

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

JANUARY 2023

## January Activities and Events:

**“Primitive Technology ” Thursday, Jan 19th, 7:00 PM**

**(Adult Program – suitable for interested teens with an adult)**

Come learn about the skills of our ancestors, and how technology began. Fire making, rope making and stone tools will be some topics covered and demonstrated. We will be inside the cabin.

You will not want to miss this fascinating program!

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

**Naturalist, Marc Gussen**

**“Closter History Hike” at CNC: Sunday January 29th, 1:00 PM**

Public Historian Francesca Costa will lead a hike touching on the history of Closter, and how land stewardship was as crucial in the past as it is now. Subjects include Blanch Ave, Closter City, and the families who called this area home.

We will meet at the CNC Cabin at 1pm on Sunday, January 29th.

Admission free, donations graciously accepted.

## JANUARY NATURE PROGRAMS:

### Winter, Winter Everywhere!

We will talk about hibernation, migration, and how animals survive the winter. Come join Nature Marc at the Closter Nature Center for some outdoor science fun!

**Tuesdays** - January 10th, 17th and 24th

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

**Wednesdays** - January 11th, 18th and 25th

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

**Thursdays** - January 12th, 19th and 26th

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.nt/Closter>, and you will be taken to Community Pass, our

online registration and payment system. If you have any questions, please email [programdirector@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:programdirector@closternaturecenter.org) or call 201-800-2008.

## **Educational Programming is currently supported with a generous grant from TARGET**

### **CUTE KID'S QUOTE:**

I was with a group of kindergarteners and we were talking about animals and veterinarians.

I told them that sometimes I bring animals to the vet when they are not even sick. I asked why and a young girl belted out, "For a ketchup!"

### **Naturalist's Notes:**

Frigid air on your skin and in your lungs while your heart rate picks up speed and your muscles warm, replacing the biting cold with a balmy, oxygen-rich flow of blood, is just part of the magic, and why winter walks can be invigorating to the point of euphoria. While most are ensconced at home, hiding from the winter and enabling cabin fever, it is quite possible to have the forest to yourself, sharing it only with your thoughts, your perceptions and your dreams.

The unforgiving, desolate aura of cold weather and wintry bleakness brings with it a form of sensory deprivation bordering on asceticism, which forces us to find the beauty and enchantment that is all too often and easily overlooked. With a backdrop of white and gray and the low angle of the winter sun, shades of bronze and ochre that would be imperceptible otherwise can be found in the silhouette of a large and healthy white tail buck.

At first glance tree bark might seem dull and uninspiring, but with the right light and an eye for beauty, a profusion of inconspicuous hues can be acknowledged and experienced. Silvery, smokey, sepia and chocolate tones abound in the forest, but are too often hidden by green or obscured by our inability to unlock their warmth and charm. The prismatic effect of snow and ice can take uninspiring white light and turn the forest in to an amalgam of innumerable microscopic kaleidoscopes.

Once the right clothes are donned and your mindset is adjusted to take in what the season offers, come to forest and bask in the beauty of nature in winter.

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

## **CNC MONTH BY MONTH**

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

Check out our website [www.closternaturecenter.org](http://www.closternaturecenter.org)

and join our mailing list (email [programdirector@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:programdirector@closternaturecenter.org)) to stay up to date.

## **January**

January 10th- After-School Nature Program begins

January 19th, 7:00 PM Primitive Technology- Naturalist, Marc Gussen

January 29th, 1:00 PM Local History Hike at CNC - CNC Docent, Francesca Costa

## **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>**