

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

FEBRUARY, 2023

FEBRUARY FAMILY AND ADULT PROGRAMS

Winter Hike Sunday, Feb. 12th, 1:00 PM

(Family Program)

Come enjoy an afternoon hike at the Closter Nature Center. Weather permitting, we will have a fire and roast marshmallows. *Space is limited, Pre-registration will be required. \$5 members/ \$10 non-members*

February After-School Nature Programs

"Rocks, Minerals and Fossils"

Learn about the amazing world of geology and the ancient creatures that we know about from studying fossils. Come join Nature Marc at the Closter Nature Center for some outdoor science fun!

Tuesdays – January 31st, February 7th, and 14th

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

Wednesdays - February 1st, 8th, and 15th

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

Thursdays - February 2nd, 9th, and 16th

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

\$75/ 3-week program for Members - \$90/ 3-week program for 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.

If you have any questions, please call 201-800-2008, or email

programdirector@closternaturecenter.org

Cute Kid's Quote: With a room full of Kindergarteners I brought my Lego collection; everyone laughed except one boy who turned to the boy next to him and said "grown-ups don't have Legos, they drink coffee and go to jobs!" Marc Gussen

Winter Break Nature Program

Need something fun and educational for the kids to do during the winter break?
We'll have four days of nature exploration and discovery here at the
Closter Nature Center

February 20th - 23rd

9:00 am - 10:30 am 1st - 3rd grade
11:00 am - 12:00 pm PreK 4- Kindergarten
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm 4th - 6th grade
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm 1st - 3rd grade

PreK 4- Kindergarten \$80 for Members / \$100 Non-members
1st to 6th Grade \$100 Members / \$120 Non-members

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**Educational programming is currently supported with a generous grant from
Target**

Naturalist's Notes:

This warm winter has brought quite few visitors to the nature center: people, dogs and an amazing array of waterfowl.

With the pond unfrozen, we have seen quite a few of the usual suspects: Canada geese, Mallard ducks, blue herons, osprey and one of my favorites, the hooded merganser. These duck cousins hunt for fish by swimming along on the surface of the pond, and with a quick forward roll of their head and bodies they submerge. With webbed feet typical of water fowl, and their legs positioned more towards the rear of their bodies, they are excellent swimmers but awkward walkers. Once under water, they actively chase small fish like shiners, bluegills and large mouthed bass, and amphibians like frogs. They can hold their breaths during the hunt for as long as two minutes. Unlike typical ducks (like mallards with a wide

flattened beak), they are armed with a narrow, serrated beak with a curved tip that is perfect for seizing their prey.

After catching a fish, the mergansers return to the surface where they carefully flip the fish in the air to ensure that it's positioned in their beaks head first, which allows them to swallow their food in one quick gulp.

The "hooded" part of their name comes from the laterally flattened crest of feathers on their heads. Females sport a reddish-brown crest, while the males have stunning black plumage on their heads with a vibrant white center.

If the rest of the winter stays warm and the pond does not freeze, there is good chance that our fine feathered fish eaters will stick around and provide a great opportunity for bird watchers and nature lovers to experience these amazing creatures first hand.

CNC MONTH BY MONTH

Additional adult and family programs are in the works for WINTER!

Check out our website www.closternaturecenter.org

and join our mailing list (email programdirector@closternaturecenter.org, to stay up to date.

February

January 31st- February After-School Nature Program begins

February 12th, 2:00 PM- Winter Hike- Naturalist, Marc Gussen

February 20th- 23rd- Winter Break Program- Naturalist, Marc Gussen

March

March 7th-After-School Nature Program Begins

March 23rd, 7:00 PM- Our Forest in Crisis-Forest Ecology Lecture (Part 1) –
Naturalist, Marc Gussen

March 26th, 2:00 PM- Our Forest in Crisis Hike (Part 2) - Naturalist Marc Gussen

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