



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

**September 2024**

## **Program: Soggy Ground: A Geography of Pine Barrens Wetlands**

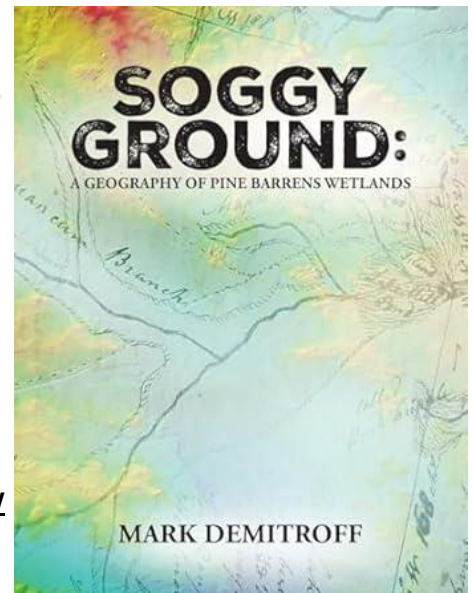
**Presenter: Mark Demitroff, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Geology, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Stockton University**

**Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)**

**Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342**

Wetlands have long intrigued us. For centuries bogs, mires, and meadows were regarded forlorn topography, loathsome places replete with legend and lore. Natural Historian Mark Demitroff presents an engaging overview on how to read and value the unusual wet environment of the New Jersey Pine Barrens through land-surface processes. Little known ice age landforms provide critical habitat for plants and animals. Places like spongs, cripples, blue holes, and savannahs are woven together in a geographic tapestry of interactions between nature and society. People here have exploited these wetlands for millennia, features that now slowly fade from memory and place.

Join Natural Historian Mark Demitroff as he presents this engaging overview based on his recently published book, **Soggy Ground: A Geography of Pine Barrens Wetlands** on how to read and value the unusual wet environment of the New Jersey Pine Barrens through land-surface processes. Copies of **Soggy Ground** will be available for sale (cost \$30) at the meeting.



**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).

## **Events by Other Organizations**

**Philadelphia Botanical Club - Field trip: Urban Botany in Woodbury. Sunday, September 8, 9:00 AM to Noon.**

Meet at the southeast corner of the CVS Parking Lot, at Red Bank Avenue and Broad Street, Woodbury. Do not park in front of the store. We will see how many plant species we can find around the meeting place and the edges of adjacent Broad Street Lake. Leader: Karl Anderson, email [karlanderson6@aol.com](mailto:karlanderson6@aol.com). This is a repeat of a very successful trip led for the nature club in 2023.

## ***Tour de Natural Places of Gloucester County***

Join us as we explore the natural places of Gloucester County as described in the 2020 Edition of Natural Places of Gloucester County, a publication of the Gloucester County Nature Club. Over the next year we will be scheduling outings to visit as many of the listed natural areas as possible. Activities may include birding, hiking, walks or ambles, or just exploring. See what we have scheduled:

**September 4 & 18, October 2 & 16, 2024**, Wednesdays 8am: **Scotland Run Park**. Meet at the parking area near the Park Office. Join us as we look and listen for migrating birds, and year-round residents. We will walk along the woods, fields, and lake. Bring binoculars, field guides, and water. Insect repellent suggested. Most suitable for ages 12 and over. Hosts: Marilyn Henry and Marie Hageman. For more information see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 131 – 135, Location #29

**September 17, 2024**, Tuesday, 10am: **Tranquility Trails**. High Hill Road, Woolwich Twp. Meet at the parking area. We will do some of the 2-mile loop trail. Plan on 1 ½ - 2 hours. Host: Sue Bergmann and Marilyn Henry. For more information see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 79 – 82, Location #19.

**October 2, 2024**, Wednesday, 10am: **Autumn Pasquale Memorial Park**. East Ave., Clayton. This follows after the 8am birding walk at Scotland Run Park. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry, For more information see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 145-146, Location #32.

**October 15, 2024**, Tuesday, 1pm: **Elk Twp Trail and Elephant Swamp**. Meet at the Elk Twp Recreational Park. Follow the driveway all the way to the end where you will see the Frank Stewart Memorial Park sign. We will then drive to a middle point of the trail entrance parking area on Rte 538 and walk the trail to the Salem County line, and back. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 137-139, Location #30.

**November 19, 2024**, Tuesday, 10am: **Malaga Lake**. 445 Malaga Park Drive, Franklin Twp. We will walk the ¾ mile nature trail. Meet at the fishing pier and canoe launch parking lot. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 147-149, Location #33.

**November 29, 2024**, Friday, 10am: **Chestnut Branch Park**. Black Friday Gobble Wobble. County Rte. 553 Alt. (Main Street), Mantua Twp. Hosts: Marilyn Henry, Jayne Rhynard. We will see the tornado destruction. Meet at the parking in back past the butterfly garden. For more information see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 61-64, Location #15.

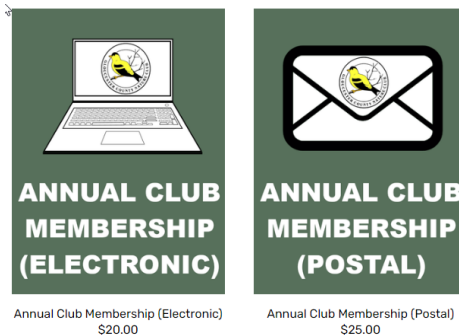
**Save the Date: Mad Hatter's Tree Party – Sunday October 27, 2024 at the Eldridge Trail, East Pine Street and South Princeton Ave., Wenonah**

### **Club Notes:**

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at [blackbirdssinging@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbirdssinging@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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The club would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since May:
  - Robert Bell of Westville
  - Christina Rogers-Spang of Medford

▪ **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. 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 **per household** for electronic mailings and \$25 per household for regular mail delivery. If you wish to renew through the mail or at a meeting, please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter (mailing address is shown on the bottom).
- **NEW FOR 2024:** We can send newsletters and other notices to a second email address in each household, such as a spouse, parent, or child.
- **NEW FOR 2024:** The club's redesigned website makes it easier than ever to renew your membership online. If you had trouble with the PayPal-based system in the past, please give online another try! Just go to [gcnatureclub.org](http://gcnatureclub.org) and click "Store" in the upper-right corner. Next, scroll down a bit and click the type of membership you want:



After filling in the form and acknowledging the Release Statement, click "Add to Cart." You can then click "Continue to cart" and then "Continue to payment". The site then asks for the usual email address, phone number, mailing address, and credit/debit card info. We recommend unchecking "Square Pay"; this involves creating an account and possibly receiving marketing emails unrelated to the club. There is also a "Stay in Touch" question about receiving text messages from the club; just leave it off as we have no plan to send text messages to members.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2024-2025**

New Member  
 Renewal

Paper Membership (\$25) - regular mail  
 Electronic Membership (\$20) - newsletter via email; \*\*\*please provide email addresses below

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Main Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Second Email Address in your household (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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 Paper \_\_\_\_ or Electronic \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.  
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**RELEASE STATEMENT:** Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives ("GCNC") shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any GCNC event, trips and/or activities (together "Activity"). The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends or participates in any Activity and every person participating in any Activity assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith. GCNC is not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. Responsible adults must accompany and control children under the age of 16. Please use common sense and be courteous (avoid collisions or whipped branches) to your fellow participants. You acknowledge that GCNC may take videos, photos or otherwise record images of persons participating in Activities to use online or in other media to promote the club.

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE ABOVE RELEASE STATEMENT.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form with payment to GCNC, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 or bring to a meeting.