

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

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

We will follow the natural world as Autumn turns to Winter.

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, 2-week session enrollment is ongoing!

Member Fee: \$50 for 2-weeks

Non-Member fee: \$60 for 2-weeks

Dec. 5, 6, 7

Dec. 12, 13, 14

December Holiday Break Nature Program

Member's Holiday Gift: 50% off!



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.

Thanks to the generosity of Rockland Electric Company, members will receive a 50% discount!

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

For more information, check our website at 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.



BATS, BATS, BATS!

**NJ's Batman, Joseph D'Angeli, Visits Closter Nature Center!
Sunday, December 3rd 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

Third Sunday Jam Session

December 17th, 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 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.

Cute Kid's Quote:

While talking with a group of kindergarteners about animals preparing for the winter, one kid said that some animals fly away until spring.

A young fellow very matter-of-factly chimed in with "yes, that's **Migrination**"

Naturalist Notes:

As late fall slowly turns to winter, the magic of the fall colors subsides and wildlife activity diminishes. The forest is still captivating and beautiful; we just have to change our expectations and how we observe. We can now feast our eyes on aspects of the forest that we miss when leaves are on the trees and forest is alive with animals. One of the ways to identify trees and plants in general is to look at their silhouettes. We can make out each tree's unique shapes most of the year with the leaves on, but now

we get to see the skeleton that makes it all possible. Every tree species has characteristic branching patterns with specific angles, curves and structural differences that are not only telling when it comes to identification, but beautiful in their own right. At first glance, leafless trees might not seem all that appealing, but a good close look at these branching patterns opens up an "off season" activity that helps to unite us with the winter woods, and finds beauty where it is often ignored.

These shapes are an amazing organic and geometric combination that, although simple and subdued, have a special place in my heart as a nature lover and an ecologist.

When my daughter was born and my days of taking off for the winter to Mexico or Central America came to an end, I turned to the woods - but not expecting to be so intrigued by what I would find. The leafless forest became just as enchanting to me as when the forest is alive with all of its green glory.

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

Projects For Our Forest:

Thanks to some special donations, the CNC was able commit to an order from the sawmill for sufficient black locust planks to complete the repairs and replacements required to bring our wetland trails into good shape. Included in this project are many new "sleepers" - a 4x4" combination of compressed plastic and sawdust which are indestructible and used to raise the wooden planks two or more inches above the wet soil of our trails. These materials are stored near the Boy Scout cabin. Stop by and inspect these super durable planking materials, which are destined to be installed in early 2014.

Our generous grant from **Veolia Water Company** has allowed us to have a large tree culling effort by Ken's Tree Care prior to the installation of new fencing and cages near the Orange Trail. The trees removed were mostly dead or dying beech trees who's natural falling over the next year or two would risk significant damage to the new plantings and the materials set up to protect the plants from deer browse. Also, the added sunlight will stimulate faster growth of the new plants.

End of Year Appeal <https://closternaturecenter.org/annual-appeal-2023/>
Help us save our forest for future generations. Please give today!

CNC MONTH BY MONTH:

DECEMBER:

NJ's Batman, Joseph D'Angeli, Visits Closter Nature Center!

Sunday, December 3rd at 2 PM

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

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

Activities for Winter, 2024 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

We're hiring! <https://closternaturecenter.org/job-posting-executive-director/>

