



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2021

The Gloucester County Nature Club Resumes Live Programs!

The GCNC is pleased to announce that it is resuming live, in-person programs with our October 14 meeting. The health and safety of our members and guests are of paramount importance. In order that we may gather together safely, we have instituted the following procedures in strict accordance with the CDC guidelines:

- Attendance is limited to vaccinated individuals only.
- Face masks should be worn by all attendees.
- Seating will be arranged so that attendees will be socially distanced.
- The hall will be well ventilated.

We welcome back our many members, friends and guests, and we look forward to many exciting programs and gatherings to come.

Program: Program: Barred Owls Who Cooked For Me

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Jane Morton Galetto, Board President, Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River & its Tributaries

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

WHO-COOKS-FOR-YOU, WHO-COOKS FOR-YOU-ALL? You likely recognize that phrase as the mnemonic for the distinctive call of the barred owl. At 21" the barred owl is only slightly smaller than its competitor species, the great horned owl. Barred owls, close relatives of the spotted owls of the Pacific Northwest, are native to the Eastern US but more common in the swampy forests of the Southeast than in the North. Their habitat is deep, dense mature forest with trees large enough to provide nesting cavities or support large red-tail hawk nests that barred owls often use. In New Jersey the barred owl is listed as threatened, largely due to the loss or fragmentation of its forest habitat. We welcome as our presenter Jane Morton Galetto, naturalist, educator and Board President of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice, who will explore the natural history of barred owls and tell us why the Maurice River and its tributaries, and the great forests that surround them are perfect habitat for barred owls.



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).

Special Event: The Mad Hatter's Tree Party

Sunday, October 24, 2021 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



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 of the stations have been updated for this year! 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, friends — anyone that would enjoy an autumn walk in the woods!

Walk begins at Eldridge Trail, at the intersection of E. Pine St and S. Princeton Ave. in Wenonah and takes place rain or shine. Address for GPS: *214 E. Pine St, Wenonah.*

Participants can arrive at their convenience and walk at their leisure. No pre-registration is necessary.

Nature Notes

Events by other organizations

Fall Wildflower , Butterfly and Birding Walk at Tall Pines State Preserve

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021

Time: 1:00pm

Hosted by the Friends of Tall Pines

Join the Friends of Tall Pines for a leisurely guided walk through the Preserve on an autumn afternoon. Explore the beauty of Tall Pines in fall as the trees reveal the first hints of autumn color and the Friends point out fall wildflowers, birds, butterflies and other natural flora and fauna that call Tall Pines home. We will visit fields of yellow goldenrods and white asters and look for migrating monarch and buckeye butterflies. And we will be on the lookout for Tall Pines birds too. Perhaps we will spot one of our resident bluebirds or passing fall migrants heading south. So bring your binoculars and a camera too, if you like.



After the walk we invite all to gather in the parking lot for light refreshment of cider and cookies. This event is free and open to the public – so come out and enjoy one of Gloucester County's gems.

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.

- **Guided Bird Walks** at Scotland Run Park 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month, 8:00am – 9:30am. Volunteer birders from the Gloucester County Nature Club will be leading twice monthly walks beginning in March. Come help search for the many birds that visit or inhabit Scotland Run Park. These 2021 walks are free and will take place the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from March 4th through October 21st, 8 am to 9:30 am. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars. Mask wearing and social distancing are encouraged.

- **Adult Naturalist Program** at Scotland Run Park: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30am
 - 10/14 - Late season pollinator plants
 - 10/28 - Salamanders and frogs

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 by Bonnie Dann

Simple Things You Can Do to Help Protect the Environment

1. **Recycle.** Besides putting bottles, cans, and other containers out for pickup, make a point to recycle plastic bags and newspaper sleeves properly. In most municipalities you will have to take the bags to a collection box at your grocery store or other location. Reuse everyday items like padded envelopes that you receive in the mail.
2. **Dispose of hazardous waste properly.** Many substances will contaminate our water and soil for thousands of years. Most municipalities have special collections for paint, motor oil, batteries, mercury light bulbs, etc. Ink cartridges are usually collected for recycling by the stores where they are sold.
3. **Take reusable cloth bags with you to carry your groceries home.** Plastic bags are a serious danger to birds and sea life. Although paper bags are biodegradable, they cause more trees to be cut down and their manufacturing byproducts pollute the environment.
4. **BYOB.** Americans use 60 million plastic water bottles annually. You can reduce this waste by filling up a reusable water bottle and taking it with you. If you don't like the taste of your tap water, buy a filter.

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 3rd. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL: We have begun posting full recordings of recent club programs for the convenience of members and the public. To find the club's channel, use [this link](#) or search for the club's full name within YouTube. Three videos are now available:



1. [Roger Tory Peterson and the Origins of the Modern Field Guide](#) (April)
2. [Native Plants of South Jersey](#) (May)
3. [Birding in Argentina](#) (September)

As you often hear on YouTube, be sure to subscribe to the club's channel and "like" the videos so they will get recommended to more people! We will continue recording all online programs, and hopefully in-person ones as well, during this club year.

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

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 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 2021-2022

- 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.