

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

NOVEMBER 2022

Activities and Events: November and December 2022

FALL FAMILY AND ADULT PROGRAMS!

Join Us for Wine Tasting at Gary's — Wednesday, November 9th at 7pm

All Donations Directly Benefit Closter Nature Center. The event is hosted by Closter's own:

Gary's Wine & Marketplace. Space is limited, \$30 suggested donation, participants must be 21 years of age. Space is limited!

RSVP required! <https://closternaturecenter.org/?event=wine-tasting-at-garys>

“The First Thanksgiving” Sunday, Nov 20th 3:00pm
(Family Program)

The history of our Thanksgiving staples: corn, turkey, squash and America's favorite holiday-Thanksgiving! *Space is limited, Pre-registration will be required.* **\$5 members/ \$10 non-members**

“Poison Ivy and Asian Art” Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00pm
(Adult Program)

The habitats of poison ivy and related plants, the allergy response, the active agent (urushiol), a mechanism of how urushiol causes the allergy; the long-standing use of urushiol as the basis of the art of lacquering (in China and Japan), and the chemistry of lacquering.

\$10 for Members/ \$15 for Non-Members

Closter Nature Center members receive discounts on classes, events, and other incentives. Join or renew your membership today <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>.

November After-School Nature Programs

“Native American Survival Skills”

Learn how Native Americans used nature to survive and thrive. Join Nature Marc to find out about making rope, clothes, and fire!

Mondays – November 7th, 14th and 28th
4th -6th grade - 3:45 - 5:00pm

Tuesdays - November 8th, 15th and 29th

Pre-K4-K - 3:45 - 5:00pm

Wednesdays - November 9th, 16th and 30th

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

\$75/ 3-week program for Members - \$90/ 3-week program for 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 Kids Quote

Last week while out on a hike with some Kindergarteners, I heard one of the kids refer to the Nature Center building as "Nature Marc's Barn!"
-Marc Gussen

Teachers' Convention Break Program

Need something fun and educational for the kids to do during the Teachers' Convention break?
Come join Nature Marc for a day of nature exploration and discovery here at the Closter Nature Center!

Thursday, November 10th

9:00 am - 10:30 am 1st - 3rd grade

11:00 am - 12:00 pm PreK4- K

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm 4th - 6th grade

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm 1st - 3rd grade

PreK4-Kindergarten \$20 for Members / \$25 Non-members

1st to 6th Grade \$25 Members / \$30 Non-members

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MRS WONDERWHY in November

Fun Nature Classes for Toddlers, Preschoolers and Caregivers!

"Who Sleeps, Who Stays and Who Flies Away?" Exploring Hibernation, Adaptation and Migration - Caregivers and preschoolers will learn how our Nature Center animals survive outside all winter without any help from humans. We'll set-up "camp" and make Squirrely-Whirly Munch and Bird Feeders to help the animals who stay around all winter and have "Migration Races" and games. Together we'll create beautiful Turkey crafts using real feathers and even search for Tom the Turkey on our Itty-Bitty Nature Hikes. Caregivers are required to remain with children and are encouraged to join in on the fun! 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.

Fridays, November 4th, 11th and 18th

Two options available for toddlers/preschoolers ages 2-4 years

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

or

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Cost: \$60/ 3-week program for Members - \$75/ 3-week program Non-members

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Education programming currently supported with a generous grant from Rockland Electric.

Naturalist's Notes:

As a diehard fisherman and forager, my year is not broken up by months, dates or even holidays, but the seasons for certain fish and other culinary delights that nature offers. November means a lot to me, as it is the tail end of mushroom season and the beginning of clam season.

Clamming begins in New Jersey on November first and runs through to the end of April. At least twice a month during winter clam season I make a trek to the shore to collect clams. While there are many types of clams in the northeast, there are two that I am after: hard-shell clams and soft-shelled clams. Hard clams are often referred to by a variety of names based on the clam's size. Top neck clams are small and often eaten raw on the half shell; the largest ones are called chowders and are used in soups, and as the main ingredient in stuffed clams. The real prize to be found on the clam grounds are soft shelled clams, which are often called Ipswich clams or steamers. Steamed until they open and dipped in melted butter...there is not much that's better!

The eating part is great, but what makes them even better is how they are collected. It starts by donning a pair of waders and walking out through the water onto the sandy mud flats of the Navesink river. Once a promising area is found the fun begins: a long-handled rake with an attached steel basket is dragged through sand, and once a hard shelled clam is hit by the rake's tines you feel it through the handle. Then you scoop with your rake until the clam is in the basket. The collecting of my favorite, soft shell clams is a little more down and dirty...literally.

For these tasty nuggets you get down on your hands and knees in the mud and dig. Once you get about a foot down, you slowly enlarge your hole by feeling along the edge of the hole with gloved hands. When you feel a clam, you carefully extract it from the sand and put it your bucket. Howling wind, freezing rain and a chilly incoming tide force you to dig fast and really appreciate the fruits of your labors.

What more could you want: exercise, beautiful scenery and dinner?!

See ya on the flats! Marc Gussen, Naturalist

****New** The Closter Nature Center "Holiday Shop"**
is now open for business!

Click or go here —>> <https://5kount.com/collections/closter-nature-center> <<— and wear your support! A portion of all sales will directly benefit the Closter Nature Center. Online only.

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.

NOVEMBER

November 4, 11, 18 Ages 2-4 Mrs. Wonderwhy

Week of November 7th After-School Nature Program starts

November 9, at 7PM **Wine Tasting** at Gary's Wine and Marketplace...CNC Benefit!

November 10 Teachers' Convention Break Program- Naturalist Marc

November 20, 3 PM "The First Thanksgiving" **Family Program**- Naturalist Marc

DECEMBER

Week of December 5th After-School Nature Program starts

December – 7 at 7 PM "Poison Ivy and Asian Art" **Adult Program**

December 26- 29 Holiday Break Nature Program- Naturalist Marc

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