

# Ovenbird

The quarterly newsletter of Pfeiffer Nature Center

**Winter**, 2009

#### It's A Winter Wonderland!



Winter is a unique time of year to visit Pfeiffer Nature Center. It becomes a white and wondrous winter wonderland. As snow blankets the landscape, a peaceful quiet settles on the forest. You can hike listening only to the crunch of snow under your boots and the wind moving through the trees.

You'll hear the occasional rustling of the squirrels foraging, possibly the deer quietly moving past you.

Some spots will treat you to the sounds of migrating songbird stopping by for a quick bite to eat. As you sharpen your senses, take time to explore some of the interesting things in the forest and field. Every little thing shouts out to you on a beautiful white slate.

#### Balls? Galls? Bugs? Rugs?

Have you noticed bulbous features on plants and trees? It could be a plant gall. A gall is an abnormal growth that can be caused by many things, particularly insects.

A gall is the plant's reaction to an invader. The plant stimulates growth around the invader to cut it off from the rest of the plant. A gall "provides a microclimate for the organism. The microclimate is protected from wind, storms, and temperature extremes. A protein rich inner wall lines the parasite's "home" with plenty of food."

The two galls pictured are created by insects. The gall to the right is the willow gall, caused by the Pine-cone Willow Gall Midge. The round-shaped gall below is the goldenrod gall, caused by the Goldenrod Gall Fly.





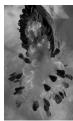
The parent insect deposited an egg into the plant. The gall formed around the egg. The insect grows inside the gall from egg to larvae to adult over a year's time. If left undisturbed, a full grown insect will emerge by boring a small hole from the inside out.

Not all insects make it to spring. Downy Woodpecker like to eat the larvae found in both willow and goldenrod galls.

Carolina Chickadees are fond of the Goldenrod Gall Fly larvae.

Galls are rich in tannins and have been used for centuries to produce inks and dyes. They can be seen on most plant life including maple, beech, and oak trees. For more information check out: <a href="http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/public/IthacaCampus/ExtOutreach/DiagnosticLab/Factsheets/PlantGalls.html">http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/public/IthacaCampus/ExtOutreach/DiagnosticLab/Factsheets/PlantGalls.html</a>.

#### Right Before Your Eyes



Winter is also a great time to see how plants disperse seeds. Next time you're pulling a bur off your jacket, take a magnifying glass and look at the spectacular arrangement of hooks that make the bur a very effective traveling seed. Open a dry milkweed pod and explore the silky parachute that carries the milkweed seed airborne.

Did you know the "down" of the milkweed was used during World War I as an insulating material in bomber jackets and floatation in life vests? Emerson once said "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not been discovered." Enjoy discovering those virtues of nature we have benefited from.

#### And Of Course There Are Tracks....

It's hard not to notice the wildlife activity by observing tracks and markings. Whether it's the bird prints below the feeder or the mouse tracks along the house foundation, if you are wandering about in the snow, your tracks are evident.



If you'd like to explore tracks and marks, check out an easy to use, comprehensive guide <u>Mammal Tracks and Signs, A Guide to North American Species</u> by Mark Elbroch.

#### Or... Come And Observe With Pfeiffer Nature Center

Free guided hikes are available 9 AM—10 AM the 1st Saturday of the month at Lillibridge and the 4th Saturday of the month at Eshelman. Snowshoes are also available for rent at the office on Main Street. Call 716.933.0187 for more information. Have a happy observing season!

## From the Director

Usually I'm incredibly behind the times; very occasionally I'm slightly ahead of the curve. My column in the Spring, 2005 edition of *The Ovenbird*, written just a few months after I began my journey as executive director here, started a series about how we can each make small changes that will have a positive impact on our environment. Now it seems that everyone's trying to get on that particular bandwagon. Going Green is a slogan for everyone from a local school district and a local manufacturer to the big box stores and oil companies. Undoubtedly some of these groups take it really seriously while others are simply trying to get on what they see as a financial opportunity. Decide for yourself who falls into what category.

As an organization dedicated to caring for and preserving the environment since our inception, Pfeiffer Nature Center is certainly well-suited to stimulate dialogue, provide information and activities, and otherwise help people improve their energy efficiency. And now that the national economy is officially in recession, spending less on essential household expenses is top of mind for most people. Saving money and saving the environment often go hand-in-hand, providing double the benefits.

Far from the originator of the concept of taking local action for global results. I am a firm believer. I disagree wholeheartedly with those experts who believe that the action of private citizens in their own homes and workplaces isn't good enough, that it won't make a noticeable impact on the environmental health of our planet. Sure, I realize that even if I were somehow miraculously able to cut my personal carbon footprint to zero, it can't begin to offset the impact of one manufacturing plant operating on old technologies. But I, personally, can't really change the practices of a manufacturing plant. Yes, I realize that I can vote with my (limited) shopping dollars and work through both my elected officials and a great many NGOs who can change the course of the big energy users in the U.S. And I do what I can in those areas. However, being a strong believer in personal responsibility and walking the talk, I wouldn't feel good about myself if I were to press the government for changes in our energy policies while I left every incandescent light in my house burning all evening! I contend that it's not an either/or situation, but rather both/and. That is, we should both take steps to reduce our consumption in our own households and demand change on higher levels.

My quarterly column here will return to offering realistic, affordable things you can do at home and at work. Meanwhile the Nature Center is gearing up to come to your coffee klatch, work cafeteria, service club, or church group with a bag full of tricks to share.

#### **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

So here's a thought for the month. Do you leave the water running while you brush your teeth? If so, you're sending about 3 gallons of water down the drain. For people using mu-



nicipal water and sewer, that water will get treated when it leaves your home (wastewater facilities) and again before it gets back into your home (water treatment plants). Alternately, wet your brush, turn the water off, brush your teeth, and turn the water back on to rinse, saving 2½ gallons or more. If you want to save even more, simply fill a water glass before you begin, and use it to both wet your brush and rinse – you'll have used about 8 ounces of water instead of 3 gallons. Brush your teeth twice a day and you're saving at least 5 gallons of water. That's 150 gallons of water per person per month. If you live in the City of Olean, by my calculation you'd save approximately \$4/person/quarter on your water bill. For a family of four, you can save \$64/year. It's easy, it costs you nothing, and it preserves one of our precious natural resources while saving you money.

Treading lightly, Margaret A. Cherre



#### 10 Simple Green Things To Do At Home

- · Buy products in bulk/avoid excessive packaging.
- Turn off lights every time you leave a room.
- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Reuse plastic and glass containers and jars.
- Use canvas bags or reuse plastic bags for your shopping.
- Start a compose pile. Grow worms!
- Recycle cans, cardboard, newspapers, plastics, glass.
- Plant a tree, native grasses, or wildflowers.
- Carpool, walk, or ride a bike to work or school at least 2-3 days a week.
- Shop locally—buy locally-grown produce & meat, support local businesses, avoid big box stores and online shopping whenever possible.

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#### Staff

Margaret Cherre, Director Susan Avery, Naturalist

#### **Board of Directors**

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# **Property Update**

Despite winter's early onset, we've continued to improve our properties. Here are a few highlights of recent activity - thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

#### Lillibridge Road Property

A new barbecue grill was installed near the pavilion. When you rent the pavilion for your family gathering, you can now grill your burgers and dogs onsite without hauling your gas grill, just bring a bag of charcoal. Keep the coffee hot and the potato salad cold everyone will be happy!

The trailhead kiosk has many improvements. Now a tri-cornered structure, you'll find a wonderful trail map on the front, a beautiful informational sign providing bits of Nature Center history and philosophy on one side, and a great guest register on the other. Never fear, there's still plenty of room for our updated, paper trail maps, Nature Center brochures, and program listings. The kiosk is now a font of information in one compact location.

Although it's not yet visible onsite as of this writing, much work continues on the accessible trail. We've developed a series of informational signs that will be installed trailside on topics ranging from bird identification to the features of an old-growth forest. We're working on everything from designated handicapped parking to benches, raised interpretive displays to downloadable audio tours. Watch for lots of spring activity (unless we get a midwinter break in the weather).

There's also been lots of work at the cabin—cleaning it out, winterizing it, and working to preserve this historic treasure.

#### Yubadam Road Property

Now that our kiosk is fully roofed, we're working to improve our trailhead map. You won't find it there yet (it's still in the development stages), but it should be in place long before winter's over.

New trails are being planned to provide more loops. Once complete, you'll have more options for seeing the property without having to re-trace your steps. This will come in handy both for everyday visitors and for our annual surge of guests during Woods Walk & Trail Run.

# **Season's Stirrings**

**January** ~ Quadrantids meteor shower Jan 3-4 radiating from the constellation Bootes. Get out and observe animal tracks and other signs of winter wildlife.

February ~ Bald eagles begin building nests and performing courtship "skydances".

March ~ With a quick thaw, get out your magnifying glass and hunt for a dusty surface on snow that's not dust but springtail insects, Achorutes nivicolus. Known as the "snow flea," it is a wingless, six legged, tiny whitish insect about .6 mm, no eyes or antennae, lives in moist soil, hummus, leaf mold, that is seldom observed except in snow because of its size.

## **Herbed Lima Hummus**

A wonderful appetizer recently served at Pfeiffer's 10th Anniversary celebration. Thanks to Sue Stevens for the recipe.

2 – 10 OZ FROZEN LIMA BEANS (GREEN) 1 LARGE ONION CHOPPED **5 CLOVES GARLIC SMASHED** 1 TSP SALT, BLACK PEPPER TO TASTE

1/4 C CHOPPED CILANTRO (FRESH) 1/4 C CHOPPED ITALIAN PARSLEY (FRESH)

1 TSP CUMIN, 3 TBL LEMON JUICE

5 TBL OLIVE OIL

2 TBL FRESH DILL CHOPPED OR ½ TBL DRY DILL

2 TBL FRESH MINT CHOPPED

Combine beans, onion, garlic, salt, and 2 c water in a saucepan. Simmer covered until tender, at least 10 minutes. Stir in parsley and cilantro then remove saucepan from heat and let stand uncovered 5 minutes. Drain beans. Transfer beans to food processor; add all remaining ingredients but 1 TBL of oil. Puree. Transfer beans to a bowl and cool. Season with salt, lemon juice to taste. Pour mix into a serving dish. Drizzle with olive oil. Serve room temperature with crisps or pita.

#### Notes from the Catt. County Bird Club...

Local birders are very excited at the recent sighting of tundra birds. These birds are normally seen further north. They included snow

buntings and white winged crossbills. According to Jeff Reed, "the best place to find them is at the top of coneladen spruce or pine. They're nomadic so they're here today, gone tomorrow, often traveling in large flocks." The bird club meets the 3rd Friday of the month (except JUL, AUG, DEC), 7:30 PM, at the First Presbyterian Church, 212 Laurens St, Olean. For more information contact Jeff at burdabit@localnet.com.



LIKE MOST THINGS, IT'S ATRADE OFF. I DON'T HAVE THOSE PRESSURE HEADACHES ANY MORE BUT... NOW I'M INCONTINENT: "

Margaret Shulock lives in Friendship, NY. Her "Sticks" cartoons can be seen in the Olean Times Herald. Visit her website, www.thesixchix.com to see more of her work.

# 2009 Calendar of Events

Some are familiar with the number of projects that it takes to operate the Nature Center. It seems an endless stream of programs and fundraisers are needed to keep us going, none of which can be accomplished without the help of extraordinarily dedicated volunteers.

We thought this year we would give members an idea of the numerous opportunities there are to volunteer to help keep Pfeiffer Nature Center strong and successful.

Anywhere you see a \$\footnote{\text{\$\text{\$\geq}\$}}\$ symbol, we need volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to be involved, meet new people, learn new skills, and just feel really good about contributing. Give us a call 716.933.0187 and let's get involved together!

#### January

Hike Lillibridge 3rd, Eshelman 24th Full Moon 11th, New Moon 26th Time To Adopt A Tree

#### February

Hike Lillibridge 7th, Eshelman 28th
Full Moon 9th, New Moon 25th
Great Backyard Bird Count 13th—16th
Snowshoe Hike Lillibridge 14th
Help Sponsor Woods Walk
Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins



#### March

Hike Lillibridge 7th, Eshelman 28th
Full Moon 11th, New Moon 26th
Adopt A Tree Classroom Visits 
Read Across America 2nd 
Snowshoe Hike Lillibridge 14th
Deadline To Submit For Spring Ovenbird 16th
Spring Begins ~ Launch Of Spring Podcast 20th



#### April

Hike Lillibridge 4th, Eshelman 25th
Full Moon 9th, New Moon 25th
Adopt A Tree Classroom Visits
National Environmental Ed Week 13th—17th
Members Walk & Squawk 18th
Earth Day 22nd
Launch New Geocache @ Eshelman 22nd
Arbor Day 24th
Spring Trail Clean Up With Bona Responds 25th
Nature Book Tag Sale 26th

#### May

Hike Lillibridge 2nd, Eshelman 23rd Full Moon 9th, New Moon 24th Adopt A Tree Field Trips Opening New Handicap Accessible Trail 2nd Deadline To Register For Woods Walk 22nd Dark Sky Week 24th—30th

#### June

Hike Lillibridge 6th, Eshelman 27th Full Moon 7th, New Moon 22nd Adopt A Tree Field Trips



Deadline To Submit For Summer Ovenbird 1st Woods Walk & National Trails Day 6th Weevive Your Senses Workshop 20th Summer Begins ~ Launch Of Summer Podcast 21st Usunch New Letterbox @ Eshelman 21st Sunset Gathering—Adopt A Tree & Woods Walk Recognition 23rd

#### July

Hike Lillibridge 4th, Eshelman 25th Full Moon 7th, New Moon 22nd **Renew Your Energy** Workshop 11th Member Walk and Squawk 18th



#### August

Hike Lillibridge 1st, Eshelman 22nd
Full Moon 6th, New Moon 20th
Refresh Your Spirit Workshop 10-3 8th
Deadline To Submit For Fall Ovenbird 24th

#### September

Hike Lillibridge 5th, Eshelman 26th
Full Moon 4th, New Moon 18th
Application Period For New Hunting Permits Begins 1st
Olean Area Outdoor Show - Pfeiffer Co-Sponsor 12th \*\*
Fall Trail Clean Up With Bona Responds 12th \*\*
Deadline To Renew Previous Hunting Permits 14th (approx)
Sunset Gathering "Friendraiser" 15th \*\*

Redefine Your Relationship W/ The Planet Workshop 19th Take A Child Outdoors Week 21st—25th ∜ Autumn Begins ~ Launch Of Autumn Podcast 22nd ∜ Prime Leaf Peeping Week Of The 27th

#### October

Hike Lillibridge 3rd
Full Moon 4th, New Moon 18th
Order Your Holiday Wreath
2009 Hunting Permits Issued 1st (approx)
Annual Volunteer Get Together Pot Luck &BYOB 3rd Family Trails Weekend 10th-12th Eshelman Trails Close For Hunting Season 17th
Member Walk & Squawk 24th

#### November

Hike Lillibridge 7th Full Moon 2nd, New Moon 16th



Deadline To Order Holiday Wreaths 6th Wreath Decorating 20th & 21st \*\*
Thanksgiving 26th
Wreath Distribution 27th & 28th \*\*
Deadline To Submit For Winter Ovenbird 30th \*\*

#### December

Hike Lillibridge 5th, Eshelman 26th Full Moon 2nd, New Moon 16th & 31st Eshelman Trails Reopen At End Of Hunting Season 20th Winter Begins ~ Launch Of Winter Podcast 21st



# **Program Notes ~ New for 2009**

#### IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS....



The *Great Backyard Bird Count* will be held Jan. 13-16. This is a four day event where bird watchers of all ages count birds across the USA. Birders report their findings online and can see real time results. The count is led by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. For more information check out

<u>http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/</u>. If you don't have access to a computer, call the Nature Center office and we'll print a checklist, directions, and enter the your results.

Also, the Cattaraugus County Bird Club will be conducting a waterfowl count in March. Contact Jeff Reed at burdabit@localnet.com for details.

#### HEY, ARE YOU READY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS?

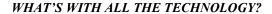
It's exciting for visitors to be led through the forest by an enthusiastic supporter of the Nature Center. There are many of you who know neat things to observe and enjoy. Maybe you've been watching the same barred owl for years... or know exactly where to find the spring Trillium... or knew the Pfeiffer family and can tell some great cabin stories. We need you to share that!

We've put together two spring activities to support sharing. The first are **seasonal "walk and squawks"** for Pfeiffer enthusiasts. Not open to the general public, but a gathering of our members who can walk together and share their favorite observations, collectively enlightening one another.

The second is a **naturalist training program**. Pick and choose the sessions you'd like to attend. There is no obligation other than to register for the session, participate, and enjoy! For information, call Susan at 716.933.0187. Sessions start in February.

Call us if you can help with this.....

- " I can share at a walk and squawk
- Using I can help with Adopt a Tree classroom visits
- I can help with Adopt a Tree field trips
- <sup>♥</sup> I can help teach/lead a workshop on a subject I love
- Use I can help lead a guided nature walk





We're are adding podcasts! What's a podcast? A **podcast** is an audio and/or video file which is downloaded from the Internet to a portable media player or home computer. You can listen to the podcast as you walk through the forest. I like to think of it as

your naturalist on demand. Seasonal audio files

will be available on our website.

If you own a portable GPS unit or have GPS capacity on your cell phone you should try our newest **geocache!** Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which the participants use a GPS receiver to seek containers (called "geocaches" or

"caches") anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and "treasure," usually toys or trinkets of little value.

Our newest geocache "Lillibridge Trails" leads geocachers through the woods to multiple stops where they can explore the forest with great information and fun activities. Here are some of the reviews we've received on the geocache: "Thanks a million for a very "edu-taining" cache - we've

been having a great time identifying trees and forest flora ever since." "...this was a magnificent experience." "this was a fun- fun cache...."

We plan to launch a two new "hide and seek" activities at Eshelman this spring. Look for a new geocache in April and a **letterbox** in June.

Call us if you can help with this.....

- " I can help create a podcast!
- I have seasonal observation tips for Lillibridge that would be a great addition to a podcast
- I can help design a geocache and/or letterbox for Eshelman

#### LET'S CELEBRATE!

We hope volunteers and donors will mark their calendars for a few celebratory events! There will be a **Sunset Gathering** June 23 to recognize the volunteers and sponsors of the 2009 Adopt A Tree Project and Woods Walk. Sunset gatherings have good food, even better company, and awesome sunsets.

In September, we ask our extended Pfeiffer family to reach out and introduce someone new to the Nature Center at our

**Friendraiser,** September 15th. What a great way to get more folks hooked on Pfeiffer than a late afternoon stroll, yummy snacks, and a beautiful sunset at Lillibridge.



End the year with a pot luck at Lillibridge at the height of leaf peeping season. Calling all volunteers and supporters to join us for a **Get Together and Pot Luck** on September 3rd.

Call us if you can help with this.....

- I can help plan the June Sunset Gathering
- I can help plan the September Friendraiser
- I can help plan the October Pot Luck

#### SPECIAL NOTE AND THANKS...

Sometimes we are gifted with an extraordinary contribution. The last edition of the Ovenbird had a wonderful full color insert showing pictures of Wendy Pfeiffer, our benefactor, and her life in Portville. The insert was funded and written by Nick Vaczek with overall design/production by Marissa Blair-Richards, a graphic and media designer/ teacher.

# Thank You and Welcome to New & Renewing Members ~ Sep 1 – Nov 30, 2008

William & Kay Anderson Joan Armbruster

Mike Berardi

Jack & Jennie Blumenthal

Sue Brairton Ruth & Rollie Bray Derek Briggs

Bruce, Gloria, & Charity Burton

Betsy Cashing
Margaret Cherre
Barbara Chew
Laureen Clark
Albert Cousins
Mel & Polly Duggan
Anne Dusenbury
Tom & Linda Frair
Anthony & Carol Gallo
Rick & Nannette Giberson

& Family
Beverly Giles
Kathy Hardiman
Frank Hayman
Richard Heiser
Barbara Johnston
Joseph & Betty Leo

West Long Cynthia Lyons Randy Martin Donald Maxwell Joe & Sharon McLarney Nina McMullen

Richard & Pat McNeil

James Meyer Edna Northrup Marilee Patterer Joan Petric Kevin Reuning Betty Rutterman

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Scott

Maureen Sheahan Ken Shields Mark Shields Susie Shimamoto Doug Smith Troy, Jeremy, Jesse, & Jordan Spehar Lois Stives

Gary & Elizabeth Swetland Ellsworth & Ann Swift

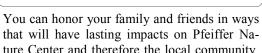
Velma Tanner

Steve & Donna Teuscher

Theron Teuscher Ray & Robin Valeri John Van Hoff Sandra Visser Edith Walker

Paul & Mary Lou Wood

Shawn Wray



**Create a Lasting Tribute** 

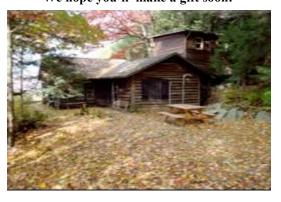
ture Center and therefore the local community. Gifts can be memorials or tributes to the accomplishments of someone still with us, and all gifts will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Gifts to the *Kay Pfeiffer Gerkin Endowment Fund* are maintained and managed separately from our operating funds. The principle in this fund will be 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!



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.

# A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

All Wreath Buyers, Decorators, and Sellers
Stephen Andrea
Anonymous
Barbara & Ernest Borer
Wendy Brand
Margaret Cherre
Citizen Printing House
Skip & June Eaton

Bill & Sondra Fox

Elaine Hardman

David & Michelle Hoelcle Robert Jacobi O. Boyce McDivitt Linda Monsell Jeanne Newburg Edna Northrup Marilyn Reynolds Dorothy Weston Riley William I. Shelp Lynford Swetland Velma Tanner

# In Memory Of

Julius Cohen by Mike & Judy Patton, Margaret Cherre George Pfeiffer III by Douglas A. Pfeiffer Eleanor Pfeiffer Lawrence by Jean S. Pfeiffer

# Many Thanks to Our Volunteers!

We have much to be thankful for due to the generosity of our volunteers this fall. Thanks to **Dave Toot, Melvena Smith**, **Marilee Patterer**, and **Kathy Hardiman** for setting us up with outreach opportunities at KidFest, Allegany County Red Hats, and the Olean Area Hikers, respectively.

**Rick Tetlak** volunteered his technical expertise is creating our newest geocache, "Lillibridge Trails." Armed with several GPS units, he hiked most of the property gathering data on points of interest and helped form our plan to "present" the marvels of the forest to visiting geocachers. He donated the cache boxes and trin-

kets for the activity. He also provided a donation of six compasses that served us well when we taught "Introduction to Compasses" on Columbus Day Weekend. Thanks, Rick!

Marcia Storch, Sue Stevens, and Carol Bradley planned a wonderful evening to celebrate our 10th anniversary. Members and honored guests en-

joyed tasty treats prepared by our planners and Wendy Brand. They were serenaded by Adrian Ziaggi on the violin. Mark Baker, John Forness, and Mary Forness displayed several birds of prey. Mike and Brian Grosso spent the day capturing salamanders to share with members during the event. Lissa Mulherin, Steve Kellogg, Erica Schmidt, and Lindsey Olson helped serve the food and beverages.

Kathy Jackson brought her BOCES GED class out to clear trails. Sue Stevens, Wendy Brand, Doug Price, Adam Mutch, Rod



**Silliman, Joyce Ermer**, and **Ted Georgian** worked tirelessly during a *very* cold and *very* rainy fall property clean up, with Ted putting a cap on the Eshelman kiosk all by his lonesome.

**Nick Vaczek** and **Jeff McMullen** spent a day closing up the cabin. **Lou** and **Tina Stevens** moved considerable debris from Griffin Trail in preparation for the spring surfacing.

Our annual wreath sale was wonderfully organized by Marcia Storch, Sarah Larson, and Carol Bradley. Teresa Budzinski made hundreds of bows. Our wreath decorators were Diane Canada, Emily Canada, Kathy Bess, Punkie Sinesiou, and mom Lydia, Chris Schultz, Sue Stevens, Judy Patton, Marcia Storch, Carol Bradley, Wendy Brand, Sarah Lar-

son, Pat McNeil, June Eaton, Betty Leo, Sue Camus, Charlene Granger, Carol Michie, Lynn Knowles, Tanya Reisman, Laura Shields, Karen Dickinson, Martha Nenno, Sarah Lyons, Theresa Schueckler, Lissa Mulherin, and Marilyn Hale. The finished products were delivered by Joe Schueckler, Judy Patton, Marcia Storch, and Carol Bradley. Many thanks to Dan Evans, Dan Spring, Jill Salvinski, and the rest of the staff at Pleasant Valley Greenhouse & Nursery for hosting and supporting this fund raiser.

**Barb Johnston** provides regular office support on mailings and membership. Thanks to all those who work behind the scenes and move in mysterious ways. ©

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#### 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\$101 \$5 off program admission couponsIndividual\$251 \$5 off program admission couponsFamily\$353 \$5 off program admission couponsConservator\$1004 free family program admissionsPatron\$250Same as Conservator, plus invitation

Patron \$250 Same as Conservator, plus 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 Donation \$

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:	new or	renewing membership? (Check one)
Send your completed form to: Pfeiffer Nature Center PO Box 802 Portville, NY 14770	May we contact you about volunteering?	Yes No, thank you

#### **Hours of Operation**

#### Office, 14 S. Main Street, Portville:

Generally Tues-Thurs, 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



# Read or Romp? Get Out and Discover!



The winter months offer plenty of beautiful scenes and outdoor activities. It is easy and enjoyable to look for animal tracks, observe weather signs, spot migratory birds, and study tree features sans leaves. But most of us spend more time indoors during the cold months. You can still both enjoy what nature has to offer and expand your knowledge.

How? Join us for a *Nature Lovers Book Club*. The structure of this group is still very fluid – feel free to offer your suggestions for meeting dates & locations, readings, and more. Call or email the office for details on the first meeting and first book!

Whether you do your exploring on foot or in a cozy armchair, here are a few books to enhance your exploration:

<u>Discover Nature in Winter, Things to Know and Things to Do</u> by Elizabeth Lawlor <u>Winter: An Ecological Handbook</u> by James Halfpenny <u>Life in the Cold: An Introduction to Winter Ecology</u> by Peter Marchand <u>The Outermost House</u> by Henry Beston <u>One Day at Beetle Rock</u> by Sally Carrighar

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

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

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