



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

June 2025

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

Program: Annual Picnic and Nature Walk at Alcyon Lake Park, Pitman Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the pavilion (directions below).

Program Coordinator: Jayne Rhynard

The June meeting of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be our annual spring picnic. This year we will return to hold our picnic at Alcyon Lake Park. This is a pot luck dinner of shared dishes. Attendees should bring a food item to share, and their own utensils, plates, and cups to cut down on the waste of disposables. Tables are limited, so feel free to bring blankets and/or chairs. Those who prefer to provide their own meals are welcome to do so. As with all club meetings, the picnic is open to the public so please come join us to just enjoy some friendship, common interests and a leisurely walk around the park to enjoy the bluebirds and other natural attractions at this popular park. **Directions:** Alcyon Lake Park, Track Ave. Pitman, NJ 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue). Drive past the sports fields and meet us under the pavilion.



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. Activities may include birding, hiking, walks or ambles, or just exploring. See what we have scheduled:

June 17, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: While Oak Branch WMA. Franklin Twp. From Dutch Mill Rd, turn north onto Whitehall Rd. We will meet at the southern entrance where the pavement for Whitehall Road ends. See map on page 143. Hosts: Sue Bergmann,

Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 141- 144, Location #31.



July 8, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: **Winslow WMA**. Monroe Twp. We will meet at the southern entrance off Piney Hollow Rd (Shotgun Range) See map on page 129. We may visit the Blue Hole. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 141- 144, Location #28.

August 12, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: **Deptford Memorial / Fasola Park**. 12 Sycamore Ln, Deptford. Meet at the upper level parking area near the splash pad. We will walk the shaded nature trail. Maybe bring a picnic lunch for after the walk! Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 33 - 34, Location #8.

Save the Date: Field Trip: Stream Stomp, Monday, July 28

Time and Location to be announced

Trip Leaders – Paula Hayes & Kris Mollenhauer

This will be a fun walk through one of our local streams.

Participants young and old are welcome to join our leaders with old sneakers or other water-appropriate shoes to beat the heat and experience nature in and around the stream. Further details with time and location will be provided and will be posted on Meetup.



BIRD QUEST 2025: The 25th edition of Bird Quest featured warmer-than-normal weather, with temperatures well up into the 70s by lunchtime. We had 88 registered participants across 30 teams. Of the 16 received checklists, the winner for the second consecutive year was Birding Bros (Tyler Savage, Kevin Savage, and Nevaeh Lyons) with 99 species. There was a tie for second place, with Wenonah Warblers (Dan & Maria Ceravolo and Rita McIntyre) and Saw What Owls? (Erik, Kellan, and Mark Nelson) each finding 85 species.

This year's species were even more diverse than last year's: 17 species were found by 90% or more of the teams, while 24 species were found by 80% or more of the teams. None of these common species would be surprising, but there has been a noticeable shift in observed crow populations. American Crows were found more often than Fish Crows during the 2021-2024 events. This year the situation was reversed: American Crows were found by 69% of teams while Fish Crows were found by 88% of teams.

As we are accumulating more data year by year, some species numbers are relatively steady while others fluctuate due to weather, the places visited by our participants, or other unknowable factors. Here are a few differences from last year that stood out:

Species

2024 % of teams found

2025 % of teams found

Eastern Wood Pewee

5%

44%

Warbling Vireo

40%

69%

Tree Swallow

65%

94%

Northern Waterthrush

25%

0%

Yellow-rumped Warbler

75%

44%

Northern House Wren (formerly House Wren)

70%

38%

Wild Turkey

65%

25%

There was only one species not found in 2021-2024 that was found by two teams this year: Red-throated Loon. Of course, this could be caused by a single bird in the right place at the right time to be counted! (Birds that sleep in late on Saturday mornings are definitely missing out.) Other species new to our count this year were: Willow Flycatcher, Little Blue Heron, Forster's Tern, Summer Tanager, and Mississippi Kite.

The coordinator (Scott Barnes) would like to thank the sponsors, the participants, those who attended the 12 training walks, and especially the volunteers that made everything tick. From the training walk leaders, to the day-of walk leaders, to those who donated door prizes and helped with various aspects of the Wheelabrator gathering: there are too many to name individually but know that your efforts are the vital glue that has kept this event going strong for a quarter-century!

Meeting: Our members are encouraged and invited to help plan next year's programs for our monthly meetings and suggest topics for our program coordinator to explore. We want to hear what will be interesting to you. Jayne Rhynard will hold this meeting at her home in Mantua next to Ceres Park at 6:30pm on Thursday evening, June 19 rain or shine. While there is no raccoon entertainment, weather permitting we can hold outdoors pond side and let other nature provide the entertainment or if weather is uncooperative- go indoors. Please bring your ideas and any information you have and she will provide snacks. Location: Go to the very end of the road. 185 Tylers Lake Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080

The club would like to welcome the following new members who joined during May:

Leona and George Fluck of Robbinsville, NJ

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: We are continuing to post 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. 30 videos are now available, including these recent additions:



- [Schemes and Scams: Trickery In the Natural World \(April 2025\).](#)
- [An Amazon River Adventure \(May 2025 – video to be released by June 14th\).](#)

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 whenever permitted by speakers and their sponsoring organizations.

Other local nature events:

Waterfest

Saturday, June 1st

Scotland Run Park, Clayton

Live music, animal shows, crafts, canoeing and environmental exhibits.

Pitman Bioblitz:

Saturday, June 7th

8.a.m-11p.m

Alycon Park, Pitman

Free Presentations:

11 a.m.: Cedar Wildlife Refuge

8 p.m.: South Jersey Wildlife Tours

All-day community science and educational activities

Fireflies

Little lamps of the dusk,
You fly low and gold
When the summer evening
starts to unfold.
So that all the insects,
Now, before you pass,
Will have light to see by,
Undressing in the grass.

But when the night has flowered,
Little lamps agleam,
You fly over treetops
Following a dream.
Men wonder from their windows
That a firefly goes so far -
They do not know your longing
To be a shooting star.

~ Carolyn Hall