

Dear Friends of the Closter Nature Center,

How do you save a forest for future generations? That is the question we have been asking ourselves this year. It is not dramatic to say that the Closter Nature Center's 136-acres of forested wetlands are under assault from a variety of invasive plants, animals, and climate change.

In addition to continuing stress from deer browse, we are seeing **The Emerald Ash Borer**, **Beech leaf disease**, and the **Spotted Lanternfly** pose new risks that threaten the long-term health of the forest. To mitigate these threats, tree removal and replacement has become an important ongoing project.

Addressing these issues today and into the future is straining our resources. But that has not stopped us from making great strides forward!

*After-school programs, pre-school classes and community programs continue to thrive and grow.

*We welcomed three new Trustees this year: **Sarah Ritter Chung, Danny Fang and Fraser Wilsher.**

*We have also welcomed a new Program Director, **Aubrie George.** Aubrie and our Naturalist, **Marc Gussen** have been working together to encourage and grow our wonderful cadre of hardworking volunteers and generous donors. **Orange & Rockland** and **Target** are now proud sponsors of new and ongoing programs at the Nature Center.

* **Volunteers** allow us to maintain over 3 miles of trails, including bridges that allow walkers to cross the many streams that flow through our forest.

* The 20-year-old bridge on the trail that connects Ruckman Road and Irving Ave. is unsound and was closed off by the Borough. The CNC has taken on the challenge of replacing this unsafe structure with a new pedestrian walking footbridge. Partnering with the **Borough of Closter** and the **NY/NJ Trail Conference**, we plan to build a new bridge and reopen a very popular trail section in the coming year.

The Closter Nature Center asks for your help so that we can complete these crucial projects. You can help us through with your generous donations and by keeping your membership current via Community Pass, our third-party online platform.

There are two ways to give today: a pre-addressed donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience; you can also donate online at www.closternaturecenter.org/donate-now. If you are renewing your membership via Community Pass (www.register.capturepoint.com/closter), please consider upgrading it to a higher level of support or make an additional donation.

Your generosity will allow the CNC to continue offering onsite classes, a youth summer program, staffing, and the stewardship needed for Closter's 136-acre natural gem.

We thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely yours,

Closter Nature Center Association Trustees