



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

May 2019

Annual GCNC Plant Sale & Program

Thursday May 9, 2019 at 6:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

6:00pm - 2019 Annual GCNC Plant Sale

7:00pm - Program: Butterflies of New Jersey

Presenter: Steve Glynn

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

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

Hear butterfly enthusiast and photographer Steve Glynn recount his experiences in search of butterflies with the "Butterflying Big Year" and his journeys from Cape May to High Point to see them all. Steve will talk about what butterflies can be found in the state generally, specific rarities and areas in Gloucester County that are of special interest. He will give a general review of his travels during 2017 when he completed a "big year" throughout the state of New Jersey, which was recently featured in American Butterflies Magazine. He will also bring guides that he recommends for people seeking good field guides to butterflies and will discuss photography of butterflies.



Steve Glynn is a South Jersey resident and enthusiastic amateur naturalist who has studied and photographed birds, butterflies and dragonflies for over a decade. He has done volunteer field work for New Jersey Fish & Wildlife and The Cape May Bird Observatory for bird and butterfly studies. His butterflying passion has discovered several rare and endangered species throughout New Jersey and he has worked to protect and monitor colonies of these special species, some of which are significantly found in Gloucester County. He enjoys leading walks and getting others involved in discovering the beauty in butterflying



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)

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 member's gardens.

Here's where your part of this comes in: As you work in your gardens in the next couple of weeks, keep an eye out for plants that 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 this month's 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.



2019 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 4, 2019

The Gloucester County Nature Club and co-sponsors invite people of all ages to participate in the **2019 Gloucester County Bird Quest**. This year **Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat. May 4, from 7 AM to 12 noon throughout Gloucester County**. This is our **20th Anniversary**. We want to make this the **best Bird Quest ever**.

We are pleased to announce a **NEW LOCATION** for our picnic and gathering: **Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville (off of Rt 130)**. We hope to reach new families and continue to excite our legacy participants with a wonderful setting for our picnic.

See the enrollment brochure, available on the GCNC website.



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 **Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville** to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, story swapping, some education about Natural Places of Gloucester County, duck conservation, 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 Wheelabrator no later than 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 Wheelabrator no later than 12:30pm.
- NEW: Join a bird expert who will bird the grounds of the Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge from 7:00 am to Noon. Start first thing in the morning or join when you are able. Spend more time birding and less time in the car while you explore the varied habitat with your own expert.
- For some variety join our guided walks 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 Wheelabrator in Westville no later than 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
 - 9:30-11:00: West Deptford Nature Trail: From Route 44 in West Deptford take Delaware St which becomes Riverwinds Drive upon entering the Riverwinds Complex. Go approx. 1000 ft, then turn right onto the first dirt road (Nature Trail)
 - 11:15-12:15: Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville (also the picnic location): From 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

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 2018 located 97 species in 5 hours!!! A tremendous effort when you consider all teams saw a total of 135 species. All participants were winners 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 Natural Places of Gloucester County with a focus on our local waterfowl (ducks). Participants will learn about early conservation efforts through duck stamps and about the current efforts by Wheelabrator to restore habitat. We would like to take time to discuss the impact Bird Quest has had over the years as well. We look forward to sharing stories from the various years of the event. 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 in this newsletter.

We need your help for Bird Quest 2019!

Help us make this year's Bird Quest extra special. We need people to get the word out about the event. Take some brochures and pass them out to friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. When they are available drop the brochures off at libraries, town halls, churches, and public meeting places. Even just talking about the event with folks can help to gather interest. We just need a few more people to help us get out the word. Thank you for your help.

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

SOME SPRINGTIME REMINDERS

The New Jersey Bluebird Society reminds us in their newsletter that we must avoid using neonicotinoids (aka neonics) in our yards. Neonics are systemic insecticides which means they are present in every part of a plant including nectar and pollen (and even in dew!) and can persist there for years. Neonics are deadly to all insects including bees, caterpillars, moths, and butterflies. The most common neonics are Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Acetamiprid, Thiamethoxam and Dinotefuran. Neonics occur in so many commercially available products that they cannot be listed here but you may go to <http://www.njbluebirdsociety.org/news1.html> and click on Spring 2019 to access the Bluebird Society's newsletter for that information.

Remember to buy native (and pesticide free) plants for your garden. Our native wildlife and our native plants evolved together and serve each other's needs. See our February newsletter https://gcnatureclub.org/includes/news02_19.pdf for information on nurseries that sell native plants. Also, Clemenson Farm Nurseries will have several days in May in which they will be open for retail sales <http://www.clemensonfarmsnativenursery.com/retailsaleevents.html>.

Follow the northern migration of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, and other species on maps provided by Journey North at <https://maps.journeynorth.org/maps>.

Be mindful of the plastics that you use. Buy reusable shopping bags and stop using plastic straws. A sperm whale was found dead off the coast of Sardinia with over 48 pounds of plastic in its stomach. This is a problem that affects all of our oceans. See the September 2018 newsletter https://gcnatureclub.org/includes/news09_18.pdf for more information.

Finally, call your NJ legislators and ask them to co-sponsor Senate Bill 3086 and Assembly Bill 4460. These bills would regulate the sale, use, and propagation of non-native plants. See the January 2019 newsletter for more info https://gcnatureclub.org/includes/news01_19.pdf.

GIRAFFES ON THE EDGE

Over the last 36 years the population of African giraffes has declined by 40%. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature classifies the giraffe as vulnerable to extinction and two subspecies (there is 1 species of giraffe with 9 subspecies) have been listed as critically endangered. It is truly hard to believe that giraffes are facing extinction.

Giraffes currently have no protection under U.S. law and are not listed on the Appendices of the Conventions on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). As a result, the U.S. is a major importer of giraffe parts and derivatives and American trophy hunters are supplying the markets with giraffe trophies. Trophy hunters compete to take the largest animals and by killing the most impressive, healthiest animals (usually the males) they weaken the species ability to cope with adversity such as climate change. Although animal advocacy groups filed a petition with the Fish and Wildlife Service to list giraffes as endangered in 2017, the agency did not respond. Since the port of New York is the busiest point of entry for imported animal trophies, legislation has been introduced into the New York legislature which would ban the importation, possession, sale or transportation of trophies of giraffes, leopards, lions, elephants and black and white rhinos.

In May, 183 nations will meet in Sri Lanka for the next CITES gathering to determine which animals and plants need protection. The Center for Biological Diversity has provided an online comment letter for concerned citizens to send to the U.S. representative to this meeting. The letter may be found at <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/action/alerts/>, click on International and then click on Stop International Trade in Endangered Species.

Scotland Run Bird Walks

The Scotland Run Park Nature Center and the Gloucester County Nature Club will be hosting bird walks year-round on the **first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30am**. This month, walks will be on **May 2** and **May 16**. Come and explore the nature trails as we look for all different species of feathered friends that the 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.

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

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the remaining programs we have lined up for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

2019 Programs

June 13, 2019: **GCNC Annual Picnic** at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ followed by **A Guided Walk through Alcyon Woods**

2019 Field Trips

Listed below are the remaining field trips we have lined up for the 2018 – 2019 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 21, 2019 - **Hike at Mantua Fossil Park**

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 5th at the home of Elaine Dzeima. . Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Remaining Bird Quest Training Sessions 2019

May 1 (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.

Leader: Marilyn Henry

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

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. Directions: From E. Mantua Ave, head south on S. Clinton Ave. to E. Pine St. Park at Trailhead.

Leader: Dan Ceravolo