



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

July / August 2015

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS!

Up-to-date Field Trip information can also be found on our Meetup website:

<http://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/>

Family Fun Stream Walk #1- all ages are welcome!

Wednesday, July 8th at 6:30 PM 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. 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 – A Summer Walk at Ridley Creek State Park, Pa

Sunday, Aug 2, 2015, 9:20 A.M. to mid afternoon.

Trip leader - Rich Dilks

The piedmont of eastern North America is an area of rolling hills and complex geology. It is the physiographic province that occurs between the inner coastal plain and the Appalachian mountains in a belt that runs northeast to southwest from central New Jersey to eastern Alabama. The name literally means "foot of the mountain" or foot hills and can be considered a half way house between the Atlantic coastal plain to its east and the mountains to its west. The plant communities of the piedmont reflect this transition and contain both plants familiar to the inner coastal plain and those found in the Appalachians. Today we will visit Ridley Creek State Park in the rolling piedmont of upper Delaware County. The park consists of over 2,600 acres of hills, woodlands and meadows along the banks of Ridley Creek and contains 12 miles of trails. In addition to wildflowers, this is a good area for birding, butterflies and dragonflies, so feel free to bring binoculars. Another point of interest in the park is Hunting Hill, a mansion built in 1914 around a 1789 stone farm house. It is now the park headquarters.

Directions: Those who wish to car pool will meet at Timberline Shopping Center on Rt 553 in Sewell at 8:30 A.M. If you wish to go directly to the park, we will meet at 9:20 at the upper parking lot next to the park headquarters (Hunting Hill mansion) and the formal garden. There are numerous picnic facilities in the park for those who plan to pack lunch.

For GPS, use the following address:

351 Gradyville Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073

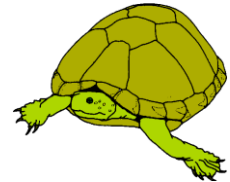
From Timberline we will make our way to I-295 south then on to Commodore Barry Bridge. On crossing into Pa., take I-95 south for about 1 mile to Exit 3A and take Rt. 322 west. After about 1 mile, make a right at the first exit on Rt. 322 (Rt. 452) and then bear right (north) on Rt. 452. (Rt. 452 is Market St. then becomes Pennell Rd.). Continue north on Rt. 452 for approximately 5 miles, crossing Rt. 1. Continue one half mile beyond Rt. 1 to the traffic light where Rt. 452 intersects with Rt. 352 (Middletown Rd.) at Lima, Pa. Turn left onto Rt. 352 and continue about 2 miles then turn right onto Gradyville Rd. Continue a little over a mile. The park entrance will be on your right. Continue into the park about 1200 feet, then turn right, following signs to the park office. We will meet in the upper lot by the mansion and formal garden. Travel time from Timberline is about 50 min.

Family Fun Stream Walk #2- all ages are welcome!

Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30 PM 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. There is easy access to a stream after a short hike to the corner of this lovely park. 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. We will get wet!! You may want to bring insect repellent.



Directions: From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Turn left onto Rt553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55. We'll meet in the parking lot.

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: July / August 2012

- July 19 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, **Walk in the Wild: Cooler in the Woods.** Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Experience a casual stroll on the trails of the land trust with a knowledgeable leader to observe the plants, animals, natural features and processes, and just plain magic that make this place very special. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. Please check at www.oldpinefarm.org/ for changes to the schedule and directions. Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ." Further details available by calling Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.

- August 16 (Sunday), 2:00 PM, **Walk in the Wild: Blackbirds.** Sponsored by the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust. Free. Experience a casual stroll on the trails of the land trust with a knowledgeable leader to observe the plants, animals, natural features and processes, and just plain magic that make this place very special. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. Please check at www.oldpinefarm.org/ for changes to the schedule and directions. Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ." Further details available by calling Carl Ford at 856-579-4441. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month.

Natural Events for the month of July

- Blueberries ripen in early July.
- Bog asphodel, now found only in New Jersey, blooms in early July in Pinelands fens.
- The first brood of monarch butterflies is emerging from their chrysalis.
- Raccoons, skunks, and opossums are digging up and eating turtle eggs.
- Breeding and nesting season for birds ends this month except for goldfinches and late bluebirds
- Thistle plants are beginning to seed; goldfinches gather thistle down for nesting materials
- Listen for the feeding calls of young barred and great horned owls.
- Yellow warblers begin to head south in July; migration is complete in August

Natural Events for the month of August

- Perseid meteor shower – peaks on August 11.
- Sweet goldenrod, early goldenrod, cardinal flower, and other late-summer flowers bloom.
- Sweet pepperbush in bloom.
- Purple martins begin roosting in phragmites along the Maurice River near Port Elizabeth in preparation for their southern migration. Peak numbers usually occur around the third week in August.
- Red knots pass through New Jersey again on their southward migration to Chile. Adults are still in breeding plumage.
- Fall raptor migration begins in mid-August with small numbers of several species, including American kestrels, ospreys and bald eagles.
- Gray squirrels give birth to second brood.
- Early warblers migrating south through New Jersey.
- American goldfinches finish nesting late in this month
- Second brood of hummingbirds begin to appear at feeders.
- Birds are feeding on fruits of flowering dogwood trees.

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at president@gcnatureclub.org or call 856-468-6536.
- 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 newsletter@gcnatureclub.org or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.