

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 [closternaturecenter.org](http://closternaturecenter.org)

By the pond on Ruckman Road

SEPTEMBER, 2022

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

### After-School Nature Program

**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.

**Tuesdays** - Sept. 13th, 20th, 27th

Pre-K 4 -Kindergarten....3:45 - 5:00pm

**Wednesdays** - Sept. 14th, 21st, 28th

1st - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades.... 3:45 - 5:00pm

**Thursdays** - Sept 15th, 22nd, 29th

4th to 6th Grades.... 3:45 pm to 5:00pm

**Cost: \$75 for Members / \$90 Non-members**

To register please go to: <https://register.communitypass.net/closter> ; you will be taken to 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](mailto:programdirector@closternaturecenter.org)

## MRS. WONDERWHY

**"See You in September"** Caregivers and preschoolers are invited to join Mrs. Wonderwhy at our outdoor classroom in the woods where we'll use our sense of sight to explore the living creatures of the Closter Nature Center and also learn how different animals use their very special eyes. Together we'll make our own Water-Scopes and Owl Crafts and use real

magnifying glasses. We'll play sight games like "Pin-the-Tail on the Fox" and "Find the Food", including fun "Search Games" on our Itty-Bitty Nature Hikes.

**Toddler/Preschool ages 2-4 years.**

**September 9th, 16th and 23rd**

2 - 3 yr. olds. 1:00 - 2:00

3 - 4 yr. olds. 4:00 - 5:00

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: \$60 members / \$75 non-members**

To register please go to: <https://register.communitypass.net/closter> ; you will be taken to our online registration and payment system.

If you have any questions please email [programdirector@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:programdirector@closternaturecenter.org)

## **TRAIL VOLUNTEERS OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, September 10th, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM**  
**WE NEED YOU!**

The Closter Nature Center needs to substantially expand its team of volunteers for trail maintenance and invasive species removal. **We are looking for physically able volunteers at different levels of skill and time commitment** to join in this important work for the sustainability of our 130-acre forest and 3 miles of hiking trails.

**The Open House** event will describe projects already underway, what different types of work are involved, and let you experience some of the work first hand. **YOU** could be a highly valued member of this very important team!

**Come check us out on Sept. 10th, and bring a friend!** Also bring work gloves and wear trail appropriate shoes or boots.

Use the following link to register for this free event:

<https://closternaturecenter.org/?event=trail-volunteer-open-house>

## Spotted Lanternfly Presentation

Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7pm (Zoom)

Paul Kurtz from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will be presenting a program on Spotted Lanternfly. This presentation will cover things that residents should know, and what they can do if they see Spotted Lanternflies on their property.

Presentation is hosted by Closter Nature Center, Closter Environmental Commission, and Closter Public Library.

**Cost: Free**

**Please register on our events page, the zoom link will be emailed to you:**

<https://closternaturecenter.org/?event=spotted-lanternfly-zoom-program>

If you have any questions please email [programdirector@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:programdirector@closternaturecenter.org)

### Naturalist's Notes:

In our attempts to maintain this wonderful slice of nature just minutes from New York City, in the most densely populated state, we are facing numerous threats to forest diversity and over all forest health. Many things are changing: climate, hydrology, white tailed deer populations, non-native invasive species, and the loss of certain tree species due to disease and accidentally introduced insects. Change is inescapable. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said "Change is the only constant in life". The board of trustees is taking our forest stewardship plans very seriously, taking into account years of data concerning our own wonderful parcel of land, and also the successes and failures of others nearby and their attempts at forest management.

The more we dive into the inevitability that we must act, and that the old school laissez-faire attitude "nature will take care of itself " doesn't cut it any more, we realize that we have to pick our battles. As there are many big picture issues on which we have stances but can have very little impact, we have chosen a few key issues: maintaining forest diversity through management of non-native invasive species, and the replanting of native trees and shrubs crucial to a well-balanced and healthy forest habitat.

The pressures are here, and their effects on our forest are happening fast. Changes are unavoidable, but there are things to be done, spilt milk to clean up, and a new view of our role in the ecosystems we depend on to be developed. I agree with Heraclitus and cherish the wisdom in his eminent quote, but would like to extend his proverb to "Change of our attitudes, and action based on available science is the only constant that will lead to sustainability of life on earth".

**Anyone interested in getting involved and joining our attempts to deal with these and future issues can contact us through our website: [closternaturecenter.org](http://closternaturecenter.org)**

### **Cute Kids Quote**

During our summer program introductions we go around the room and the kids say their name and a fun fact, like a place that they someday want to visit, or what they want to be when they grow up. One morning when we were sharing our names and our favorite animal, one sweet 8-year-old said that she did not have a favorite because, "she loves them all".

### **Thank You to Our Summer Program Volunteers!**

Once again, we had a wonderful summer program this year, in big part thanks to our volunteers! We really appreciate all of their hard work. A big thank you goes out to Christian, Victoria, Jared, Joseph, TJ, Elizabeth, Lior, Sophie, Jack, Neomi, Daniel Y., Jonathan, Alison, Aaron, Adam, Daniel M., David, Dorian, Nadav, and Willow.

Thank you to our Summer Program Assistant, Alexa, for doing such an awesome job!

We look forward to another great year.