

THE CLOSTER NATURE CENTER
P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 closternaturecenter.org
By the pond on Ruckman Road
October, 2022

October Activities and Events:

October After-School Nature Programs **“Bones, Bats, and Black Cats”**

Nature with a Halloween theme; nocturnal animals and skeletons.
Come join Nature Marc at the Closter Nature Center for some outdoor science fun!

Tuesdays - October 11th, 18th and 25th

PreK4 - K - 3:45 - 5:00pm

Wednesdays - October 12th, 19th and 26th

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

Thursdays - October - 13th, 20th and 27th

4th - 6th grade - 3:45 - 5:00pm

\$75/ 3-week program for Members - \$90/ 3 week program Non-members
For details and dates check our website calendar!

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 programdirector@closternaturecenter.org

Cute Kid's Quote:

During a class about turtles I was explaining to some 1st graders about exoskeletons, and that we humans have our bones on the *inside*. One smart young boy assured me that he had bones on the *outside* and demonstrated that fact by opening his mouth and flashing his pearly whites!

**Education programming currently supported with a generous grant
from Orange & Rockland.**

MRS WONDERWHY in October

Fun Nature Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers and Caregivers!

"Leaves and Trees and Autumn Breeze" - Caregivers and preschoolers enjoy learning about the glorious changes of the fall season by making our own kites and beautiful leaf crafts, singing and playing "Seed Sock-Hop" on our Itty-Bitty Nature Hikes, Squishing pumpkin "guts," making caramel apple snacks, dressing up as spiders and so much more! Toddler/Preschool ages 2-4 years. Caregivers are required to remain with children and are encouraged to join in on the fun!

Fridays, October 14, 21 and 28th
Two Sessions for toddlers/preschoolers ages 2-4 years
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
or
3:45 - 4:45 PM

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.
Cost: \$60 Members/ \$75 Non-Members

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NEW! "Caregiver and Me: "Nature Discovery for 1-2 year olds **Friday, October 28th 10:00am to 10:45 am**

"Caregiver and Me Nature Discovery with Mrs. Wonderwhy" at The Closter Nature Center will introduce your toddler to the splendor of the season through imaginative songs and motion, and outdoor sensory activities. A wonderful way to socialize! Toddlers and caregivers need only to bring their smiles while Mrs. Wonderwhy supplies the fun!

Cost: \$20
There will be limited space for this program.
Registration in advance is recommended to secure your spot. Drop-ins are also welcome.

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Naturalist's Notes:

As temperatures start to drop and autumn rains soak the soil, the forest fungi's last-ditch effort to reproduce brings us a marvelous display of mushrooms. While there are many fungi that produce mushrooms in the spring and summer, fall, and October especially is prime time for these amazing

organisms. The importance of forest fungi cannot be overstated. As decomposers, they recycle the nutrients trapped in dead trees and offer up vital soil constituents to the next generation.

Many fungi have mutualistic relationships with trees that help the forest to flourish and enhance the ability of many species of trees to cope with drought and get crucial nutrients. While these are just some of the ecologically essential roles of fungi, their place in the kitchen is what really gets my saliva flowing! Most mushrooms are inedible due to bad taste, toxins or woody texture but there are about twenty different mushrooms found around here that I look forward to bringing home and cooking.

Store bought mushrooms like portobellos and white button mushrooms are excellent on the table but they can't hold a candle to some of their wild cousins. Some are common and have great names like "chicken of the woods" and the "beefsteak" mushroom, while others are more obscure, like my absolute favorite: *Lactarius hygrophoroides*.

Picking and eating wild mushrooms is not a game of chance where you flirt with death just for your dinner. Being able to positively identify what you find is not as hard as you might think. This fall, keep your eyes open for these tasty fall treats and feel free to attend my mushroom class and learn more about Nature's bounty.

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

Adult Program: "The Wonderful World of Fungi" **Thursday, Oct 13th 7:30 PM**

Naturalist Marc Gussen presents "A look at mushrooms in the forest and in the kitchen". You will not want to miss this fascinating (and delicious) program!

\$5 for Members/ \$10 for Non-Members

Closter Nature Center members receive discounts on classes, events, and other incentives. Join or renew your membership today at

<https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>

CNC MONTH BY MONTH

Additional adult and family programs are in the works for the fall! Check out our website www.closternaturecenter.org and join our mailing list (email programdirector@closternaturecenter.org) to stay up to date.

OCTOBER

October 13, 7:30 PM Wonderful World of Fungi **Adult Program**

October 14, 21, 28 Mrs. Wonderwhy

October 28, 10- 10:45 AM "Caregiver and Me"

NOVEMBER

November 4, 11, 18 Mrs. Wonderwhy

November 10 Teachers' Convention Break Program

November 18, 10- 10:45 AM "Caregiver and Me"

November 20, 3 PM “The First Thanksgiving” **Family Program**

DECEMBER

December - Date TBD 7 PM “Poison Ivy and Asian Art” **Adult Program**

December 26- 29 Holiday Break Nature Program