



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

November 2019

## Program: Lichen: The Fungus Among Us.

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

Presenter: Jennifer Bulava, Lead Park Naturalist, Burlington County Parks System

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Trees secretly talk to each other underground. They're passing information and resources to and from each other through a network of mycorrhizal fungi—mykós means fungus and riza means root in Greek—a mat of long, thin filaments that connect an estimated 90% of land plants. Scientists call the fungi the Wood Wide Web because 'adult' trees can share sugars to younger trees, sick trees can send their remaining resources back into the network for others, and they can communicate with each other about dangers like insect infestations.



The relationship between these mycorrhizal fungi and the plants they connect is now known to be ancient (around four hundred and fifty million years old) and largely one of mutualism, in which both organisms benefit from their association. In the case of the mycorrhizae, the fungi siphon off food from the trees, taking some of the carbon-rich sugar that they produce during photosynthesis. The plants, in turn, obtain nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that the fungi have acquired from the soil, by means of enzymes that the trees do not possess.

This presentation is an overview of the important roles that lichens and fungi play in the environment. The three main types of fungi will be explained, with a focus on mycorrhizal associations with plants. Discover the many ways that people and animals use lichens. Join Jennifer to gain a better appreciation for the beneficial and amazing relationships of the fungi kingdom.

Jennifer Bulava is the Lead park Naturalist for the Burlington County Parks System and is responsible for planning and coordinating nature programs and all other aspects of environmental education for the public within the Burlington County Parks System.



**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: Night Walk at Alcyon Park  
Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00pm  
Trip Leaders: Kris and Erik Mollenhauer**

Daylight savings time is past and the nights are drawing in. Come view the night sky. Let's see if the moon is in the mill pond or if we can find Orion the Hunter (or as my grandsons call him, Old Brian).

Park in the upper lot. Bundle up if it's cold. The paths are paved or gravel and the length of the walk is half a mile.

**Directions:** From Route 55 Exit 53A (or Exit 53 if coming from the south) take Route 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Road) south for about 1.5 miles to Holly Avenue. Turn right (west) on Holly Avenue. Continue for 1.2 miles to the park entrance, which is on the left. There is a small sign. Sports Rd & Track Ave, Pitman

### **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 **November 7** and **November 21**. 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: November 2019.**

- November 9 (Saturday), 10:00am to 1:00pm – The South Jersey Land and Water Trust hosts a **Maurice River Walk** Join us as we walk along the upper tidal section of the Maurice River and learn about the plants and wildlife in the area. We'll keep an eye out for bald eagles and otters! We'll meet at Joe Buck Park off of Rt. 49 at the River; Buck St, Millville, NJ 08332. Please RSVP: Contact Michael Hogan at hoganphoto@verizon.net or 609-476-2086 to RSVP and/or if you have any questions.
- November 17 (Sunday) at 2:00pm - Join Freddie Patane and Charles White at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust for our "**Walk in the Wild**" on Sunday, November 17, at 2pm a fireside chat and workshop on **How to Create Cordage and Tie Knots**. We will retrace the steps of our ancestors to learn how to create cordage (aka string and rope) out of natural fibers found in wild landscapes. This workshop will include identification methods for cordage plants and trees, harvesting techniques, and the most commonly used twists and splicing methods used to create material suitable for primitive nets, fishing lines, bowstrings and lashing materials. Learn the essential knots that will allow you to make good use of your new cordage. Attendees will have an opportunity to practice these skills "hands-on" with synthetic and natural materials and leave the class with a natural cordage bracelet or bookmark! 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. Please check the Old Pine Farm Facebook page for changes and directions. Information and questions: call Charles White, 856-217-9138 or see <https://oldpinefarm.org/>. Car pooling is recommended due to limited parking. Free and open to all.

### **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. .



## **Save the Date: Gloucester County Christmas Bird Count on December 14**

Wanted to send out a reminder that the Gloucester County Christmas Bird Count is on Saturday, December 14. Hope you are all planning to attend. It's actually less than 2 months away, yow!

Area leaders, please confirm you will be taking your area again. There is at least one area that does not have coverage. If perhaps you would want to be an area leader or know someone that might be interested, please let me know. Happy birding up until that time! Thanks much! - *Ron Kegel, compiler*

## **Conservation Corner**

The club is still looking for someone to follow in Suzan Delozier'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**

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](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com).

December 14, 2019 - **Christmas Bird Count**

January 2020 - **Birding Along the Delaware River**

## Oh well, there's always next year...

Due to the predicted heavy rain on Sunday October 27, we had to cancel *the Mad Hatter's Tree Party* for this year. The trail where we hold the event is still a great place to visit any time of the year. A small map is posted at the East Pine Street trailhead in case you are not familiar with the area. This year, use your imagination and make your own Tree Party any time you want!

### 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 November Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Kris and Erik Mollenhauer. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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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.