

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

## OCTOBER, 2024 Programs:

### After-School Nature Program Fall – Session II

This delightful after-school program in the autumn will feature a blend of animal encounters, nature treks and adventurous exploration.

Member fee: \$150 for 6 weeks

Non- Member fee \$175 for 6 weeks

Tuesdays- Pre-K4 and Kindergarten – 3:45 to 5:00 pm

Oct. 29, Nov 12, 19, Dec 3, 10, 17

Wednesdays- 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades – 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Oct 30, Nov 13, 20 Dec 4, 11, 18

Thursdays- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades – 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Oct 31, Nov 14, 21, Dec 5, 12, 19

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

**Questions:** e-mail [info@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:info@closternaturecenter.org) or call 201-800-2008

## State of the Forest Address: by Naturalist Marc Gussen

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm.

Join us to discover the challenges our local forests face and the actions we're taking at the Closter nature Center to protect the native diversity. Learn how we can foster a thriving forest ecosystem for everyone to cherish, experience and explore for many generations ahead.

**Co-sponsored by the Closter Public Library and the Environmental Commission.** Lecture held at the Closter Public Library. **Admission is Free!**

Please confirm your participation in the lecture by registering at [closternaturecenter.org/events](http://closternaturecenter.org/events)



## NEW! REFORESTATION PROGRAM

Say YES to our Forest! Donate today and help us plant saplings and restore our forest! To learn more and donate scan the QR code or visit [www.closternaturecenter.org/rp](http://www.closternaturecenter.org/rp)



Check out our feature article in the September issue of *The Neighbors Magazine!*



## Strange Connections: Poison Ivy and Oriental Lacquer

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 7 PM at the Log Cabin**

Many individuals experience allergic reactions to poison ivy, as well as related plants like poison oak and sumac. The culprit behind this discomfort is urushiol, a compound found in the sap of these plants. Interestingly, urushiol is also a key component in the traditional craft of Asian lacquerware. The upcoming lecture will delve into urushiol's properties, how it triggers allergies, and its role in the creation of exquisite oriental lacquer items. **Michael Malin** will be the speaker for this fascinating presentation.

Suggested Donation: \$5. Members; \$10. Non-members

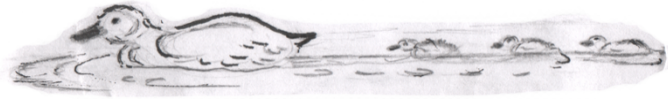
## SAVE THE DATE: The First Annual Closter Nature Center Hike-a-Thon!

Get ready for an adventure and a chance to support the Closter Nature Center with our upcoming hike-a-thon! Whether you're flying solo or joining forces with friends, your participation helps us raise crucial funds and awareness. Dive into nature, secure sponsorships, and enjoy the great outdoors for a noble cause. Our fundraising is open to registrations and donations at [go.rallyup.com/cnc-hikeathon](http://go.rallyup.com/cnc-hikeathon). Mark your calendars for the virtual launch on **October 11th**, leading up to the main event—a group hike on **November 2nd, from 9 am to 1 pm**. For more information on how to be a part of this exciting journey, check out our fundraising page. Let's hit the trails for the Nature Center!



## Music by the Pond

October 20, 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**

## Naturalist's Notes:

As we face new threats to the future of our forests such as deer over-population, invasive species and climate change, we have been forced to take a more active role in the stewardship of the Closter Nature Center's 136 acres of forested wetlands. It has been a non-stop learning experience on our part to understand what we have, where we have been, and what we want the forest to be. My goal is to preserve the diversity of the native members of our forest community.

We have seen the decline in diversity of species as a problem across the globe, and we are now experiencing it right here in Closter. Our forest understory that has supported hundreds if not thousands of species of plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals has been turning into a collection of invasive plants with little to no benefit to wildlife.

As these problems continue we have seen an inability of the forest to regenerate naturally. Tree and shrub seedlings are unable to grow to replace old trees, and the forest floor is picked clean of many of the plants that belong here and are needed by other forest community members.

We are not taking this sitting down!

We have numerous projects and initiatives to address and solve these problems, and we would love for the human members of our community to get involved. Come by the Nature Center, or visit our website to learn more about our 1st Annual Hike-a-Thon, our Reforestation Program, and a upcoming presentation at the Closter Library informing on these issues, and what we can do to insure that we have this magical gem of a forest loaded with a diversity of native plants and wildlife for future generations to enjoy, love and explore.

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

## Cute Kid's Quote:

One day while crossing Ruckman Road to get a group of first graders to the forest trails, I stopped in the middle of the road to block the traffic with head held high, chest up and hand out-stretched, with the most stately and powerful crossing guard form.

One of the kids looked at me and said "Nice heroic pose, Nature Marc!"

-Marc Gussen

