



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

September 2018

Program - Introduction to the Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the NJ Pine Barrens

Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenters: John & Nina Burghardt, New Jersey Mycological Society

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Fungi are all around us, as colorful as wildflowers, yet strange and mysterious, neither plant nor animal, but a kingdom of their own. These fungi are important organisms that serve many vital functions in forest ecosystems including decomposition, nutrient cycling, symbiotic relationships with trees and other plants, biological control of other fungi, and as the causal agents of diseases in plants and animals. Mushrooms are sources of food for wildlife, and fungi that cause decay in living trees are beneficial to many species of birds and mammals. Less than 5 percent of the estimated 1.5 million species of fungi have been described, and their exact roles and interactions in ecosystems are largely unknown.

John and Nina Burghardt are long time members and past presidents of the New Jersey Mycological Association (NJMA). The NJMA is an organization of people who share an interest in learning about and enjoying mushrooms. Nina coordinates a study of the fungi at Franklin Parker Preserve in Burlington County, now in its 10th year. The presentation will describe the diverse forms and functions of fungi in the environment, using examples from the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

John & Nina Burghardt have also graciously consented to lead a mushroom walk for the GCNC. For details, please see our field trip list for this season.

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 – Tranquility Trails, Woolwich Township

Saturday, September 15, 2018: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Trip Leader -Karl Anderson

This will be an exploration of a new trail on a site that has not previously been visited by the club. The focus will be on trees, vines, and meadow flowers and grasses, but creatures with wings will not be ignored. Habitats surveyed will include a wet forest and fields in various stages of ecological succession. Walking will be on level grass paths, some in shade, others exposed to the sun. Distances walked will probably not exceed one mile. Dress to suit, and bring water. At this time, there are no rest rooms on the site.

Directions: The large parking lot for this trail is on the north side of High Hill Road (Route 662) in Woolwich Township, approximately 9/10 of a mile northwest of the intersection of High Hill Road and Auburn Avenue (Route 671) in Swedesboro. There is a large sign. Meet in the parking lot. If you have any questions, contact the trip leader at karlanderson6@aol.com.

Events by other Organizations: September 2018

- September 16 (Sunday) - **Autumn with the Animals.** At Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (4 Sawmill Road, Medford NJ) from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Autumn with the Animals remains a much-anticipated fall family tradition here in Southern New Jersey. Children and adults of all ages enjoy our wildlife programs, live music, guided nature hikes, canoeing, games, crafts, food and fun! We look upon this day as a way for our members and friends to reconnect with each other and the environment. For additional information and directions, visit www.cedarrun.org.
- September 22 (Saturday) - **Hoot, Waddle & Stroll 5K Trail Run & 1 Mile Walk.** 9:00 am. This will be a fun, family fundraising event on September 22 at Woodford Run Wildlife Refuge (4 Sawmill Road, Medford NJ). The 4th Annual Hoot, Waddle and Stroll 5K Trail Run & 1-Mile Stroll is a fun-filled, family-oriented event to support Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge. Cedar Run Refuge, located in the Pinelands of Medford Township, cares for nearly 4,000 animals annually and is also dedicated to educating children about the importance of conserving our shared habitats. Cedar Run also aims to promote outdoor health and wellness for all ages. For details, visit www.cedarrun.org



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.

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION

After only seeing an occasional monarch in June and July, I am now, in mid-August, finally seeing 2 to 5 adults a day. Eggs and very young caterpillars are appearing on my milkweed. As Journey North reports on their website, <https://journeynorth.org/monarchs>, the fall monarch migration extends from August 23 to November 15, so the eggs and caterpillars I am finding now may be in the vanguard of the fall migration. Hopefully, when you are reading this in September a healthy migration will be underway.



Journey North asks that you report your monarch sightings – eggs, caterpillars and butterflies – on their website where you can track migration progress on their real-time maps. Another organization that depends on the input of citizen scientists is The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, <https://monarchlab.org/mlmp>, run by the University of Minnesota. Both these groups are well worth supporting by inputting your data.

Also, it is very important to provide nectar plants for both the spring and fall migrations. Nectar plants provide energy that butterflies need on their long journey to and from Mexico and include asters, goldenrod (they do not cause allergies), zinnias, and joe-pye weed. Always buy plants that have not been treated with pesticides. Ask the vendor if you are not sure. More info on nectar plants may be found at <https://xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants/>.

PLASTIC ON THE LAND, IN THE AIR, AND IN THE SEA

The summer issue of Defenders of Wildlife's magazine *Defenders* reported that a dead endangered sperm whale washed ashore in Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in its stomach and intestines. The whale had died from gastric shock because it could not expel the plastic. Marine scientists warn that by 2050 the weight of plastic in our oceans will be more than the weight of fish.

The plastic bottle thrown out a car window goes down a storm drain and is carried by streams and rivers to the sea where, over time, it will break down into pieces smaller than a quarter called micro-plastics. Micro-plastics may be too small for the casual observer to notice but they are the perfect size to enter the ocean's food chain. Plastic acts as a sponge for pollutants soaking up mercury, flame retardants and pesticides. Fish that eat micro-plastics are more likely to develop tumors and liver damage.

Micro-plastics can also be transported through the air and have been found in salt, beer and drinking water – bottled water itself has been found to contain micro-plastics (325 particles per liter). A survey of American national parks found micro-plastics in parks from Samoa to Cape Cod to Alaska. Wisconsin's Sitka National Park had the highest count of 285 particles per kilogram.

Sources of micro-plastics are microbeads which were used until 2015 as abrasives in face wash, cosmetics and toothpaste, particles created by the breakdown of larger articles such as plastic water bottles, and microfibers from synthetic clothing, fishing nets, carpets and cigarette butts. Nylon, polyester and acrylic all shed microfibers when washed.

It is estimated that 155 metric tons of plastic entered the oceans in 2010 and that the amount will double by 2025. All that plastic will break down into micro-plastic (the sun's ultraviolet rays cause the breakdown) and enter the food chain of life on earth. What can you do? Don't buy single use plastic. Here are some suggestions:

- Stop buying bottled water
- Take your own shopping bags to the store
- Take your own cup to the coffee shop
- Choose cardboard packaging over plastic
- Say no to straws

- Store food in glass jars or containers
- Give up gum – you are chewing on plastic!
- Take your own container to carry your leftovers when eating out
- Eliminate as much as possible buying frozen foods – even eco-friendly brands are coated with plastic
- Don't use disposable cutlery
- Use cloth diapers – 80,000 pounds of plastic and 200,000 trees a year are used to make disposable diapers in the US alone
- BE A DEDICATED RE-CYCLER

Sources: <https://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/responsible-living/stories/16-simple-ways-reduce-plastic-waste>, <https://www.treehugger.com/green-home/11-easy-ways-reduce-your-plastic-waste-today.html>, and the summer 2018 issue of *National Parks*, the magazine of the National Parks Conservation Association

GOOD NEWS FOR GRASSLANDS IN SOUTH JERSEY

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation announced that the owners of Cowtown Rodeo have entered into an agreement to preserve nearly 375 acres of grassland surrounding the Cowtown Rodeo from development. This is great news for grassland birds – bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, meadowlarks, endangered upland sandpipers, kestrels and more. The land will be used for horses and cattle making it some of the best grassland in New Jersey. An added benefit is that large areas of managed grasslands also support ground water recharge. See the February 2018 newsletter for more info on New Jersey's grasslands.

Source: summer edition of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's magazine *New Jersey Conservation*

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the 2018-2019 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

2018 – 2019 Programs

Sept. 13, 2018: **Introduction to the Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the NJ Pine Barrens** - John & Nina Burghardt

Oct 11, 2018: **New Jersey's Fish Hawk: The Amazing Osprey** - Ben Wurst, Habitat Manager, The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey; NJ Osprey Project.

Nov. 8, 2018: **Live Animal Presentation: Owls- Animals of the Night** - Freedom Center for Wildlife

Dec. 13, 2018: **Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps.**

Jan.10, 2019: **Flora of the California Deserts** - Rich Dilks

Feb. 14, 2019 **Annual Pot Luck Dinner. followed by a fun activity.**

March 14, 2019: **National Hiking Trail of England and Wales** - Kris & Erik Mollenhauer

April 11, 2019: **How to Plan a Birding Trip to Colorado.**- Jeff Mollenhauer

May 9, 2019. **Annual Plant Sale** followed by program **Butterflies of New Jersey** - Steve Glynn.

June 13, 2019: **GCNC Annual Picnic** at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ followed by **A guided walk through Alcyon Woods.**

2018 2019 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the remaining field trips we have lined up for the 2018 – 2019 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.

September 15, 2018 - **Tranquility Trails**

October 2018 - **Blue Hole**

November 3, 2018 - **Fungi Hike with John Burghardt**

December 15, 2018 – **Christmas Bird Count**

January 6, 2019 - **Smithville Afternoon Hike with optional Lightshow on Lake to follow**

February 2019 - **TBD**

March 16, 2019 - **Drum Circle**

April 2019 - **Bird Quest Trainings**

May 4, 2019 - **Bird Quest**

June 2019 - **Hike at Mantua Fossil Park**

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 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.
- The September Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday September 9th at the home of Erik and Kris Mollenhauer. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Please remember to help out the Gloucester County Nature Club while shopping online!



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.

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 2018-2019

- 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 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.

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.

