

# THE CLOSTER NATURE CENTER

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

## AUTUMN 2023

### Activities and Events: October, November, and December 2023

#### Come join Nature Marc for a Season of Nature Fun and Science

We will follow the natural world as summer turns to fall.

Animals, hikes and exploration will all be a part of this wonderful autumn after-school program.

**Depending on availability, 4-week session enrollment is ongoing!**

Member Fee: \$100 for 4-weeks

Non-Member fee: \$120 for 4-weeks

#### 4 Week Session Dates:



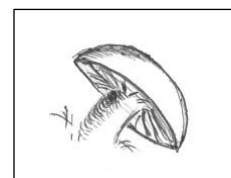
Oct. 10, 11, 12  
Oct. 17, 18, 19  
Oct. 24, 25, 26  
Oct .31, Nov 1, 2

Nov. 14, 15, 16  
Nov. 28, 29, 30  
Dec. 5, 6, 7  
Dec. 12, 13, 14

For more information, check our website at [www.closternaturecenter.org](http://www.closternaturecenter.org) or sign-up directly on Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/closter>.

#### “Mushrooms in Nature and in the Kitchen”

Thursday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, at the CNC cabin!  
(Adult Program – suitable for interested teens with an adult)



Naturalist Marc Gussen presents “A look at mushrooms in the forest and in the kitchen”. You will not want to miss this fascinating (and delicious) program!  
**\$15 for Members/ \$20 for Non-Members**

## TEACHER'S 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 9th**

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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### **“Closter History Hike” at CNC: Sunday, November 12th, 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, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Admission free, donations graciously accepted.

## **December Holiday Break Nature Program**

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

### **Tuesday, December 26th – Friday, December 29th**

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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## Naturalist's Notes:

When summer turns to fall the activity level of forest creatures ramps up as animals ready for winter. Now is the time for animals to pack on the pounds by gorging on fruits, leaves, and especially nuts. Acorns, the seeds of oak trees, are the most important food in the forest. Deer, turkeys, squirrels, bears, raccoons - the list could go on and on - as a matter of fact there are very few animals that don't eat acorns.

In our forest we have hundreds of mature oaks providing massive amounts of food for our forest animals, but due to over-grazing of oak seedlings and saplings by deer, and competition with invasive plants we see very few young oaks ready to replace the older oaks. Over the years we have seen the loss of the elms, chestnuts, and ash trees, but nothing would be more detrimental to the fauna of our forests than the loss of the oaks.

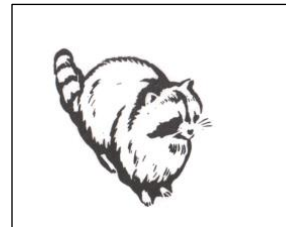
At the **Closter Nature Center** we are hard at work protecting our forest and promoting plant and animal diversity. We are currently looking for volunteers and donations to help us with these projects. **Visit our web site** for info about how to get involved and to learn about what we are doing to save this amazing place. See you on the trails, Marc Gussen, Naturalist

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## CNC MONTH BY MONTH:

### OCTOBER:

Mushrooms in Nature and in the Kitchen"  
Thursday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, at the CNC cabin!



### NOVEMBER:

Teacher's Convention Break Program, Thursday, 11/9  
**"Closter History Hike" at CNC: Sunday, November 12th, 1:00 PM**  
Public Historian Francesca Costa will lead a hike touching on the history of Closter.

### DECEMBER:

Holiday Break Program  
December 26, 27, 28, 29

## Cute Kid's Quote:

While out on a hike with 4-6 year-olds this summer I told the kids that I was getting cranky and that I needed a piggy back ride for the rest of the hike. One little guy responded with "I would carry you but I'll get a hernia!" Marc Gussen

