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This Week at Giants Neck Beach

December 9, 2024

Upcoming Meetings/Events

There will be a Goose Management Committee Meeting on ZOOM, December 12, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Goose Management Committee Meeting

Time: Dec 5, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94252323663?pwd=5rv50tgbEx3NzdAHKn5rq8ciXnKpfw.1>

Meeting ID: 942 5232 3663

Passcode: 284694

News

An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) has been installed in the kitchen at the Clubhouse!



Giants Neck Beach - A Natural Beauty!

The Hooded Mergansers, *Lophodytes cucullatus*, were on the upper pond recently having a great time just swimming around. I decided I wanted to know a bit more about these birds, to know what they eat, where they nest and what might be attracting them to our upper pond. Here's what I found!



A Hooded Merganser likes to use coastal estuaries for its winter home. It lives in the wooded edges of freshwater ponds and streams and likes large trees with natural cavities for nesting. Leaving mature trees that have these protected cavities is important to these ducks for nesting, as well as having clear water for feeding on small fish, crayfish, aquatic insects, some aquatic plants and their seeds.

The adult male has a yellow eye with a black head and back. It's large white patch on its crest really calls your attention to it. Females, however, have brown eyes with a gray-brown head. It has a faint reddish tinge to it and a white belly. They weigh about 16 ounces and are about 16 inches long with a 24 inch wingspan (about the same size as a crow)..

An interesting fact about their name is that their greek name is Lophodytes. Lophos means "crest" and dytes means "diver". To hear their call and see close up pictures of them check out this link:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hooded_Merganser

Get out and enjoy our beautiful natural Giants Neck Beach—maybe you'll be lucky to see one of these beautiful ducks! And remember to be kind to nature and everyone you meet! We all can play a part in making this world a better place!

~Lisa

visit us on the web

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