



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

June 2022

## GCNC Annual Picnic & Program

Thursday, June 9 at 6:00 P.M. at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ (directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

After a two-year hiatus, the Gloucester County Nature Club will be celebrating spring with our annual club picnic on June 9. The picnic will be held this year at Alcyon Park on the shores of historic and scenic Alcyon Lake.

As a safety measure this year, attendees are asked to provide their own meals. As always we ask folks to also provide their own utensils, plates, and cups to cut down on the waste of disposables. Beverages will be available at the pavilion.

After the picnic there will be a short walk through the natural areas of the park. As with all club functions, the picnic is open to the public so why not bring a friend?



### **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.






**BIRD QUEST 2022 WRAP-UP:** For the first time that anyone could remember, Bird Quest day (May 7<sup>th</sup> this year) featured torrential downpours and stiff winds. Although only some of the 94 registered participants went birding, we still received 14 team checklists from those determined to find the birds that were out there to be found. The winning team was DGP (Sharon, Bill, and Danny Ceravolo) with an astounding 87 species. They each received our traditional goldfinch pins. The runner-up team was Brian & Paula Hayes with 59 species. We were pleased to see over 40 people at the wrap-up lunch at Wheelabrator.

Species found by 13 or 14 teams were: Northern Cardinal, European Starling, American Robin, Carolina Wren, Canada Goose, American Goldfinch, Gray Catbird, Blue Jay, and Mourning Dove. Here are some notable changes in species between last year (decent weather) and this year (awful weather):

| <u>Species</u>     | <u>2021 % of teams found</u> | <u>2022 % of teams found</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Solitary Sandpiper | 13%                          | 43%                          |
| Cedar Waxwing      | 0%                           | 29%                          |
| Spotted Sandpiper  | 6%                           | 29%                          |
| Swainson's Thrush  | 0%                           | 14%                          |
| White-eyed Vireo   | 56%                          | 14%                          |
| Warbling Vireo     | 50%                          | 7%                           |
| Chimney Swift      | 50%                          | 0%                           |

Besides the Chimney Swift, there were numerous species found by multiple teams last year that were completely absent this year, including: Bufflehead, Horned Lark, Common Raven, Eastern Wood Pewee, Common Merganser, and Cooper's Hawk.

The coordinator (Scott Barnes) would like to thank all the participants, those who attended the 12 training walks, and especially the volunteers that make this event tick. From the training walk leaders, to the day-of walk leaders, to those who helped with various aspects of the Wheelabrator gathering: there are too many to name you all individually but your efforts were and are greatly appreciated.

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** We are now posting 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. Ten videos are now available, including these recent additions:

- [Have You Read This One? - 5 Nature and Environment Themed Books](#) (February 2022)
- [My Year in the Antarctic in 1962](#) (March 2022)
- [The Bayshore Center at Bivalve: "Tidal Wave" and "The Maurice River Cove Exposed & Unprotected"](#) (April 2022)
- [The Big Year Eco-Challenge](#) (May 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 the next club year.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Gloucester County Firefly Festival - June 25, 2022**

The Firefly Festival sponsored by the Gloucester County Nature Club will be held on Saturday June 25th (rain date on June 26) at Tall Pines State Preserve from 7-9 pm. It is a free event, open to the public and is family friendly. Visitors walk along a trail where at various stations, interpreters have displays and discuss topics such as bioluminescence, the firefly life cycle and environmental concerns such as habitat protection and light pollution. For young people there are firefly-related crafts, games and storytelling. Visitors then proceed to the heart of the preserve to view the evening firefly display.

### **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**

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.

## **Nature Notes**

### **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:**

- 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.

## **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 [aljxn@aol.com](mailto:aljxn@aol.com)