



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

April 2022

## Program: Tidal Wave & the Maurice River Cove Exposed & Unprotected

Thursday April 14, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

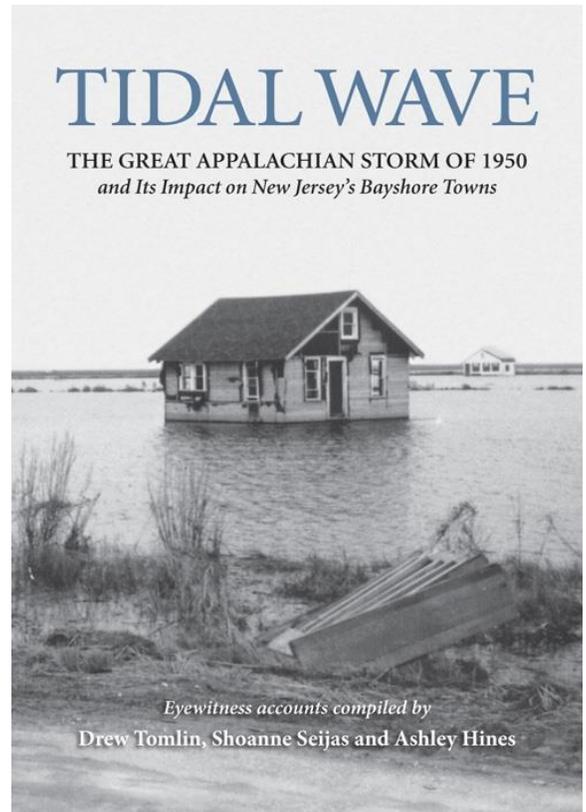
Presenter: Rachel Dolhanczyk, Museum Curator, The Bayshore Center at Bivalve.

The Bayshore Center at Bivalve will combine two of their popular talks that focus on the devastating effects of flooding along the Bayshore in Cumberland County. On November 25th, 1950, storm conditions resulted in a devastating tidal wave that destroyed communities and took lives. Homes were destroyed, boats and vehicles floated away, and property damage was devastating. Now, firsthand accounts of the Tidal Wave serve as a cautionary tale concerning disaster preparedness, poor housing practices and environmental injustice. The book *Tidal Wave the Great Appalachian Storm of 1950* is based on oral histories, photographs and newspapers. Books will be available for sale at \$20 (includes sales tax). Then, hear about today and the frequent flooding that the Bayshore Center at Bivalve experiences along the Maurice River. See historic maps and aerial photographs to learn how the river has been affected by rising water, erosion and land subsidence.

Rachel Rodgers Dolhanczyk has been a curator of museums for 15 years. She has been the Museum Curator at BCB's Delaware Bay Museum since 2010. Most of her professional career has been spent with museums along New Jersey's waterfronts and the

Chesapeake Bay. She

has worked in several capacities within the fields of history and education.



**BAYSHORE  
CENTER**  
**AT BIVALVE**  
WHERE HISTORY AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT MEET

**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).

## **BIRD QUEST IS BACK: Saturday May 7, 2022**

The club invites people of all ages to participate in the **22nd Annual Gloucester County Bird Quest** taking place on **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7 AM to 12 noon** throughout Gloucester County. After a socially-distanced Bird Quest in 2021, we are pleased to bring back a more full-featured event including: **T-shirts, expert-led walks, and an in-person gathering with lunch.**



What exactly is Bird Quest? It is several things:

- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and pass through our county.
- A way to discover local parks and natural areas.
- An opportunity to learn how to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat.
- An opportunity to have fun with family, friends, and colleagues.
- A light-hearted competition where novices are encouraged to participate.

**How it works:** Teams have 5 hours on Saturday (7am to noon) to visit sites in Gloucester County. Birds are identified by sight or sound. The goal is to find as many different species of birds as possible. During the noon hour, all participants gather at an outdoor pavilion at WIN Waste Innovations (formerly Wheelabrator) in Westville for lunch, t-shirts, story swapping, and door prizes.



**How you can participate:** There are some options:

- You can form a team, plan your route, and record the bird species you see or hear between 7 AM and noon.
- For some variety join our guided walks in various natural places in Gloucester County led by a bird expert who will help you identify the bird species present. These walks will be paced and placed so you can participate in all of the walks or just one or two while you spend the rest of the time birding on your own.
  - 7:00-9:15: Tall Pines State Preserve: From the intersection of Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd) and Mantua Ave in Wenonah (and Holy Nativity Lutheran Church), travel .75 mile south on Rt 553 to the intersection with Bark Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Bark Bridge Rd then in 200ft turn left into the parking lot meet there. There are no restrooms at Tall Pines.
  - 9:30-11:00: Riverwinds: From Route 44 in West Deptford take Delaware St which becomes Riverwinds Drive upon entering the Riverwinds Complex. Drive past the community center, stay to the left, and park in the parking lot just before the Riverwinds restaurant entrance.
  - 11:15-12:15: WIN/Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville (also the picnic location): Access from Rt 130 – opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Turn into the 2nd driveway on your right (just past the Butterfly Garden Parking area) to park for the Pavilion and meeting area.
- Team leaders should be sure to enter the species found at [birdquest.gcnatureclub.org](http://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org) by 12:30 PM. Like in 2021, we will not be collecting paper checklists.

**How to register – NEW:** Registration will take place online, not using paper forms and checks. The cost is \$15 per person, payable by credit/debit card. Each participant will receive a 2022 “Birds of Gloucester County” 100% Cotton

T-shirt as shown above, available in both youth and adult sizes. We ask that team leaders strive to enter one “order” with the names and shirt sizes for their team. The website [birdquest.gcnatureclub.org](http://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org) will be available starting April 4th. The deadline to register is **Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Shirts will need to be picked up at WIN/Wheelabrator on May 7<sup>th</sup>, or at the regular May club meeting in Wenonah on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### How to get ready for May 7<sup>th</sup>:

- Join one or more of the 12 free, friendly training sessions this month; the schedule is elsewhere in this newsletter and on [Meetup](#).
- At the Bird Quest website [birdquest.gcnatureclub.org](http://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org) you will be able to find the rules, our traditional paper checklists (for use in the field), and general info about the event.
- The club’s “Natural Places” book can guide you to 35 publicly-accessible natural areas around the county, many of which are good bird habitats. Check [the club’s website](#) to find a copy for sale near you.

For more information, please contact event coordinator Scott Barnes via email at [birdquest@gcnatureclub.org](mailto:birdquest@gcnatureclub.org) or by leaving a message at 856-468-4174. Messages will generally be returned during non-business hours.

Happy spring birding!

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** *We are now posting full recordings of recent club programs for the convenience of members and the public. To find the club’s channel, use [this link](#) or search for the club’s full name within YouTube. Six videos are now available, including these recent additions:*



- [Edible Wild Plants](#) (January 2022)
- [My Year in the Antarctic in 1962](#) (March 2022)

***As you often hear on YouTube, be sure to subscribe to the club’s channel and “like” the videos so they will get recommended to more people! We will continue recording all online programs, and hopefully in-person ones as well, during this club year.***

## Nature Notes

### Natural Events for the month of April

- Pond turtles emerge from hibernation and bask in the sun.
- Spring beauty, bloodroot, and trout lily bloom on the floor of deciduous woodlands.
- Spring peepers and wood frogs begin calling when vernal ponds warm to about 50 degrees F.
- Shad migrate up the Delaware River to spawn.
- Ruby-throated hummingbirds, purple martins, and warblers begin to arrive.
- Most juncos and white-throated sparrows have left by the end of the month.
- Rose-breasted grosbeaks show up at feeders for a few days before heading north.
- Prairie warbler, misnamed when it was first found in a barren area in Kentucky, returns late April – mid May.
- The peak of spring raptor migration is mid- to late-April. Consider a visit to a hawk lookout.
- Red-winged blackbirds return to marshes.

## **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.
- Newsletters now have a From address of [newsletter@gcnatureclub.org](mailto:newsletter@gcnatureclub.org), instead of the personal email address. You may want to add [newsletter@gcnatureclub.org](mailto:newsletter@gcnatureclub.org) to your address book just in case your email thinks it is Spam.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Bi-Monthly Bird Walks at Scotland Run Park**

Come search for the many birds that visit or inhabit Scotland Run Park! Volunteer birders from the Gloucester County Nature Club will be leading two walks a month in May, June, September, and October. The walks are free of charge and will take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 8:0 am to 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars. Mask wearing and social distancing will be observed.

### **Spring Paddles at Scotland Run Park**

This month our highly anticipated Spring Paddles program starts for the season! Spring paddles will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 9:30am-11:30am, April through June. This is a perfect opportunity for you to get outside and enjoy all of what Wilson Lake has to offer.

This program is free and allows you to use our kayaks/canoes for a guided tour of Wilson Lake. The tour consists of light educational components and will be led by county employees.

Registration is required, and we ask that you register for the specific boat you'd need. We offer double kayaks, canoes, and single kayaks. You can register for the event at the link below.

<https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/gloucester-county-nj/catalog>

For more information on Spring Paddles call 856-251-6710.

### **Earth Day Event at Scotland Run Park**

Saturday April 23, 12:00pm – 4:00:pm

Rain Date Sunday April 24, 12:00pm – 4:00:pm

Come join us at Scotland Run Park for our annual Earth Day Event where we will celebrate nature and environmental sustainability focusing on New Jersey and our local area. The event will feature Gloucester County Naturalist and Rowan Professor Dr. Dan Duran, presenting a talk about how we can help regenerate the natural world starting with our own yards. Exhibitors will be present and will provide more information about how to be environmentally friendly. Call 856-881-0845 for more information about Earth Day. Free admission.

## June 25, 2022 - Gloucester County Firefly Festival

This year's Gloucester County Firefly Festival will be held at Tall Pines Preserve on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm. The details will be in the May and June newsletters.

## New Jersey Bluebird Society Seeks New Coordinator for Gloucester County



The eastern bluebird has been making a great comeback in Gloucester County and the NJBBS has played an important role in that, assisting with the installation of nesting boxes on private and public lands and the establishment and maintenance of bluebird trails at places such as Tall Pines State Preserve, Alcyon Park and at Washington Twp. parks.

The NJBBS is now seeking a new Coordinator for Gloucester County. This is a part time voluntary position. The Coordinator would work to coordinate bluebird activities within the county.

**Requirements.** The Coordinator should be someone who has had some experience with serious/proper nest box monitoring and a familiarity with bluebird management techniques. The NJBBS would be happy to help train the Coordinator in additional management techniques and the retiring Coordinator would also assist as much as possible.

**The County Coordinator is an ambassador for proper bluebird management and the NJBBS.**

### Duties.

- Conduct on site visits on properties to determine if a location is suitable for a bluebird nest box.
- Assist folks with proper placement of boxes in promising bluebird habitat. That could be in a back yard, farm land or on public lands or parks.
- Assist with single box installation and the setting up of bluebird trails in parks and natural areas.
- Monitor boxes himself/herself or help individual monitors monitor boxes on their own. The idea is to get folks involved in proper bluebird management. Teams can be established to monitor larger trails and report back to the Coordinator.
- Assist potential monitors on how to obtain a NJBBS approved nest box with predator guard and have it placed properly.
- Refer potential bluebirders to the NJBBS for guidance and any assistance when needed.

**Anyone who may be interested in or would like to know more about this opportunity can contact:**

**Allen Jackson, President, New Jersey Bluebird Society**

email [aljaxn@aol.com](mailto:aljaxn@aol.com)

## Bird Quest Training Sessions

**2022**

**April 11 (Monday) 6 PM - Dusk**

**Birding Basics — Alcyon Lake Park**

**Track Ave. Pitman, NJ 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue)**

Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade. Discover the world of birding from bird guides to binoculars, birding etiquette to bird song and, of course, bird identification. Any level of interest is welcome. Questions are encouraged. A walk around the park will let you use your newfound — or refreshed — skills.

*Directions: Drive past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

Leaders: Rich Dilks & Karen Kravchuck

**April 19 (Tuesday) 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**South Jersey Technology Park  
107 Gilbreth Pkwy, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062**

The large field on this 6.68 acre site is bordered by woodlands and a farm. The open area is great for woodland and grass-nesting birds - and keeping an eye out for raptors! The terrain is fairly level on trails throughout the grassy field. The total walk covers 1 – 1.5 miles. The Park is located near the intersection of Rt. 322 and Rt. 55 in Mullica Hill, NJ and across from the new Inspira Hospital.

*Directions: Meet at the parking lot on the right of the main building.*

Leaders: Marilyn Henry, Barb Bassett & Jayne Rhynard

**April 20 (Wednesday) 7:30 - 9 AM**

**Tall Pines State Preserve  
Bark Bridge Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080**

Gloucester County's only state park, this former golf course has ponds, marsh and wetlands, and patches of eastern hardwood forest. At least 145 species of birds, including the Bald Eagle and eleven species of warblers, have been identified here.

*Directions: From Rt. 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd) turn west onto Bark Bridge Rd. Park in the lot on the left. Please do not park at Hutchinson Cabinets.*

Leaders: Rich Dilks and Erik Mollenhauer

**April 21 (Thursday) 7:30 - 9:30 AM**

**George Eldridge Trail  
E. Pine St, Wenonah, NJ 08090**

Eldridge Trail is part of the Wenonah Conservation Area, a ring of green that extends nearly the entire circumference of the town. Look and listen for spring migrants.

*Directions: From E. Mantua Ave, head south on S. Clinton Ave. to E. Pine St., east of S. Princeton Avenue. Park at the trailhead.*

Leaders: Brian & Paula Hayes

**April 23 (Saturday) 7:30 - 9 AM**

**Washington Lake Park  
626 Hurffville - Crosskeys Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080**

This is the largest municipal park in New Jersey and in spring it comes alive with songbird and raptor migrants adding to the year-round residents. Red-winged blackbirds and Canada geese are nesting around the lakes. Many migrants begin nesting in the woods, especially near the streams, and the bluebirds are active around their boxes. *Directions: Meet at the parking lot by the amphitheater.*

Leaders: Marie Hageman & Jayne Rhynard

**April 26 (Tuesday) 6 PM - Dusk**

**Wheelabrator Refuge  
600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, NJ 08093**

At the intersection of the Delaware River and Big Timber Creek, the wide-open space behind the Wheelabrator plant is great habitat for swamp, meadow and river birds. Trails and old roads make access easy. Bob White may be heard here.

*Directions: Access from Rt. 130 (Crown Point Rd,) opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet at the pavilion in the parking lot.*

Leaders: Kris Mollenhauer & Gale Cannon

**May 1 (Sunday) 7 - 9 AM**

**Scotland Run Park — Ron & Linda's 4 Lakes Tour  
980 E. Academy St, Clayton, NJ 08312**

Join the Caravan to check out 4 lakes in the eastern half of the county! Starting at Wilson Lake at Scotland Run Park, travel to Franklinville Lake, Iona Lake, and Malaga Lake looking for waterfowl (including lingering species), Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron and other wading birds, and "Tweety" birds that frequent waters edge and surrounding areas.

*Directions: Meet at the Wilson Lake side of the Scotland Run parking lot. We will carpool/caravan from there.*

Leaders: Ron & Linda Kegel with Alison Derenberger

**May 2 (Monday) 7:30 - 9:30 AM**

**Tranquility Trail**

**High Hill Rd, (between Fredrick Blvd. & Hillside Dr.) Woolwich Township, NJ 08085**

Tranquility trail, with its wooded areas, open fields, and several spots to see Raccoon Creek is a diamond in the rough. The opening of the trail is just the start of Woolwich's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Township plans to preserve the grassland habitat, providing a space for grassland birds.

*Directions: Meet in the parking lot.*

Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Lloyd Shaw

**May 4 (Wednesday) 6 - 8 AM**

**Glassboro Woods (WMA)**

**Stanger Ave., Glassboro, NJ 08028**

This wildlife management area, which is a 2,337 acre forest accompanied by swamps and open fields boast chances to see vast variety of warblers and other bird species including worm-eating warbler, barred owl, LA waterthrush, prothonotary warbler, BH vireo, and broad-wing hawk.

*Directions: Meet at end of Stanger Ave.*

Leaders: Dan & Danny Ceravolo

**\*\*\* THERE ARE 2 BQ TRAINING SESSIONS ON APRIL 29\*\*\***

**7:30 AM & 6:30 PM**

**May 5 (Thursday) 8 – 9:30 AM**

**Scotland Run Park**

**980 E Academy St, Clayton, NJ 08312**

Scotland Run Park, the largest of the county parks, spans over 1,000 acres and includes the 80 acre Wilson lake. More than 136 species of birds have been recorded here, including 21 species of warblers. This is a great place and the right time to enjoy the spring migration!

*Directions: Meet in the nature center parking lot*

Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Marie Hageman

**May 5 (Thursday) 6 PM - Dusk**

**RiverWinds Park**

**1000 RiverWinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086**

Riverside shrubs and forested areas along the Delaware River make for great birding here. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle!

*Directions; Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Drive past the community center and park in the parking lot just before the RiverWinds restaurant.*

Leaders: Gary Lizzi & Lloyd Shaw

**\*\*\* THERE ARE 2 BQ TRAINING SESSIONS FOR RIVERWINDS\*\*\***

**MAY 5 at 6 PM and MAY 6 at 6 AM**

**The meeting places are different.**

**May 6 (Friday) 6 - 7:30 AM**

**RiverWinds Park — As Different as Night and Day???**

**1000 RiverWinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086**

Yes, we had a training session here last evening, but here is a chance to compare what you might find at the same spot, but at a different time of day! Look for scarlet tanager, magnolia warbler, blackburnian warbler, ovenbird, black-throated green warbler and many other migrants

*Directions; Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx. 1000 ft. to meet in the Riverwinds Nature Trail parking lot.*

Leaders: Dan & Danny Ceravolo