

# The Ovenbird

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

Spring, 2010



## Dark Skies Week

April 9-13

## Earth Day

April 25

## Arbor Day

April 30

## National Trails Day & Woods Walk

June 5



Get Out There And Walk!

We support our local hiking interests!  
You can reach them on Yahoo! Groups.  
Olean\_Area\_Hiking &  
Southern\_Tier\_Greenway\_Hiking.

## Watching & Waiting for the "Big Night"

Each spring on the first warm, rainy nights, a unique event occurs. Perhaps not as well known as the return of the robins or the call of spring peepers, it is one of the most important rites of spring for our amphibian population.

Thousands of salamanders emerge from the protection of the forest and begin a trek to the many vernal pools that exist in the Lillibridge old-growth forest. The event, named the "big night", is the annual spring migration of salamanders to breeding pools.

The Lillibridge old-growth forest is home to 12 species of salamanders making this site an excellent spot to observe these secretive creatures. One of the easiest locations to spot this activity is at the vernal pool located behind the information kiosk.

The migration is highly dependant on weather and therefore difficult to predict but we'll be keeping an eye out during March & April on the forest floor and in the vernal pools for salamander activity in hopes that we catch a rare glimpse of this extraordinary ritual. We'll be posting the results on our Blog located at [www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org](http://www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org).

We are pleased to share this excellent and comprehensive article on salamanders written by David Bishop and Carola Haas and provided by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, and Virginia State University.

## Salamander Biodiversity and Conservation

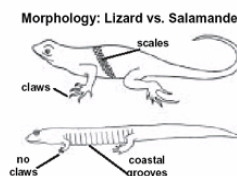
Of the more than 400 species of salamanders found worldwide, 130 to 150 live in North America. Over 40 percent of these are considered to be at risk. The greatest diversity of salamanders in the world is found in the Southeastern United States.

Salamanders are amphibians, like frogs, and most need water in which to reproduce. They live in a wide variety of habitats from swift-moving mountain streams to moist forests. In many habitats, they are the most abundant vertebrate.

Currently, 11 species are on the federal endangered or threatened species list in the United States, but many more species are at risk. The loss and modification of habitat is putting enormous pressure on salamander populations. Salamander habitat is being

destroyed, modified, and fragmented, seriously diminishing the diversity and number of salamanders in the United States and around the world. Although these secretive creatures are unknown to many people, they are important parts of our natural world and in serious need of our protection.

**What is a Salamander?** ~ Salamanders are amphibians (class Amphibia), related to frogs and toads. They are in the order Caudata, meaning they have a tail. Because of their secretive nature and nocturnal lifestyle, salamanders are one of the least studied groups of animals. They love dark, wet places, often in deep woods, which is one reason why salamanders are the subjects of numerous myths and legends.



**Structure & Appearance** ~ At first glance, most salamanders look like lizards and sometimes are called "spring lizards." However, salamanders are amphibians, not reptiles, and, unlike lizards, they have moist skin with no scales, no ears, and no claws.

Salamanders in the United States range in size from 2 inches to over 2 feet in length. Most species have two pairs of legs, but some look more like eels than lizards and have reduced or only a single pair of legs.

The tails of aquatic salamanders are often compressed to aid in swimming, whereas those of terrestrial species are more rounded. Some salamanders have the ability to regenerate their tails if they are lost.

Salamanders continue to grow past sexual maturity and must periodically shed their skin. After shedding, they often eat the skin. Mucous-secreting glands help prevent their skin from drying out when they are out of the water. Other glands release toxins that protect them from predators. Some have glands that produce pheromones, chemicals that are used in courtship and mating.

Some salamanders have lungs; others do not. In lungless species, respiration occurs through the skin and mouth. Respiration through the skin is important to both those with and without lungs during hibernation. All salamanders must remain in damp environments

Continued on Page 2—

## From the Director

As I write this, New York State is embroiled in one political problem after another, all making it much more challenging to resolve our seemingly overwhelming financial problems.

Part of the Governor's proposed budget includes major cuts to State Parks, including Allegany State Park (ASP). I can't begin to predict what the final results of the State budget will be, but I can tell you that regardless of what happens at ASP, Pfeiffer Nature Center will be here to serve you.

We'll continue to provide high-quality nature programs, guided hikes, and community outreach. Our hiking trails will still be open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week. Our office will remain open on a part-time basis, as it has been for all of our 11 years of existence.

How is this possible? It's because of YOU!. You pay your membership dues, donate to our annual campaign, and become a Woods Walk or Adopt A Tree sponsor. You come to programs, and you took the volunteer naturalist training so you even lead them once in a while. You joined our Speaker's Bureau and help spread the word about everything that Pfeiffer Nature Center has to offer. You inspire us, the part-time paid staff, to excel in everything we do, getting better all the time. We'll be here, and hope we'll continue to see you here, too!

It's spring, and a Nature Center's fancy turns to... Woods Walk and the Film Festival!

Refer to the brief article on page 3 for a bit of **Woods Walk & Trail Run** news, and go to our website – [www.WoodsWalk.net](http://www.WoodsWalk.net) - for all the details.

Serious runners love the fact that we're part of the **Eastern Grip Trail Running Series**. Start running the first race in April and

continue through the 8<sup>th</sup> race in late September.

Participating races range from Naples to Letchworth, Glenwood to Canandaigua, and their lengths vary from 8.7 to 15 miles, and all include lots of hills. You'll earn points for every race you finish, and even more if you win in your age category, with greater glory & prizes at the end.

On a completely different note, now's the time for you to be preparing for the 2010 Pfeiffer Nature Center **Film Festival**.

We want to see your creative interpretation of this year's theme: "My Backyard." Do you think of your backyard as the little spot behind your house, or does it encompass the entire planet? Is your backyard a place of beauty with lots of living things or a parking lot? Either way, we really want to have YOUR vision.

We've made some changes this year, compressing our age categories and increasing our specifying three submission categories: narrative, animation, and freestyle. We hope this will encourage people to experiment with their submissions. We are still accepting both videos and automated PowerPoint presentations. Get submission guidelines and an entry form on the Programs page at the Nature Center's new website – [www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org](http://www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org).

There is no entry fee, and entries are accepted through July 31, so there's plenty of time to create your own work of art. People have often asked if all the pictures need to be taken locally, or if they all need to be recent. The answer to both questions is no. They just need to be your own work, and to express your unique point of view.

**Grab your camera and go outside!**

Margaret Cherre

## Salamanders Continued...

to keep their skin moist and prevent drying out.

Most aquatic larval salamanders have gills that are absorbed when they metamorphose to adults. Some salamanders, such as the mudpuppies and waterdogs, keep external gills throughout their lives. The gills, as in fish, are red in color due to the high blood concentration necessary for oxygen absorption from the water. Gill size may be related to the water quality. In warm, slow-moving, low-oxygen waters, salamanders often have larger gills than those found in cool, flowing, high-oxygen waters.

Salamanders do not have ears, but may be able to detect vibrations through their legs and jaws. In the water, vibrations are detected by the lateral line system, rows of sensors found on the head. Most species have well-developed eyes. The exceptions are the few cave-dwelling species that live in complete darkness where eyes are unnecessary. Salamanders, unlike frogs, are voiceless except for a slight squeaking noise made by a few species when disturbed or excited.

**What Do They Eat?** ~ Salamanders are predators. Most feed on insects, worms, and other small invertebrates. Salamanders are often the most abundant vertebrate animal in the forest. They are an important link in the food web,

**Continued Page 3—**



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

## Salamanders Continued From Page 1

preyed upon by larger amphibians, snakes, turtles, birds, predaceous insects, and fish. Salamanders are active foragers, moving through their environment searching for prey. They can use visual and chemical cues to detect prey items. Salamanders use their tongue (covered with sticky secretions) to capture prey. Aquatic salamanders use suction to capture prey. Immature (larval) salamanders, like adults, are predators and feed upon aquatic insects and other invertebrates.

**How Do They Reproduce?** ~ Salamanders have a variety of reproductive strategies. Most species have a two-part life cycle that, like frogs, includes a larval stage and an adult stage. Some species lack a larval stage, and newly hatched individuals look like miniature versions of the adult. Most salamanders hatch from eggs and spend several weeks to years growing as aquatic larvae before they undergo metamorphosis to become adults. When the adults reach sexual maturity, they often return to breed at the same site where they were born.

Although frogs typically reproduce by external fertilization, few (10 percent) salamanders exhibit external fertilization. In most salamanders, fertilization is internal. Male salamanders court females with species-specific behaviors. The male then deposits a packet of sperm (a spermatophore) on the ground and the female transfers it into her body. The eggs are fertilized internally, but laid externally in a selected habitat.

**Where Do They Live?** ~ Most salamanders are found in or near wetlands. Because they lack the scales of reptiles, salamanders are susceptible to drying out, and must live in moist environments. Some species have the ability to burrow underground; others use burrows created by other animals like crayfish.

Salamanders occupy a wide range of aquatic habitats, from temporary pools to large rivers (hellbenders) and from cold mountain streams (many dusky salamanders) to warm ponds (tiger salamanders). Salamanders are able to live in cool environments. Most salamanders are active at night and during rain events, which permit them to move around to feed or mate.

All species of salamanders in the United States lay eggs. Aquatic salamanders lay

their eggs in water, and terrestrial species lay their eggs in moist areas under vegetation, rocks, or logs or underground. The female usually stays with the eggs for weeks or months until they hatch, defending them from predators and removing silt, debris, or fungal growth.

During the breeding season, males often develop secondary sexual characteristics such as pads on their hind limbs to help them hold onto slippery females when mating. Males of some lungless salamanders develop long teeth that are used to scratch the females' backs.

Some species can breed year round, but most salamanders have distinct breeding seasons, which vary depending on the species, location, and weather conditions. Those that breed in ponds and temporary wetlands are explosive breeders. Hundreds of individuals may migrate into a breeding pond, reproducing in mass on a single night when conditions are right.

**How Long Do They Live?** ~ Most salamanders live for 8 to 20 years, but large aquatic salamanders, such as hellbenders, have been known to live between 25 and 55 years. Even the small streamside salamanders, such as the mountain dusky salamander, regularly live more than 10 years.

Many small salamanders need three to four years to become large enough to breed. The red-spotted newt, for example, may spend seven years in the immature red eft phase before undergoing a second metamorphosis, and returning to a pond to breed. Because of their long life span, loss of adult salamanders may have a larger effect on population survival than occasional reproductive failure.

**Observing Salamanders** ~ Since terrestrial salamanders generally are active at night, they can often be observed during the day by flipping over logs, rocks, and other debris. It is important to return all logs, rocks, and other debris that are flipped back to their original position so animals can continue to use them for shelter. Aquatic salamanders can sometimes be found by carefully turning rocks on the stream bottom. Salamanders typically are more active on rainy nights.

Although collecting a few live salamanders is legal in most states, many states restrict

collecting large numbers. Take special care not to disturb any threatened or endangered species.

**What Good Are They?** ~ Despite the fact that salamanders are rarely seen, they are important members of the food web, both as predators and prey. They are especially important in controlling rates of decomposition and nutrient cycling. They also are a major food source for wild reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals.

Salamanders are used in medical research to study tissue regeneration and the effects of skin toxins for treating different diseases. Due to their permeable skin and amphibious lifestyle, salamanders also serve as an indicator species for environmental quality. The loss or reduction in the numbers of salamanders from an area may serve as an early warning of environmental pollution. Like all organisms, they are valuable not because they can benefit people but because they have been a valuable part of our ecosystem for millions of years.

**Threats** ~ Because salamanders are little known and secretive, scientists cannot be sure of the extent of the decline of this group worldwide. Over 40 percent of North American salamander species are considered to be at risk.

Most salamanders are threatened by habitat loss and water pollution. Over-collection for the pet trade or bait sales, acid rain, wetland drainage, drought, exotic species, stocking fish in breeding ponds, and the creation of dams are all significant threats. Growing urban development is converting woodlands and wetlands into parking lots and strip malls, reducing aquatic and terrestrial salamander habitat. Even if small patches of habitat are preserved, populations may be doomed for extinction if they are disconnected and surrounded by roads or other development.

It is not too late to save our native salamanders. Better forestry and agricultural practices can lessen the risk of destroying the habitat and limit pollution. Streamside conservation efforts will protect important habitats. Damaged wetland habitat can be restored. Small streams need to be protected from development and natural streamside vegetation should be kept intact. [See page 7 for a list of salamanders found at Pfeiffer Nature Center's Lillibridge Property.](#)



## News Briefs

### Cuba Families Participate in Nature Literacy Event

The Cuba Library hosted Pfeiffer Nature Center for one of our custom outreach programs, **The Mitten**. **The Mitten** is a family nature literacy event that engages elementary aged children and their parents in literacy activities that explore animal adaptation in the winter.

The participants enjoyed hearing **The Mitten** story read and then did several nature activities including identifying mammal pelts; guessing the number of hickory nuts stashed in a squirrel cache; designing their own animal masks; and other fun activities.

Thank you **Linda Polema** and the library staff for their warm hospitality!

### Boy Did We Blitz!

We couldn't have asked for better conditions for our Snowshoe Blitz held at Lillibridge on February 20. The instructors from **Paths, Peaks, and Paddles** provided instruction and guided walks through deep fresh snow to 65 visitors.

It was a wonderful turn out of our Pfeiffer regulars and many folks new to our programs.

Both properties continue to enchant visitors year-round with great opportunities to enjoy nature!



### Really Cool Technology Stuff...

We've been working with Cattaraugus County GIS Department to GPS our trails and property features. The data collection for Lillibridge is now done. We are looking forward to the data generating new property maps that can be incorporated into our maps and website that give many views from typographical, aerial, and hybrid blended maps. Thanks to **Dan Martonis** and his intern Travis for all their hard work in collecting the data in some of the deepest snow we've seen in a long time!

### Check Us Out.

Did you know we have a website? Well open up your browser and take a peak at our newly redesigned web page. There's a spot for you to submit your favorite pictures of the Nature Center, read past editions of the Ovenbird, learn about the properties, find programs, and even register online.

We're at [www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org](http://www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org)!

### Project WET!

Space is still available if you'd like to get oriented to facilitate Project WET. It's coming up April 6, 12-3:30 @ the Portville Presbyterian Church. It's free for teachers, Pfeiffer volunteer naturalists, and all others it's \$5. Come join the fun!



### Running and Walking and Woods, Oh My!

Planning is well underway for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Woods Walk & Trail Run, held on **National Trails Day** – Saturday, June 5. Every year sees improvements, and this years' include improved trail markings, decreased on-road time, a new walking option, and increased emphasis on being environmentally friendly.

You'll still find plenty to enjoy in our Finish Line Arena - great homemade food, live birds on display, children's activities, and free massages.

In response to your requests, we've added another event this year, so now you can choose from four walks and three runs.

### The Walks

Easy, short, guided nature walk exploring our transition area.

Easy, road walk of 1.75 miles.

Moderate 5K trail walk, including a difficult climb to our great boulders.

Difficult 10K trail walk, including some really challenging climbs.

### The Runs

Moderate 5K run with a difficult section up through our boulders.

Difficult 10K run, including some really challenging climbs over 2 hills.

Very difficult 10M run with some moderate sections – see our old-growth forest.

Register online at [www.woodswalk.net](http://www.woodswalk.net), or call the office (716.933.0187) for a paper entry form. Be sure we get your entry by May 20 so you get a 2010 Woods Walk T-shirt!

## Can You Help? We Need...

A Field Guide to Wildflowers (Peterson) (2)

Box of Large Latex Disposable Gloves

Aquatic Collecting Net—D Frame

Replacement Sweep Nets Muslin 16" Diameter (2)

Replacement Sweep Nets Poly Mesh 14" Diameter (2)



## Thank You to Our Dedicated Volunteers



### Teachers and Volunteers Get WILD!

The Nature Center in conjunction with the **Cattaraugus Allegany Teachers Center, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES and NYS Department of Conservation**, hosted 20 teachers and volunteer naturalists for Project WILD training.

Participants learned to facilitate Project WILD environmental lessons by playing the role of students and engaged in many fun outdoor activities that elicited plenty of hoots and hollers.

We are so grateful to **Amy Kochem**, NYS DEC Environmental Educator from the Rogers Center for traveling such a great distance to conduct the program. Thanks also go to **BOCES** for providing substitute teacher coverage; **Tim Houseknecht** for promoting the program; **Marilee Patterer** for providing yummy fruit and brownies; and **Marilyn Hale** from the **Portville Presbyterian Church** for providing the location.

### Congratulations to Our Newest Group Completing Volunteer Naturalist Training!

Wow! That's all we could say as enrollment in our naturalist program grew exponentially the week before January 30th. Credit goes to **Katie Day Sager** and the **Olean Times Herald** for a fantastic article promoting the program.

We were thrilled to have over 26 people express interest in the program with the following people attending: **Linda Monsell, Kathy Ross, Diane Witzigman, Kaylean Jean, Heidi Bennett, Rebecca Bogdan, Greg Snowman, Joe Schueckler, Mike Johnson, Marilee Patterer, Mike Ermer, Paul DesNoyesr, Barbara Casey, Stephanie Kramer, Reann Ehman, and Joellen Beatty.**

Several participants have continued on training in Project WILD and Project WET as well as starting to get oriented to the nature walk program.

We are very excited to have the new volunteers on board.

### Calling All Naturalists!

For those of you who have been involved as naturalists in the past, expect a call from one of our most dedicated volunteers, **Sue Stevens**. She has volunteered to reach out and share information about our current programs, volunteer needs, and help assess where we can grow in our utilization of volunteers to help with nature programs.

She's also helping to recruit volunteers to help with our biggest program, Adopt A Tree. We will need dozens of volunteers to help with the field trips conducted at Lillibridge in May and June. If you can help, let us know!

There is also a new page on our website dedicated to our volunteer naturalists. Sue can provide the details or you can call the office to request a password to access this page.

### New Board Members Jump In!

Several of our newest board members have been busy tackling important projects for

the Nature Center.

**Bob Wood**, a Master Forest Owner, made arrangements to bring the Master Forest Owners Refresher Course to Lillibridge in July. This is an excellent opportunity for us to show off our old-growth forest and make connections with other forest owners in the area. Thanks Bob, for making this happen!

**Bob Weber** and **Bob Wood** have been hitting the trails exploring the Eshelman Property to review and update data on our forest plan. Keep on trudging!

### Getting Out There!

We want to thank **Larry Richards, Kathy Peace** and **Dave Shemeld** from Dresser Clark Retirees for arranging an opportunity to speak to their group in March. We had the pleasure of meeting 30 of their members and sharing information about the old-growth forest.

Another thanks goes to **Nick Purcio**, print and radio reporter, for covering our Project WILD program and providing the great opportunity to interview on WHDL and WPIG.

With the help of **Vicki Schmidt** and **Pam Dominsky**, we are able to secure seedlings that will be used to replant the riparian way and stock the new Children's Interpretative Garden slated for the Eshelman Property. We will be looking for school and youth groups to assist in the planting the last two weeks in April. Give us a call if you can participate!

Thanks go to **Mary Haley** of **Salamanca City Schools** for inviting us to participate in career day. We taught water conservation to 97 adults & students from the 7th grade. What a great group of kids!

### Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation

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www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org  
info@PfeifferNatureCenter.org

### Board of Directors

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Vice President: Marcia Storch  
Secretary: Sarah Larson  
Treasurer: Mike Patton

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Mike Ermer Jeff McMullen  
Ed Reisman Ray Valeri  
Vicki Schmidt Bob Weber  
Bob Wood

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Margaret Cherre, Director  
Susan Avery, Naturalist  
Joellen Beatty, AmeriCorp Staff

## Thank You To Our Financial Supporters

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### A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

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### In Memory Of

Harold Wright by Joe & Theresa Schueckler

Harold Wright by Cuba-Rushford School Board

Harold Wright by Marlene Doyle

Col. Charles Eshelman by Mike & Judy Patton

*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!**



## 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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

## Seasonal Stirrings & Nature Notes

**April** ~ Ladybugs and other over-wintering insects are emerging to reproduce. From egg to caterpillar, a butterfly larva can grow to over 25,000 times its original size in as few as thirty days.

**May** ~ Dogs, foxes, coyotes are molting from a heavy winter coat to a shorter, thinner coat. Look for evidence of that old winter coat on edges that can catch hair like low hanging barbed wire fences and around the base of trees.

**June ~ Summer is announced with the** arrival of the summer triangle of stars. Vega, Altair, and Deneb form the triangle and are part of the summer constellations of Aquilla, Lyra, and Cygnus.

### Busy Beavers!

The beavers who reside in Dodge Creek at Eshelman took full advantage of Bullhead trail's closure last season for poison ivy issues. A walk along the trail shows

extensive beaver evidence with many trees felled along the pond edge. The trail was an obvious source of food and building material for these busy critters.

If you get out at the next thaw before the poison ivy returns you should be able to see beaver runs (muddy slide paths along the water edge), fresh beaver chews, and if you visit at dawn or dusk, the busy crepuscular beavers themselves.



### Salamanders of the Lillibridge Old-Growth Forest

Four-Toed Salamander  
Jefferson Salamander  
Long-Tailed Salamander  
Mountain Dusky Salamander

Northern Dusky Salamander  
Northern Red Salamander  
Northern Slimy Salamander  
Northern Two-Lined Salamander  
Redback Salamander  
Red-Spotted Newt  
Spotted Salamander  
Wehrle's Salamander

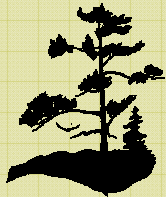
### Pfeiffer Nature Center Mission

- 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

Pfeiffer Nature Center and  
Foundation

PO Box 802  
Portville, NY 14770

Phone: 716.933.0187  
Email: [info@PfeifferNatureCenter.org](mailto:info@PfeifferNatureCenter.org)



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

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #5  
Portville, NY



**Hours of Operation**

**Office, 14 S. Main St. Portville:**

Generally Tue-Wed, 8am to 3pm;  
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.

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

**[www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org](http://www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org)  
716-933-0187**

**Field Trip! Beaver Habitats @ Zaepfel Nature Sanctuary**

We're moving a bit out of our neighborhood to  
explore an extraordinary property in  
Cattaraugus County. Join us for a field trip to  
Zaepfel Nature Sanctuary in Napoli, NY where  
you will be able to have a *very* close look at the  
intricacies of a beaver habitat.

The Zaepfel Nature Sanctuary has 350 acres of  
wetland habitat. The center is located on top of  
the Kent Moraine, in a bowl-like valley carved  
out by a glacial advance that paused in the area  
about 15,000 years ago. The valley was  
originally a freshwater lake created by the  
retreat of the ice. The ancient lake floor and  
shorelines are the Zaepfel Center. The property  
is also traversed by the Cold Spring Creek. The  
Nature Sanctuary is adjacent to the Allenberg  
Bog, owned by the Buffalo Audubon Society and  
close to the Conewango Swamp in the Town of  
Randolph.

This wetland habitat has multiple beaver  
colonies in various states of activity. You will be

able to explore the edge of several ponds and see  
examples of bank and pond lodges, beaver  
canals, and beaver caches. We will see meadows  
that are actively affected by beavers and spots  
that are reverting back to the pre-beaver  
condition. You will be presented with  
information on beaver anatomy, life cycle, family  
life, construction techniques, and other  
interesting tidbits about the beaver.

The field trip will be held Thursday, April 22  
from 10 AM—2 PM in Napoli, NY. Carpools will  
be organized departing from Portville NY (at 9  
AM) and other locations as needed. Participants  
should dress for the weather, bring water, and a  
bag lunch. There are no facilities at the Nature  
Sanctuary. The fee is  
\$10 for non-members  
and \$5 for members.  
Make your reservation  
for the trip before  
Friday, April 16 by  
calling 716-933-0187 .



Be sure you don't miss out on any of our exciting programs! Simply write  
[programs@PfeifferNatureCenter.org](mailto:programs@PfeifferNatureCenter.org) with the subject line **Count Me In** and we'll add you to our e-mail  
distribution list.