



Tuesdays on the Fly

For 2019, CU will host 10 Tuesday outdoor adventures.

Since 2007 CU Maurice River has been leading walks along the Maurice River Bicycling and Walking Trail in Millville. This trail traverses the river along four of Millville's recreation areas, and includes Waltman Park, the footpath between Riverview Park's Sharp Street baseball fields on toward Joe Buck Park, and the southern terminus of the trail behind City Hall. These popular outings have been a mainstay in our outdoor activities.

In the beginning we conducted explorations there on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Now, on specific Tuesdays,

we carpool from Millville to local or distant recreation areas of special interest—Tuesdays on the Fly! Most of these outings take us to destinations in Cumberland, Cape May, and Atlantic counties, but occasionally we have traveled farther afield to places like Susquehanna Park in Maryland, Mt. Cuba in Delaware, and Bowman's Hill in Pennsylvania. Wherever we go, it's all about exploring nature and culture.

Leading up to the event we used to keep the destination a secret and simply advise people of what to bring—binoculars, lunch or lunch money, boots, sunscreen, bug repellent etc. This element of surprise made these trips especially fun for participants. However, sometimes it's just more practical to tell folks where we are heading. Whether our route and destination is a surprise or not, starting this year we will be meeting at the CU Maurice River office, generally at 9 a.m. (depending on distance to be travelled).

For 2019 we will host 10 Tuesdays on the Fly, weather permitting. This year's outings will be held on March 5, April 16, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 13, September 3, October 1, and November 5, all Tuesdays.

Our next walk on March 5 will take us to the Glades Wildlife Refuge's Maple Avenue Trail in Dividing Creek. It has a host of habitats and lots of neat viewing opportunities. This site is preserved and maintained by Natural Lands; there are loblolly pines, pitch pines, lots of signs of otter, owl boxes, and normally we see birds of prey. The trail is flat and sometimes wet because it traverses a wonderful marshy expanse along the New Jersey Delaware Bayshore. Boots are a must! The variety of habitats makes the site a great visit. The ecotones, or areas where one habitat type transitions to another, make this preserve especially beneficial to a wide variety of wildlife use. A species may be more prevalent in one location than another, but most need to make use of alternate environs for periods of time, so that species get concentrated on these edges as their uses overlap.

The walks are normally led by Karla Rossini or myself, Jane Morton Galetto, and a host of CU nature enthusiasts. We often pack a lunch or eat at a local establishment after the walk. One of the things I like best is that people who enjoy the environment get the opportunity to share their love for nature with each other. Our regular

attendees are friendly and happily welcome new people!

So how can you stay abreast of these walks and lots of other opportunities? Our website is the portal to a great deal of recreation and stewardship prospects. First, I would suggest that you go to our homepage and subscribe to our newsletter, CUMauriceRiver.org, lower right hand corner of the screen. You will get approximately two to three mailings each week, which provide updates on the variety of outdoor opportunities and other activities CU Maurice River hosts. If you download a copy of our one-page calendar, it would make for great refrigerator décor! To find it, just click the Calendar button on CUMR's homepage. There you can also see our interactive calendar that will allow you to register for events when required. If you would prefer to talk to us directly and/or receive a printed calendar via mail, just call the office at 856- 300- 5331.

Our walks are open to members and non-members alike, and we would love to have you join us on the trail. If you like out-of-door activities, you'll be glad you did!