

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

November, 2024 Programs:

Hike-a-Thon In-Person!

Saturday November 2nd, 9-1pm, at the Cabin

Join us for the culmination of our Hike-a-Thon Fundraiser! Participate in a community hike and celebrate the funds we raised as a group. Prizes will be awarded, and the chance to win door prizes awaits all who join us!!

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- 1st – 3rd grades – 3:45 – 5:00 pm

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

Thursdays- 4th – 6th 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 or call 201-800-2008.

Crazy Composting Year-Round: Ins and Outs

Saturday, November 9th, 2 pm at the Cabin

Lynne Proskow: Master Gardeners of Bergen County

Have you always wanted to compost or want to learn more? Utilizing compost is highly advantageous for cultivating a thriving garden, enriching the soil's health, and reducing food waste by diverting it from landfills. Join Master Gardener Lynne Proskow as she discusses some of the most common methods of composting and also the Bokashi method which she

uses indoors during the winter. She will demonstrate how easy and effective this is for producing "black gold," a gardener's best friend. Useful handouts will be provided.

Admission by donation. Suggested donation for members: \$5, Non-Members: \$10.

Music By the Pond

Sunday, November 17th, 4-6 PM at the Cabin by the Pond

Come to the CNC for an afternoon of music and community. Professionals and amateurs alike perform to bring music to Ruckman Pond.

End the week on a relaxing note with your family, friends, and others.

Stop in, slow down, and enjoy the tunes. Admission is Free!

Music by the Pond repeats every third Sunday of each month!

Lights Down, Stars Up:

Presented by DarkSky International

November 22, 7 pm, at the cabin by Ruckman Pond

Stephen Mariconda, DarkSky International

When you look up at the sky, do you ever wonder where our New Jersey stars are hiding?

Stephen Mariconda, an environmental advocate and graduate student at Rutgers School of Public Health discusses light pollution and its environmental impact in New Jersey. Discover the effects of light pollution on our environment and health, including its disruption to ecosystems and wildlife, and its concealment of the night sky's beauty. Engage in conversations about adopting eco-conscious outdoor lighting and explore policy recommendations that can help mitigate light pollution across North Jersey and beyond.

Admission by donation. Suggested donation for members: \$5, Non-Members: \$10.

NATURALIST'S NOTES:

When fall turns to winter, it's time for many wonderful sights in the world of nature. One of my favorites is winter bird activity- and the ease of viewing them in the sleeping majesty of bare forest trees. Another that gets little attention but amazes me every time I see it: needle ice. Needle ice forms when the air temperature is below the freezing point but the subsoil water is above the freezing point. Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or 0 degrees Celsius and typically turns to ice. Needle ice is unique, in that the still-liquid soil water wicks up through the soil and forms a network of needle-like columns of ice. After a cold November or December night you might find needle ice that forms when the air temperature drops, and groundwater rises up in a small but magical display.

We see it often here at the Nature Center, as it frequently forms in the damp soil of most of our 136 acres. Sometimes the Nature Center's trails can be littered with these cold weather gems. Often, hikes through our trails can be to the beat of needle ice crunching under foot.

Look for it in damp places in your yard - or better yet, come here one morning and take a stroll. Look up for birds and down for the needle ice!

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