore here than you can see in one visit) to "hit the highlights". We watched millions of gallons of water pumped from the Raritan River flow down the Great Falls, checked out the ruins of a mansion started but never completed above the foundation line, visited the arboretum housing thousands of orchid varieties and identified or tried to identify plants, trees, birds, butterflies and insects as we went. Duke Farms acknowledges it is a work in progress and has done a world class job. It is truly inspiring and offers much for all of us to take away to apply to our individual lives as well as to our efforts as a club maintaining our natural areas in Gloucester County and preserving new ones.

Conservation Corner – 5 Simple Things YOU Can Do To Help Protect The Earth

1. Put on a sweater. Remember when you turn up the heat in wintertime, your furnace is probably burning fossil fuels. A sweater or a nice warm robe will keep you even warmer and will help conserve resources and reduce climate change.
2. Put one foot in front of the other. One hundred years ago, 99.9% of people got by without cars. They **took** the train, they lived near the workplaces...and they walked. Using fuel-efficient cars is important, but we can save more fuel by simply driving less.
3. Go for seconds. Recycling doesn't mean only separating cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second time (or a third time). That nice padded envelope you got in the mail, for example? Instead of throwing it away, scratch out the address, tear off the off the stamps and use it again.
4. Watch your waste. Items you may be throwing out can contaminate the soil and water for thousands or millions of years. Your community probably has special disposal procedures for things like used oil and batteries. Ink cartridges can probably be recycled where you bought them. And many of the new superefficient light bulbs contain mercury, so proper disposal is crucial. Check with the store where you buy them.
5. Paper nor Plastic. Bring your bags with you! By taking reusable bags to the grocery store, you can cut down on the 350 bags the average American uses each year and reduce needless deaths of marine life caused by plastic bags that end up in streams, rivers, and oceans.



These are just a few tips to conserve with your family and friends.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: November 2013

- November 17, 2013 (Sunday), 2:00pm – **Walk in the Wild: Samaras & twigs.** 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/ 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 Walk: Saturday 11/2 at 8:00am. Bring binoculars and discover the many species of birds that call Scotland Run Park home.
- 4H Kids Nature Club: Saturday 11/2 at 10:30am
- Nature Tots: Wednesdays 11/13 at 10:00pm
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 11/16 at 10:00pm
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesdays 11/20 at 2:30pm

Natural Events for the month of November

- Persimmons ripen - they are delicious when fully soft-ripe, astringent when unripe.
- Witch hazel in bloom.
- Woodchucks and chipmunks go into hibernation.
- Bats seek their hibernating sites in caves and abandoned mines.
- American tree sparrow, sometimes called the "winter chippy", is a regular winter bird feeder visitor.



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

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

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 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 or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The November Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 10th at the home of Bonnie Dann. 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 new 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? _____

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.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____