

[View this email in your browser](#)



This Week at Giants Neck Beach

September 23, 2024

Upcoming Meetings/Events

The Goose Management Committee will meet on September 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse or via Zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/97363558986?pwd=Re6G26CbxnzmxoFLCVsbckWIZ13DrC.1>

The Zoning Committee will meet at the Clubhouse on September 26, 6:00 p.m. [Agenda](#).

News

The East Lyme Giving Garden is looking for a few volunteers who may have experience in grant writing to be part of a team to manage and coordinate grants for the Garden. Grants help provide the funds to keep the Garden growing!

If you are interested or if you know someone who might be, please contact Mary Ann Heenehan for more information.

heenehacnj@gmail.com 609-658 5471.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

OKTOBER FEST



GNBA & PWC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19 2024 | 6 PM

★ BEER WINE FOOD & FUN ★

\$25 at the door but rsvp to
 vjpiscatelli@gmail.com by October 6th.
 This is an adult only event.

WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM

Giants Neck Beach - A Natural Beauty!

Although we are used to seeing many different sea and shore birds here, I was surprised to see this bird near the lower pond recently. I was standing in the area we are looking at, putting a native garden in on Lake Shore. A few of us were there trying to figure out what kind of bird this was. I took a picture with my phone to look it up later, but it was so blurry I couldn't look it up. A few days later, Angelo caught these great pictures of our visiting bird.



So immediately, I began to look up what it was—a juvenile black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)! Most herons around here fish all day, but not this one! It prefers to fly in the evenings and nights, looking for food—while other herons sleep. Its large, light-gathering red eyes give it good low-light vision. You can find it in or near swamps, marshes, mud flats, and heavily vegetated lake edges. During the day, it roosts in dense groups of trees (near our upper pond) with up to 100 others—it likes to build its nest of sticks in a low tree or shrub but will also nest on a cliff, preferring islands to keep away the predators. It is off to its feeding grounds in the evening and returns early in the morning. It catches its prey (fish, amphibians, snakes, and rodents) by standing in shallow water and catching whatever moves close to it. It also knows how to attract fish by dipping its bill into the water and vibrating it.

The Black-Crowned Night Heron is the most widespread heron in the world. It breeds on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. Our local group is generally migratory and travels to the Gulf and Caribbean for winter. Both males and females have yellow-green legs, but during breeding season, they turn pink. Females generally lay 3-5 eggs. However, both birds take turns incubating the pale blue-green eggs for almost a month. The parents wet their abdominal feathers before sitting to keep the eggs cool on sweltering days. After hatching, caring for the chicks is a quick process—in 2 weeks, the birds tend to fledge.

Unfortunately, plastics pose a significant threat to these birds, as they often mistake them for prey. However, here at Giants Neck Beach, these birds are fortunate to have caring neighbors who diligently keep the beaches clean from garbage, thereby contributing to the protection of these beautiful creatures. This serves as a powerful reminder of the impact of community efforts in preserving our natural environment.



Thank you to Angelo Bettera for the beautiful pictures. Get out and enjoy our beautiful natural Giants Neck Beach! And remember to be kind to nature and everyone you meet! We all play a part in making this world a better place!

~LD

visit us on the web

© 2024 Giants Neck Beach Association, all rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 226 Niantic, Connecticut 06357-0026

Our private Facebook group is:



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

