



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

December 2022

Program: Through the Dragon's Mouth – Secrets of the Night Sky

Presenter: Erik Mollenhauer

Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ

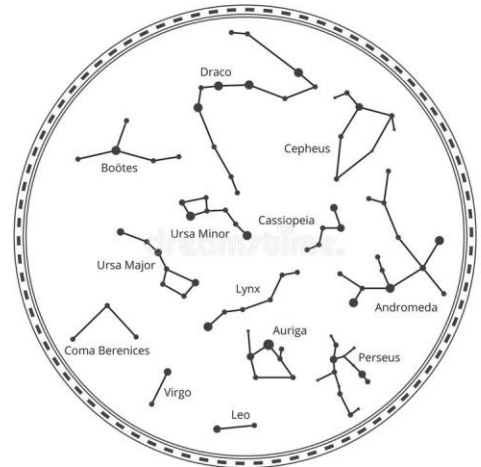
(directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

People have always sought to understand the invisible power behind the visible world... and the larger mystery of what endures and why. As people searched for answers, their attention was inevitably drawn to the night sky, where stars, constellations and the zodiac seemed in control of both time and destiny.

And at the center of it all... was the Dragon.

Our presenter, Erik Mollenhauer, has delivered programs about the night sky for the past 32 years, to audiences on three continents. This program, a unique blend of science, myth and storytelling, will employ a variety of models and graphics. Fasten your seatbelt for a surprising tour of constellations, space and time... from the Dragon's mouth to the far reaches of our galaxy.



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).

NW Gloucester County Christmas Bird Count

Hello everyone, it's that time of year. We will be conducting the Gloucester County Christmas Bird Count through the National Audubon Society on Saturday, December 17. Once again we will be out there in the weather (good healthy air) looking and listening for birds to report to the National count. Our circle covers very interesting territory in the county and very interesting winter birds. We usually see a total very closely to 100 species!

If you would like to join us see the contacts at bottom of message. No experience is necessary. The 'circle' is broken down into 13 areas and each area has a leader who knows the territory and can navigate through the zone. If you would like to join us to see the very same birds you see in your yard and maybe many more you can add to your life list, then bundle up, pack a lunch, bring your binoculars and your enthusiasm!

Time spent in the area can be worked out with your leader. Some participants spend the entire day, others put in whatever time they can afford to do. We appreciate all help, all folks! Here's to a safe and productive count this year! (And good weather!?).

If you need to get hooked up with a team or have questions, call or write (email):

Ron Kegel, compiler

609-617-0365 (cell)

ronaldk52@comcast.net

Upcoming February Meeting Club Activity

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ

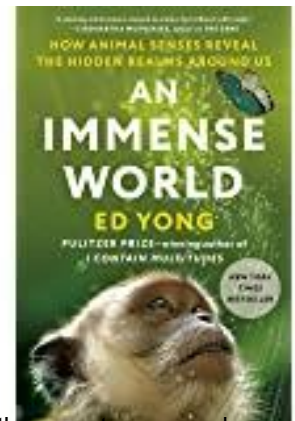
Group Discussion on An Immense World by Ed Yong, Random House (June 21, 2022)

“A thrilling tour of nonhuman perception . . . Nature’s true wonders aren’t limited to a remote wilderness or other sublime landscape. . . . There is as much grandeur in the soil of a backyard garden as there is in the canyons of Zion.”—

The New York Times

“A dazzling ride through the sensory world of astoundingly sophisticated creatures . . . It’s Mr. Yong’s task to expand our thinking, to rouse our sense of wonder, to help us feel humbled and exalted at the capabilities of our fellow inhabitants on Earth. . . . [A] deeply affectionate travelogue of animal sensory wonders.”—**The Wall Street Journal**

The New York Times best seller An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal The Hidden Realms Around Us takes us to realities we cannot imagine- the myriad ways that other creatures see, hear, smell, taste and perceive the world around them. Our human reality is just one of many realities.



The club invites you to join us in a group discussion of this book and topic at our February meeting. We encourage participants to put An Immense World on your winter reading list, and perhaps your holiday gift list too, then gather with us in February to explore and share your thoughts about this fascinating book and the worlds it reveals. For those who will not have the opportunity to read the book, come out and hear the surprising facts and insights that readers will share, and, then feel free to join in the discussion with your own thoughts and experiences.

Natural Events for the month of December

- Geminid meteor shower – peaks on the night of December 13.
- Shortest day of the year is December 22.
- Bald eagles arrive from the north and winter in New Jersey.
- Raptor migration ends mid-month.
- Great horned owls are pairing up this month – listen for their calls
- Watch for late waterfowl migrants – shovelers, mergansers and goldeneyes.
- Take part in a local Christmas Count..

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program or trip coordinator if you have ideas or would like to help.
- Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Barry Bengel at sharkeyes@comcast.net or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 20th of the preceding month.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: We are now posting 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. 13 videos are now available, including these recent additions:

- [Saddler's Woods: A Unique 25-Acre Urban Forest](#) (October 2022)
- [Costa Rica: The Destination We Didn't Know We'd Love](#) (November 2022)

Be sure to subscribe to the club's channel and "like" the videos so they will get recommended to more people! We will continue recording programs during this club year whenever permitted by speakers and their sponsoring organizations.



This Holiday Season, remember to help out the Gloucester County Nature Club



Holiday Shopping at Amazon can benefit the Gloucester County Nature Club at **NO extra cost** to you!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. You may even use your existing Amazon.com account for your purchases.

Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ - Give the gift of the Great Outdoors this holiday season!

Our wildly popular ***Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ*** book is back as a 2nd Edition with a new fresh look, updated copy and new locations outdoors for you to get-out-and-go-to while staying socially distanced and safe. Just what you need to find places full of natural beauty tucked away in our county.

The Natural Places Guide is one of the many ways the Nature Club provides valuable detailed information, not available elsewhere, about the plants, trees, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians at over 35 local Natural Places. Each site description includes directions, address and parking information plus a map of the site to make visiting easy and enjoyable. For the Second Edition, information for existing sites has been brought up-to-date. Several new sites have also been added, including: Tall Pines State Preserve, Andoloro WMA, and Tranquility Trails.

Copies of ***Natural Places of Gloucester County NJ*** are now available for purchase at local retailers including:

- **Antiques on Evergreen** - 429 S Evergreen Ave, Woodbury, NJ 08096
- **Dambly's Garden Center** - 51 West Factory Rd, Berlin, NJ 08009
- **Daminger's Natural Pet Foods** - 641 Main St, Sewell (Mantua Township), NJ 08080
- **Rook's Farm Supply** – 163 NJ-77, Elmer, NJ 08318
- **Triple Oaks Nursery & Herb Garden** - 2359 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, NJ 08322
- **Wild Birds Unlimited Cherry Hill** - 1619 N Kings Hwy, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
- **Words Matter** - 52 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071
- **The Yellow Garage Antiques** - 66 South Main St., Mullica Hill, NJ 080621

The book is also available through the club's online store. To access the online store, [click here](#).