



# Gloucester County Nature Club

## Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2015

**Program - The Curing Fox: Coming Home to Nature in the Modern World**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church,**  
**Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

**Presenter: Erik Mollenhauer**

**Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342**

Studies show that children today spend 90% of their day indoors. Modern life and technology are increasing our separation from nature and producing an “extinction of experience”.

But the simple truth is that children... all of us... need experiences with air, water and nature to become and remain fully functioning human beings. We have a genetic, physical, emotional and spiritual need for nature that has never been bred out of us. To the extent we separate ourselves from nature we can never become truly fulfilled.

As Jonas Salk, inventor of the polio vaccine, said: “It is necessary not only to ‘know thyself’ but to ‘know thy species’ and to understand the ‘wisdom of nature’ to make living a desirable and fulfilling experience”.

This presentation explores six core elements of human nature that inform how we were designed to learn and to live, shedding light on our place in the world and our relationship to the universe of things.

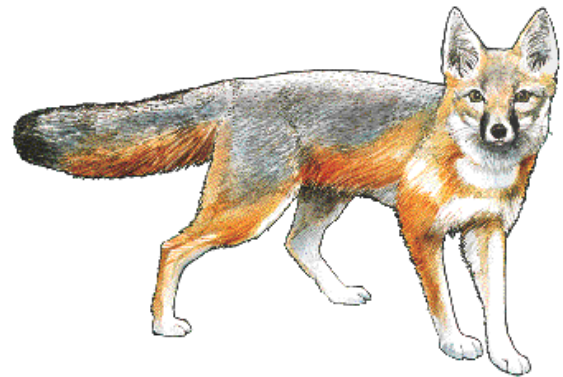
**Directions:** The Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is located just off Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd.) immediately south of the traffic light at Mantua Ave. The church parking lot can be accessed by entrances on either Woodbury-Glassboro Road or Lenape Trail (first left off of Mantua Ave).

### **Field Trip – Biking Through Elephant Swamp**

**Friday, September 11, 2015 at 10:30am**

**Trip Leader: Erik Mollenhauer**

Do you like exploring forgotten places in Gloucester County? Join us for a bike ride past corn fields, swamps and woodlands... including the oddly mysterious Elephant Swamp. The biking trail is an old rail bed that is level, with a smooth grade, and gravel surface. Bikers will do a total of ten miles round of biking. We will stop along the way to look at whatever catches our eye - trees, birds, etc. We will begin at 10:30am, lunch from noon to 1:00pm, return biking from around 2:30pm. We will ride south to Elmer where we will lunch at Dodge’s Market where you can enjoy a sandwich, bowl of soup or baked treat (if



you prefer you can pack a lunch). After lunch we will bike back to our cars in Elk Township. Participants are responsible for bringing and transporting their own bikes, a bike lock is recommended.

**Directions:** Meet at the Elk Twp Municipal Building at 10:30am. You can get there from Rt 55 (Ferrell Exit... first exit south of Rt 322). Go NW on Ellis Mill Rd to first crossroad. Turn left on Porchtown Rd (Rt 667). Go one-plus mile and turn right onto Rt 619-623 (Whig Lane). Municipal building is on your left.

**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.



### Nature Notes

#### **Events by other Organizations: September 2015**

- September 19 (Saturday) – **Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival.** 7:00am - 3:00pm at the John Heinz NWR at 8601 Lindbergh Blvd in SW Philadelphia. a great event for the entire family to get outside and connect with nature. Dozens of exhibitors showcase programs, projects and organizations, including eco-friendly ideas, birding optics, information about wildlife, conservation, and education. There will be live animal demonstrations from the Philadelphia Zoo, and the always popular “Raptor Show” featuring live hawks, owls, and eagles. Live music provided by Tinicum’s own “Environmental Troubadour,” Glen Waldek. Keynote Speaker – Eileen Boyle: *Butterflies in Your Garden!* Enjoy a trackless trolley tour of the refuge and learn about the different habitats and wildlife. Try your hand at archery, or join in one of several guided bird and nature walks, some geared specifically for kids. The Friends of Heinz Refuge provides free lunch to all. For info call 215-365-3118 or visit [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/John\\_Heinz/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/John_Heinz/).
- September 20 (Sunday) - **Autumn with the Animals.** At Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (4 Sawmill Road, Medford NJ) from Noon to 4:00pm, includes wildlife programs, live music by Branin Road, Naturalist led nature hikes, games, make and take crafts, guided tours of the Wildlife Housing area, canoeing on Cedar Run Lake, and food available from Brother Bear BBQ. Programs will include Hunters of the Sky and Amazing Reptiles plus story times for the younger set. Lowe's Home Improvement will also be bringing a nature-based craft (available while supplies last). Mark your calendars to make sure you don't miss this great, family-friendly festival! NEW for 2015! Our friends at Elite Climbing, Maple Shade will be visiting! Pricing is \$5 per person, under 3 free. Current Refuge members receive \$1 off per person and teachers with current ID receive \$1 off per ID. For additional information and directions, visit [www.cedarrun.org](http://www.cedarrun.org).
- September 20 (Sunday), 2:00pm – **Walk in the Wild: Vultures & Eagles.** 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. We will do this on the third Sunday of each month, with a different focus each month. Please check at [www.oldpinefarm.org](http://www.oldpinefarm.org) for changes to the

schedule and directions. Meet in the parking area at the end of Rankin Avenue in Blackwood Terrace. 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. No reservations necessary -- just show up!

- September 26 (Saturday) - **Hoot, Waddle & Stroll 5K Trail Run & 1 Mile Walk.** 9:00am. This will be a fun, family fundraising event on September 26 at Woodford Run Wildlife Refuge (4 Sawmill Road, Medford NJ). Participants are invited to form teams and fundraise via pledges. For details, visit [www.cedarrun.org](http://www.cedarrun.org).

**The following events take place at the Scotland Run Nature Center in Clayton.** For details and to register for programs, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- Bird Walk: Saturday 9/12 at 8:00am. A beautiful time of year for a leisurely morning walk. Bring your binoculars and discover the many species of birds that call Scotland Run Park home.
- Kids' Fishing Contest: Saturday 9/12 at 8:30am
- Nature Tots: Wednesday 9/16 at 10:00am
- Afternoon Nature Stroll: Wednesday 9/16 at 2:30pm
- Canoeing/Kayaking: Saturday 9/19 at 11:00am. Last chance to go on guided canoe and kayak excursion before the boats are put away.
- Campfire and Night Walk: Friday 9/25 at 6:30pm. Join our annual Campfire and Night Walk on Sept. 25; Bring food to share. No flashlights or blinking shoes during walk.

### **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 we have lined up for the new season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

September 10, 2015: **The Curing Fox** - Erik Mollenhauer

October 8, 2015 **Reptiles and Amphibians of Southern New Jersey** - Ned Gilmore, Academy of Natural Sciences

November 12, 2015: **Spring Wildflowers of the Great Smoky Mountains** - Rich Dilks (Joint meeting w/ SJLWT)

December 10 2015: **Yellowstone** – Karl Anderson

January 14, 2016: **If You Plant It, They Will Come** - Ron and Linda Kegel

February 11, 2016: **Pot Luck Dinner (6:00pm) & Bag it, a documentary film (7:00pm)** - Interactive member activity

March 10, 2016: **A Journey Through Time and Space: Following the Ancient Song-lines of Ireland** - Erik Mollenhauer & Brian Hayes

April 14, 2016: **A Panama Adventure** - Barbara Bassett

May 12, 2016: **Annual Plant Sale (6:00pm) and Program: The Horseshoe Crab Lab 6:30pm** - Sue Slotterback, The Wetlands Institute

June 9, 2016: **Thursday, June 9, 2016 Annual Picnic (6:00pm) at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ followed by program: Bluebirds** - Allen Jackson, President, New Jersey Bluebird Society

### **2015-2016 GCNC Field Trips**

Listed below are the field trips we have lined up for the new season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at [pnbhayes@gmail.com](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com).

October 24, 2015 - **Moonlit Hike at Scotland Run Park**

October 25, 2015 - **Mad Hatters Tree Party**

November - **Hike and Tour at Saddler's Woods**

December 19, 2015 - **Christmas Bird Count** (Ron Kegel)

January - **Winter Birding Trip**

February - **Hike at Palmyra Cove**

March - TBA

April - **Bird Quest Trainings**

May 7, 2016 - **Bird Quest**

June - **Duke Farms**

### **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 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 [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.

## **Reminder - Membership Dues**

September brings with it membership renewals. This year we will be keeping the price the same as last year. 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 believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$20 for electronic mailings and \$25 for regular mail delivery. 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 2015-2016**

- 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Paper  or Electronic

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form with payment to GCNC, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 or bring to a meeting.