

# THE CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

**JUNE 2024**

**Our Great Thanks** go out to the many generous friends of the Closter Nature Center who contributed more than 20 wonderful soups to our delightful **Soup Supper!** So many of our favorite local restaurant chefs donated their unique soups to make this event our most successful Soup Supper yet!  
**Country MKT Diner, Buon Gusto, Closter #1, Best Dumpling, Donatella's, Madeleine's Petit Paris, Isabella's, La Promenade, Organica, Rudy's Restaurant, The Hill, Whole Foods, Brasserie Mémère, and Zendiggi:** all these great establishments contributed so generously!  
**In addition, Balthazar Bakery and Buon Gusto** contributed bread. Bountiful and delicious! We had an amazing turnout on a beautiful spring afternoon, and it was truly a great day for soup!

## **POND CELEBRATION RETURNS TO RUCKMAN POND!**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, from 1-4 PM**

It's 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](mailto:info@closternaturecenter.org) or call Marc Gussen (201) 750-2778

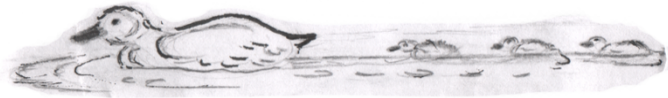
**Come on down and dive in!**

## **All Ages Evening Hike** **June 6th, 7-8 pm, at the cabin by the pond**

**Join our resident naturalist, Nature Marc,** on an evening hike on our trails. Marc will tell you about the ecological differences between night and day and perhaps you will spot some nighttime critters getting ready for their time out!

**Admission is free; Donations gratefully accepted**

## **Music by the Pond** **June 16th, 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**  
**Admission is free; Donations gratefully accepted**

## **Raptors!** (Presented by Tenafly Nature Center) **June 18th, 7-8 pm, at the cabin by the Pond**

**Meet a live hawk and owl and discover how amazing birds of prey (raptors) are. Discover what specifically makes a bird a raptor while learning about both diurnal and nocturnal adaptations and how they utilize their senses to locate and obtain their prey.**

Suggested Donation: \$10. Members...\$15. Non-members

## **Naturalist's Notes:**

June is filled with many amazing examples of the magic of nature, and one that always intrigues me is the development of antlers in our largest local resident: the white-tailed deer. Although their population is out of balance with their habitat, and is causing a host of environmental issues, they are beautiful, majestic creatures that belong here and are important members of the ecological community. Without predators, and being benefited by a long list of changes that we humans have made to suburbanize the landscape, we have been seeing their numbers climb. But let's put all of the negativity behind us and take a look at those antlers.

In the white-tailed deer, only the males or bucks have antlers, and for only part of the year. They grow them in the spring and lose them in the winter. They grow fast, and to facilitate that quick growth the sprouting antlers are covered with a velvety layer of tissue that supplies the growing antlers with

necessary nutrition. This velvet makes the growing antlers seem much larger than they really are and gives them a fuzzy chocolate brown look.

Once the growth is complete, the bucks rub this velvet off on the bark of small trees. This rubbing removes these tissues and helps the males to mark their territory, but it also can damage young thin barked trees.

In winter and early spring, deer all look the same, but as spring progresses you will start to see the growing antlers on the males. Keep your eyes out for this ephemeral spring wonder; it will be done before you know it!

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

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

In the days leading up to the eclipse I was talking with some 2nd graders, and I let them know that I was worried that the sun might melt all of the moon cheese.

One of the kids, very supportively, said that moon is not made of cheese, but that he thought that when he was 5.

A boy in the group turned to his friend, looked up at me, and said, "I think he's more than 5."  
-Marc Gussen

## **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](mailto:CNCsummer@closternaturecenter.org) with Questions or for Scholarship Information.**