



Dear Friends of the Closter Nature Center,

Over the past two years, our community has struggled through a global pandemic with all its associated challenges, including financial.

Family visits to the Nature Center were up dramatically! Which was a great opportunity for Closter residents and neighbors to visit our trails and ponds and experience first-hand why we work so hard to preserve our natural resources.

Education class enrollment quadrupled in enrollment during 2021-2021. And we added new programs: Pre-K Nature classes, and a Drawing by the Pond class. Our goal is to continue these and look for further opportunities to provide rich environmental education here by the Ruckman Pond.

Our hiking trails and fishing pond provided safe, peaceful, and restorative respite from the stress of Covid and busy lives. Over this past summer, volunteers built three new fishing piers to alleviate congestion by the pond and enhance visitors' experiences.

Marc Gussen and the team of Forest Stewardship Volunteers continued their third year of monitoring 30-acres of native species protected areas and made repairs needed to keep fencing intact. Volunteers have also created new trails and worked tirelessly to clear brush and invasive species.

As life returns to a "new normal", we must now respond to the last two years of increased demands on our infrastructure both natural and man-made.

\*The 20-year-old boardwalk trail system through our wetlands has many worn and damaged planks that need replacement. This \$10,000 repair project will begin shortly.

\*We are evaluating the cabin to make this well used indoor space as safe and environmentally responsible as possible, with proposed conversion from oil heating to natural gas.

\*Updating and upgrading also means investment in computers, cell phones, and tech infrastructure.

**The Closter Nature Center** asks for your help in this unprecedented moment so that we can complete these crucial projects. You can help us through your generous donations and by keeping your membership current via Community Pass, our third-party online platform.

**There are two ways to give today:** a pre-addressed donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience; you can also donate online at [www.closternaturecenter.org/donate-now](http://www.closternaturecenter.org/donate-now). If you are renewing your membership via Community Pass ([www.register.capturepoint.com/closter](http://www.register.capturepoint.com/closter)), please consider upgrading it to a higher level of support or make an additional donation.

Your generosity will allow the CNC to continue offering onsite classes, a youth summer program, upgraded infrastructure, and the stewardship needed for Closter's 136-acre natural gem.

We thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely yours,

Joel Rudin  
President, Closter Nature Center Association

