



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

September 2020

Welcome to September — and the time to start a new season for our Nature Club!

It has been an unusually long time since we've seen each other and in that time our world has changed dramatically. We have all had to adapt to the changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to make — and our Club has had to adapt, as well.

But...the marvelous outdoors is still there and so are we. The Nature Club WILL start its season, though! Just not in the way we have been used to.

In March we said we would see how the COVID-19 situation evolves and reevaluate in fall. We think you will agree that our decision to cancel our usual monthly meetings in our somewhat small space is the wise choice right now. We miss those friendly gatherings but we are considering the possibility of some online meetings/programs as a possibility in the coming months.

For the first few months of the new season we'll concentrate on local outdoor activities. We have Field Trips already scheduled for September.

We will follow New Jersey's guidance for all field trips limiting the number of people, requiring attendees to wear face coverings and staying six feet apart.

Marilyn Henry will co-lead Bird Walks at Scotland Run Park the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m., starting at the Nature Center from now until October 15 — just in time to check out fall migrants heading south. What a great reason to put those binocs to use and spend a morning outside ... and you get to choose the morning!

Jayne Rhynard is still working out the details for a September 25 walk at Greenwich Lake Park, a big open space with diverse habitats, including waterfowl, so keep an eye on our Meetup page for details.

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

You may be asked to register for some trips at our meetup page (or you may call or email Paula Hayes at 856-468-9272 or pnbhayes@comcast.net). This is new but we want to be able to know how many of us there will be and we need to have a record of attendees. Of course, masks and social distancing will be required. But you knew that! As in the past, our trips will be free and open to the public.

Other trips through December are being planned, too. This will give us a start, with plans for the future to follow. As the situation changes with this pandemic, we will consider other ways for our members to stay active and engaged with the natural world and each other — to be safe and all stay healthy. If you have any ideas, please let us know!

With a history that starts in 1949, longevity is a strong point with our club. Things may be different for now, but we are still here and working diligently to find ways to stay.

We thought you would like to know that the long-awaited 2nd edition of "Natural Places of Gloucester County, NJ" is ready for publication. Updated to include some new locations and revamped, it's a must have guide to the best places to explore nearby with travel still restricted. No quarantine required! We will soon start taking orders online so do your holiday shopping early without leaving your house!

Again, please keep up with the Club for Field Trips details and new events that we will be scheduling. The best place to check for the latest details is www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club

We hope to be seeing you all again soon — in one way or another!
Please stay safe and healthy.

The Executive Committee

Programs

Programs are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned, as the situation is continually evolving.

Field Trips

Nature Walks at Scotland Run Park

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month, 9:30am - 10:30am

Remaining September 2020 walk is on September 15.

Dr. Dan Duran will lead a nature walk twice a month beginning in September. Marilyn Henry of the Nature Club will co-lead. Join us as we explore the trails around the Nature Center and discover all kinds of animals, including birds, frogs, insects and more. We will also explore the native plant vegetation of the park, and how all of these species fit into the larger ecosystem. This program is free to the public. Adults and children are welcome!

Nature Walk at Greenwich Lake Park

September 25; details TBD

Jayne Rhynard is still working out the details for a September 25 walk at Greenwich Lake Park, a big open space with diverse habitats, including waterfowl, so keep an eye on our Meetup page for details.

[\(https://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/\)](https://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/).

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 send it along with a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080. Even more convenient is our electronic sign-up, where you may sign up and pay your membership dues electronically via PayPal. Just go to <http://gcnatureclub.org/membership.php> and fill out the online form.

FACEBOOK TRANSITION: The club is changing its presence on Facebook to better communicate with members and the public. We now have a "Page" which will focus exclusively on club activity announcements for members and potential members. See below for information on how to find it.

The club's "Group" that has existed since 2011 will remain to provide a friendly forum for club members and other users to communicate and share information on the natural world and the environment. Photos of club activities can be shared here as well. We ask that Group members NOT:

- Solicit donations of any kind;
- Upload more than one posting a day;
- Promote another organization's or group's events, individual or political entity agenda or cause without the express permission of GCNC.

To find the Page and Group, you may be able to click on the following links. Otherwise, search within Facebook using the club's full name.

 <p><u>"Gloucester County Nature Club" Facebook PAGE:</u></p> <p>"Like" or "Follow" here to receive club activity announcements. Invite your friends and family to do the same!</p>	 <p><u>"Gloucester County Nature Club" Facebook GROUP:</u></p> <p>Ask to join here as a group member to share information on the natural world and club activities.</p>
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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.

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 October Executive Committee meeting will be held online via videoconference on Sunday October 4th. 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.

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 2020-2021

- 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.