

THE CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS
P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 closternaturecenter.org
By the pond on Ruckman Road
MAY, 2024

MAY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Photography for Birders

with Matt Malwitz of Bergen County Camera

May 5th, 3 pm to 5 pm, at the Cabin by the Pond

Looking to take your bird photos to the next level? Join Closter Nature Center and Bergen County Camera's Matt Malwitz for "Photography for Birders". In this class, we'll cover the basics of photography and more. From finding the right gear and proper settings, to composing images. We'll even show you how your birding skills can make you a better bird photographer! Sign up now while there's still room.

Cost: Members, \$15...Non-Members, \$25

Hidden on Closter Mountain

May 13th at 7 pm, at the Cabin by the Pond

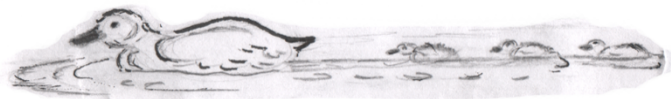
The Closter Nature Center is happy to host the Palisades Interstate Park in New Jersey for their program "Hidden on Closter Mountain." Public Historians Eric Nelsen and Francesca Costa will introduce you to Northern Valley residents who were born enslaved— eventually moving into a Freedman Community along the Palisades known as Skunk Hollow. **Suggested Donation: Members, \$5...Non-Members, \$10**

CNC Annual Board Meeting, May 14th at 7:30 PM

Annual board meeting where the last 12 months of programs, work, projects, and goings-on are reviewed. Open to the public.

Third Sunday Jam Session

May 19th, 4-6 PM



Musicians: professionals and amateurs, and friends and family come together to share music.

FOLK ROCK BLUES

ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS, VOCALS, PERCUSSION

Join us at the cabin on each **3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 4-6 PM**

Donations accepted; not required

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

We will follow the natural world as spring turns to summer. Animals, hikes and exploration will all be a part of this wonderful spring 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, there's still time to enroll for final 5-week session!

Member Fee: \$125 for 5-weeks

Non-Member fee: \$150 for 5-weeks

For more information, check our website at www.closternaturecenter.org or sign-up directly on Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/closter>. **Questions, email** info@closternaturecenter.org

Naturalist's Notes:

May in the Nature Center's woods is just magic, with a thousand shades of green, spring wildflowers, and the treetop canopy filling in with fresh new leaves. As beautiful as the preserve may seem, the pressures of an increasing deer population, combined with an expanding array of invasive species have been taking a toll on our forest's health.

The CNC has been forced to take a more active stewardship role. We've been seeing the forest understory, which includes herbaceous plants, shrubs and young trees, diminish over the years, due to over-browsing by deer. Two of the main approaches to ensure a promising future for our woods are to protect naturally occurring seedlings, and to protect newly planted trees and shrubs. There are a few ways to keep these new plants safe, and we have chosen the two that are the most promising: large fenced-in areas and individually protected specimens.

We have recently completed a second-generation deer enclosure along the Orange Trail. This is made of a sturdy, braided net fencing hung on rot-resistant black locust poles to keep deer out of a one and one-half acre section of the forest, so natural forest regeneration can take place. As you walk the trails, you will see four-foot-high cylinders of wire mesh scattered throughout the forest. Some have been placed around newly planted trees and shrubs, Others, seemingly empty, protect tiny, naturally occurring seedlings that under the present conditions would soon be eaten, given the appetite and number of deer. These hoops also work to protect the plants from "buck rubs"--males marking their territory by scraping their antlers against young trees. This causes wounds in the bark which could lead to infection and death of the small trees.

This reforestation project is just part of our hands-on stewardship approach that, with help and involvement of the Nature Center's community, will lead to a healthy future for our forest, its inhabitants and us. Visit the Closter Nature Center online for more info about the project, and about how you can help us meet the forest's needs.

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

Cute Kid's Quote:

I was talking with some 2nd graders about what I should do if one of my animals was sick. One sweet child said, "You should take them to vegetarian!"

Marc Gussen,

**POND CELEBRATION RETURNS TO RUCKMAN POND!
SATURDAY, JUNE 1st from 1-4 PM**

It's going to be June once again!

Please join us for the CNC's annual celebration of Ruckman Pond!

Come to Ruckman Pond for an afternoon of science and fun!

Enjoy the pleasures of our Nature Center and pond on a lovely early June afternoon that will feature:

Canoe rides. Pond Hikes
Live animals Live music!
Tie-dying tee-shirts Arts and Crafts
Fun Games Educational Science Exhibits
...And more!

Bring your family and friends, grandparents, aunts, cousins and uncles!
Admission is FREE

Volunteers needed for the "Pond Celebration"!

Email info@closternaturecenter.org or call Marc Gussen (201) 750-2778

Come on down and dive in!

Upcoming CNC Events:

June:

Pond Celebration Saturday, June 1st, 1-4 PM

Third Sunday Jam Session, June 16, 4-6 PM

After-School programs all month!

Summer Program Begins! June 24- August 22

Closter Nature Center 2024 Summer Program:

Our **136 acres** of ponds, streams, meadows, and forest are waiting to be explored by young people in small groups led by our naturalist, Marc Gussen, and his assistant. Children will hike, dig, wade in the

water, examine nature, discuss the environment, and above all, have fun!!

We offer 2-hour classes for children ages 4–6, and 3-hour classes for ages 7–10 and 11-14.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-6 and 7-10: 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.

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.

**** REGISTER ONLINE at: <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter> ****

****Join now and save! ** purchase an Annual Family Membership for \$65 on Community Pass BEFORE you register. Contact CNCsummer@closternaturecenter.org with Questions or for Scholarship Information.**