



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

June 2019

GCNC Annual Picnic & Program

Thursday June 13, 2019 at 6:00pm at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Note: Starting time for the picnic is 6:00pm.

The June 13 meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be our annual spring picnic. The picnic will be held this year at Alcyon Park on the shores of historic and scenic Alcyon Lake. Attendees should bring a food item to share, and their own utensils, plates, and cups to cut down on the waste of disposables. As with all club functions, the picnic is open to the public so why not bring a friend?



After Dinner Activity: A Guided Walk Through the Alcyon Woods.

Erik Mollenhauer will lead a leisurely nature walk through the lovely Alcyon Woods, a public woodland, just west of the main section of Alcyon Park.

Directions: Directions to Alcyon Lake Park.

From points south: From Broadway in Pitman, turn west onto W. Holly Ave. Go .6/10 of a mile, passing Alcyon Lake on your left. Turn left onto Carr Ave. and proceed to the park entrance.

From points north: From Woodbury-Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553) turn west onto Lambs Rd. and continue for 1.6 miles. Turn east (left) onto W. Holly Ave. and go 3/10 of a mile to Carr Ave. Turn right onto Carr Ave. and proceed to park entrance.

Field Trip - Rowan Fossil Park Walk

Friday, June 21, 2019 at 8:00am

Trip Leaders: Rowan Staff

Please join us to explore the habitat on the site of the Rowan Fossil Park. Not yet open to the public, we have obtained special permission to explore the varied habitat around the park. Rowan representatives will orient us and we will identify plants and birds as we walk around (not in) the fossil pit. The current plan is to eventually add a nature trail onsite. Note: This trip does not include a dig.

Most of this walk will not be on paved or groomed trails and we recommend closed footwear. Registration will be available using the club's Facebook page, This trip will be open to the first 20 persons who comment on the post asking to register for this field trip on the club's Facebook page. The first 20 will receive a response from by private message confirming their registration and providing driving and parking directions. Preference will be given to club members. Please reserve early

Summer Field Trips!

Field Trip – Family Fun Stream Walk #1 (All ages are welcome!)

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:30pm at Pitman Memorial School

Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe & Paula Hayes cell 609-221-5195 Email: pnbhayes@gmail.com

This stream walk is an old favorite, we do this one most years and it is always filled with a surprise or two. We'll explore what is in, on, under and around the creek as we walk in the water. We'll look for fish, frogs, turtles, mussels, animal prints, flowers, birds and more. Wear appropriate water shoes or old sneakers to walk in the water, shoes that offer some protection are best (not flip flops). We will get wet!! You may want to bring insect repellent.

Directions: From Lambs Road turn onto Hudson Avenue (near Total Turf Experience). Turn into Pitman Memorial School parking lot on the right

Field Trip – Family Fun Stream Walk #2 (All ages are welcome!)

Tuesday August 13th at 6:30pm in Ceres Park, Mantua

Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe & Paula Hayes cell 609-221-5195 Email: pnbhayes@gmail.com

This park is a great one for summer hikes since its tall trees provide lots of shade. We'll explore what is in, on, under and around the creek as we walk in the water. We'll look for fish, frogs, turtles, mussels, animal prints, flowers, birds and more. Wear appropriate water shoes or old sneakers to walk IN the water, shoes that offer some protection are best (not flip flops). The walk to the stream is a bit longer than some of our past stream walks, but it's a beautiful spot. We will get wet!! You may want to bring insect repellent.

Directions: From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553 Alt). Turn left onto Rt 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. We'll meet in the parking lot.

Additional summer trips will likely be added so keep an eye on your inbox or join Meetup so stay up to date. Hope to see you out and about this summer!

Gloucester County Firefly Festival

Saturday, June 29, 2019 - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Tall Pines State Preserve

Rain date: Sunday, June 30

Poets, scientists and people of all ages have long been fascinated by fireflies (lightning bugs). A familiar sight in some parts of the US, fireflies are the fairies of summer nights. Viewing "nature's light show" is part of the magic of growing up in New Jersey. But there are fewer and fewer fireflies. Join us as we explore the world of fireflies... the Night Country... and how you can help fireflies be a part of our landscape for years to come.

The festival includes a number of fun, educational stations scattered along a three-quarter mile, self-guided, loop trail. We recommend people arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 pm and allow an hour to complete the walk. Some species appear at dusk; some appear later, as it gets darker.



The Firefly Festival takes place at the Tall Pines State Preserve, corner of Woodbury-Glassboro Rd and Barkbridge Rd, Sewell, NJ. Cars should enter the parking lot off Barkbridge Road. Our "Firefly Trail" begins and ends here at a Welcome Tent. Please car pool, as space for parking is limited. Bring a flashlight. No dogs please.

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

SAVING AMERICA'S POLLINATOR ACT OF 2019 (H.R. 1337)

The Saving America's Pollinator Act was introduced in the US House of Representatives in February. So far, only two representatives (Coleman and Malinowski) from NJ have signed on as co-sponsors. **This act is extremely important for the health of bees, butterflies, birds, moths and all our pollinators** as it would

- establish an independent pollinator protection panel to develop a review process for pesticides that affect pollinators and their habitat
- cancel the registration of several neonicotinoids (neonics) until the board determines they do not present an unreasonable adverse threat on pollinators
- prevent the EPA from issuing new pesticide registrations for treatment of seeds, soil, or foliage of bee attractive plants until the board determines the pesticides are safe for bees
- require the Department of Agriculture and the EPA to coordinate monitoring and reporting on the health of native bees and other pollinators
- prohibit the unregistered use of pesticides by state and federal agencies to address an emergency unless it is to avert risk to an endangered or threatened species, protect public health or quarantine an invasive species.

Friends of the Earth has a petition asking legislators to co-sponsor H. R. 1337 located at https://action.foe.org/page/9914/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Email&link_id=2&can_id=6eef4c05c5efa1962387b072771b4dd6&source=email-firstname-default-friend-our-pollinators-need-you&email_referrer=email_527359&email_subject=firstname-default-friend-our-pollinators-need-you. Please consider adding your name to this petition. Do it for the bees and butterflies.

MORE ON BEES

So where do bees go in the winter? This is a question asked in the Xerces Society's latest newsletter. Unlike the non-native honey bee which lives in large colonies of thousands of bees and is active through the winter, the 3600 species of North American native bees are dormant for much of the year. Most native bees live solitary lives except for the bumble bee which lives in small colonies of up to a 100 bees.

The solitary female bee builds and provisions her nest in the spring or summer. Most will excavate tunnels into the ground or use old mouse nests, hollow stems, tree snags or other small cavities. She then lays her eggs. She will live another month or so leaving her offspring to develop in the nest where they will remain until the following year.

Bumble bees live in small colonies which grow throughout the summer. They too will nest on the ground and prefer used mouse nests or other dry cavities. At season's end all will die with the exception of a few mated queens who will hibernate through the winter. In the following spring, the waking bumble bee queens are among the first bees that we will see. As spring progresses, the solitary bees emerge to live their short lives.

It is important to design your gardens to provide nesting sites for bees — leave some bare ground, don't cut down every hollowed stemmed plant such as asters and black-eyed susans and keep a 'messy' corner in your yard containing twigs and small branches. You can also build nests out of hollow stemmed plants such as bamboo and attach them to out-buildings. (Mason bee nesting tubes are available on the internet) For more information on bees and other pollinators see www.xerces.org. To participate in a citizen science project centering on bumble bees visit Bumble Bee Watch www.bumblebeewatch.org.

MORE ON BUTTERFLIES

Thanks to Pat Sutton's Gardening Gang newsletter (see www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/) for providing information about two lists — Pollinator Plant List for Butterfly Gardens in South Jersey <https://blogs.stockton.edu/sjbfs/2019/04/11/pollinator-plant-list-for-butterfly-gardeners-in-south-jersey/> and Caterpillar Host Plant List for Gardeners <https://blogs.stockton.edu/sjbfs/2019/03/01/caterpillar-host-plant-list-for-gardeners/>. The South Jersey Butterfly Project tracks butterflies in 8 counties including Gloucester. You may report your sightings at www.sjbutterflies.org. A list of 55 species we can find is included with the caterpillar list above.

THE INVASIVE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



The non-native spotted lanternfly was accidentally introduced into Pennsylvania in 2014 and crossed over the Delaware River into Mercer, Hunterdon and Warren Counties in NJ last year. In the first 3 phases of its larval stage, the nymph is black with white spots and in its fourth phase it is red with white spots. The

adult has a black head, grayish brown forewings with black spots and red hind wings with black spots. These insects pierce plants and suck out the sap or fluid — research is showing that they do not kill the plant quickly but after several consecutive years the plant becomes too weak to survive. They like to feed on ailanthus, apple, peach, black walnut, maples, willows and cherry trees as well as many vegetables and hops.

The lanternfly spends the fall laying eggs which will emerge in May and June. These egg masses are hard to see as they look like mud and can be found on any flat surface, under and on the bark of trees, on cars and equipment and any other protected place. If you see an egg mass, nymph or adult you can send a photo to the NJ Department of Agriculture at SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov or call the New Jersey Spotted Lanternfly Hotline at 1-833-223-2840. If you see an egg mass scrap it into a sealable plastic bag containing alcohol and throw it out. For more info on the spotted lanternfly see www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/spottedlanternfly.html. For information on other invasive plants and animals check out the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team at www.fohvos.info/invasive-species-strike-team.

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 **June 6 and June 20**. 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 June

- During courtship, a cedar waxwing pair may repeatedly pass a flower petal or insect back and forth.
- White-tailed deer are giving birth. The young fawns lie down and "freeze" when threatened.
- Longest day of the year is June 21.
- Pond turtles are digging nests and laying eggs, which will hatch in 80 to 90 days.
- Mountain laurel in bloom.
- Herons can be found roosting with young in marshes at the shore.
- Wood duck and mallard ducklings hatch and venture forth.
- Canada geese begin molting.

Club Notes:

- The Nature Club welcomes the following new member: Shujaath Mehdi of Deptford
- 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.

Please help out the Gloucester County Nature Club while shopping online this Summer!



- 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, 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 from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.