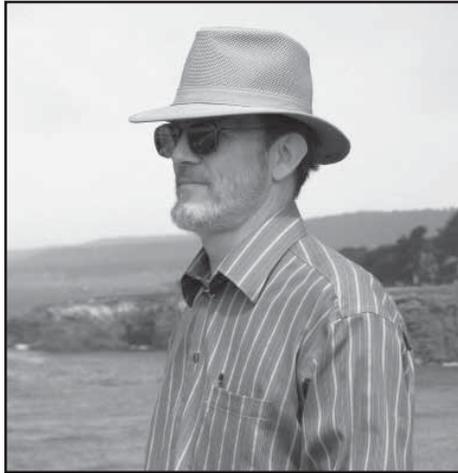


DNA: Darwin, Diversity, Destiny

with Jon Raymond
Monday, June 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

DNA are three letters everyone has heard of, but they stand for a concept not everyone understands, especially those who think high school biology students just dissect frogs before lunch.



This lecture by Jonathan Carl Raymond, “DNA: Darwin, Diversity, Destiny,” will shed light on the ramifications of the 1953 discovery that transformed biology and the scientific world.

Raymond will explain how genetics can be understood as a language based on four chemical “letters” that spell out the building blocks of all life. He will outline how biologists and chemists used this knowledge to create new directions for research, new industries and new ways of understanding life itself.

To take just one example, Raymond points out that knowing the differences in DNA sequence for individuals with various diseases might lead quickly to new and more precise diagnoses and treatments tailored to each person. Each discovery leads to more and more unexpected answers and even more questions.



Dr. Raymond, now retired, has spent forty years in molecular biology and biotechnology, most of it at Cetus Corporation and Roche Molecular systems. He has been part of teams that produced products that influenced countless

people. His talk will shed light on what is not only a fascinating scientific adventure, but also a subject we all need to learn more about because it permeates so many aspects of our lives.

Diving Komodo Island

with Mark Roth
Monday, June 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

What started as a family vacation activity has become a passion for Mark Roth, who carefully records his twice-yearly scuba diving trips on DVD. His June 15, 2009 presentation, entitled “Diving Komodo Island,” is just one example of his creations. It not only reveals the fascinating world under the water, but also provides a glimpse of the legendary Komodo dragon, the world’s largest lizard.

The bulk of the video takes place under water in the Lintah Strait off Komodo Island in Indonesia, 300 miles due east of Bali. Mark seeks to capture marine life in its natural habitat. For him the real drama comes from observing the rich variety of ways the aquatic creatures obtain food, adapt to their environment, mate, hunt and protect themselves.



The film reveals the beauty of anemones, nudibranch, crustaceans, pygmy seahorses, as well as the wide variety of fish, eels, rays, octopus, sea snakes, and large predators. Mark wants to see it all from the tiniest shrimp to the largest fish, and his videos capture his curiosity and his joy of discovering something new.

His Sea Ranch home includes a separate studio where he can edit his film, add commentary and dub sound tracks. It is full of equipment, reference books, professional videos and mementos, and of his DVDs, which he enjoys sharing with his grandchildren. His work is for his personal enjoyment; the only other public screenings were at Gualala Arts in 1999 and at the local Rotary last year.

After serving in the Marine Corp for twenty years and then running a family business, he retired to his Sea Ranch home in 1989, where he now lives fulltime. He says he does not dive here because it is too cold and the visibility is too poor for good video work.

A question and answer session will follow the screening. Admission is \$5.