



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

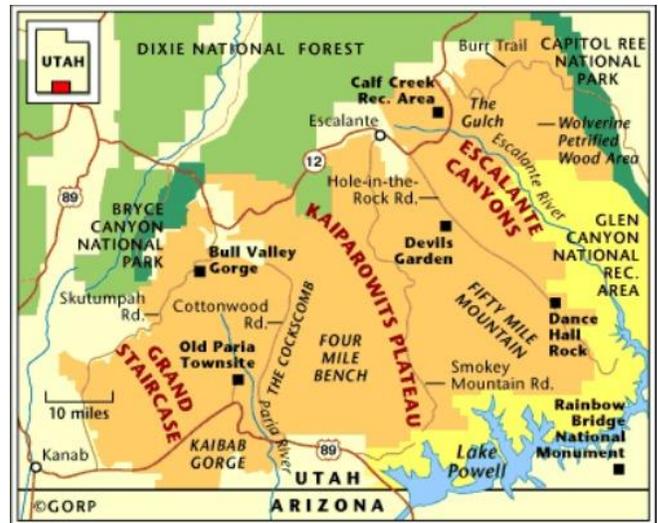
Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2017

Program - 'Pack-rafting' the Escalante: Rafting and Backpacking a Desert River
Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ
Presenters: Kris and Erik Mollenhauer
Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

In Utah's "Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument", the Escalante River has carved a mini-Grand Canyon in 1.9 million acres of primitive backcountry. This river is floatable only in spring... using six-pound, one-man, inflatable 'pack-rafts'... backpacked into and out of the canyon along with food and camping gear. Explore the what/how of a 7-day/6-night float and why National Monuments must be preserved. Pack-rafts and gear will be on display.

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 – Drum Circle at Tall Pines Preserve
Friday, October 6, 2017 at 7:00pm
Trip Leaders: Paula and Brian Hayes

Looking for a way to celebrate the Harvest Moon? Come out and see the Tall Pines Preserve after dark and have some fun. We've secured a special permit to use the park after dark and will watch the full moon rise over the meadow. 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.



It is recommended that you bring a camp style or folding chair and a drum if you have one. We will provide different styles of drums and other percussion 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 and get settled but we intend to drum in the moonlight so a flashlight and drums are optional.

Directions:

For GPS use “Bark Bridge Rd. and Indian Trail, Wenonah.” We will meet in the parking lot which is about 100 yards from the Woodbury Glassboro Rd (route 553) intersection. Coming from Rt. 55, take Exit 53 onto Woodbury Glassboro Rd. (Rt. 553) towards Wenonah/ Woodbury. After about 1.5 miles turn left at the traffic light onto Bark Bridge Road; the entrance to the parking lot is a paved driveway on your left.

Field Trip Report- Union Lake Wildlife Management Area submitted by Rich Dilks

On Sunday, August 6, The GCNC led a leisurely walk along trails that follow the shore of Union Lake and meander through this edge of the pinelands woodlands in the 5,000 acre Union Lake Wildlife Management Area in Millville, NJ. Union Lake, the largest lake in southern New Jersey, is over four miles long and 1.2 miles across at its widest point. Beginning in the parking lot of the boat launch off Carmel Rd., our first walk followed the trail leading south from the parking area through woodlands along the lake shore. The terrain varied from high bluffs overlooking the lake to quiet coves at the shore. We passed through stands of pine, white and chestnut oak, and a low understory of heath plants, such as huckleberry, blueberry and dangleberry. Wintergreen, a low evergreen plant, carpeted several areas. Stripped wintergreen, trailing arbutus, cow wheat and bracken were seen along the path along with various mosses and mushrooms. A startling topographical feature was an erosional canyon that cut through the sandy soil from the high bluff to the lake shore.

Our second walk was on the trail leading north from the parking lot. It veered away from the lake a bit and took us through a dense woodland. We noted that the modest differences in elevation here resulted in very noticeable differences in soil moisture and plant communities. The more moist the area, the more verdant and lush our surroundings. We stopped at one point deep in the woodlands and simply listened to the quiet, which was broken only by a slight breeze or the chirping of a songbird.

Special Event: The Mad Hatter’s Tree Party

Sunday, October 22, 2017 1:00pm – 4:00pm



The Mad Hatter’s Tree Party is a fun way for people to learn about the trees of our community and the critical role that trees play in a healthy environment. The Tree Party is a chance for families and people of all ages to share a whimsical adventure in a community forest.

This event consists of a self-paced, 45-minute walk in Wenonah Woods. This is more than an ordinary hike, though. You will stop at several locations to learn about specific trees along the trail and their role in the overall forest. All stations have been updated for this year and a children’s story telling station will be available near the tea house. Musicians will add an instrumental accompaniment to your journey. At the end, you can share light refreshments in the Tea House with the Mad Hatter himself. This event is great for family, and takes place rain or shine.

Walk begins at Eldridge Trail, at the intersection of E. Pine St and S. Princeton Ave. in Wenonah. Families can arrive at their convenience as walks leave regularly. No pre-registration is necessary.

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/ 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: October 2017

- October 15, 2017 (Sunday) - **Pining for a Brew – A benefit for the Friends of Tall Pines Preserve.** 2:00 – 5:00 at the Human Village Brewing Company, 148 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ. Live Music by Eric Coslop, John Dominy, and Margie MacWilliams. Tickets are \$25 and include a free beer and light snacks. Tickets are available at friendsoftallpinespreserve.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 10/7 at 9:00am
- Scout Saturday: Saturday 10/14 at 10:00am
- Nature Tots: Tuesdays at 9:00am:
 - 10/3 – Animal Signs and Homes
 - 10/10 - Birds
 - 10/17 - Leaves
 - 10/24 – Sensory Walk
- Nature Explorers – Fall Paddle: Saturday 10/21 at 10:00am
- EcoTour – Greenwich Lake Park: Saturday 10/28 at 10:00am

Natural Events for the month of October

- Pine barrens gentian in bloom in the Pinelands.
- Goldenrods, asters, bonesets, and blazing star in bloom.
- Cranberry harvest in the Pinelands.
- Autumn colors peak in late October.
- The greatest variety of raptor migration comes in mid-October, with golden eagles, red-shouldered hawks and more.
- Fox sparrows, one of the largest sparrows, are often seen under seed feeders during their autumn migration
- Wood ducks are migrating south
- Green-winged teals, one of the smallest dabbling ducks, are passing through the area as they migrate to the shore.

Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

PESTICIDES AND BUYING YOUR FALL PLANTS

Neonicotinoids are pesticides that have been used on farm crops, garden plants and ornamentals for the last 20 years. They are highly toxic to bees and have contributed to the alarming decline in bee populations. These pesticides persist in the plant and soil for months to years killing any bee (and many other pollinators) exposed to them. The five most common 'neonics' are imidacloprid, clothianidin, acetamiprid, thiamethoxam, and dinotefuran. Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart have committed to phasing out plants treated with neonics but it is always wise to ask if a plant has been treated. Please see the December 2015 GCNC newsletter for more information.

SHELL REEFS CREATED ALONG THE DELAWARE BAY

The American Littoral Society (littoralsociety.org) which promotes the study and conservation of marine life and habitat, reported on the creation of shell reefs along the Delaware Bay in its summer issue of Littorally Speaking. This reef building effort by the Littoral Society, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ and the Fish and Wildlife Service began shortly after Hurricane Sandy with the aim of restoring beaches devastated by the hurricane. This past April at Thompson's Beach more than 5000 shell bags filled with 50 tons of whelk shells were laid down by volunteers over an area larger than a football field. Five foot gaps were left between segments to allow horseshoe crabs to reach the beach for spawning. This was the 4th and final beach to be restored – reefs have also been created in South Reed's Beach, Moore's Beach and Dyers Cove. Some facts about reefs....

- Reefs create habitat for marine life including juvenile fish and horseshoe crabs.
- Reefs reduce wave energy, slow erosion, and keep sand on the beach.
- Reefs protect wetlands behind the beach.
- Reefs provide a natural structure for oysters to grow in.

LIVING RESPONSIBLY WITH OUR OCEANS

For those of us who care about the ocean and its life, the Ocean Conservancy (oceanconservancy.org) asks us to consider the land-sea connection – all water flows toward the sea including runoff from lawns, farms, streets, parking lots etc. This water carries fertilizers, chemicals, and trash to the sea creating dead zones that are especially harmful to coral reefs.

- Plant trees. If you live next to water create a buffer zone of trees, shrubs and grasses.
- Use less fertilizer and cut back on pesticides.
- Wash your car on grass allowing the grass and soil to filter the water.
- Decrease your water use at home. Don't use the toilet as a trash can or garbage disposal.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them down.
- Retrieve all fishing lines, lures and gear.
- Drive your boat as if your life depended on it. There is life (turtles, dolphins, manatees, whales) under that water.
- When visiting the beach carry out whatever you carry in.
- In other words — BE THOUGHTFUL in your actions.

SAVE OUR SEAS ACT H.R.2748

The Save Our Seas Act has already passed the Senate and now needs support in the House. This Act means less trash, more research and a focus on ending marine debris. As of this writing, Frank LoBiondo (2nd district) has signed on but Donald Norcross (1st district) has not. To sign a petition telling your member of Congress to support H. R. 2748 please click [here](#). For more information visit the Ocean Conservancy's website noted above.

TRUMP'S WALL AND COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas, reports that on July 20 a work crew with chainsaws and heavy equipment arrived on the Center's property to begin clearing 200,000 square feet of habitat for protected species such as the Texas Tortoise and nearly 400 species of birds. The Center was not given notice of any work nor was it asked for permission to enter onto the property. The Center states that "you should be very concerned about the government entering property without permission or due process. Altering it. Destroying it... and killing creatures that live there with reckless indifference." See www.nationalbutterflycenter.org for more information on the wall, its effectiveness in immigration and the Butterfly Center's response.

The Sierra Club also notes in its September/October issue of Sierra that 111 endangered species and 108 migratory bird species will be impacted by the border wall (see also Defenders of Wildlife's summer issue of Defenders). It will not only decimate habitat but will also cut off cross-border connectivity of animals and reduce the genetic diversity necessary for healthy species. Animals affected include bats (disoriented by tower radar), the jaguar, Sonoran pronghorn, gray wolf, ocelot, bighorn sheep, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, desert tortoise, wild turkey, quail, black bear, mountain lion and coati. The Real ID Act of 2005 gives homeland security the power to waive federal laws including the Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act, however you may still register your concern by signing the Sierra Club's petition at www.sc.org/borderwall .

NATIVE THISTLES

As with many of our prairie and meadow plants, native thistles have suffered habitat loss as well as a bad reputation because they are confused with non-native, invasive relatives such as the Canada thistle. Native thistles are benign, their seeds sustain large flocks of songbirds, and their nectar attracts bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The Xerces Society believes that native thistles deserve a place in the garden and have made available Native Thistles: A Conservation Practitioners Guide which can be viewed and downloaded at xerces.org/native-thistle-guide/. Some native thistles in New Jersey are *Cirsium horridulum*, *Cirsium vulgare* and *Carduus nutans*. See uswildflowers.com/wfquery.php?State=NJ for a database of native plants in NJ.

GIRAFFES NEED PROTECTION

The International Fund For Animal Welfare, The Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society International and Natural Resources Defense Council have joined together to petition the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Giraffe as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. There are now less than 100,000 giraffes in the wild – fewer giraffes than African elephants. Giraffes are losing to habitat loss and fragmentation as well as poaching for bushmeat, bones (used in carvings), trophies and tail hair. Listing as Endangered would put the strictest protections available for the giraffe including a ban on most imports. Go to www.ifaw.org/giraffe_esa_listing_us for more information and a link to a petition telling the US government to protect giraffes. To go directly to the petition click [here](#).

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the remaining programs we have lined up for the 2017-2018 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

November 9, 2017: **Winter Wildlife of the Yellowstone Ecosystem** - Larry Lyons

December 14, 2017: **Birds of New Jersey's Winter Landscape** - Dale Rosselet, VP for Education, NJ Audubon

January 11, 2018: **Biking across the Eastern Continental Divide: Pittsburgh to Washington DC** - Scott Barnes, Kris and Erik Mollenhauer

February 8, 2018: **Annual Pot Luck Dinner plus Members' Show & Tell and Story Sharing**

March 8, 2018: **Salt Marshes of Delaware Bay** - Zach Nickerson, The American Littoral Society

April 12, 2018: **Exploring the Birds of Ecuador** - Marilyn Henry and Jeff Mollenhauer.

May 10, 2018. **Annual Plant Sale** followed by **Program: Pollinators and the Plants They Pollinate** - Joe Kiefer, Triple Oaks Nursery

June 10, 2018: **GCNC Annual Picnic** at The Village Dock Campground, Franklinville, NJ, followed by Program: **The Plight of the Bobwhite and Our Efforts to Save It** - South Jersey Quail Project

2017-2018 GCNC Field Trips

Listed below are the remaining 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.

November 4, 2017 - **Moonlit Hike and Campfire at Scotland Run Park**

December 16, 2017 - **Christmas Bird Count**

January 20, 2018 - **Birding Along the Delaware River**

February 2018 - **Hike in Franklinville**

March 2018 - **Hike in Wissahickon**

April 2018- **Bird Quest Trainings**

May 5, 2018 - **Bird Quest**

June 15, 2018 - **Horseshoe Crab Walk**

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 on Sunday October 1st at the home of Elaine Dzeima. **NOTE: This is one week earlier than usual.** Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Remember to help out the Gloucester County Nature Club



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

October continues with our 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 2017-2018

- 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.