

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 [closternaturecenter.org](http://closternaturecenter.org)

By the pond on Ruckman Road

**JANUARY, 2020**

## Naturalist's Notes:

When winter really sets in, I thoroughly enjoy the barren treetops, cold air, and snow-kissed landscape- but something in me yearns for greenery.

The pines and spruces give a glimmer of green hope up high, but down below on the forest floor, the pine tree club moss gets my attention and admiration. They are small but loaded with character and have an amazing life cycle. The club mosses are an ancient plant that evolved 400 million years ago from the humble mosses. What sets them apart from their progenitors is a vascular system. This amazing new feature in the plant world let the club mosses send water from roots to its photosynthesizing leaves and gave rise to modern plants. A vascular system let plants finally sprout from the ground and grow up not just out. The club mosses of the past were of all shapes and sizes, including 100-foot-tall treelike specimens. Over time, evergreens and the flowering trees and plants took over- but a handful of primitive club mosses still thrive today. The club mosses reproduce with a unique life cycle that uses spores instead of seeds that grow, not into a new plant like its parents, but a tiny soil dwelling gametophyte that could spend years developing. This gametophyte produces sperm and eggs that develop into a new adult plant that grows slowly and never gets taller than 12 inches. We find these tiny wonders here at the Nature Center and I look forward to the contrast between their bright green treelike forms and the sleeping winter forest. See you on the trails...Marc Gussen, Naturalist

## CLOSTER NATURE CENTER ADULT PROGRAM: "PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY"



Wednesday, January 16th, 7 to 8:30 PM  
Presented by Marc Gussen

Come learn the skills of the ancients. This program for adults and teens covers the history of primitive technology from the first stone tools on up. Skills covered include fire-making by friction, cordage, flint-knapping and a host of other lost arts.

Light refreshments will be served.

**The program is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted!**

## January After-School Programs:

**Dinosaurs, Fossils and the Ancient World**

Come join us for a trip back in time  
as we explore the world of long lost creatures.

**Dress for the weather we try to go outside for hike every day!**

**Pk and K** - Tuesdays - 14th, 21st and 28th  
**1st and 2nd** - Wednesdays - 15th, 22nd and 29th  
**3rd through 6th** - Thursdays - 16th, 23rd and 30th

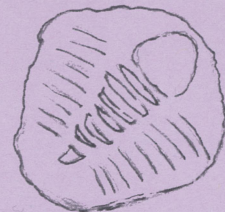
**Cost:** \$40 members, \$50 non-members

**Time:** 3:45pm - 5:00pm

**To register online please go to:**

<https://register.communitypass.net/Closter> and you will be taken to Community Pass, our online registration and payment system.

If you would prefer to register in person, please call Marc Gussen at (201) 750-2778.





## Appreciation to the Closter DPW For Stream Clearing Assistance

**Land Use:** Nature Center volunteers, particularly Tom Golodik and Gay Mayer, do timely and often strenuous work to keep our trails open, and our many streams flowing unobstructed. But sometime the tasks are beyond human capacity and mechanical help is needed. This is particularly true of Smith Brook where the stream crosses under Irving Avenue. All manner of upstream debris is carried on flood waters toward this culvert. Material that can't fit through the culvert gets tangled in front, blocking the flow. Backed-up water floods the woodlands, rising close to the level of the road. When heavy, water-logged stumps and branches are present, the DPW comes to the rescue, using a backhoe to clear the blockage and restore the flow. As with plowing of our parking lot and major help when we drained our pond, Superintendent **Bill Dahle** and **Closter's DPW** crew offer valuable assistance to the well-being of the Nature Center.

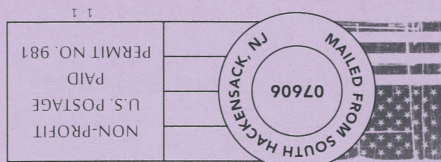


## CNC Month By Month:

January 16th @ 7pm Primitive Tech  
February 9th @ 3pm Winter Hike  
March 15th @ 3pm Meet the Animals of the Nature Center  
April 15th @ 7pm Invasive/Native Plants  
**April 19th Soup Supper**  
May Forest Stewardship/Deer Exclosure Community  
Update  
May Bird Count  
June Summer Hike  
**June 7th Pond Celebration**



Palisades Nature Association  
Or Current Resident  
PO Box 155  
Alpine NJ 07620-0155



*"Keeping Closter Green"*

Closter Nature Center  
PO Box 80  
Closter, NJ 07624

