



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

November 2017

Program - Winter Wildlife of the Yellowstone Ecosystem

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

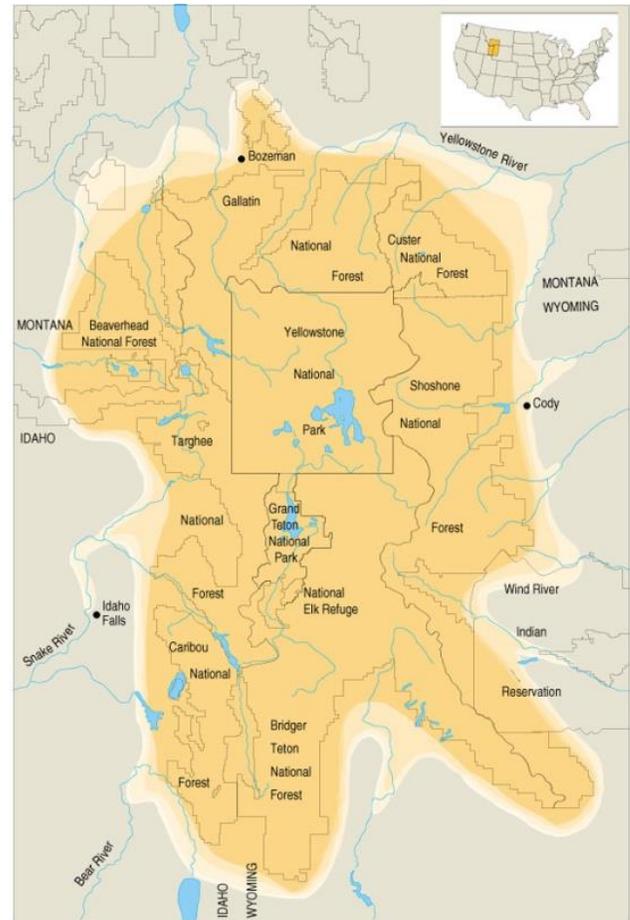
Presenter: Larry A. Lyons

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Located within the northern Rocky Mountains, in areas of northwestern Wyoming, southwestern Montana, and eastern Idaho, and including Yellowstone National Park and the Yellowstone Caldera 'hotspot', the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is one of the last remaining large, nearly intact ecosystems in the northern temperate zone of the Earth.

The biodiversity and ecological processes that are protected in the park support a healthy ecosystem. Significantly, Greater Yellowstone's natural diversity is essentially intact. The region appears to have retained or restored its full historical complement of vertebrate wildlife species—something unique in the wildlands of the contiguous 48 states. The extent of wildlife diversity is due, in part, to the different habitats found in the region, ranging from high alpine areas to sagebrush country, hydrothermal areas, forests, meadows, and other habitat types.

Extreme cold temperatures, deep snow, short days and limited food supplies characterize the conditions that wildlife inhabiting the Yellowstone Ecosystem must endure. Bison, elk, red foxes, big horn sheep, mule deer, moose, pine martens, otters, coyotes, and wolves, as well as a variety of bird species, manage to endure these winter conditions from November to March. A look into the behavior of these animals in this wintery landscape will be revealed



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 – Family Moonlit Hike and Campfire at Scotland Run Park

Saturday, November 4, 2017, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Trip Leader: Maria Keefe (cell/text: 609-315-4759)

Join us as we experience the magic of walking in the woods by the light of the moon. We explore the music of the night as our eyes give way to our other senses and we share the night with owls, raccoons, and flying squirrels. Come out and see the stars, tree silhouettes, moon shadows and the stillness of the woods in autumn. The walk is short but will include uneven and sloping wooded trails so sturdy walking shoes are recommended. The walk will last about one hour which will give us time for some stories as well. We will end with a campfire compliments of the Scotland Run staff. This event will be cancelled in the event of rain. *To fully enjoy the splendor of the night keep your flashlights off and in your pocket.* This event is open to all ages.



To reserve your spot for this special event please register by calling Scotland Run at 856-881-0845 or emailing ltaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us.

Directions: 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

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: November 2017

The following two events are sponsored by the South Jersey Land & Water Trust. Maps, directions, and more information can be found at <http://sjlandwater.org/event-directory>.

Saturday, November 4 at 9:00am – 12:00pm - **Delaware Waterfront Cleanup**, Victor Building, Camden, NJ
Join SJLWT for a cleanup of the Delaware River Waterfront in Camden; we'll meet at the waterfront in front of the Victor Building. More details will become available closer to the event date. RSVP or get more information by emailing MHogan@SJLandWater.org.

Saturday, November 4 at 10:00pm – 1:00pm - **Cooper River Walk & Macroinvertebrate Survey**, 1301 Park Blvd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. Macroinvertebrates are aquatic insects whom spend all or most of their lives in our ponds, lakes and streams. They tell us about the health of our watershed and are super cool to see! Learn about the importance of Macroinvertebrates, and how to identify them. Please wear appropriate shoes; bring water and your camera!

Directions: Meet at the Camden County Parks Environmental Center at 1301 Park Boulevard in Cherry Hill. Take Kings Highway North through Haddonfield, turn left on to Park Blvd. The nature center is approx. .9 miles from Kings Highway, on the left hand side.

For more information and maps contact Michael Hogan at 609-476-2086/ hoganphoto@verizon.net.

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 11/4 at 9:00am - Join other bird watchers for a brisk morning walk to discover the beautiful birds of Scotland Run Park.
- Full Moon Walk (with Gloucester County Nature Club) - Saturday 11/4 at 7:00pm
- Nature Explorers: Saturday 11/18 at 10:00am.- Lakeside Walk
- Nature Tots: Tuesdays at 9:00am:
 - 11/14 – Native Americans
 - 11/21 –Turkey Search
 - 11/28 - Seasonal Nature Walk

Natural Events for the month of November

- Persimmons ripen - they are delicious when fully soft-ripe, astringent when unripe.
- Witch hazel in bloom.
- Woodchucks and chipmunks go into hibernation.
- Bats seek their hibernating sites in caves and abandoned mines.
- American tree sparrow, sometimes called the "winter chippy", is a regular winter bird feeder visitor. .



Conservation Corner by Suzan Delozier

BUTTERFLY UPDATE

The Monarch Monitoring Project (capemaymonarchs.blogspot.com/), which is part of the New Jersey Audubon Research Department, is a long term study of monarch migration through Cape May. On their blog dated October 2, 2017, they report 'very good numbers of monarchs' passing through Cape May. In her *Gardening Gang* email of October 4th, Pat Sutton also reports good numbers of monarchs in her garden in Cape May Court House since July. (To sign up for Pat's emails, see her website patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/). This is good news! Because I have access to a substantial amount of milkweed, the only plant that monarchs lay their eggs on and the only food that monarch caterpillars eat, I was able to rear more than 275 monarchs on my porch this summer and fall. I hope that at least some of them were seen in Cape May and are now on their way to Mexico.

Painted ladies were frequent visitors to my garden this year. Apparently there were good numbers of painted ladies throughout the country – there were so many painted ladies migrating through Colorado that one wave showed up on weather radar. Among the many host plants for painted ladies are thistle (see last month's newsletter),

hollyhock, common mallow, borage, common sunflower and nettle. Also seen in my garden this year were common buckeyes. There were several times I saw 2 or 3 buckeyes nectaring on zinnias, pentas and lantana. Host plants for buckeyes include snapdragons, toadflax, verbena and plantain. For more information on butterfly host and nectar plants see www.gardenswithwings.com.



Painted lady on zinnia



Common buckeye on lantana

THE KIRKWOOD-COHANSEY AQUIFER AND US

In the Aug/Sept issue of *Inside the Pinelands*, The executive director of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance asked an important question – how many people know that the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, one of the largest intact aquifers in the country, sustains all our streams, ponds and swamps and supplies, either directly or indirectly, clean water to every home and business in South Jersey? Do the people and political leaders of this state know how vital this aquifer is to us? Unfortunately, we are polluting this aquifer with fertilizer, toxic chemicals, and even medicines and harming it through abusive actions like 'irresponsible off-roading and dumping of trash and chemicals.' At the same time we are drawing out so much water for lawns, farms, drinking and other household uses that 'we are bleeding it dry.' The PPA now has a website www.SaveTheSource.org that provides more information on the aquifer and how residents of NJ can act to protect it.

- The aquifer contains 17 trillion gallons of water. It is a sea of fresh water literally beneath our feet.
- The forests of the Pinelands form a blanket over the aquifer gathering and cleansing rainfall.
- The aquifer extends beyond the Pines to cover 80% of South Jersey – over 2 million acres.
- The aquifer supplies fresh water to the Delaware Bayshore, the Atlantic Coast estuaries and the Delaware River.

TAKE THE PLEDGE TO BE A LAZY GARDENER

Habitat Network (<http://content.yardmap.org/>), a joint effort by The Nature Conservancy, The Cornell Lab and the National Science Foundation, is asking you to be a lazy gardener this fall and not clean up your garden until spring 2018. Your garden will provide food, cover and protection for wildlife — think of overwintering black swallowtail chrysalides, mourning cloak butterflies, bees that burrow into the ground for the winter, spiders, reptiles, birds and amphibians that depend on insects hiding in your garden and, of course, birds who will feast on flower seeds. What you can do....

- Leave your leaves on your property
- Allow flower heads to stay standing

- Let grasses grow tall and seed
- Build a brush pile of fallen branches
- Delay clean-up until there have been several 50+ degree days in the spring
- Forget chemicals

You can sign your name to the pledge at http://content.yardmap.org/special-pages/pledge-to-be-a-lazy-gardener/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=0bd54b741b-FeederWatch+eNews%3A+WBH+now+online&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-0bd54b741b-310119405

NJ CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTIONS

Two resolutions concerning our state's participation in national and worldwide climate efforts have passed the NJ Senate and Assembly. They are:

AR263/SR132 – condemns President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Accord. This accord was signed by 195 nations including the US and China. Its goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help countries deal with the effects of climate change.

AR264/SR133 – urges the governor of NJ to join the US Climate Alliance, a bipartisan group of states that are committed to the Paris Climate Accord. Thirteen states have already joined it including New York and California (also Puerto Rico). The Sierra Club newsletter notes that places like the Meadowlands, Hoboken, and our barrier islands are already barely above sea level.

Looking Ahead:

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

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 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.

December 16 - **Christmas Bird Count**

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

February - **Hike in Franklinville**

March - **Hike in Wissahickon**

April - **Bird Quest Trainings**

May 5 - **Bird Quest**

June 15 - **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 September Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday November 5th at the home of Kris & Erik Mollenhauer. 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.

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