



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

March 2020

## Program: Species Discovery and the Future of Biodiversity

Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Dr. Daniel Duran, Lecturer, Rowan University; Naturalist, Scotland Run Park

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Science has identified some 2 million species of plants, animals and microbes but more than 90 % of species on Earth have yet to be discovered. How will science meet the challenge of exploring this vast diversity of life?

*"My interests are in the fields of systematics, taxonomy, and conservation. My research is primarily focused on biodiversity exploration and the discovery of 'cryptic species'; species that are distinct evolutionary units, but go undetected due to physical similarity with closely related species. I mostly use tiger beetles (Cicindelinae) as a study system. I am also interested in examining the important roles of insect and plant biodiversity in ecosystem functioning."*

- Dr. Daniel Duran

Dr. Duran has taught a wide range of ecology and evolution courses at the university level, and he gives public lectures about the importance of biodiversity. He is also the Naturalist at Scotland Run Park in Gloucester County.

**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).



**Tiger beetles**

## **Field Trip – Parvin State Park Hike**

**Sunday March 22, 2020 at 11:00am**

**Trip Leaders: Paula and Brian Hayes**

We will hike a four mile loop while exploring the state park. We plan to do the Thundergust Lake Trail and the long trail. The park is flat but parts of the trails have roots and ruts, sturdy shoes are recommended. Bring water and dress for the weather. While this trip is meant to be a walk, we will stop and enjoy plants or animals that interest the group. The walk will take about 90 minutes.

**Directions:** For GPS use Parvin Grove Park Office, Pittsgrove Township, NJ 08318. From Route 55 take exit 35B and follow West Garden Road for 2 miles. Then take a slight left onto Parvin Mill Road. Turn right onto Almond Road, the park office is ¼ mile. Parking is across the street from the park office. We will meet outside the office.

## **Bird Walks - Recurring Event**

The Scotland Run Park Nature Center and the Gloucester County Nature Club will resume holding monthly bird walks on the **first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30am**. For March, walks will be on **March 5** and **March 19**. Come and explore the nature trails as we look for all different species of feathered friends that Scotland Run Park has to offer. This event is open to all ages and families are encouraged to attend together. Bird walks will NOT take place during snow or rain.

## **Events by Other Organizations: March 2020**

**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.

**Nature Tots:** Tuesdays, 9:30am to 10:30am

- March 3 – **Bats**
- March 10 – **Bluebirds**
- March 17 – **Returning Spring Birds**
- March 24 – **Tiger Beetles**
- March 31 – **Gardening for Wildlife**

March 15 (Sunday) at 2:00pm - Join Patricia Brennan at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust for our **“Walk in the Wild”** on Sunday, March 15, at 2:00pm for a workshop on the many **Benefits of Burning or Smudging**. This workshop will cover the spiritual, cleansing, and stress relieving properties of ceremonial Sage. Come and join us to learn about the history and variety of materials used to get your home and body ready for 2020 Spring Cleaning. We will also highlight the sacred Palo Santo, which has similar meaning in smudging and beyond.

Ever wondered about the many benefits of burning or smudging sage? Patricia will be our workshop guide as we learn about these wonderful materials, practice techniques, and actually make our own bundles of sage to bring home. She has a background in western medicine, but has been living on and off grid in the jungles and mountain ranges of Central and South American jungles over the last few years. She is a student of shamanic and ceremonial healing, native plant medicine and practices a whole food plant based lifestyle. We will meet at the Willoughby House at the end of Pine Avenue, off Good Intent Road in Blackwood Terrace, or you can put "340 Pine Avenue, Deptford" into your favorite mapping service. There is an additional small parking lot available at the end of Rankin Ave, one block from Pine Ave. Please check the Old Pine Farm Facebook page for changes and directions. Information and questions: call Charles White, 856-217-9138 or see <https://oldpinefarm.org/>. Carpooling is recommended due to limited parking. Free and open to all.

## Natural Events for the month of March

- Woodchucks emerge from hibernation.
- Male skunks wander widely, searching for mates.
- Red maples flower in late March, with male and female flowers on separate trees.
- Roadside "weeds" such as speedwell, wintercress, hairy bittercress, purple dead-nettle, and storksbill bloom before most native wildflowers.
- Eastern screech owls, New Jersey's most common owl, lay eggs beginning in March and continue through May.
- Woodcocks begin courtship flights.
- Male goldfinches begin to molt into their brilliant yellow breeding plumage.
- Eastern Phoebes return this month.

## Conservation Corner

The club is still looking for someone to follow in Suzan Delozier's footsteps by serving as the club's Conservation Chair. This is not as hard as it sounds; generally it just involves providing timely Conservation information for the newsletter. Please contact club President Karen Kravchuck or any other member of the executive committee if interested.

### Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the rest of the 2019-2020 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

### 2019 - 2020 Programs

April 9, 2020: **Birding the American Heartland** - Jeff Mollenhauer

May 14, 2020. **Annual Plant Sale** (6:00pm) followed by program **May on the Bay: Taking Action for Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs** - Laura Chamberlin, Assistant Director for the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

June 11, 2020 (6:00pm): **GCNC Annual Picnic** at Fasola Park, Deptford, NJ

### 2019-2020 Field Trips

**April** – Various Bird Quest training sessions

Remaining 2020 field trips TBD. If you would be willing to lead a field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at [pnbhayes@gmail.com](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com) or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- 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 March Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Barry Bengel. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

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