

**THE CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS**  
P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 [closternaturecenter.org](http://closternaturecenter.org)  
By the pond on Ruckman Road  
**APRIL 2024**

**APRIL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:**

**After-School Programs:**

**Come join Nature Marc and Spring into Nature Fun and Science!**

Semester-long programming for our After-School Nature Classes! Plan your child's schedule in advance with our 3-month session! **Begins on April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. (One-month segments available as well.)

Animals, hikes, and exploration will all be a part of the CNC's Spring After-School Program.

**Tuesdays-** Pre-K4 and Kindergarten

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

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

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

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

**Closter Clean-Up Day, April 6th, 10am - 2pm**

The Closter Environmental Commission is hosting **CLEAN-UP CLOSTER**, an annual event to clean up our roadsides, parks, trails and other public areas. Please join us with your family and friends for this important event! Meet at the Closter Senior Center, 4 Lewis St. Closter. Dress down to clean-up!

**Introduction to Birding: April 7th, 9 am - 11am**

**Have you ever wanted to get into birding but are not sure where to start?**

Now is your chance to learn how to get started (just in time for spring migration)!

The first portion of the class will cover basic bird identification, birding etiquette, places to go, a high-level overview of tools you might need or want such as binoculars and cameras, an

overview of websites, apps, and other tools. We will also discuss binoculars, the primary tool of birders. Bring your own, or we will have "loaners" available.

Once we have the basics down, in the second part of the session we will explore the pond and surrounding trails while applying and practicing what we learned.

Please note this workshop is primarily intended for adults and will be led by birding enthusiast and long-time Closter Nature Center volunteer **Joel Rudin**.

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

**Class size limited to 12 people.**

**Cost: Members: \$20; Non-Members: \$35**

### **Music By the Pond**

**Please Note:** in lieu of the monthly Music by the Pond program, musicians will be performing at our Annual Soup Supper **April 28<sup>th</sup>**.



### **Primitive Technology: Presentation by Marc Gussen**

**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM,** at the Cabin by the Pond

How did humans find food, warmth and shelter before we had "The Grid"? Come learn the skills of our ancient ancestors and how they survived and thrived... in Nature.

Teens, Adults and Everyone in between!

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

Cost: Members, \$10; Non-members, \$15.

### **The CNC Annual Soup Supper Coming Soon!**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 PM...at the Cabin by the Pond**

One of our most popular fundraising events, the Soup Supper has brought together members and friends for over 40 years.

**All soups are donated by our favorite local restaurants!**

Each guest receives a bowl and spoon to sample as many soups as they wish.

**We'll have a table of breads from Balthazar Bakery and Buon Gusto.**

This is a fun and tasty event for the whole family. Come hike a trail with your family and then join us at the cabin and picnic tables for supper and Music by the Pond.

**Pay at the door: Adults: \$15...Children: \$5**

**Closter Nature Center mugs available for \$10 extra**

All proceeds support the Nature Center's Educational Programs.

Questions: email [admin@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:admin@closternaturecenter.org)

Any members wishing to get a soup donation from a favorite restaurant, please call Adri Lindgren at 845-300-7260

## **Spring Break 2024**

Daily classes for ages 4- 10.

Need something fun and educational for the kids to do during the Spring Break? We'll have four days of nature exploration and discovery here at the Closter Nature Center! Dress for outdoor weather! **Naturalist Marc Gussen will focus on our vernal pools;** Spring is a very active and amazing time for frog and insect reproduction and birthing activity.

### **Monday- Thursday- April 15- April 18**

9 am- 10:30 am 1st- 3rd grade

11 am- 12 noon Pre-K-4 and Kindergarten

1 pm- 2:30 pm 4th- 6th grade

3 pm- 4:30 pm 1st- 3rd grade

### **Cost:**

**1st- 7th grades** \$100/week for members; \$120/week for non-members

**Pre-K 4- Kindergarten** \$80/week for members; \$100/week for non-members

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## **Naturalist's Notes:**

**The CNC is about to embark on its' most ambitious tree planting endeavor yet.**

Over the next months we plan to get hundreds of trees planted in our precious forest. Why plant trees in forest? Over the last several years we have been facing a perfect storm of negative impacts on our forest. The combination of the loss of our Beech and Ash trees due to insects and disease, the increasing population of the white-tailed deer and the spread of invasive plant species has left our forest unable to perform the basic task of regeneration. Under normal circumstances the planting of trees in the forest would be unnecessary, but these pressures have made it mandatory for us, in light of our role as stewards of the forest, to step in, roll up our sleeves and get to work.

**The task at hand is more than just planting trees.** It's providing the new plantings of both trees and understory plants with needed protection to prevent them from becoming breakfast for the ever-expanding deer herd. In addition to bringing in a diverse combination of plants to replace what has been lost, we are also hard at work removing invasive plants that shade out our native flora and provide very little benefit to wildlife. As we moved forward with this project we found it imperative to improve the trails and walking paths around the deer protection enclosures to insure that they could be maintained.

**May 10th and 11th** are our two big days for actually getting trees in the ground. We have been working hard preparing for this project and are looking forward to getting more of our community involved, both with volunteer work to get this done and the financial help to make it possible. Please see our web site for more information about this project, and to find out about how you can help.  
**See you on the trails, Marc Gussen, Naturalist**

### **Cute Kid's Quote:**

While fishing with some 5th graders one them hit me with a good one. He said, "Babysitters are teenagers that pretend to be adults so adults can go out and pretend to be teenagers."

## **OUR POPULAR SUMMER PROGRAM RETURNS FOR THE 2024 SEASON**

**Starting Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and continuing to August 22<sup>nd</sup>**, each week we will explore all aspects of the Nature Center, including meadows, forests, ponds, and streams. We will learn about the habitats and wildlife of our area. **We offer 4-day weekly sessions, with 2-hour classes for ages 4-6, and 3-hour classes for ages 7-14.**

**NATURE ADVENTURE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AGES 11- 14:** This exciting program is for older adventurers and focuses on extensive hiking, learning survival skills, Native American activities, and challenging outdoor exploits.

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

## **Thank You to our Supporters!**

**The CNC is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.** Your tax –deductible donation will help support our programming, our facility and stewardship of our 136-acre tract of forested woodlands.