

DON'T FORGET...

MEMBERS ONLY!

WALK AND SQUAWK

Walk the Lillibridge

property with other

Nature Center

members sharing your

favorite finds and facts about the property.

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 24

9 A M

The Ovenbird

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

Fall, 2009

A Trail for All

Members of the Lillibridge Committee started planning for an accessible interpretive trail in 2007. Although it took more than two years to come to fruition, August 27 saw the grand opening of the trail. Attended by funders, supporters, and people waiting to experience the trail, the opening reception began in the pavilion. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages, provided by Chef's Bistro, made the mingling even more pleasant. After a brief history of the trail, Cara Matteliano from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, which provided financial assistance for the trail, and Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, who provided matching funds through a Legislative Member Item, each spoke briefly about the needs and benefits of the trail.

The group made their way to the trailhead for the ribbon cutting, and Susan Avery, Nature Center Naturalist, led a guided hike along the length of the accessible trail. Providing information on everything from the history of the Pfeiffer family to the geological influences on the mountaintop, Susan's wealth of knowledge kept everyone rapt as we walked the trail, learning about vernal pools, old-growth forest features, fungi, and wildlife.

The trail is open to all visitors from dawn to dusk daily, all year round, although snowfall will impact its accessibility in the winter months. Interpretive signage and displays will allow independent visitors to enjoy and learn about the forest, and benches along its length provide for convenient resting spots. Downloadable audio files that will provide more in-depth information, are being prepared, and should be available by year's end.

In our continuing desire to be of greatest benefit to the community, we have developed brief surveys of visitors' experience of the



accessible trail. Please take just a moment to complete the survey, then either deposit in our donation tube or mail it to our office.

Volunteer Naturalist Training Soon!

Now more than ever the Nature Center needs volunteers to help conduct programs and lead nature walks. We have an ambitious plan for 2010 and the key feature is engaging volunteers to share their love of our property with visitors.

To prepare these volunteers,

the Nature Center will be offering naturalist training in November. This fun one-day event will introduce volunteers to the basics of adult learning, techniques for interpretation, and how to lead and engage a group.

Filled with hands on activities and lots of learning games,

participants should come away enthused and prepared to step up to the plate and LEAD!

Register soon by calling the Nature Center. The class is limited to 12 participants.

Saturday, November 14

<u>9 AM-3 PM ~ \$15</u> <u>Pfeiffer Office</u>

Get Out There And Walk!

We support our local hiking interests! You can reach them on Yahoo! Groups

Southern_Tier_Greenway_Hiking.

Olean_Area_Hiking &

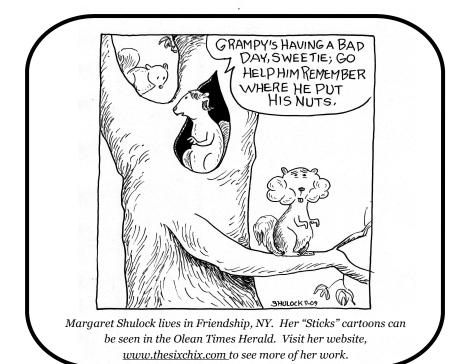
From the Director

Spring is my favorite season, but fall runs a close second. The colors enthrall me: the simultaneous complementary blooms of asters and goldenrod: the earthy diversity of our hillsides that include soft and hard maples, oaks, ash, larch, spruce, beech, and more; and the deepest blue-purple of bottle gentian. In my gardens the soft purple of the autumn crocus, the decorative grass heads from light green to deep burgundy, the clear white of silver lace vine blossoms. And the skies! When I was a kid I had no concept of how people could tell the difference between summer clouds and fall clouds, but I sure do now. Autumn sunrises and sunsets are also delightful – to me the colors are much richer and more intense than in spring and summer.

Autumn weather is quite pleasant for at least the first two months. Seeing my breath while I walk up the hill with my dog in the morning, sun that's surprisingly warm on my skin in midday, and crisp evening air that makes for easy sleeping. I break out my hats and scarves, gloves and warm socks, greeting them all like old friends I haven't seen in

months. Snowfalls blanket everything in clean whiteness and are generally short-lived.

I also get plenty of exercise in the fall, stacking up 10-12 cords of firewood. I admit, I don't cut or split it, buying my firewood ready to go, but I stack it up outside in the fall, then next summer toss it into my basement and stack it again for burning during the coming winter. I understand that the emission from burning firewood isn't necessarily better for the planet than burning fossil fuel, but in our part of the state, it feels a lot better to me. It'd be great if I could figure out





how to cut my total fuel needs in half, but I don't know that I can get a lot better until I'm ready to downsize to a much smaller home.

Inside the house, fall inspires me to cook again. Salads give way to yummy soups and casseroles made with a variety of root vegetables, legumes, and greens. Other autumn gastronomic and olfactory delights include homemade bread, fresh applesauce, and baked buttercup squash. (I just made homemade French onion soup for the first time ever – why did I wait so long to try this deliciousness?)

Here at Pfeiffer Nature Center, fall is our signal to begin cutting back on the number of programs that we offer, but we still want to be responsive to you, our members and friends. If you have ideas for programs vou'd like us to offer, or a topic vou'd like to share with others, give us a call or drop us an email – we're always open to new ideas. I hope you'll continue to enjoy hiking our Lillibridge Road trails (the Yubadam Road property is closed to hikers during hunting season), and that you'll drop us your feedback on our new accessible trail.

Autumnally,

Margaret Cherre

Fond Farewells & Warm Welcomes

In order to keep Pfeiffer Nature Center fresh and vital, we have term limits for members of our Board of Directors. As a result, we have to say goodbye to some long-standing and hard-working people who've been with us for six years. Judy Patton, Chris Piaggi, and Sue Stevens will be stepping down in October. Amazingly for most organizations but not surprising for the dedicated Pfeiffer Nature Center crew, all three of these wonderful people have already committed to continuing their volunteer work with us. Judy and Sue will continue to chair the Finish Line Arena Committee for Woods Walk & Trail Run, as well as serve on committees related to our property management. And Chris has already been roaming the hillsides,

along with Carol Bradley, plotting out trails for Woods Walk, 2010. Anyone who knows these three. knows that these are not idle promised. Despite how busy the rest of their lives are, Judy, Sue, and Chris only make commitments they're fully prepared to honor. We're really glad we'll continue to see their smiling faces around the Nature Center!

Join me as I sing a chorus from The Sound of Music. So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu. Adieu, adieu, to vieu and vieu, and vieu.

Although these are people who can't really be replaced, their Board seats will be filled by three people eager to lend a hand, a voice, and on occasion, a strong back. Join us in welcoming Ray Valeri, Bob Weber,

and Bob Wood. Ray has been volunteering with us for a few years already, offering a runner's perspective and on-the-ground assistance for Woods Walk, a task he's eager to continue. Bob Weber, a neighbor to our Eshelman property, brings a readiness to tackle trail cleanup on both Yubadam and Lillibridge Roads, as well as other tasks. A Master Forester, Bob Wood has already offered to help us assess and plan for our properties, and brings lots of community spirit along with his ready smile.

The Board will elect officers at their October meeting, so we'll announce them in our next issue of The Ovenbird.



13 and under: Sydney Tiller -"Colors of Nature"

14-18 Video: Wayde Ross -"NaturEscape"

<u>14-18 PowerPoint – tie:</u> Mason Maynard – "Naturescapes: Wildlife in Western NY" and Corey Potter -"Nature and Wildlife Photography"

19-25: Holly Chase – "Naturescapes, A Film By Holly Chase"

26 and up: Jan Rhody - "GREEN means GO"

If you'd like a presentation of these great locally-produced videos for your club or organization, just give us a call and we'll be happy to show them.

Naturescapes Goes Public

If a picture speaks a thousand words, millions of sentences are spoken during a viewing of Pfeiffer Nature Center's 2009 Film Festival, although few films have any dialogue or narrative, and several are unaccompanied by any sound at all.

Even if you couldn't join us at the awards ceremony when the films



made their public debut, you still have multiple chances to view all the winners. Check out the Pfeiffer Nature Center channel on YouTube - if they're not all there the first time you look, check back again as we continue to load them. We're also in the process of having all the winners transferred to a single, looping DVD that can be played continuously at the Cattaraugus County Arts Council office, libraries, and other public locations. Finally, we're working on scheduling off-site presentations at schools and elsewhere to encourage even more submissions next year.

Now to announce the winners of the 2009 Pfeiffer Nature Center Film Festival.....drum roll please.

Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation

Administrative Office: 14 S. Main St. Portville NY 14770 Mailing Address: PO Box 802 Portville NY 14770 716.933.0187 www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org info@pfeiffernaturecenter.org

Board of Directors

President: Chris Piaggi Vice President: Wendy Brand Secretary: K. Sue Stevens Asst. Secretary: Sarah Larson Treasurer: Mike Patton

Board Members

Carol Bradley Mike Ermer Judy Patton Vicki Schmidt Marcia Storch

Mike Canada Jeff McMullen Ed Reisman

Staff

Margaret Cherre, Director Susan Avery, Naturalist

Feasting on Fall Edibles



We had the pleasure of having Anne Latten, local herbalist, teach our Wild Edibles workshop this September. In her workshop she introduced participants to several fall edibles found in the Lillibridge fields.

Anne introduced the concept of foraging, which is hunting for foodstuffs and/or healing agents in the wild.

As participants wandered through the field they sampled the honey -like buds of Golden Rod; the anise flavored seeds of Queen Anne's Lace; and chewed the numbing twigs of the Black Birch, all while learning of the healing powers of Plantain, Clover, and Rose Hips.

The youngest learners helped by crushing rose hips for teas and separating sumac berries for lemonade. Adults were able to concoct herbal moisturizing oils. Everyone got a chance to taste some of the many yummy foodstuffs prepared with wild edibles including a lemon balm cheesecake, dandelion quiche, and elderberry pie.

Patient hands helped shell shagbark hickory nuts collected in a local park for their tasty pecan-like nuts.

In a letter to the Holland Land

Company written in the 1700's, a company surveyor and botanist noted that western New York has an outstanding bounty of wild and edible foodstuffs. We certainly found this to be true in our short tour at Lillibridge.

Here are a few other edibles available in the fall.

Shagbark Hickory ~ This tree is quite common in our area. Not to be confused with the Shellbark Hickory. the Shagbark nut has tasty sweet nutmeats enclosed. Shagbark nuts can be collected on the ground near a mature tree, if you are lucky to get to them before the chipmunks do! Remove the outer green/brown husk,

crack open the nut, and pick out the nutmeat. It tastes like an extra sweet pecan, of which it is a relative. The nuts can be substituted

for pecans in any recipes.

Remember when you forage for edibles to be frugal in your collecting. As a general rule you should not remove more that 10% of your find so you don't negatively impact the food supply of the native wildlife.

Beech Nut ~ The American Beech tree produces a very tasty nut in late September. The small triangular nut is encased in a prickly bur. Crack open



the nut and find enclosed, wrapped in a silvery mesh, two to three sweet meats. The Greeks found these tasty and name the beech Fagus grandifolia, fagus meaning "to eat". These

nuts disappear fast in the forest!

Black Birch ~ I recently needed to



clear an area at my home of Black Birch saplings. The birch saplings are distinct by

their wintergreen scent emitted when bruising the twigs. Not wanting to waste the plant, I found that you make a very pleasant tea by steeping broken Black Birch twigs in hot water. The tea has a syrupy consistency, slight wintergreen taste and is quite soothing for a sore throat.

Garlic Mustard ~ We have been fighting this

invasive plant for years and recently someone decided that if we can't beat it... eat it. Garlic Mustard leaves can be substituted for Parsley in you favorite pesto



recipe. It makes quite a kicking garlic sauce!

With any wild edible, you should be absolutely sure you've correctly identified the plant. The suggestions we offered above do not have any similar poisonous relatives. However, you should keep in mind that you could have an allergic reaction to a wild plant. Allergists note that 25% of the population in Europe has allergies to carrots... and therefore those folks should also watch out for Wild Parsnips and Queen Anne's Lace which are from the same family.

For more information on foraging check out Steve Brill's book Identifying and Harvesting Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants in Wild (and Not So Wild) Places.

Happy hunting!



Pfeiffer Nature Center Memberships Make Great Gifts!



Thank You to Our Dedicated Volunteers

A Woods Walk Wonder...

Another successful Woods Walk was held in June. It is an amazing volunteer effort and we have many to thank... Joe Schueckler and Harold Wright who ran errands and handled the unexpected tasks the day of the event.

It's always a family affair with the entire Reisman clan, Jeff, Tonya, Austin, Justin, Matt, and Ed preparing the fields and trails for the event which were laid out by Ray Valeri, Dave Levine, and Doug Price.

Marilyn Hale and the First Presbyterian Church provided space for stuffing the goody bags and cooking. Marilyn and Pat McNeil made the yummy food which was served to the runners by Marilyn, June Eaton, Kay Anderson, Melissa Nix, Alice Frost, and Carol Hare.

Registration was done by Sarah Larson, Betsy Price and Jeanne Walk who handed out goody bags stuffed by Betsy and Peg Bergreen.

Guests enjoyed displays and presentations by Angela Broughton,



Mark Baker, and John Forness.

Bill Sprague, Colleen Kent, and Diane Canada managed the finishing line. Aching muscles were tended to at the line by massage therapist Lenny Blue.

Mike and Diane Canada used their 4wheeler to help set up, check the trails, and respond to emergency needs. Joyce Ermer also helped by running supplies to water and aid stations.

Traffic and parking were managed by Adrian, Julian, and Galen Ziaggi.

Joe Leo, et al did an amazing job setting up with Dave Michie and his Boy Scout Troop helping take down and clean up. We know this list isn't inclusive as many, many Pfeiffer volunteers pitched in to make this a great event!

Neat Naturalists....

We had the pleasure of having volunteer naturalist Bill Shelp conduct both our Sala'meander and Insect-O-Rama programs this summer. He

had big groups that gave BIG praises for his presentations. Well done, Bill!

Other returning naturalists also gave great programs. Colleen Kent & Kim Driscoll led a walk during the Fall Friendraiser and Colleen led the last hike of the season at Eshelman. Angela Broughton shared all about hummingbirds at the Olean Area Outdoor and Recreation Show.

Sue Stevens spent a day in the woods with the Fantastic Forest Fun crowd! She was elbows deep in tie dye and enjoyed teaching the kids how to do flower pounding.

Rich Germony and Josh White, when not in the office doing numerous wonderful things, helped out with our day camp programs for the Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

Mark Baker and John Forness presented the always popular Owl Prowls. Mark also did well-received presentations on Falconry at the Olean Area Outdoor and Recreation Show. Tim Baird, from the Cattaraugus County Bird Club joined us as well offering a great Introduction to Birding.

Volunteer Anne Latten taught, what we hope will be the first of many, successful workshops on edible herbs. Her extensive preparation from the body oils to the teas, were enjoyed by all.

And Then There Was Outreach....

Sue Stevens and Vicki Schmidt braved dicey weather to man a booth at

Portville's Heritage Days. They shared information about Pfeiffer to over 200 folks!

Sue Stevens and Sarah Dominsky helped man our booth at the Olean Area Outdoor and Recreation Show where we reached over 600 visitors.

Our Honey-Do List...

We had a few windy weeks in July that left many enormous trees down on Lillibridge. White Oak, Question Mark, and the Loop trails were impassable in spots. Thanks to Jeff McMullen, Bob Weber, and Mike Ermer who in quick order were able to clear the trails.

Jeff McMullen, Sue Stevens, and Josh White removed the old flooring in the cabin. This should slow the water damage we're experiencing.

Colleen Kent, Sue Stevens, and Mike Ermer added protective weather stain to the pavilion.

June Eaton got our thank you letters out for Woods Walk and Barb Johnston processed our monthly memberships.

New Americorps Volunteer...

Sarah Dominsky, daughter of long time Pfeiffer supporter Pam Dominsky, joined us as an



Americorps staff member. Sarah is a recent graduate of University of West Virginia with a degree in Landscape Architecture. Her position runs through the end of December, 2009 and she will be working to coordinate volunteer activities as well as taking the lead in designing our proposed Nature Play Space for the Eshelman property.

Cabin Tour...

Nick Vaczek and Sue Stevens, not only cleaned the cabin, provided refreshments, but also offered interpretative tours during the Literacy Volunteers Tour of Interesting Homes. 5



Thank You To Our Financial Supporters

Thank You & Welcome to New & Renewing Members Jun 11, 2009 – Sep 22, 2009

Kate Balslev Jack & Jennie Blumenthal Bruce, Charity, & Gloria Burton Holly Chase Varma Childs Steve Cipolla Davina Cotton Albert Cousins Anne Dusenbury Darcy Elliott LaDorna Fox **Rick Giberson Family** Beverly Giles Ian Harrington **Richard Heiser** Roy Hennig Jim & Debbie Holcomb Marie & Robert Johnson Marcia & Jack Kelly Joseph & Betty Leo West Long Cynthia Lyons Matthew Martin Randy Martin Mason Maynard Nina McMullen Edna Northrup George & Virginia Nuffer Corey Potter Doug & Betsy Price Jan Rhody Wayde Ross Betty Rutterman Maureen Sheahan Ken Shields Mark Shields Troy, Jordan, Jeremy, & Jesse Spehar Wimpy & Esther Swetland Velma Tanner Steve & Donna Teuscher Theron Teuscher Sydney Tiller Wil Tyson & Jennifer Tinsley Preston & Wendy Van Curen John Van Hoff Rintaro & Ritsuko Wada

Edith Walker Bob & Donna Weber Diana Welty Paul & Mary Lou Wood

A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Mary Jane Fanton Donald & Evelyn Lawrence Jacqueline Lawrence Pat & Rich McNeil Larry Richards Employees of Community Bank, NA Anonymous Susan Avery Carol Bradley Wendy Brand Mike & Diane Canada Margaret Cherre Jim & Debbie Holcomb Sarah Larson Jeff McMullen Mike & Judy Patton Tom & Ronda Pollock Vicki & Dan Schmidt Joe & Theresa Schueckler Sue & Lou Stevens Marcia Storch

In Memory Of

Sandra Visser by Anne Walker & friends Sandra Visser by Mr. & Mrs. James Mostacti Sandra Visser by Winnie Carnicelli Joshua, Reyanna, Robert, & Nana by Angela Broughton & the Cousins Family

We are grateful for your generosity and support! Kind acts and thoughtful gifts such as these assist us in fulfilling our Mission. If we have inadvertently omitted your gift from these lists, please bring it to our attention and we will happily correct our oversight.

Create a Lasting Tribute

You can honor your family and friends in ways that will have lasting impacts on Pfeiffer Nature Center and therefore the local community. Gifts can be either memorials or tributes to the accomplishments of someone still with us, and all gifts will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Gifts to the *Kay Pfeiffer Gerkin Endowment Fund* are maintained and managed separately from our operating funds. The principle in this fund is retained exclusively for investments and income generation, with only interest and dividends available to support our ongoing activities. Check with your financial or legal advisor to name Pfeiffer Nature Center in your estate planning.

Gifts may be made specifically to our sugar bush expansion project. We will plant sugar maples on our Eshelman property annually. While donors will not be able to identify "their" tree, they will have the benefit of knowing that their gifts provided a source of ongoing income. Maple seedlings are \$35 each.

Gifts of any size may be made to the Nature Center to honor or memorialize relatives, friends, or pets. With no minimum donation, this option provides giving opportunities for all.

We hope you'll make a gift soon!

Seasonal Stirrings

October ~

- Venus and Mars are visible and extraordinarily bright in the morning sky.
- The fall sky is anchored by the large Square of Pegasus. Four bright stars form its corners.
- Shorter days and cooler nights signal plants to withdraw their chlorophyll from their leaves revealing the yellows and reds associated with fall.

November ~

- November 13—21 is the Leonid meteor shower. This shower is known for it's frequent "fireballs" (bright meteors) streaking thru the dark skies.
- Falling leaves decompose throughout the winter providing nutrients to the soil. They also release heat which provides a cozy space for critters who nest in them.

December ~

• December 4th brings the brightest full moon since it coincides with the fourth-closest perigee of the year.

Pfeiffer Nature Center Mission

- To preserve the integrity of the old-growth forest
- To provide an area for scientific research
- To promote community-based nature study programs for grade school, high school, college and adult students
- To further natural resource stewardship

YES, I'D LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER!

Membership Levels and Benefits

All members receive a subscription to *The Ovenbird*, our quarterly newsletter, delivered to your home.

Student/senior	\$10	1 \$5 off program admission coupons
Individual	\$25	1 \$5 off program admission coupons
Family	\$35	3 \$5 off program admission coupons
Conservator	\$100	4 free family program admissions
Patron	\$250	Same as Conservator, invitation to wine & cheese reception, 1 tree planted
Guardian	\$500	Same as Patron, plus 1 decorated fir holiday wreath
Benefactor	\$1,000	Same as Guardian, plus unlimited free program admissions
Additional Donatior	ı \$	

All members also receive discounted admissions and gift shop purchases at many other nature centers. *Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by NYS Tax Law.*

NAME:				
STREET ADDRESS:				
CITY, STATE, ZIP:				
PHONE: E	-MAIL:			
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL: Is this a _	new or renewing membership? (Check one)			
May we contact you about volunteering? Yes No, thank you.				
Send your completed form to: Pfeiffer Nature Center, PO Box 802 Portville, NY 14770				

PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER WREATH ORDER FORM

		/111					
NAME:		DATE:					
STREET ADDRESS:							
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	PHONE	PHONE:					
WREATH ORDER ~							
Wreath Description	<u>Price</u>	Quanti	ty <u>Total</u>				
Decorated Fraser Fir	\$32						
Decorated Boxwood	\$42						
Undecorated Fraser Fir	\$27						
Undecorated Boxwood	\$37						
	Order Total						
SELECT A PAYMENT OPTION ~							
I have enclosed the following amo	I have enclosed the following amount with this order (_\$						
I will mail a check to the Nature Ce	I will mail a check to the Nature Center office by 11/25/09 OR						
I will pay for my order (check or ca	I will pay for my order (check or cash) when I pick my wreath up at Pleasant Valley Nursery OR						
I will pay for my order via debit/cr	I will pay for my order via debit/credit card. Call me at the phone number above for this.						
Send orders and make checks payable to: Pfeiffer Nature Center ~ P.O. Box 802 Portville, NY 14770							

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

PO Box 802 Portville, NY 14770

Phone: 716.933.0187 Email: info@pfeiffernaturecenter.org



Pfeiffer Nature Center where science, art, and nature come together!



Hours of Operation

Office, 14 S. Main St. Portville: Generally Tue-Wed, 8am to 4pm; other times by chance or appointment

Lillibridge Road Property: Trails open to non-motorized usage dawn to dusk, 7 days a week, year round.

Yubadam Road Property:

Trails open to non-motorized usage dawn to dusk, 7 days a week, year round EXCEPT *during hunting season Oct —Dec*, *when all trails are closed*.

Staff is available for questions, tours, and programs as scheduled or by prior arrangement.

Check our website or call for the most up-to-date information and upcoming programs:

www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org 716-933-0187

Holiday Wreath Sale

The holidays will be here before you know it! Let Pfeiffer Nature Center help beautify the exterior of your home or office.

We can provide you with gorgeous natural wreaths that will last outdoors for the entire for the holiday season. Our decorated wreaths include a lovely hand-tied bow in a range of holiday colors and a selection of artfully arranged all-natural decorations. By working closely with Pleasant Valley Nursery, we're still able to keep our quality high and our prices low. Your purchase will benefit the Center and help us to continue to offer quality nature education and recreation to this area. <u>All wreath orders must be placed by November 6</u>.

Decorated Wreaths: hand-tied bow and all natural decorations 24" Fraser Fir - \$32 22" Boxwood - \$42

Undecorated Wreaths: ready for your adornment

24" Fraser Fir - \$27 **22" Boxwood** - \$37

Orders can be picked up ONLY from 1-4 pm on either Friday 11/27 or Saturday 11/28, at Pleasant Valley Nursery, Rt. 16, Hinsdale.

Call 716-933-0187 or use the form on **page 7** to place your order. **Quantities are limited!**



Be sure you don't miss out on any of our exciting programs! Simply write <u>programs@pfeiffernaturecenter.org</u> with the subject line **Count Me In** and we'll add you to our e-mail distribution list.