

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624

closternaturecenter.org

By the pond on Ruckman Road

MAY 2020

THANK YOU!

To our members, donors, and volunteers

Like every non-profit organization, the Closter Nature Center could not exist without its dedicated members, donors and volunteers who remain committed and dependable through good times and bad. A big SHOUT OUT! to ALL whose generosity of time and funds are helping to keep the Nature Center in good order during difficult times for all of us.

Our Board members (all volunteers) have given many extra hours to steer a course forward with no income.

A hard-working skeleton crew is maintaining trails and fences, while Marc maintains the cabin, grounds, and our live exhibits.

And THANK YOU! to members thoughtfully renewing their memberships promptly and generously.

Plans are being made for our re-opening whenever coronavirus is no longer a concern, with classes, programs and many other activities ready to resume. Together we'll be ready to seize the moment when classes and trail use can resume.

CNC 2020 SUMMER PROGRAM

Ready to join friends outdoors? Register now.

The Closter Nature Center and Naturalist, Marc Gussen are gearing up for our Summer Program 2020!

We cannot predict when summer programs can open, due to Covid-19, but if state and local health officials allow, we will be ready to begin on June 29th. We are encouraging you to register now for the weeks you would like. Limited to 15 students per session.

REGISTER, BUT DON'T PAY.

We will not take any payment until our program dates are confirmed. When we can confirm dates for our Summer Program, you will be notified, and asked to confirm your child's spot with payment.

Summer Program Volunteers, ages 12+, can apply online at www.closternaturecenter.org/summer-program-volunteers-2020

Our **136 acres** of ponds, streams, meadows and forest are waiting to be explored by young people in small groups led by our naturalist, Marc Gussen and his assistant. Children will hike, dig, wade in the water, examine nature, discuss the environment and above all, have fun!! For over 45 years, our goal has been to help every child become active and at ease outdoors, to see him/herself as a part of nature and to appreciate the natural world as a source of learning and adventure.

Summer Program runs Monday- Thursday for 9 weeks, from June 29- August 27

Each day includes two sessions.

2-hour programs for children ages 4 – 6,

3-hour programs for children ages 7 - 10 and 11 - 14.

Program sessions and age groups vary each week.

Fees for the 2-hour programs:

\$80 for members (\$100 for non-members)

Fees for the 3-hour programs:

\$120 for members (\$150 for non-members)

For dates and times and to register please go to: <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>

Or visit our website: www.closternaturecenter.org

Naturalist's Notes:

Every month comes with magical gifts from nature: fresh snowfall, autumn colors, and the first green of spring, but there is really nothing in the world like a new life.

In May, nature's birth rate shoots through the roof. From squirrels to deer to birds, May is the month to give birth. I'll get more calls this month from caring people in our community about baby animals than anything else. There are so many strategies for survival when it comes to reproduction that there is no wrong or right- but why May? Timing is everything.

Give birth too soon, and the cold nights of April could be the demise of your progeny. April is a tough month to predict. It could be 70 degrees every day, but just as easily we could get hit with an early spring cold snap where the temperatures plummet into the single digits. Wait too long, and your offspring's chances of developing enough to survive their first winter diminish. December is a long way from June but it comes fast, and is unforgiving to the young and weak. May is late enough to offer warm weather and ample food supply, and still leaves enough time for growth and development. From waddling little ducklings to wobbly little fawns, this is a time for rebirth and hopes of a bright future on the horizon.

Native Species Preserve: Update and Volunteer Opportunities

The fencing for our three Native Species Preserves has come through the winter and early spring storms very well. Crucial, though minimal fence monitoring continues, (with respect for social distancing), and occasional damage is mended quickly. We are excited to watch for the first season of new growth within the Preserves, although it will take a few seasons to see major improvements.

Photographers wanted: We are looking for people willing to monitor designated locations around the perimeters of the Preserves by

taking good digital photos of the interior and adjacent exterior vegetation once a month from May through September. Our goal is for a visual record of change over time. We will organize volunteers to prevent duplication, and record as much of the project as possible

If you are interested in being part of this project, please contact Mary Mayer at marym812@aol.com. or Beth Ravit at (bravit@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)

We envision adding photographers to our volunteer list and including them in all project updates.

We will begin only after local parks are reopened.