



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2013

Program – Purple Crow Butterflies – the Taiwan “Cousins” of Monarch Butterflies
Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,
Wenonah, NJ (directions below) (Please note location change for this meeting!)

Presenter: Mr. Jia-Long Jan

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Many people know the story of the Monarch Butterfly’s annual migration to Mexico. But few people know of the Monarch’s Taiwan “cousin, the Purple Crow Butterfly. Purple Crows, also in the milkweed butterfly family, migrate from northern to southern Taiwan each winter. Hundreds of thousands gather there, covering trees. In the past 15 years, Taiwanese conservationists have made great progress studying and protecting Purple Crow winter colonies, while educating people about the interdependent relationship between humans and nature. Their efforts led to an unprecedented move by the Taiwanese government to close a highway during migration to protect Purple Crow Butterflies.

We are honored to have Mr. Jia-Long Jan, a leader in Purple Crow research and conservation, give a talk about his experience. Mr. Jan is a doctoral student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at National Taiwan University. He first encountered butterflies in elementary school when his aunt, Yue-zhao Jan, gave him a book about butterflies. He has been fascinated ever since. While pursuing a degree in Entomology at National Taiwan University, he studied the symbiotic relationship between Taiwanese butterflies and ants.

Among Mr. Jan’s achievements is his long-term research on the migration of over 8,000,000 Purple Crow Butterflies. In 1999, Mr. Jan collaborated with the Lu-Kai Native Taiwanese tribe in Mao-Lin, Kao-Shung to study and conserve Purple Crow Butterflies while helping preserve the culture and environment of the native people. For his effort, he was awarded the Ford Environmental Award in 2002. In 2004, Mr. Jan served as a consultant to a BBC documentary on the migration of Purple Crows. He was the first in Taiwan to identify a migration route over 100 km (60 miles) long, nicknamed “the butterfly highway.” In recognition, Mr. Jan received the prestigious Japan Creativity Award from Tokyo University, the fifth Taiwanese person to ever receive this award.



Mr. Jan is visiting the United States to learn more about Monarch Butterflies and the work being done by Monarch Teacher Network. Learn more about Purple Crow Butterflies at:

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/2009/04/02/202723/Taiwan's-purple.htm>.

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).

Field Trip – Beekeeping Demonstration
Saturday September 14, 2013, 10:00 AM
Trip Leader: Ned Morgan



Join us on Saturday, September 14th @ 10am for a beekeeping demo with Ned Morgan, the president of the South Jersey Branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA). He will discuss the importance of honey bees and other pollinators. We will be getting into the hives to show the various life stages (eggs, larvae, pupae), to see what the inside of the hive looks like and how the bees arrange it. That said WEAR LONG PANTS, SHIRTS TUCKED IN, NO OPEN TOE SHOES. There is a good chance you may be stung. He will have veils available that we will share. Honey bees are not aggressive but will sting if they feel threatened. Ned is in his 8th year as a beekeeper and currently has 16 hives. He also does some pollination, but primarily looks for honey production.

We will meet at the Gloucester Co. 4-H Nature Preserve. The address is 3944 S. Black Horse Pike (Rte 322), Williamstown, NJ 08094. The entrance to the preserve is close to the intersection of Rte 322 and Sharps Rd. It is also 0.5 miles west of the intersection of Rte 322 and Piney Hollow Rd. Best bet is to take Rt 322 south to the jughandle at Piney Hollow Rd, then backtrack on Rt 322 for roughly 0.5 miles to destination on right.

Family Fun Walk at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust in Deptford Township
Sunday, September 8th, 2013 at 12:00 noon
Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (cell/text: 609-315-4759 or mariakeefe19@comcast.net)

Join us on Sunday, September 8th @ 12:00 at the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust in Deptford.

Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust is one of the few remaining natural and protected areas along the highly-developed tidal portion of Big Timber Creek. It is located in the Blackwood Terrace section of Deptford. It offers a variety of terrain, including a meadow, woodlands and wetlands, while being surrounded on three sides by many acres of fresh water in Big Timber Creek. There are several trails to walk and a picnic table near the creek.

Directions:

From Woodbury: Drive east on Cooper Street towards Blackwood. Cross Delsea Drive. At the next traffic light, go straight. At the fork, bear right to go down Good Intent Road. As you go through the second traffic light you have crossed Route 41. The fourth street on your left is Rankin Avenue. Make a left turn (you cannot make a right) and drive to the end of the street where you will see a parking lot.

From Pitman/Glassboro/Clayton: Drive North on Delsea Drive towards the Deptford Mall. At the Five Points intersection, go straight which puts you on Route 41. At the second traffic light you are at the intersection of Route 41 and Good Intent Road. Make a right turn. The fourth street on your left is Rankin Avenue. Make a left turn and go to the end of the street where you will see a parking lot.

Or just use your favorite mapping program or your GPS by typing in "400 Rankin Ave, Deptford, NJ."

Nature Notes

Events by other Organizations: September 2013

- September 15, 2013 (Sunday), 2:00 PM – **Walk in the Wild: Medicine.** 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.
- September 28, 2013 (Saturday) - **Inversand Tours.** For anyone wishing to visit the Marl Pit Fossil site, Mantua Township will be hosting Inversand Tours. If you are interested you should contact Michelle Bruner - mbruner@mantuatownship.com or 856.468.1500 x 122 and request that you be added to the email list. This will get you an invite once the tour times are finalized. It sounds as if they will have large groups (200 people) and will give you a specific time to visit.

Natural Events for the month of September

- The last brood of monarch butterflies emerges and flies south to Mexico.
- Black gum foliage turns red - first tree to get its autumn color.
- Wild grapes ripen - not all of them are sour.
- Turtle eggs hatch and hatchlings emerge and head for the nearest water.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks
- Most hummingbirds depart by the end of the month
- Bats busy feeding – building fat reserves for hibernation and migration.
- Broad-winged hawk migration peaks in mid-month - plan a visit to a hawk lookout.

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs and field trips we have lined up for the new season. Current schedule is subject to change. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

2013-2014 GCNC Programs

October 10, 2013: **Wildlife Safari in Tanzania** - Scott Barnes

November 14, 2013: **New Jersey Birds & Beyond, Presentation** and book signing (joint meeting w/ SJLWT) - Susan Puder

December 12, 2013: **Iron** - Karl Anderson

January 9, 2014: **Sacred Places** - Erik Mollenhauer

February 13, 2014: **Pot Luck Dinner** (Program TBD)

March 13, 2014: **Splendors of the Sierra Nevadas: Hiking the John Muir Trail** - Kris Mollenhauer

April 10, 2014: **Birding Adventure in Costa Rica** - Marilyn Henry

May 8, 2014: **Spiders** - Eugene Fuzy

June 13, 2014: **Annual Picnic** - Location TBD

2013-2014 GCNC Field Trips

October (date TBD): **Mad Hatter's Tree Party** check Facebook or MeetUp for updates

November 9, 2013: **Heritage Vineyards - Tour & Talk followed by an Optional Tasting**

December 14, 2013: **Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

January 11, 2014: **Birding Rancocas with Lloyd Shaw**

February 15 2014: **Scotland Run Moonlit Hike and Campfire**

March: TBD

April: **Bird Quest Trainings** including a junior birder training

May 3, 2014: **Bird Quest**

June: TBD

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.
- The September Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 8th at the home of Kris and Erik Mollenhauer. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.
- **Trustee Election** – The Trustee Election originally scheduled for our June Picnic which was cancelled will be held at the regular September meeting. For details, refer to the June '13 newsletter.
- **Join Our Meetup Group!** The Gloucester County Nature Club is now using the online tool, Meetup.com to advertise our field trips. We strongly encourage you to give it a try. By signing up you will be able to see up to minute information related to field trips (weather, changes or cancellations if needed), communicate with the leaders and others going on trips of interest. Simply sign up with an email address to join the group and you will be informed of upcoming trips and Nature Club events. It's a great way to be reminded of the trips you didn't want to forget and meet new members.! Check out the link and sign up!! <http://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/>

Reminder - Membership Dues

September brings with it membership renewals. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We were able to maintain the same dues structure since 2004. However, to help close a persistent deficit in the club's operations, the executive committee has found it necessary to increase membership dues by \$5 for the coming club year (September 2013 - August 2014). **Electronic (email) memberships will now be \$20 per household per year, while postal mail memberships will be \$25.** For this modest sum, you will be supporting our full slate of meetings and outings, as well as our efforts to preserve and promote the natural areas that make our local communities special. We have been able to keep all of these activities open to the public for almost 65 years thanks to your continued financial support. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members.

Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and bring it along with your dues to the September Meeting, or send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

You may also sign up and pay your membership dues electronically via PayPal. Just go to <http://gcnatureclub.org/membership.php> and fill out the online form.

WAIVER

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you intend to discontinue on the route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2013-2014

- New Member Renewal
- Paper Membership (\$25) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership (\$20) - newsletter via email; ***please provide email address below

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ***Email Address: _____

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): _____

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how?

Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Individual or Family

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____