



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

November 2020

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

Nature Walk at Scotland Run Park
Tuesday November 17, 9:30am - 10:30am
Contact: 856-251-6710

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!

Hike Estell Manor Park
Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 11:00am
Trip leader: Paula Hayes: 609-221-5195 (Cell # for day of the trip) or pnbhayes@gmail.com

Join us for a hike at this gem in the Atlantic County Park System. The park has a well-defined trail system, including the 1.5 mile boardwalk we will walk, a great nature center, access to the tidally active Great Egg Harbor River, and two great playgrounds. We will do a hike lasting 1 ½ - 2 hours as we explore the habitats and natural areas of this park. The trails tend to be sandy and though the park has no major elevations you should expect to be walking on uneven surfaces. We will explore the Pinelands habitat and stop to see some how this area played an important role in history.

These parks lands were once a glassworks and a munitions productions facility during WWI. As you hike throughout the park you can see the ruins of these activities (significant parts of some of these buildings are still standing) and begin to imagine what it was like when over a 1,000 soldiers and 400 families once lived in the area. To view an historic photo gallery for the area visit <https://www.atlantic-county.org/parks/historic-sites.asp>.

We will meet at the park's Warren E Fox Nature Center by the entrance to the park and begin our hike from there. The nature center includes bathroom facilities, terrific exhibits on the animals and plants of the park, including some live animals. Feel free to bring a lunch so you can stay and enjoy one of the park's great picnic areas or take advantage of the park's free bike lending program.

Masks are required for this trip and participants will be limited to allow for social distancing. Please register on the club's [Meetup page](#) or email pnbhayes@gmail.com to sign up.

Directions: From Route 322 South in Mays Landing take Route 50 south. The park is about 4 miles down route 50 on the left, there is an entrance sign clearly marking the entrance. Address for GPS: 109 State Highway 50, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.

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.

Remaining Lectures

- 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

Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ - Second Edition now available!

It's here! Finally! And just in time for holiday gift giving! Our wildly popular ***Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ*** book is back as a 2nd Edition with a new fresh look, updated copy and new locations outdoors for you to get-out-and-go-to while staying distanced and safe. Just what you need to stuff stockings and find places full of natural beauty tucked away in our county.

The Natural Places Guide is one of the many ways the Nature Club provides valuable detailed information, not available elsewhere, about the plants, trees, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians at over 35 local Natural Places. Each site description includes directions, address and parking information plus a map of the site to make visiting easy and enjoyable. For the Second Edition, information for existing sites has been brought up-to-date. Several new sites have also been added, including: Tall Pines State Preserve, Andoloro WMA, and Tranquility Trails.

Copies of ***Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ*** are now available for purchase at local retailers including:

- Words Matter - 52 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071
- Damingers Natural Pet Foods - 641 Main St, Sewell (Mantua Township), NJ 08080
- Wild Birds Unlimited Cherry Hill - 1619 N Kings Hwy, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
- Wild Birds Unlimited Sicklerville - 609-B Berlin Cross Keys Rd Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Books will soon be available for order online and members will be notified when that occurs.

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><u>"Gloucester County Nature Club" Facebook PAGE:</u></p> <p>"Like" or "Follow" here to receive club activity announcements. Invite your friends and family to do the same!</p>	 <p><u>"Gloucester County Nature Club" Facebook GROUP:</u></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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One last Reminder: Membership Dues

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 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.



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 November Executive Committee meeting will be held online via videoconference on Sunday November 8th. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Please remember to help out the Gloucester County Nature Club while shopping online!



With the COVID-19 pandemic hanging over our heads, all of us will likely be doing a lot more shopping online this Holiday season. Don't forget that 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.

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? _____

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.