# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

## October 2026

www.gcnatureclub.org
Nature club meetings are open to the public.
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: It's The Berries: Cranberry Farming in NJ**

**Presenter: Peter Oudemans**

**Thursday, October 8th at 7PM**

An iconic part of fall holiday meals, a native plant with health benefits & harvested like no other, learn how cranberries fit into NJ's history and economy

with Peter Oudemans, Professor of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers

University and Director of the PE Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension. He will share the fascinating history of this special, native NJ crop, how he and others work to reduce diseases like cranberry fruit rot and how overheating of cranberry fruit impacts fruit quality and the development of new technologies to reduce the impact of solar radiation and how they use remote sensing to detect, map and understand plant disease on this important New Jersey fruit crop. He will discuss their work with growers to develop and implement economically sound and environmentally rational crop management methods.

## Tour de Natural Places of Gloucester County

**Hike: October 13, 2026**, **Tuesday, 9:30AM**: **Parvin State Park.** 701 Almond Road, Pittsgrove NJ 08318. Meet at the park office. We will walk the Parvin Lake Trail about 3.1 miles.  Hosts: Sue Bergmann, Marilyn Henry.

## Palmyra Cove Field Trip

**Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, 7:30AM**

Trip Leaders: Marie Hageman & Lloyd Shaw

On Saturday, October 17 please join us at 7:30am to explore the habitat at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, a 250-acre urban oasis along the Delaware River. This will be

primarily a birdwatching/birding walk led by our friendly, experienced leaders to help locate & identify by sight & sound fall migrants in this eBird Hotspot during the peak of fall migration. Excellent for all levels interested in birds. Habitats include wetlands, woodlands, meadows, wild creek and river shoreline, and a freshwater tidal cove. This walk will *not* be on paved trails and you should bring binoculars, scopes for possible falcons, water and bug spray. No facilities are open on weekends. This will be dependent on weather, please check our Meetup site https://www.meetup.com/gloucester-county-nature-club/ for information.

Directions: 1300 Route 73 at the base of the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, Palmyra, NJ. https://www.palmyracove.org/

From I 295 take exit 36 B for Route 73 North. Proceed for 6.2 miles and turn Right onto Souder Street (last traffic light before the Tacony-Palmyra bridge). After 2 blocks, turn Left onto Temple Boulevard. Turn Right immediately into the toll building parking lot. Drive through the parking lot and continue on a narrow access road, pass under the base of the bridge and meet at the visitor center.

## Event: Mad Hatter's Tree Party

### Sunday, October 25, 2026

### 1 to 3 PM – Wenonah, NJ

A 45-minute walk with music, light refreshments, stories… and the Mad Hatter. Great for families. Free. No rain date.

Walk begins at trailhead of the Eldridge Trail: intersection of E. Pine St and S. Princeton Ave, Wenonah, NJ. No pre-registration necessary. Sponsored by the Gloucester County Nature Club and the Wenonah Environmental Commission.

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

**The *Mad Hatter Tree Party* is an opportunity:**

- **For a walk in the woods with family and friends**
- **For an educational experience *with* and *about* trees**
- **To experience nature through live music of local musicians**
- **To engage the community in locally accessible natural areas**
- **To assemble community volunteers around a simple, fun celebration**
- **To enjoy light refreshments and stories with the Mad Hatter**

**Events By Other Organizations:**

**Fall Foliage Walk at Tall Pines State Preserve**: Sunday, October 18th at 1:00 PM. Join the Friends of Tall Pines for a leisurely guided walk as we explore the trails of the Preserve on an autumn afternoon. We will visit fields of yellow goldenrods and white asters and look for late migrating monarch and buckeye butterflies. And we will be on the lookout for Tall Pines birds too. Perhaps we will spot one of our resident bluebirds or passing fall migrants heading south. So bring your binoculars and a camera too. After the walk we invite all to gather in the parking lot for light refreshments. This event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is not required.

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The club would like to welcome the following new member who joined during September:

- Lauren D'Ariano of Oak Valley

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**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. 40 videos are now available, including these recent additions:

- Marvelous Marine Mammals in New Jersey (May 2026).
- New Jersey's Changing Climate (September 2026).

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## Reminder - Membership Dues

- September marks the start of a new club year, and with it we ask you to renew your membership. Your dues – which cover your entire household – are the only costs associated with being a club member; we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. And our dues have not increased since 2013!
- You can renew on our website: click on "About" then scroll down to "Join or Renew Online." Or you can mail in the form on the next page with a check. Or you can bring that form to the October meeting: we accept cash, checks, and credit/debit cards.

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Please submit any information for the newsletter to Jean Block jeanellenblock@comcast.net no later than the 20th of the month.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2026-2027**

__ 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?
_____

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Would you like to give a gift membership?

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.