



Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.
September 2025

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).

Program:

Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

Reestablishing Roots in the Land of the Lenape

Presenter: Ty Dancing Wolf Ellis

Though things are becoming more progressive, there was a time when our communities weren't allowed to practice our culture and traditions. Prior to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, less than 50 years ago, it was illegal to openly practice our traditional ways.

Since then, there has been an increase in proper representation of our people throughout Turtle Island, especially over the course of the last decade. There is a rise in Indigenous people in larger spaces - musicians, actors, models, producers- even politicians. This paves the way for Indigenous youth to be whatever it is that they want to be.

But, the world is still stuck in the past. Our communities are always referred to in the past tense. There are people who hear "Native American" and think that we still live in Wigwams and wear buckskin aprons.

It is important to remind people that our youth are citizens of the outside community, and must live day to day just like any other child. However, our youth have the added responsibility of learning and carrying on our traditions and stories; they have a responsibility to give back to the communities in which their ancestors contributed to survival. It is critical for our youth to keep their feet planted in both worlds and so it is important to find ways to bring balance to this way of life... but how do we collectively achieve this?



Tour de Natural Places of Gloucester County:

Join us as we explore the natural places of Gloucester County as described in the 2nd 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.

September 16, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: **West Deptford Nature Trail**. Meet at the parking lot entrance off of Riverwinds Drive, as shown on the map on page 16. We will follow the one-mile loop trail. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 13- 19, Location #3.

October 14, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: **Raccoon Creek WMA**. Park and meet at the end of Berkeley Drive, into Commodore Business Park. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 75-78, Location #18.

November 18, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: **Raccoon Creek and Birch Creek Marshes**. Park and meet at the Gloucester County Dog Park on High Hill Road/Rt. 662; Logan Twp. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 43-45; Location #11. Note: See map on page 72.

December 16, 2025, Tuesday, 9am: **Hidden Acres Township Park and Mantua Creek WMA**. East Greenwich Twp. Hidden Acres has been re-named Samuel Giordano Sr. Memorial Football Field. Enter at the sign "Football Complex". Follow the one-way signs all the way to the back of the gravel parking lot. Trail could be wet. We will be walking in grass that may be tall. Wear boots or old sneakers. Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry. For more information, see Natural Places of Gloucester County, see pages 51-53, Location #13. Next we will drive or carpool a short distance to Mantua Creek WMA, pages 31-32, Location #7.



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.

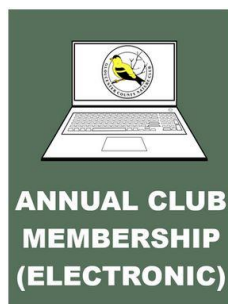


Club notes:

- 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 open to 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 Jean Block at jeanellenblock@comcast.net by the 22nd of the preceding month.
- The club would like to welcome the following new members who joined during the summer months:
 1. Kim Hall of Berlin
 2. Ellen Pedersen of Vineland
 3. Marissa Sockwell of Monroe Twp.

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. 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 2025:** Due to declining usage and increasing costs, the \$25 postal mail option is only available for those members currently on postal memberships.
- We can send newsletters and other notices to a second email address in each household, such as a spouse, parent, or child.
- The club's redesigned website makes it easier than ever to renew your membership online. Just go to gcnatureclub.org and click "Store" in the upper-right corner. Next, scroll down a bit and click on "Annual Club Membership."



Annual Club Membership (Electronic)
\$20.00

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. Finally click "Place order."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025-2026

☐ New Member
☐ Renewal

☐ Electronic Membership (\$20) - newsletter via email
☐ Paper Membership (\$25) - regular mail; **ONLY FOR EXISTING POSTAL MAIL MEMBERS**

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.