

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624

closternaturecenter.org

By the pond on Ruckman Road

MARCH, 2023

MARCH FAMILY AND ADULT PROGRAMS:

Closter Nature Center Forest Ecology Lecture and Hike:

"Our Forest in Crisis" a Two-Day Program

Lecture: Thursday, March 23RD, 7 PM **Hike:** Sunday, March 26th, 2 PM

This two-part program with Naturalist Marc Gussen, will expose participants to the many pressures our forest faces, and a course of action for protecting the woods we love. Deer overpopulation, the sudden loss of our beech and ash trees, the rise of many non-native invasive species and global climate change, have combined to create a "perfect ecological storm".

Part One: Lecture: Come learn where we are, where we are headed and what we can do to preserve this precious resource. **Admission: \$10 for Members/ \$15 for Non-Members**

Part Two: Forest Ecology Hike: Sunday, March 26th at 2:00 PM

Admission: Donations happily accepted!

March After-School Nature Programs **"Volcanoes!"**

Learn what makes a volcano erupt! Join Nature Marc at the CNC for some outdoor science fun!

Tuesdays – March 7th, 14th, and 21st

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

Wednesdays -March 8th, 15th, and 22nd

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

Thursdays - March 9th, 16th and 23rd

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

\$75/ Members - \$90/ Non-members

Register on Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>.

Questions email programdirector@closternaturecenter.org or call 201-800-2008.

After-School Nature Program sponsored by: **TARGET**

Cute Kid's Quote:

At the end of a visit with some kindergarteners I took out my mandolin for a song.

I asked the kids If they knew what instrument it was.

One girl shot her hand up, paused and then said "v-i-o-l-e-l-e !?!?"

Naturalist's Notes:

When winter comes to an end and spring rains fill the nature center's vernal pools, wood frogs awake and look for love. While there are quite a few frogs that call our ponds home and also a few that live in our trees, the wood frog, *Rana Sylvatica*, lives on the forest floor. In March the males look for females in our forest's many vernal pools. These pools are nothing more than shallow depressions in the forest soil that fill with water and offer breeding sites for wood frogs. Most frogs breed in ponds where there is little danger of their habitat drying up, but there are many predators that could feed on the tadpoles. The wood frogs use the vernal pools where there are few predators, but it is a race against the clock, as they have to complete metamorphosis before the pools dry up. Once the eggs are laid it takes about two months for the tadpoles to turn into frogs. When metamorphosis is complete the frogs will spend the rest of their lives out of the water...until next March when the process starts all over again!

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

CNC MONTH BY MONTH

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

April

Soup Supper...Sunday, April 30th, 5-7 pm

Spring Break Science Programs: April 10th- 13th

Daily one and a half hour classes for ages 4- 10

May:

Annual meeting...May 9, 7:30 PM

June:

Pond Celebration! Saturday, June 3rd