



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

October 2019

Program: The Green Amendment, Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment

(Joint Meeting with the South Jersey Land & Water Trust)

Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 7:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

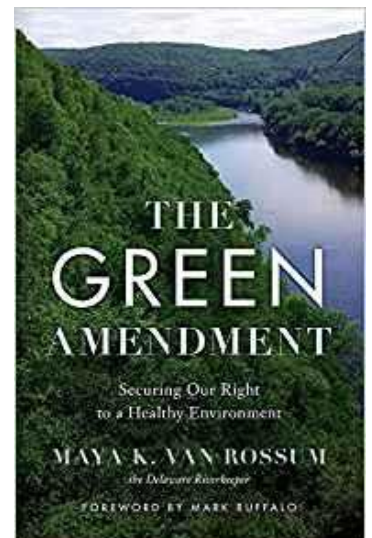
For decades, communities have relied on Federal and State laws to ensure protection of a clean environment. And for decades, while achieving some important successes in environmental protection, overall the health of our environment for present and future generations has continued to degrade from a growing number of sources. The truth is, our laws are designed to accommodate pollution as much as, perhaps even more than, to prevent it. As a result people feel powerless when it comes to preserving the quality of their water, air, public parks, and natural spaces. But there is a solution for achieving better, and much needed, protection of our environment: bypass the laws and turn to the ultimate authority—our state and federal constitutions.

This talk will seek to discuss and inspire a new tool for environmental preservation, one that will provide a new way of thinking about, and pursuing, environmental protection from a policy as well as a legal perspective.

We all have the right to pure water, clean air, and a healthy environment. This talk will focus on how to truly secure that right for our own sake and that of future generations.

Maya K. van Rossum has served as the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network since 1994. The role of the Delaware Riverkeeper is to give the Delaware River, and the communities that depend upon it and appreciate it, a voice at every decision making table that could provide help or do harm. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network that van Rossum leads is the only citizen action organization that works the entire length and breadth of the Delaware River and its watershed, speaking and working for both its protection and its restoration.

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.



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: Inclusive Walk at Atkinson Park

Sunday, October 6 at 11:00am

Trip Leaders: Maria Keefe and Paula Hayes (cell 609-221-5195)

This month for the Gloucester County Nature Club's field trip we are hosting our first inclusive walk for children with special needs. The walk will be held at Atkinson Memorial Park along a paved path. The path has slight rolling hills and may be up to a mile and a half in length past a lake, through woods, and along athletic fields with the option to leave the walk early if needed. We are planning to be on the path for 45 minutes to an hour. We will traverse along the paved path stopping to observe any wildlife or interesting plants we can find. Children need to be chaperoned by a parent or guardian. Please call (609) 221-5195 to register your child to participate.

Directions: From Woodbury Glassboro Road (553) take Lambs Road towards Washington Township. After you cross the dam stay right onto Bethel Mill Rd. The park is on the right. We will meet at the far end of the parking lot, drive past the bathrooms to the end of the lot.

Special Event: The Mad Hatter's Tree Party

Sunday, October 27 at 1:00pm



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.

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 **October 3** and **October 17**. 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: October 2019.

- October 15 (Tuesday) at 6:30pm at Auletto's Caterers, 1849 Cooper Street, Deptford. **Annual meeting of the Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust.** Following a brief business meeting at 6:30 p.m. there will be free refreshments followed by guest speaker Nate Kleinman of the Experimental Farm Network in Pittsgrove. This meeting is free and open to the public. For more information see <https://oldpinefarm.org/> or call 856-340-3208.

- October 20 (Sunday) at 2:00pm - Join Jim Barg at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust for our **“Walk in the Wild”** on Sunday, October 20, at 2pm for a workshop on **Primitive Fire Starting**. If you have ever been camping in the rain or snow and not been able to get your fire started, you need to join us. We will discuss, demonstrate and practice primitive fire starting techniques. We will explore several methods of starting a fire with friction and flint and steel. There will also be presentations of fire starters for short cuts to fire starting. Charles often describes himself as an “old boy scout”. Charlie’s love of the outdoors started early in the woods of Quebec, and along Lake Ontario. Since then, Charles has camped, hiked, canoed and kayaked throughout the Northeast, Southeast and Southwest, mostly as a solo hiker. He has also organized and led many groups as they ventured into the outdoors. Meet at the Willoughby House at the end of Pine Avenue, off Good Intent Road in Blackwood Terrace, or you can put "340 Pine Avenue, Deptford" into your favorite mapping service. There is an additional small parking lot available at the end of Rankin Ave, one block from Pine Ave. Please check our Facebook page for changes and directions. Information and questions: Charles White, 856-217-9138. Car pooling recommended. Free and open to all. For more information and questions call Charles White at 856-217-9138.



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 teal, one of the smallest dabbling ducks, are passing through the area as they migrate to the shore.

Conservation Corner

The club is still looking for someone to follow in Suzan Deloziers ’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 rest of the 2019-2020 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

2019 - 2020 Programs

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 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.

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 blackbirdssinging@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 6th at the home of Bonnie Dann. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

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 2019-2020

- New Member Renewal
- Paper Membership (\$25 per household) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership (\$20 per household) - 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 Individual ____ or Family ____

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.

Please 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.