



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

September 2019

Program - Where Have all the Quail Gone? The Importance of Young Forests as Wildlife Habitat

Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Anthony Petrongolo, The New Jersey Forestry Association

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342



When the earliest European explorers sailed up the Delaware River, they described a land brimming with a variety of habitats and wildlife, from old growth forest to savannas and everything in between.

Young forest species such as the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail were found in great abundance. It is likely that many other young forest wildlife species thrived as well, although they were not as notable to the early explorers intent on describing animals necessary for subsistence. Although evidence to the contrary is largely anecdotal, the popular conception of North America being covered by a "forest primeval," does not appear to hold up well under scrutiny.

Over time, as land was cleared for agriculture, many forms of young forest wildlife thrived in Southern New Jersey. Species that required mature forests disappeared. Areas that were developed and paved over lost all but a few very adaptable species. Eventually, many of our forests grew back to maturity (New Jersey today is 45% forested) to the point that young forests have become the weak link. Species that are associated with young forest habitats, like the bobwhite quail, are declining with them. Sometime in the last 20 years, the familiar summertime call of "bobwhite" disappeared from Gloucester County for the first time in probably the last 10,000 years.



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 – Full Moon Drum Circle at Scotland Run Park

Saturday, September 14 at 7:00pm

Trip Leaders: Paula and Brian Hayes

Looking for a way to get your creative juices flowing and enjoy some time outside too? Come out and enjoy Scotland Run Park after dark. We've secured permission to use the park after dark and will enjoy a gibbous moon over the field. Join the Gloucester County Nature Club for a fun-filled evening of percussion. You don't need to be a drummer or even a musician to participate. We will set up in a circle in a natural area not far from the parking lot. This event will include guided activities as well as time for improvisation and exploration of sound during the evening. We will take a short walk across the road and to the field in order to get away from road noise and lights.

It is recommended that you bring a camp style or folding chair and a drum if you have one. We will provide different of styles drums and other percussion in for instruments for participants to borrow. This activity is designed as fun for novices and families, although all are welcome. You may want a flashlight to help you navigate the area after it gets dark but we intend to drum in the moonlight so a flashlight and drums are optional.

Directions: Take exit 45 off route 55 to Centerton - Clayton. Make a left onto Buck Road (Rt. 553). Make a right at the first traffic light onto Academy Road (Rt. 610). Take Academy Road for 2 miles crossing over Route 47 and Fries Mill Road. Just beyond Fries Mill Road turn right into the Nature Center. Address for GPS: 980 East Academy Street, Clayton NJ

Bird Walks - Recurring Event

The Scotland Run Park Nature Center and the Gloucester County Nature Club will be hosting bird walks year-round on the **first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30am**. This month, walks will be on **September 5 and September 19**. Come and explore the nature trails as we look for all different species of feathered friends that the park has to offer. This event is open to all ages and families are encouraged to attend together. Bird walks will NOT take place during snow or rain.

Events by other Organizations: September 2019.

- September 8 (Sunday) - The trustees of Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust invite the world to the annual **Jersey Fresh Picnic** on Sunday, September 8, at 3 p.m. This annual event has been a fund raising success with good food, good company and good entertainment at the Willoughby House in Blackwood Terrace, Deptford, NJ. For more information and location, see <https://oldpinefarm.org/> or call Charles White at 856-217-9138.
- September 15 (Sunday) - Join Jim Barg at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust for our **"Walk in the Wild"** on Sunday, September 15, at 2 p.m. for an informative talk and relaxed walk. Jim will lead us down the trails in search of mushrooms. He will explain, in simple language, how we go about identifying mushrooms with special emphasis on recognizing some of the more common poisonous and edible mushrooms. As part of the identification process, Jim will explain the important roles that mushrooms and fungi play in the environment. For more information and location, see <https://oldpinefarm.org/> or call Charles White at 856-217-9138.
- September 22 (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.cedarrum.org.

- September 28 (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.cedarrum.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

A big THANK YOU goes out to Suzan Delozier for serving as the club's Conservation Chair and providing us with Conservation information for the newsletter over the past several years. Suzan is moving out of the immediate Gloucester County area and will be leaving us. We wish Suzan all the best as she relocates.

As a result, the club is looking for someone to follow in Suzan's footsteps by serving as the club's Conservation Chair. This is not as hard as it sounds; generally it just involves providing timely Conservation information for the newsletter. Please contact club President Karen Kravchuck or any other member of the executive committee if interested.

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the 2019-2020 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

2019 - 2020 Programs

September 12, 2019: **Where Have all the Quail Gone? The Importance of Young Forests as Wildlife Habitat-** Anthony Petrongolo

October 10, 2019: **The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment** - Leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network

November 14, 2019: **Lichen: The Fungus Among Us** - Jennifer Bulava, Lead Park Naturalist, Burlington Co. Park System

December 12, 2019: **In the Hall of the Mountain King: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** - Erik & Kris Mollenhauer

January 9, 2020: **Rediscovering America's First Artificial River** - Scott Barnes

February 13, 2020 (6:00pm): **Annual Pot Luck Dinner** followed by program **Bird-Window Collisions** - Jeff Mollenhauer

March 12, 2020 **Species Discovery and the Future of Biodiversity Exploration** - Dr. Daniel Duran, Lecturer, Rowan U; Naturalist, Scotland Run Park.

April 9, 2020: **Birding the American Heartland** - Jeff Mollenhauer

May 14, 2020. **Annual Plant Sale** (6:00pm) followed by program **May on the Bay: Taking Action for Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs** - Laura Chamberlin, Assistant Director for the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

June 11, 2020 (6:00pm): **GCNC Annual Picnic** at Fasola Park, Deptford, NJ

2019-2020 Field Trips

Listed below are the remaining field trips we have lined up for the 2019 – 2020 season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@gmail.com.

September 14, 2019 - **Drum Circle at Scotland Run Park**

October 6, 2019 - **Inclusive Walk**

November 2019 - **TBD**

December 14, 2019 - **Christmas Bird Count**

January 2020 - **Birding Along the Delaware River**

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 8th at the home of Karen Kravchuck. Please contact Karen for more information.

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