

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

NOVEMBER 2023

## NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

### 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.

**Tuesdays-** Pre-K4 and Kindergarten

**Wednesdays-** 1st- 3rd grades

**Thursdays-** 4th-6th grades

**Time:** 3:45 - 5:00 PM

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

Member Fee: \$100 for 4-weeks

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

Nov. 14, 15, 16

Nov. 28, 29, 30

Dec. 5, 6, 7

Dec. 12, 13, 14

## 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**

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>.

**Rockland Electric Company** supports CNC Nature Programs. Their commitment  
to Closter Nature Center environmental education helps ensure that we can continue  
offering quality programming.

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**BATS, BATS, BATS!**  
**NJ's Batman, Joseph D'Angeli, Visits Closter Nature Center!**  
**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

Throughout the world, bats have been misunderstood and persecuted, causing a serious decline in population. **This family program** will raise awareness for **children, teens and adults** with a slide presentation, lecture and...**live bats!**

Find out why bats are now being protected, and learn about their vital importance to the environment, rainforests and insect maintenance

Cost: \$5 members; \$10 non-members

**“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.**

**Third Sunday Jam Session**

**November 19th, 4-6 PM**

Musicians, professionals and amateurs, friends and family  
will come together to share music!

**FOLK ROCK BLUES**  
**ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS, VOCALS, PERCUSSION**

Join us at the cabin on each

**3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 4-6 PM**

As a non-profit, we rely on donations for all programming. Donations further our mission  
and are greatly appreciated.

**Naturalist's Notes:**

I know it is hard to imagine that our pet dogs were once wild wolves, but even teacup yorkies have it in them to howl at the moon. Our relationship with our best friends began thousands of years ago, before writing, so there is no documentation concerning the first domesticated dogs. Archeologists have unearthed evidence that points to the first dogs at about 40,000 years ago. The wolves of Europe and Asia were taken in by early humans and kept as "pets". I use "pets" loosely, as they were probably used for security and emergency food. As time went on and humans picked the parents and culled offspring to get the qualities that we wanted, we slowly developed hundreds of breeds of domesticated dogs.

Our beloved pets ancestors, the wolves and their cousins, coyotes, foxes and wild dogs span the globe and are important links in the food chains they belong to. It was around 1850 when New Jersey saw the last of the wolf, and the proliferation of the white tailed deer is a direct result. We have learned over and over again that we need predators; when fox populations drop, rabbit

populations rise. Luckily we have started to change our tune concerning wild predators, and instead of bounties on their heads we look at them as majestic and useful. The importance of wolves and their kin in nature is undeniable but it is easily eclipsed by the magical place they have attained in our lives, families and hearts. See you on the trails, Marc Gussen, Naturalist

## ESSENTIAL FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECT ONGOING- WITH SUPPORT!

Throughout the summer and on into the fall, the CNC's Natural Resource Committee has been making good use of grants from **Veolia Water North** and from the Borough of **Closter's Open Space Fund**. These grants are being used to prepare a small portion of our forest for replanting in the spring.

**Veolia Water North** has generously provided \$21,000 towards the start of our reforestation project. Veolia recognizes that planting new trees and shrubs to replace our diseased and dying trees will not be successful unless the new plantings are protected from constant deer browse. Improved fencing is the first step, and the Veolia grant allows CNC to purchase extensive fencing materials.

In addition to financial support, Veolia has also provided some logistical help. On Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, a work crew from Veolia helped CNC with the strenuous task of removing old fencing in preparation for installation of more effective deer exclusion fencing later this fall.



**Veolia Water's vital financial and logistical support is crucial  
to Closter Nature Center's reforestation efforts.**

A **Borough of Closter Open Space Fund** grant of \$5,000 has allowed the CNC to hire consultants Linda Rohleder and Richard Pillar from Wild Woods Restoration to guide us in important reforestation decisions. The science of reforestation is fairly new in the northeast and each site has its own ecological complexities. The knowledge and experience these consultants bring to the CNC project continues to be very helpful.

## **December Holiday Break Nature Program**

### **December 26th – 29th**

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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## **CNC MONTH BY MONTH:**

### **NOVEMBER:**

**Teacher's Convention Break Program**, Thursday, 11/9

**Third Sunday Jam**: Sunday, 11/19, 4-6 PM

**Closter History Hike at CNC**: Sunday, November 12th, 1:00 PM

### **DECEMBER:**

**Third Sunday Jam**: Sunday, December 17th, 4-6 PM

**Holiday Break Program**: December 26, 27, 28, 29

More activities to be added soon! Follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram) or join our email list (sign up on the website) to stay informed.

**CNC PARTNERS:**



*Supports CNC Nature Program*

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*Supports CNC Reforestation Projects*

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