



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

[www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

**October 2020**

## Welcome to October!

The club continues to adapt to changes that have been made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that holding regular monthly meetings with programs is still not advisable, but the good news is that **we have started to hold field trips again!** A trip report for the first of these, the September 25 trip to Greenwich Lake Park, is provided later in this newsletter. And we have two new field trips scheduled for October.

We will continue to follow New Jersey's guidance for all field trips by limiting the number of participants, requiring attendees to wear face coverings and staying six feet apart. You may be asked to register for some field trips at our meetup page (or you may call or email Paula Hayes at 609.221.5195 or [pnbhayes@gmail.com](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com)). This allows us to be able to know how many might attend and to have a record of attendees for "contact tracking". As in the past, field 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!

We're also happy to report that the long-awaited 2nd edition of "Natural Places of Gloucester County, NJ" has been DELIVERED TO THE PRINTER! 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 currently [www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club](http://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

**Monthly GCNC Programs are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** But stay tuned, as the situation is continually evolving. A good alternative to the suspended programs is the series of virtual birding lectures described elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Field Trips

### **Recurring Nature Walks at Scotland Run Park**

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

**October walks: October 6th and 20th.**

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!

### **Autumn Walk at Tall Pines Preserve**

**Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 10:00am**

Trip leader: Rich Dilks

Meeting Place: the main Preserve parking lot on Bark Bridge Road, opposite Indian Trail.

Join the Gloucester County Nature Club for a leisurely autumn walk along the trails of Tall Pines State Preserve. We will view fall wildflower displays of bright yellow goldenrods and white bonesets that fill the meadows along with bushy mounds of small white asters. Butterflies, including monarchs, buckeyes, painted ladies and numerous skippers feed in the meadow on warm sunny fall days and dragonflies patrol the ponds and wet lands. We will look at the many species of trees at Tall Pines in their colorful autumn foliage and be on the lookout for the many species of birds at Tall Pines, such as eastern bluebirds, woodpeckers and great blue herons, as well as for fall migrants passing through.

Binoculars will come in handy to view both birds and insects, so feel free to bring a pair and your camera too. Most trails are paved but if there were recent rains, some unpaved trails could be muddy.

For the safety of all we ask that all participants wear face masks and maintain reasonable social distance on the trails.

This event will be limited to 25 persons and we ask that you RSVP us if you plan to attend. You can do so by making an RSVP reply on the GCNC Meetup page (<https://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/>) or by contacting our field trip coordinator Paula Hayes by email at [pnbhayes@gmail.com](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com) or by telephone at 609.221.5195.

#### Directions to Tall Pines Preserve:

From the north: Take Rt. 553 (Woodbury - Glassboro Rd) south from Wenonah to the traffic light at Bark Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Bark Bridge Rd, then in approximately 200 ft. turn left into the parking lot.

From the south: Take Rt 553 (Woodbury - Glassboro Rd) north from Sewell to the traffic light at Bark Bridge Rd. Turn left onto Bark Bridge Rd, then in approximately 200 ft. turn left into the parking lot.

### **Nature Walk at Scotland Run Park**

**Saturday October 31, 2020 at 10:00am**

Trip leader: Maria Keefe

Join us for a leisurely stroll at Scotland Run Park to welcome fall on Saturday, October 31 at 10am. We will meet in the parking lot by the lake and walk in the woods along the lake. We will stop at the dock to see the beautiful water.



Due to Covid-19 masks must be worn during the entire walk and participants must socially distant from participants not from your group. In order to maintain a small group size, participants must register in advance in order to participate. Although we miss you all we want to keep all participants and group leaders safe. Register by emailing Mariamk19@comcast.net or on the club's Meetup page (<https://www.meetup.com/Gloucester-County-Nature-Club/>).

### Directions to Scotland Run Park

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.



### Field Trip Report

#### **Nature Walk at Greenwich Lake Park**

Ten participants who registered on Meetup joined our leaders at Greenwich Lake Park on Friday, September 25 to explore this park. Everyone observed social distancing while walking around the lake and taking turns viewing the unoccupied Eagles' nest and the hunting Great Blue Heron. Our group had a variety of interesting plants to identify including winterberries along the canal, late blooming mallows and grasses and sedges. 25 species of birds were seen or heard. We were treated to a show by a swarm of Tree Swallows swooping over the lake catching insects and several Common Nighthawks overhead. On arrival a young Bald Eagle was calling while we assembled in the parking lot. Other birds observed included Belted Kingfisher, Double-crested Cormorant, Hairy, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Eastern Phoebe. Red-winged Blackbirds were constantly moving and settling down for the evening in the phragmites. Those in the group who didn't know about the park were surprised how large it is and what it has to offer. Everyone (including our leaders!) expressed enthusiasm for the club resuming field trips and are looking forward to future outings.

### Events by other organizations

#### **Virtual Birding Lectures**

We recently became aware of a series of virtual birding lectures is being held by the Hog Island (Maine) Audubon Camp. The series started on September 28 and take place **every Tuesday night at 7:00pm through November 17**. Featured each week we feature a different bird-focused presenter followed by a connection to National Audubon Society's broader work. Learn from top experts in the field and join us for these FREE presentations. Registration for each session is required separately. Presentations will take place over Zoom and will be streamed over Facebook Live. A schedule is listed below. See <https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/lecture-series> for details and registration information.

#### *Completed Lecture*

September 29, 2020: **Living on the Wind: Fall Migration** with Scott Weidensaul and Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative Director Jill Deppe. A club member who attended this first lecture reported "I listened in on last night's lecture and found it to be entertaining AND informative! I'll be checking out the others as well."

#### *Remaining Lectures*

- October 6, 2020: **Intro to Birding** with Holly Merker and Audubon's Governmental Affairs Coordinator Tykee James
- October 13, 2020: **Birding by Ear** with Tom Johnson and Audubon's Climate Science Director Brooke Bateman

- October 20, 2020: **Bird-friendly Communities** with Jillian Bell and Audubon's Plants for Birds Marlene Pantin
- October 27, 2020: **Volunteering through the Lens** with Jean Hall and Audubon Magazine's Sabine Meyer
- November 3, 2020: **Vote for the birds!** No presentation tonight.
- November 10, 2020: **Indigenous Conservation: Boreal Birds in Canada** with special guest (TBD) and Audubon's Boreal Conservation VP Jeff Wells
- November 17, 2020: **Tracking Seabirds** with Don Lyons and Audubon's Policy Analyst Charlotte Runzel

**FACEBOOK TRANSITION:** The club has changed 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><a href="#">"Gloucester County Nature Club" Facebook PAGE:</a></p> <p>"Like" or "Follow" here to receive club activity announcements. Invite your friends and family to do the same!</p>	 <p><a href="#">"Gloucester County Nature Club" Facebook GROUP:</a></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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### **Reminder - Membership Dues**

In October, our membership renewals continue. This year we have kept the cost 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The October Executive Committee meeting will be held online via videoconference on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. 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](https://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](https://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](https://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? \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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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.