



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2024

Program: How Beavers Shaped The North American Landscape and Why We Should Let Them Do It Again

Presenter: Elaine Goodman

Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ
(directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

How Beavers Shaped the North American Landscape and Why We Should Let Them Do It Again tells the story of a keystone species. Before European settlement, between 60 and 400 million beavers occupied nearly every aquatic habitat between the Arctic and Mexico, dramatically shaping the behavior of water with their dams. Floods were alleviated and groundwater was recharged. By slowing, spreading, storing and sinking water, they helped retain water runoff. Little fish had a chance to grow and fatten up in quiet streams full of microorganisms instead of being swept downstream on swift currents. Waterfowl could breed and multiply in their peaceful ponds. Moose, wolves, cougars, coyotes, deer and foxes drank from the ponds and foraged or hunted along their banks. Beavers created songbird habitat. Wildlife flourished. Considered a pest by European farmers and a resource for the European fur trade, by the 1880s they were nearly exterminated. Only now are scientists realizing that the disappearance of beavers has profoundly impacted our ecology in a negative way. There is a growing movement to restore them to the important position they once held.



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).

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:

October 16, 2024, Wednesday 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

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.

Special Nature Club Event: The Mad Hatter's Tree Party Sunday, October 27, 1:00 – 3:00pm



The Mad Hatter's Tree Party is a fun way for people to learn about the trees of our community and the critical role that trees play in a healthy environment. The Tree Party is a chance for families and people of all ages to share a whimsical adventure in a community forest.

This event consists of a self-paced, 45-minute walk in Wenonah Woods. This is more than an ordinary hike, though. You will stop at several locations to learn about specific trees along the trail and their role in the overall forest. All stations have been updated for this year and a children's story telling station will be available near the tea house. Musicians will add an instrumental accompaniment to your journey. At the end, you can share light refreshments in the Tea House with the Mad Hatter himself. This event is great for family, and takes place rain or shine.

Walk begins at Eldridge Trail, at the intersection of E. Pine St and S. Princeton Ave. in Wenonah. Families can arrive at their convenience as walks leave regularly. No pre-registration is necessary.

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.

Reminder - Membership Dues

- October 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 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?

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.

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.