

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

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

By the pond on Ruckman Road

June 2025

## June 2025 Programs and Activities:

### Pond Celebration

Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM

Get ready for a delightful day at Ruckman Pond! Groove to live music, paddle serene waters in a canoe, unleash your creativity with arts & crafts and tie-dye, and explore the wonders of pond science. FREE admission and lots of FREE fun for all ages! It's a perfect way to learn about our reserve and enjoy a beautiful community event.

**Volunteers needed to help run this fantastic event! Hands needed for set-up, the event itself, and tear-down. Email [naturalist@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:naturalist@closternaturecenter.org) if you are interested!**

**Free!**



### Seedling Potting Up

#### With the Wild Woods Restoration Project

June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 10AM to 12 PM at the Cabin by the Pond

Help restore local ecosystems! Join Wild Woods Restoration Project at The Closter Nature Center to pot up native seedlings for important restoration projects on public lands. Learn about native plants from experts while working outdoors in the shade. We provide all materials – just bring your enthusiasm! Come for either of the two days this opportunity is offered!

**Register at <https://wildwoodsproject.org/events/>, For more info, contact Linda at [linda@wildwoodsproject.org](mailto:linda@wildwoodsproject.org) or 845-614-0253.**

**Free!**

## Naturalist's Notes:

It's time to celebrate! Ruckman Pond is the shining star of the Nature Center's many wonders, and once again it is time for our annual **Pond Celebration**. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and educational activities highlighting ponds, and pond life.

Canoe rides, tie dying Closter Nature Center tee shirts, face painting, arts and crafts, and a variety of educational displays will both entertain and educate.

Over the years Ruckman Pond has been through some ups and downs.

The pond was once choked with non-native plants due to fertilizer runoff, and after some severe management practices such as hydro-raking to remove excess vegetation and some of the nutrient rich sediment, we eventually decided to dredge the pond. This removed what was left of the non-native plants, all of the nutrient rich sediment, and in the process made the pond over 2 feet deeper.

Dredging greatly improved the pond as a habitat, and did wonders for the aesthetics as well. As the amount of aquatic vegetation slowly increased, we introduced plant-eating grass carp to naturally control the problem. They were a great success and may be called on in the near future to work their magic.

A couple new pond projects are on the horizon, including stabilizing the pond bank near Ruckman Road where pond water has been leaking into the stream, and making a new erosion-proof trail around the pond.

Feel free to join the activities on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and visit the pond soon!

It is looking as wonderful as ever!

See you on the trails, Marc Gussen, Naturalist

## Cute Kid's Quote:

A first grader was telling me about the coolest kid in his class.

I asked what made him so cool?

He responded with "He's the fastest, that's how it works these days"

Marc Gussen

## Natural Resources/Reforestation Initiative:

We are thrilled to share that Closter Nature Center has once again received a generous grant from **Veolia North America** in support of our ongoing **Reforestation Initiative**.

For over three years, Veolia has been a key partner in our efforts to restore and protect our forest. Their unwavering commitment—including both financial contributions and dedicated employee volunteers—has been instrumental in the creation of our two deer exclosures. These protected areas are now thriving with carefully selected native plants that will grow to restore our forest canopy and help rebuild a balanced, sustainable ecosystem.

We are deeply grateful for Veolia's continued partnership and look forward to working together as we cultivate a healthy, resilient forest that can be enjoyed by wildlife and the community for generations to come.



# SUMMER NATURE PROGRAM

June 23 - August 21

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!

## REGISTER TODAY

[register.communitypass.net/closter](https://register.communitypass.net/closter)

Ages 4-14







## CNC SUMMER PROGRAM 2025 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-6 & 7-10

Each week we will explore 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.

| Dates               | Ages 4-6      | Ages 7-10     | Ages 11-14    |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 6/23 - 6/26         |               | 9am - 12pm    | 1pm - 4pm     |
| 6/30 - 7/3          | 9am - 11am    | 1pm - 4pm     |               |
| 7/7 - 7/10          |               | 9am - 12pm    | 1pm - 4pm     |
| 7/14 - 7/17         | 9am - 11am    |               | 1pm - 4pm     |
| 7/21 - 7/24         | 1pm - 3pm     | 9am - 12pm    |               |
| 7/28 - 7/31         |               | 9am - 12pm    | 1pm - 4pm     |
| 8/4 - 8/7           | 9am - 11am    | 1pm - 4pm     |               |
| 8/11 - 8/14         |               | 1pm - 4pm     | 9am - 12pm    |
| 8/18 - 8/21         | 1pm - 3pm     | 9am - 12pm    |               |
| Member / Non-Member | \$105 / \$125 | \$160 / \$190 | \$160 / \$190 |

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