

THE CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

MAY 2022

Blowout at the Ruckman Pond

Heavy rains in early April contributed to a sudden blowout, or burst of water, out of Ruckman Pond into the Anderson Brook. The pond quickly lost about a foot of water to the underground leak along the west side of the pond underneath the Mayer Loop Trail.

Naturalist Marc Gussen noticed the pond level dropping and found the breach. A few young fishermen were recruited as volunteers to transport stones from a nearby trail to help fill the hole. Marc then waded into the pond to place the stones into the hole, but the water continued to gush out.

Marc then sent out a request for more help including tools, equipment, and bags of sand and gravel. Twenty bags of sand were purchased from the local hardware store to establish a berm further into the pond to control the flow. Jim Golodik, of Vintage Builders, donated an additional load of loose sand and stone, which was dropped behind the sandbags. The rocks, stone and sand finally stemmed the water loss. Bill Dahle, Closter Department of Public Works superintendent, examined the leak the following Monday morning and had his crew improve and add additional material to the repairs, resolving the leak.

However, the Mayer Loop Trail will remain closed until the safety of the ground above the blowout can be determined. The Nature Center has consulted with Borough Engineer Nick DiNicola of Boswell Engineering, and will consult further with riparian expert Carol Hoernlein, P.E., of the firm Site and Storm, who will offer her evaluation of safety issues or necessary remediation.

UPCOMING CLASSES and EVENTS

May After-School Programs

“May is for Mammals”

Roam our Nature Center looking for the mammals of Closter.

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.

Mondays - May 9th, 16th and 23rd
1st- 3rd Grades.... 3:45 - 5:00pm
Tuesdays - May 10th, 17th and 24th
PK 4-Kindergarten.....3:45 - 5:00pm
Wednesdays - May 11th, 18th and 25th
1st - 3rd Grades....3:45 - 5:00pm
Thursdays - May 12th, 19th and 26th
4th - 6th Grades...3:45 - 5:00pm

\$75/ 3 week program for Members - \$90/ 3 week program Non-members

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

ART BY THE POND IN MAY

A chance to appreciate and illustrate the natural world around us!

May: “Painting” Thursdays, 4/ 12, 19, and 26th , from 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Led by **Francesca Costa**, the class may walk around the pond, taking note of animals, plants, and the various textures of the items we find.

Conversation may focus on shapes, terms such as “symmetry” and “asymmetry”, and what makes a healthy pond. Following the walk, students may make their own art applying what was learned. **Children grades 5-7.**

Art materials provided...Cost: \$60 for members, \$75 for Non-Members

MRS. WONDERWHY

In May and June

Spring has Sprung and Mrs. Wonderwhy’s Nature Fun Fridays are back with all new age-appropriate nature classes! Toddlers 2 and up, and preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to join Mrs. Wonderwhy at our outdoor classroom in April for three fun and wonder-filled Fridays. Wee ones will learn about the miracles of the season

through sensory play, nature hikes, songs, games, arts and crafts including “mud prints,” scavenger hunts and live animal introductions.

May 6, 13 and 20th (severe weather date 27th)

2 - 3 yr. olds. 2:00 - 3:00

3 - 4 yr. olds. 3:45 - 4:45

June 3, 10 and 17th (severe weather date 24th)

2 - 3 yr. olds. 2:00 - 3:00

3 - 4 yr. olds. 3:45 - 4:45

We'll be outside for the entire hour, so please dress children appropriately including boots for possible muddy trails. In case of rain, we'll have fun in the classroom but will postpone class in case of severe weather. Caregivers are required to remain with children and are encouraged to join in on the fun!

Cost: \$20 members / \$25 non-members

THE SOUP SUPPER IS BACK!

Sunday, May 1st from 5-7 PM

At the cabin by the pond....154 Ruckman Road

One of our most popular events, the Soup Supper has brought members and friends together for more than 40 years. A great variety of homemade soups and breads is our speciality. You get a bowl and spoon to sample as many soups as you like—plus tasty breads from **Balthazar Bakery and Buon Gusto!**

**SOUPS DONATED BY CNC MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND LOCAL CHEFS
MADELINE'S PETIT PARIS, ISABELLA'S CLOSTER #1, ZENDIGGI AND
LA PROMENADE**

Arrive by 6:30 for best selection.

The charge is \$15 for adults, and \$5 for children under 10. Pay at the door.

Also available, for only \$5 extra: our wonderful ceramic, re-usable soup mugs, with the CNC logo. All proceeds go to support the Nature Center's education programs.

To contribute much appreciated soups, please call **Adri Turrell** at **(201) 768-3550**. Leave a clear message with type of soup, your name and phone number. **Very Important:** Please bring hot soups **HOT!** (Due to limited space, we can't reheat your delicious soups).

CNC ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 10th - 7 PM AT THE CABIN

YOU are welcome to attend our Annual Meeting!
Come learn about the CNC's recent accomplishments, upcoming challenges, plans for the future, and maybe even some ways to volunteer with us.

Naturalist's Notes:

Spring brings us so many wonderful things to experience, and ways to enjoy and witness the seasonal cycle of rebirth.

Flowers and birds grace our nature experience with an astounding array of colors. We see snow white black locust blossoms, purple violets and tiny spring beauty flowers tinged with slivers of pink.

There are the lustrous ebonomies of red winged black birds, vibrant yellows of gold finches and burnt orange robins. So many hues that a rainbow would be envious, yet what most catches my eyes are the thousand shades of green.

We have names for so many colors, and variations of each; a dozen synonyms for red, and as many for blue, but we clearly have gotten nowhere describing nature's dominant spring pigment - Green. Not only do the shades vary, but so do the intensity, the depth, and the sheen. Minute differences become conspicuous once we tune our visual perception to the diversity of this one simple pigment. Once the green world is embraced it becomes clear that every plant has its own unique and magical cast.

As our relationships with all things grow, we realize that it is really the little things, the simple things that matter. A walk in the forest in May can open our hearts and minds to such a myriad of sublime sights, sounds, smells and emotions that it can be hard to concentrate on the most glorious of spring gifts from nature - the thousand shades of green.
See you on the trails...Marc Gussen, Naturalist

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A big round of applause to the students in Hillside Elementary School class 3S! The students raised money as part of an economics project and decided to donate \$100 to the Closter Nature Center!!”

New Benefit for Closter Nature Center members

10% discount at Wild Birds Unlimited in Paramus, NJ [Wild Birds Unlimited - Nature Shop \(wbu.com\)](http://www.wildbirdsunlimited.com)



EXTRA—LOOKING AHEAD:

CNC MONTH BY MONTH:

MAY 1st, 5 to 7 PM...SOUP SUPPER

MAY 7TH ...FISHING DAY

MAY 10TH. ANNUAL MEETING at 7:00 PM Topic: "Protecting our Forest: Stewardship Today"

MAY 12, 19 AND 26... ART BY THE POND

MAY 6, 13, 20 ...MRS WONDERWHY

JUNE 4...POND CELEBRATION... 1-4 PM

JUNE 3, 10 AND 17...MRS WONDERWHY

JUNE 27 to August 5...CNC Summer program!

June After-School Programs

"Pond Life"

Explore our Nature Center's ponds, and learn about the creatures that live there!
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.

Tuesdays - June 7th, 14th and 21st
PK-Kindergarten....3:45 - 5:00pm

Wednesdays - June 8th, 15th and 22nd
1st - 3rd Grades.... 3:45 - 5:00pm

Thursdays - June 9th, 16th and 23rd
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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 Naturalist Marc Gussen at (201) 750-2778 or email admin@closternaturecenter.org.

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER SUMMER PROGRAM 2022

Ready to join friends outdoors this summer? Register now.

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.

We offer 2-hour classes for children ages 4-6. And 3-hour classes for ages 7-11 and 12-15. Both morning and afternoon programs are offered each week.

****REGISTER ONLINE at <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>****

FEES for the two hour program (Ages 4- 6):

\$80.00 per session (Monday – Thursday) for students whose families are members of the Closter Nature Center.

\$100.00 per session (Monday – Thursday) for non-members.

FEES for the three hour program (Ages 7- 11 and 12- 15):

\$120.00 per session (Monday – Thursday) for students whose families are members of the Closter Nature Center.

\$150.00 per session (Monday – Thursday) for non-members.

Annual Family Membership dues are \$50 and can be purchased on Community Pass BEFORE you register. We depend on the support of our membership!

****Join now and save! ****

Paying by check? You can still register online and mail a check to:
Closter Nature Center, PO Box 80, Closter, NJ 07624.

If you need a scholarship, please contact: CNCsummer@closternaturecenter.com

We are an independent, non-profit association dependent upon memberships and donations to maintain our facilities and programs. Please consider joining us.
Visit our website for more information: www.closternaturecenter.org