



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

November 2022

Program: Costa Rica – The Destination We Didn't Know We'd Love.

Presenters: Bob and Debbie Barsotti

Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ

(directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

A tiny Central American country with a rugged landscape of mountains, rainforests, cloud forests, active volcanoes, and 800 miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea – this summarizes the physical features of Costa Rica.

Yet in this country, in an area slightly smaller than West Virginia, there are 12 different ecosystems. These environments support nearly half a million species, or nearly 6% of the diversity of life forms found on this planet.



For anyone with an appreciation of nature, a desire to experience natural beauty, and a curiosity about the interdependence of elements and creatures, Costa Rica will awaken your inner naturalist.

That's what happened to Gloucester County Nature Club members Bob and Debbie Barsotti. They had their immersion into Costa Rica's world of biodiversity several years ago. On their travels, they added 126 different species to their list of world birds, including the endangered Resplendent Quetzal. They watched a parade of Leafcutter Ants carrying their bright green loads across the forest floor. They waited for a Three-toed Sloth to show the slightest interest in being photographed. They trekked after dark, with red headlamps, through the sands of Tortuguero National Park, the largest green turtle nesting site in the Western Hemisphere. And they were captivated by the busy, often boisterous, always adorable monkeys! (They say that in Costa Rica there are "still more monkeys than people"!)

Bob and Debbie learned about, witnessed – and even tasted, just a sample of this marvel of diversity that is Costa Rica. In their all-too-short exploration, they came to understand Pura Vida, the pure, simple life of Costa Rica, a life where natural diversity is respected and embraced. They are pleased to be able to share their experiences through a slide presentation.

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).

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 20th of the preceding month.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: We are now posting 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. 12 videos are now available, including these recent additions:



- [Live Animals: New Jersey Raptors & Reptiles](#) (September 2022)
- [Saddler's Woods: A Unique 25-Acre Urban Forest](#) (October 2022)

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 programs during this club year whenever permitted by speakers and their sponsoring organizations.

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

November continues 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 2022-2023

- 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.