

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 closternaturecenter.org

By the pond on Ruckman Road

SEPTEMBER 2020

Fall Outdoor Science Programs

Come join Nature Marc at the Closter Nature Center for some outdoor science fun!

Our fall afternoon programs are designed to accent school system's half-days and online curricula.

We will be keeping our class sizes small and will be adhering to CDC standards.

Please dress for the weather, as we will be outside in our outdoor classroom.

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

If you have any questions please call Marc at (201) 750-2778.

September:

1st - 3rd Grade (Chose One 3-week session)

\$75/session for Members - \$100/session Non-members

Mondays, 1:30 - 3:00 14th, 21st and 28th

Tuesdays, 3:30 - 5:00 15th, 22nd and 29th

Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5:00 16th, 23rd and 30th

Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:00 17th, 24th and **October 1st**

4th - 7th Grade (Chose One 3-week session)

\$75/session for Members - \$100/session Non-members

Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00. 14th, 21st and 28th

Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:00 15th, 22nd and 29th

Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:00 16th, 23rd and 30th

Thursdays, 3:30 - 5:00 17th, 24th and **October 1st**

Naturalist's Notes:

One of my all-time favorite quotes is: "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Well, life gave us a few lemons this spring, but more families than we have ever seen came outdoors together and made the best of our situation by finding safe activities to enjoy here at the Closter Nature Center. Our three miles of trails remained open for family hikes, exercise, and dog-walking, and after a brief closure, Ruckman Pond re-opened and continues to keep people entertained, happy, and most importantly - outside!

One of our main goals at the Nature Center is to get people excited about nature and give them a place to act on that excitement. We are thrilled that so many people from our surrounding communities have come to take advantage of what we have to offer. With so much online school content, we look forward to having our fall outdoor science programs meet the needs of our community's children.

Enjoy the lemonade!

Marc Gussen, Naturalist

Cute Kid's Quotes:

Asking kids "what is a pond?" will always elicit answers that are sure to bring a smile to your face: "A fat stream that doesn't move," "A big hole with water in it," and the best one of all - "An inside-out island".

Summer Program 2020

Our summer program was a great success. I was a little hesitant about having our program *completely* outside, but it was better than I could have imagined. With all the fresh air, and having a forest and pond as our backdrop, we were able to push the science content a little further while staying safe and having more fun than ever. We kept the class sizes small and took advantage of our picnic area as an outdoor class room.

Special thanks go out to Adri, Joel, Kim and Lori from the CNC board for all of their behind-the-scenes efforts, and thanks to our helpers: Wally, Josephine, Christian, Luke, Casey, Noah, Eric, Donovan and Noel.

CALL FOR CLOSTER NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

Would you like an excuse to get outside and exercise while supporting the Closter Nature Center? The Forest and Trail Stewardship Project is looking for volunteers to maintain trails and repair the native species fence enclosures. This work can be strenuous, especially after an intense storm brings down tree limbs that block the hiking trails or create breaks in the fencing. Teams of at least two are needed to remove these blockages or repair the fences.

If you would like to hear more about this volunteer opportunity, please join us for a meeting at **2:00 PM on Saturday, September 12** at the Closter Nature Center cabin porch. **Rain date:** following the Saturday, 9/19. Mask required.

Teenagers partnering with an adult are welcome. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like more information, please contact Tom Golodnik (t.golodik@verizon.net) or Beth Ravit (bravit@scarletmail.rutgers.edu).

As the fall sets in it's the perfect time for us all to take in the beautiful fall season. This year we have the time to take in this amazing transformation. Watch for the lovely colors to unfold. Happy Autumn 🍁🍂🍃🍄

