



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

September 2023

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

Presenter: Erik Mollenhauer

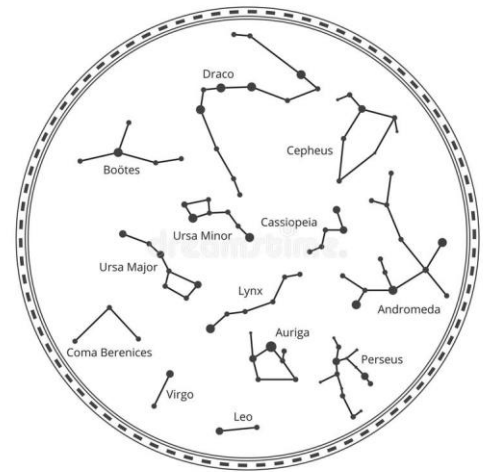
Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 7:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

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).

Field Trip: Urban Botany

CVS Parking Lot in Woodbury

Sunday September 10, 2023, 9:00 to 11:30am

Trip Leader: Karl Anderson

There are plants that grow out of sidewalk cracks, in neglected mulch beds, and in other apparently degraded habitats. Some are native, some have been in New Jersey for centuries, some are recent arrivals. You won't find many of them in forests and fields but they are still part of the ecosystem. We will see how many species we can find around the perimeter of the meeting place and the edge of Broad Street Lake, learn something of their history, and then if time and energy permit, drive a short distance to another nearby spot for additional species. Parking lot is at the intersection of Broad Street and Red Bank Avenue in Woodbury (behind the McDonald's). Meet at the southeast corner of the lot (to the right of the CVS). For more information, email leader at karlanderson6@aol.com.

Trip Report: Beyond Hidden Creek Trail, Glassboro, August 9, 2023

On a beautiful summer Wednesday evening, not too hot and no thunderstorms, 14 nature lovers joined me and our hosts Rich and Lore Gess on our 3rd walk on this almost 2 mile trail. We have now explored it in Fall, Winter and Summer and each season shows us something new that is particular to that time. After starting out from Rich and Lore's backyard full of native plants and Hummingbirds, we were able to point out the tangles of some of the invasives like oriental bittersweet, honeysuckle as well as fungi along the paths through the wooded areas of the trail. While it might have been a bit early for early migrants, we were treated to a stunning chimney swift and swallow show chasing insects over the field, and flycatchers including a pair of Kingbirds, Eastern wood-pewees and a Blue--gray gnatcatcher. Afterward a few of us went next door to Bonesaw, enjoyed socializing with a few summer brews and even found a Fowlers Toad! Nature is everywhere! Be on the lookout for our 4th seasonal walk here this coming Spring.





Events for September 2023

The following events take place at the Scotland Run Nature Center in Clayton. For details and to register for programs, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- **Fall Migration Bird Walks** at Scotland Run Park will be held from 8:00 to 9:30 am on the first and third Wednesdays of September and October (September 6, 20 and October 4, 18). The walks are free, no registration is required, and the walks begin in the Nature Center's parking lot. Come help search for the many birds that pass through Scotland Run Park during fall migration. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars.
- **Fall Paddles:** Paddles take place the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from September to November 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Come and explore beautiful Wilson Lake and the many wonders it has to offer. Both canoes and kayaks are available. In order to participate in the event you must be able to operate a canoe or a kayak. Due to the limited amount of boats registration is required. This program is free to the public. Register at the Parks and Rec page on the county website.

Natural Events for the month of September

- The last brood of monarch butterflies emerges and flies south to Mexico.
- Black gum foliage turns red - first tree to get its autumn color.
- Wild grapes ripen - not all of them are sour.
- Turtle eggs hatch and hatchlings emerge and head for the nearest water.
- Robins begin to join together in large flocks

- Most hummingbirds depart by the end of the month
- Bats busy feeding – building fat reserves for hibernation and migration.
- Broad-winged hawk migration peaks in mid-month - plan a visit to a hawk lookout.

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.

Reminder - Membership Dues

September brings with it membership renewals. This year we will be keeping the price the same as last year. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$20 for electronic mailings and \$25 for regular mail delivery. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

You may also sign up and pay your membership dues electronically via PayPal. Just go to <http://gcnatureclub.org/membership.php> and fill out the online form.

WAIVER

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you intend to discontinue on the route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2023-2024

- New Member Renewal
- Paper Membership (\$25) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership (\$20) - newsletter via email; ***please provide email address below

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ***Email Address: _____

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): _____

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how? _____

Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Paper ____ or Electronic ____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail completed form with payment to GCNC, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 or bring to a meeting.