



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

May 2018

Annual GCNC Plant Sale & Program

Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Holy Nativity
Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

6:00pm - 2018 Annual GCNC Plant Sale

6:45pm - Program: Pollinators and the Plants They
Pollinate

Presenter: Erik Joe Kiefer, Manager, Triple Oaks Nursery;
Beekeeper & Ornamental Plant Professional.

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Reminder: Starting time for the plant sale is 6:00pm,

Starting time for the program is 6:45pm - 15 minutes earlier than usual



Animal pollinators are needed for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and one third of human food crops. Honey bees pollinate \$15 billion worth of crops each year, including more than 130 fruits and vegetables. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects. Pollination is a keystone process in both human managed and natural terrestrial ecosystems. Is an essential service that depends to a large extent on the symbiosis between species, the pollinated and the pollinator. In many cases, it is the result of intricate relationships between plants and animals, and the reduction or loss of either will affect the survival of both. Each of us depends on pollinators in a practical way to provide us with the wide range of foods we eat. In addition, pollinators are part of the intricate web that supports the biological diversity in natural ecosystems that helps sustain our quality of life.

Join Joe Kiefer of Triple Oaks Nursery for a colorful look into popular pollinators in the garden and the plants that attract them! We will survey Honey Bees, Hummingbirds, Monarchs and more in this presentation full of information and colorful slides. Joe will also offer some pollinator attracting plants from Triple Oaks Nursery for sale.

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).

2018 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 5, 2018

The Gloucester County Nature Club and co-sponsors invite people of all ages to participate in the **2018 (19th annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest**. This year Bird Quest will take place on **Sat. May 5, from 7 AM to 12 noon throughout Gloucester County**.

We are pleased to return to Scotland Run Park (Wilson Lake) in Clayton for our picnic and gathering. We hope to reach new families and continue to excite our legacy participants with a wonderful setting for our picnic. Scotland Run Park is located at 980 East Academy St., Clayton, NJ 08312 (directions below).

See the separate enrollment form.

During this time, teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County to find as many different bird species as they can. The Quest is:

- A way to discover Gloucester County's parks and natural areas
- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and through our county
- 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

The Quest is an educational event: 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. At noon, all participants gather at **Scotland Run Park in Clayton** to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, educational material, and prizes**.

You can participate in one of the following ways:

- Form a team, plan your route (locations you will visit) for the day of the event and record all the bird species you see within Gloucester County. Hand in your results at Scotland Run by 12:30pm to be eligible for prizes.
- Join one of the buses lead by a bird expert. These buses will visit a few locations in the County where bird experts will help you to identify the many bird species. The buses will meet back at Scotland Run Park at 12:30pm.
- Join one of three guided walks, each lasting between an hour and an hour and a half, in various natural places in Gloucester County lead 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. Hand in your results at Scotland Run Park at 12:30pm to be eligible for prizes.
 - 7:00-9:15: Tall Pines Preserve (Maple Ridge): 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 bathrooms at Tall Pines
 - 9:45-11:15: Glassboro Wildlife Management Area: Meet at Carpenter Ave in Clayton. From the Intersection of 322 and Route 47 (Delsea Drive), take RT 47 South into Clayton. Make a left onto Carpenter Ave – about 1.6 miles south of Route 322. Meet in the parking / turn around area where the road turns to dirt.

- 11:30-12:30: Scotland Run Park (also the picnic location): From Route 55 take exit 45 and proceed North on Route 553/ Buck Road. After 1.2 miles turn Right on CR 610/ Clayton-Aura Road. Continue on CR 610 for 3.8 miles. After the traffic light at Fries Mill Road, turn Left into the parking lot for Scotland Run Park. You will meet in the bluebird field adjacent to the parking lot.

Last year's Gloucester County Bird Quest attracted participants from across the county organized in teams representing schools, scout troops, environmental commissions, families and friends. Each year the Club holds pre-Quest field and classroom trainings, attracting 15-30 persons each, in which local experts help new birders learn to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat. The winning team in 2017 located 102 species in 5 hours!!! A wonderful effort when you consider all teams saw a total of 128 species but everyone was a winner because of how much they learned about birds and the natural areas of Gloucester County through this fun, educational event.

This year we have developed educational materials including a Quest t-shirt with original artwork featuring the Bald Eagle, the symbol of our nation and a great conservation success story. We will provide educational materials on conservation success. These materials will have lasting educational value for teachers, students, and the general public. **The \$15 fee per participant helps to defray the cost of lunch, T-shirts, prizes etc.**

More information and registration forms will be posted to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at www.gcnatureclub.org. For more information, join a team or reserve a seat on the bus, contact Brian Hayes at bkhayesoutdoors@gmail.com or 856.649.8723.

Participants are encouraged to attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest. Training sessions are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Natural Events for the month of May

- Jack in the pulpit, pink lady's-slipper, and mayapple bloom by mid-May in the County's remnant woodlands.
- Early spring flowers such as spring beauty fade rapidly, as trees leaf out and shade the forest floor.
- Princess tree, or Paulownia (named after an 18th-Century Russian princess) blooms with large clusters of pale purple flowers. It's an invasive species but still very pretty.
- By late May, monarch butterflies arrive from the south and begin laying their eggs on newly emerged plants of common milkweed.
- Young rabbits, gray squirrels, and other small mammals are leaving their home nests. Drive carefully.
- Horseshoe crabs spawn on Delaware Bayshore beaches from late May to early June.
- Red knots arrive for their stop-over at the Delaware Bay area to double their weight on horseshoe crab eggs in preparation for their nonstop journey to Arctic breeding grounds



Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

MONARCH AND HUMMINGBIRD UPDATE

Monarchs have migrated into Kentucky and Tennessee and hummingbirds have arrived in NJ. According to Pat Sutton (see www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/), these early birds are scouts so don't be dismayed if you don't see a hummer for a week or more. In order to follow the migration north of both monarchs and hummingbirds, go to <https://learner.org/jnorth/>. Then report your sightings at the same website.

SENATE BILL 2354 - ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 2018

As reported in the January 2018 newsletter, the Trump Administration is rolling back protections accorded to our national monuments. Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument have been opened to mining, gas and oil drilling and other industrial use. But other monuments are under threat as well, most notably the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument, the first marine monument to ever be established in the Atlantic Ocean. A new bill, The Antiquities Act of 2018 (S2354), has been introduced into the Senate which would help protect our monuments by strengthening Congressional oversight of the monuments, enhancing protections, and providing funds for the care of these public lands. You may send a prepared letter to your senators which urges them to co-sponsor and vote for S2354. The letter can be found at the International Fund for Animal Welfare website https://action.ifaw.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1720&ea.campaign.id=97966&ms=UONDG180340002&mailid=19119347&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&spMailingID=19119347&spUserID=MTA3MTc1MDk5NzES1&spJobID=1220134108&spReportId=MTlyMDEzNDEwOAS2.

SOME WEB-CAMS TO CHECK OUT

- 1) <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/uc-falconcam/> Conserve Wildlife Foundation streams a peregrine nest on the county courthouse roof of Elizabeth, NJ
- 2) <http://dukefarms.org/making-an-impact/eagle-cam/> Duke Farms and Conserve Wildlife Foundation stream an eagle's nest. (bird on nest)
- 3) http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/43/Barred_Owls/ Barred owls in Indiana by Cornell Labs and Wild Birds Unlimited (bird on nest)
- 4) http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/16/Red-tailed_Hawks/ Red-tailed hawks in Ithaca, NY by Cornell Labs (bird on nest)
- 5) <http://www.audubon.org/news/seal-island-maine-atlantic-puffin-ledge-webcam> Puffins and Razorbills in Maine from the National Audubon Society
- 6) <http://www.audubon.org/news/bremen-maine-osprey-nest-webcam> Osprey nest in Maine from the National Audubon Society.

These are just a few of the web-cams to be found online. Do a search and find more. It is good for the soul.

PROTECT THE PINELANDS

Send Governor Murphy a message to protect the Pinelands. As you do this, please keep the memory of former governor Brendon Byrne in your thoughts. Governor Byrne made the protection of the Pines one of his top priorities. Without him, their protection would never have happened. The message can be found at <https://pinelandsalliance.salsalabs.org/savethesource/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b22fc4ac-b1fb-496d-9f58-41665aaa736d>. For more information go to www.SavetheSource.org.

ELEPHANTS ARE IN TROUBLE AGAIN

From The Center for Biological Diversity:

Elephants mourn their dead just like people....Often elephants will stop and take long pauses at a site where a loved one died, even years afterwards.



In October of 2017, Secretary of the Interior Zinke lifted an Obama administration’s ban on the importing of elephant and lion trophies. Trump temporarily stepped back from that decision and stopped the import of elephant trophies. However, in March, 2018, Zinke announced that the Fish and Wildlife Service will begin allowing elephant trophies into the United States on a ‘case by case’ basis. This at a time when killing elephants for their ivory is occurring at a rate severely decimating their population. A lawsuit has been filed by several humane and environmental groups contesting this decision. See <https://globalnews.ca/news/4094211/elephant-trophy-hunting-trump-sued/> for more info.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

Below is a list of citizen science projects that was in April 2017 newsletter. Hopefully you were able to participate in one or more of them, but, if not, then perhaps you might be interested in doing so this year. Each one is worthwhile.

Citizen Science Project	Description	Where is it found?
Monarch Larva Monitoring Project	Volunteers submit data on monarch larval and milkweed distribution. The website contains excellent online training.	http://monarchlab.org/ and click on Monarch Larva Monitoring Project
Journey North (and Journey South)	Participants submit data on the migration of several animals including hummingbirds and monarchs.	http://www.learner.org/ and click on Journey North
eButterfly	Participants submit butterfly sightings and are able to maintain personal checklists and photos.	http://www.e-butterfly.org/
Lost Lady Bug	Contributors submit photos of ladybugs. Website provides training material.	http://lostladybug.org/
Firefly Watch	Volunteers submit data on fireflies. Website also contains excellent online training.	https://legacy.mos.org/fireflywatch/
Bumble Bee Watch	Volunteers submit photos of bumble bees. Using information provided by the website, a volunteer may attempt to identify the bee.	http://www.bumblebeewatch.org/
eBird and Merlin	Participants record and keep track of their checklists on eBird. Data is used by Merlin, a free bird identification app for smartphones.	http://ebird.org/content/ebird/ and http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/
Dragonfly Pond Watch	Volunteers submit data on migratory dragonflies. Five species are focused on. Website contains identification help.	http://www.xerces.org/dragonfly-migration/pondwatch/
Butterflies and Moths of North America	Submit your butterfly and moth photos. Site contains a wealth of information as well as maps, recent sightings and species data.	www.butterfliesandmoths.org
North American Butterfly Assoc.	The NABA runs butterfly counts throughout North America including several in Southern New Jersey. They welcome volunteers but there is a \$3 fee.	www.naba.org/butter_counts.html
Hummingbirds.net	Report your hummingbird sightings. Also contains info on hummer migration	www.hummingbirds.net

Annual Plant Sale!

It's that time again! Spring is here and it's time to be in our gardens, getting them ready for the warm weather season. This means it is also time for the Club's annual plant sale. Hopefully, once again, we'll have a wonderful combination of nursery grown plants and plants from our very own gardens.

Here's where your part of this comes in. As you are in your gardens in the next couple of weeks, keep an eye out for plants you can share. It could be some of those perennials you have been meaning to divide or a volunteer shrub or tree that just has to be moved. Even some extra seeds that you collected in the fall would be great. Just pot them up or pack them up and bring them with you. Please mark them carefully, though, so we keep the mystery plants to a minimum.

The Plant Sale will be held just before the May meeting. It will start at 6:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church. It is open to the public so please tell family and friends.

Election of Trustees

The May Nature Club meeting is when we annually hold elections for our Board of Trustees. The Trustees hold the ultimate governing power of the Club. The Trustees elect the members of the Executive Committee (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and chairpersons of the standing committees).

The Trustees' other primary responsibility is to provide direction to the Executive Committee because our by-laws specify that the Board of Trustees authorizes power to the Executive Committee for the day-to-day operations of the Club.

Trustees meet annually at a joint meeting with the Executive Committee in June.

There are a total of 12 members of the Board of Trustees. Elected Trustees agree to serve a 3 year term and one third of the Trustees are elected by the Club's membership at the May meeting.

The current Trustees are as follows:

2015 – 2018 term: Scott Barnes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Rich Dilks

*The term of the Trustees listed above will end June 2018 and will be on the ballot for re-election to a 2018-2021 term.

2016 – 2019 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Dave Partridge

2017 – 2020 term: Marilyn Henry, Bonnie Dann, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard

We will be electing Trustees for the term of 20187 - 2021. If you are interested in running for election, please contact Karen Kravchuck at 609-617-6693 or at

president@gcnatureclub.org.

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the remaining programs we have lined up for the 2017-2018 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

June 10, 2018: **GCNC Annual Picnic** at The Village Dock Campground, Franklinville, NJ, followed by Program: **The Plight of the Bobwhite and Our Efforts to Save It** - South Jersey Quail Project

2018 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below is the remaining field trip we have lined up for the 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.

June 15, 2018 - **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 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 or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The May Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday May 6th at the home of Karen Kravchuck. Please contact Karen for more information.
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Remaining Bird Quest Training Sessions 2018

Please note that there are AM and PM sessions!

THERE ARE 2 BQ TRAINING SESSIONS ON MAY 1st — 7:30 AM & 6:30 PM

May 1 (Tuesday) 7:30 – 9 A.M.

Piney Hollow Preserve

Piney Hollow Rd., Franklin Twp. 08344

Wetlands forested with Atlantic white cedar, uplands covered with mostly oak-pine forest and the 40acre McCarthy's Lake — once a cranberry bog — are what you will find at this underdeveloped preserve in the southern part of the county. Barred owl, prothonotary, yellow throated, pine and prairie warblers, yellow-throated vireo, scarlet tanagers, and Eastern towhee are among the birds on the site.

Directions: *Meet in the parking lot.*

Leader: Dan Ceravolo

May 1 (Tuesday) 6:30 P.M. to Dusk

RiverWinds Park

1000 RiverWinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086

Riverside shrubs and forested areas along the Delaware River make for great birding here. Start at the West Deptford Nature Trail and, if time allows, continue along the Delaware River. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle!

Directions: *Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx. 1000 ft. then turn right at the Nature Trail sign.*

Leaders: Gary Lizzi & Gale Cannon

May 2 (Wednesday) 7:30 - 9 A.M.

Wheelabrator Refuge

600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, 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 and Marilyn Henry