



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

May 2021

Monthly GCNC meetings are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay tuned, as the situation is continually evolving. Our regular monthly meetings may be suspended, but we are happy to be able to present the following:

## Special Live Online Program!

### Native Plants of South Jersey and Their Place in Our Landcape and Gardens

A special online live presentation of the Gloucester County Nature Club

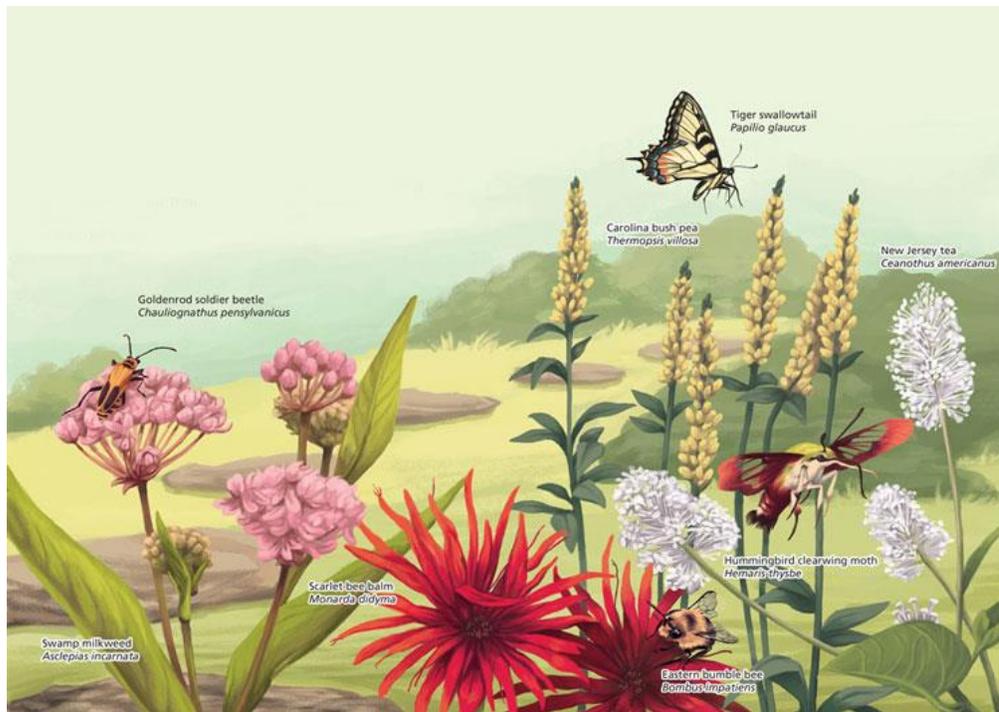
Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00pm

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

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Web link: <https://meet.jit.si/GCNCMeeting>

This presentation is free and open to the public.



*Chances are you never thought of your garden--indeed, all of your property--as a wildlife preserve that presents the last chance we have for sustaining plants and animals that were once common throughout the U.S. But that is exactly the role our suburban landscapes are playing....Garden as though life depends on it.*

~ Douglas Tallamy

There are so many benefits to making native plants a part of our human environment. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions where they naturally occur. These important plant species provide nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds and other animals. Native plants are beautiful. They do not require fertilizers and also thrive with far less water than traditional lawns. They reduce air pollution. Using native plants promote biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage.

Join Joe Kiefer of Triple Oaks Nursery for his presentation on the native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants of South Jersey and why they should have a prominent place in or landscaping and gardens.

### **Guided Bird Walks at Scotland Run Park 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month, 8:00am – 9:30am**

Volunteer birders from the Gloucester County Nature Club will be leading twice monthly walks beginning in March. Come help search for the many birds that visit or inhabit Scotland Run Park. These 2021 walks are free and will take place the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from March 4th through October 21st, 8 am to 9:30 am. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars. Mask wearing and social distancing will be observed.

**MEETUP:** In order to reach members with the most up to date field trip information we are asking everyone who is able to sign up for the Gloucester County Nature Club Meetup site. By accessing the site at [www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/](http://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/) or using the QR Code to the right, you will be directed to the site. Once you are signed up on the site you will receive up-to-date information on upcoming trips, meetings, events, and fun walks. If you attend field trips you should consider joining Meetup even if you receive the newsletter electronically.



### **Bird Quest 2021 Wrap-up**

The first day of May started out windy and slightly chilly, but that did not deter 16 teams from watching the ground and skies for the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of Bird Quest. Species seen by all teams included Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and Tufted Titmouse. A few of the more unusual tallies included a flock of Pine Siskin at Washington Lake Park, a Pileated Woodpecker on the Eldridge Trail in Wenonah, and both a Great Horned Owl and a Barred Owl at nearby Comey's Lake. Tallies were done electronically this year for the first time, which permitted prize winners to be announced at a 1 PM video meeting. This year's winners were:

- **Kellan Nelson** (age 4) won the Young Birder Award. He said his favorite bird is the Northern Cardinal.
- **“Cheep Trills”** (Barbara Bassett, Marilyn Henry, and Jayne Rhynard) won Second Place with 92 species tallied.
- **“Danny and Grammy”** (Danny Ceravolo, Sharon Ceravolo, and Bill Ceravolo) won First Place with 98 species tallied.

The prize winners will receive gift cards from Wild Birds Unlimited in Cherry Hill. Thanks to all 43 participants for getting out to support the event, plus those who came out for the 7 training sessions in April. We very much hope for a more traditional Bird Quest with guided walks and an in-person lunch at this time next year!

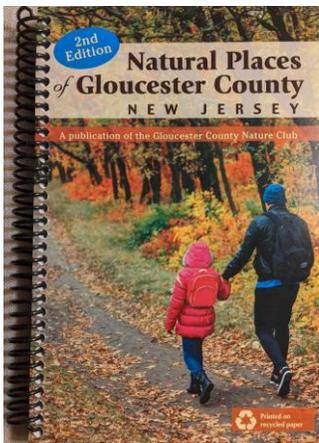
## The Big Year Eco-Challenge

Monthly Summaries of BYEC findings can be found on the [BYEC webpage](#) on the GCNC website.

### **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.

### **Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ - Second Edition now available!**



Our wildly popular **Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ** book is back as a 2nd Edition with a new fresh look, updated information, and new locations. Great for getting out of the house exploring the outdoors while still staying socially distanced and safe. Just what you need to stuff stockings and find places full of natural beauty tucked away in our county.

The Natural Places Guide is one of the many ways the Nature Club provides valuable detailed information, not available elsewhere, about the plants, trees, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians at over 35 local Natural Places. Each site description includes directions, address and parking information plus a map of the site to make visiting easy and enjoyable. For the Second Edition, information for existing sites has been brought up-to-date. Several new sites have also been added, including: Tall Pines State Preserve, Andoloro WMA, and Tranquility Trails.

Copies of **Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ** are now available for purchase at local retailers including:

- Bob's Little Sport Shop - 316-318 Delsea Drive North, Glassboro, NJ 08028
- Damingers Natural Pet Foods - 641 Main St, Sewell (Mantua Township), NJ 08080
- Triple Oaks Nursery & Herb Garden - 2359 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, NJ 08322
- Wild Birds Unlimited Cherry Hill - 1619 N Kings Hwy, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
- Words Matter - 52 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071
- The Yellow Garage Antiques = 66 South Main St., Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

The book is also available through the club's online store. To access the online store, [click here](#).

**Please remember to help out the Gloucester County Nature Club while shopping online!**



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been shopping online a lot more lately. Don't forget that shopping at Amazon can also benefit the Gloucester County Nature Club at **NO extra cost** to you!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. You may even use your existing Amazon.com account for your purchases.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### **Be Careful When Driving - Beavers on Cooper St. in Deptford**

Long-time Nature Club member Elaine Dzeima reports that beavers are being killed by traffic on Almonesson Rd. (Cooper St.) near Almonesson Lake in Deptford. Elaine lives nearby on Almonesson Rd in Blenheim. Elaine has discovered a second run over beaver on Cooper St in front of Auletto's. The first was 6 weeks ago in the same spot but crossing in the opposite direction. Both were young, small beavers. There was an adult killed there 2 years ago farther east by the ball field and Auletto's parking lots.

Elaine said that in addition to asking the owner of Auletto's to contact the County about placing road signs, she had Jen Collins, Director. of Unexpected Wildlife Refuge look into it, and Jen will contact the County.