

[View this email in your browser](#)



This Week at Giants Neck Beach

September 9, 2024

[Upcoming Meetings/Events](#)

The newly formed Geese Management Committee will meet on Thursday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m., both in person at the Clubhouse and via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95080307993?pwd=V7jFqb9R46EfttG6ljO9FncgwnoePl.1>

Meeting ID: 950 8030 7993

Passcode: 915905

Members of the committee are Gerry Van Noordennen, BOG-lead; Matt Ravoso; Mary Jean Agostini; Kim Spano; Mario Harris; Susan Williamson; Lisa Doggart-BOG; Lou Piscatelli-BOG; Mary Ann Heenehan-BOG.

The Zoning Meeting initially scheduled for September 12 has been canceled. Instead, there will be a Zoning Commission meeting on September 26 at 6 p.m.



Oktoberfest

SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for this GNBA /PWC event!

more information to come



[News](#)

The results of last week's survey regarding geese management [are here](#). A committee has been formed to develop a thoughtful plan for addressing the matter.

[Giants Neck Beach - A Natural Beauty!](#)

September 7, 2024

This last week, in the evening, I leaned back in my chair, watching the tree swallows swoop through the sky. I could watch them for nearly a half hour, and then they headed west into the darkening sky. But somewhere nearby, I am sure other nature-loving people were waiting for them to enter the sky above them. That area is near the Connecticut River, where they put on an evening show for September above Goose Island between Old Lyme and Essex and just north of the Rte 95 bridge as they prepare to migrate to the southern US.



Last fall, for the first time, Tom and I took a group of excited people on a journey by boat over to watch them. What a lovely time on the river, enjoying dinner as we waited with many other boaters (in ships of all sizes) for the evening's show to begin. The sun started to set — what a beautiful place to watch from! When the tree swallows did begin to arrive, first one bird, then a few birds, then a lot of birds; they eventually formed a little volcano of individual birds swarming together. They funneled down into the marsh reeds while a group of human onlookers filled the air with their joyful and appreciative collective sighs. In the past, even the famous ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson said, “In all my long lifetime of birding, I have never witnessed a spectacle more dramatic than the twisting tornadoes of tree swallows I saw plunging from the sky after sundown this past October. And this was within four miles of my home near the Connecticut River, where this has probably been going on every October—all the 40 years I have lived here.”

Tree Swallows, *Tachycineta bicolor*, leave Goose Island to feed daily during migration season. Audubon.org says their diet consists of flies, beetles, winged ants, sand fleas, and spiders. They enjoy small quantities of fruit and berries, which allows them to return to the north earlier than other swallows.



During the summer, Tree swallows are cavity-nesting birds. They use the holes made by other birds in dead trees. With so many dead trees being removed, Tree Swallows depend on artificial nest boxes, preferably near water. In the nests, they layer grasses and twigs and then line their nest with white feathers—feathers from other species.

As I watched them fly overhead on my porch last week, I remembered wanting to see them again and started planning for later this month. If you also want to see these beautiful birds from anywhere besides your lawn or beach chair in Giants Neck Beach, head over to the Connecticut River before they migrate south for the winter!

Please 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](#).

