

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

JANUARY 2022

January After-School Programs

Come join Nature Marc at the Closter Nature Center for some outdoor science fun! Please dress for the weather, as we will be outside for most of the sessions. We will move into the cabin for severe weather. Masks will be required when inside the nature center building.

Mondays - Jan 10th, 17th and 24th

1st- 3rd Gr. 3:45 - 5:00pm

Tuesdays - Jan 11th, 18th and 25th

Kindergarten 3:45 - 5:00pm

Wednesdays - Jan 12th, 19th and 26th

1st - 3rd 3:45 - 5:00pm

Thursdays - Jan 13th, 20th and 27th

4th - 6th Gr. 3:45 - 5:00pm

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

\$75/ 3 week program for Members

\$90/ 3 week program Non-Members

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

Cute Kid's Quote:

While walking with some 5-year-olds, we spotted a robin's nest in a small tree. I told them who had made the nest and asked if they knew what a robin looked like.

A bundled up young lady said, "I don't know what a *robin* looks like, but I like *ramen* noodles."

A HUGE THANK -YOU!

The Closter Nature Center Board of Trustees would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many generous people who helped make our Annual Donation Appeal a success. Your contributions will support our environmental education classes and help protect the long-term health of Closter's 140-acres of forested wetlands!

We look forward to seeing you on the Closter Nature Center trails!

If you have not yet been able to contribute, it's not too late!

You can give either by going online to closternaturecenter.org, or by sending a check to P.O. Box 80, Closter NJ, 07624.

We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax – deductible donation will help support our programming, our facility and stewardship of our 136-acre tract of forested woodlands.

Thank-You for your support!

Naturalist's Notes:

There is nothing like the first real snowfall of winter, when the world turns white, quiet and still, and the jewel-covered trees glisten in the morning sun. A blue jay stands out starkly and starts a tree-born avalanche just by landing on a branch.

The light of the mid-day sun and the white covering on the ground and trees make the brightness almost blinding. Powdery snow collapses underfoot as you walk through the forest. The sight of the

trackless trails gives you the knowledge that you are the first - the first to step foot in this winter wonderland. The sound of a tree limb full of fresh snow slipping off its perch and falling to the forest floor is like the crashing of two pillows - the impact barely makes a report. Look closely at a gloved handful of this sparkling gift from the skies. Individual ice crystals can be seen interlocked with each other: each one unique, slightly different in its own way, the tiny ice crystals arranged in a radially symmetrical hexagon.

Breathe in the fresh, cold air as you walk through the forest, and witness an ephemeral masterpiece of nothing more than frozen water, yet like nothing else on Earth.

Whether you'll see your first or 500th snowfall, come out and join us on our trails this January and experience your own winter magic!

See you on the trails...Marc Gussen, Naturalist

RESTORATION OF OUR TRAILS

Volunteers Needed!

The Closter Nature Center will soon begin the long-planned restoration of the CNC's boardwalk. We would love to hear from individuals who'd be interested in participating in the somewhat physically demanding work involved. There will be planning, measuring, cutting, and transporting of black locust planks throughout the preserve's trails to replace ones that have been damaged.

The boardwalk was initially installed approximately 20 years ago and sections are decaying and need to be removed. We expect the new planks to arrive in mid- December. Installation will be weather-dependent.

If you are interested in joining this important improvement to the Nature Center's trails, please email Trustee Tom Golodik at t.golodik@verizon.net with your phone number and email contact to receive more detailed information about the work involved.