

# THE OVENBIRD

## PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER & FOUNDATION

### From the Director



Nature plays a pivotal role in fostering vibrant and resilient communities, enriching the lives of individuals, and enhancing the overall well-being of the environment. As the seasons transition into fall and winter, the importance of preserving and nurturing the natural world becomes even more evident. These colder months bring unique opportunities to engage with and support nature in various ways.

At the heart of the community, forest, meadows, gardens, and other green spaces offer a serene escape, promoting physical activity, mental rejuvenation, and social interaction. As the landscapes change colors and temperatures drop, these spaces transform, inviting all of us to partake in the wonders of the seasons with brisk walks, hunting, or jumping in leaves and snow. These simple, yet cherished, moments not only strengthen community bonds but also encourage a sense of belonging and shared stewardship for the environment.

Autumn and winter present unique chances to contribute positively to the natural world. Planting native trees and shrubs in fall helps to fortify the local ecosystem by providing essential habitats for wildlife, improving air quality, and reducing erosion. It's also an ideal time for gardeners to prepare their landscapes for the upcoming growing season by composting fallen leaves and enriching the soil.

Conservation efforts during these seasons extend beyond the individual level. Community-driven initiatives like tree-planting events and building winter feeding stations promote a collective commitment to safeguarding nature, supporting avian species, and creating opportunities for educational experiences and community engagement.

Additionally, raising awareness about the significance of biodiversity and the interconnectedness of all life forms is crucial. We look forward to reinvigorating not only our Center, but all of you, with educational programs, workshops, and lectures to empower us with knowledge about local ecosystems and the impact of their actions on the environment.

As the temperature drops and frost blankets the ground, the importance of nature in the community remains unwavering. Embracing the beauty and vitality of the natural world during fall and winter not only enriches our surroundings but also strengthens the bonds that tie us together as a community united in its dedication to preserving and cherishing the environment.



# Meet our new Executive Director, Nick!



Greetings, Friends of Pfeiffer!

My name is Nick Burt and I recently took on the role of Executive Director of Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation, Inc. I've been involved in nonprofits for the last 15 years in various capacities, most recently as the Vice Principal of a local private school. To say that I grew up in nature is a bit of an under-sell.

From my very first summer, my parents took me on camping trips at every opportunity. Since my mother was a teacher, we typically did most of our camping over summer. Once my younger sister came along, mom and dad made sure to double down on our tradition by beginning an annual weeklong stay in Allegany State Park. We were no stranger to bug nets over pack-and-plays, campfire food, and keeping any food or waste we created away from any little (or big!) noses. We quickly expanded our trips from summer to include fall, then winter, then eventually moved away from hotel vacations to include spring as well!

It was these initial experiences that sent me into Scouting, time at the various Nature Centers nearby, and becoming a hiking fool. There was nothing I could find that could quite satisfy my need for being outdoors. As a parent now myself, I can only imagine my own's frustration, I'm sure mixed with a little pride, to the constant "is Nick in the woods AGAIN?"

I am lucky to now be able to share this love of the natural world in the most satisfying way that I can imagine: through the time spent with my wife, Ashlyn, and our two boys, Benjamin and Declan. Our family has continued to live life outdoors, enjoying our bug friends and the birds that nest in our backyard, while we work on the toddler campouts that my parents were able to master. It is a pleasure and an honor that I am now able to further share my love and passion for our natural world with you all.

Be sure to stop by to see me in the office, bump into me on the trails, or ask every man with a big red beard "are you Nick?" It's sure to start a conversation at least!

-Nick



# Our Environment at Risk

We so often hear about “endangered,” “at risk,” and “threatened” species, usually coupled with some comment about the Amazon Rain Forest or an oil spill in the ocean. Everyone who’s anyone knows about the need for the Monarch Butterfly’s habitat to be restored to help save their species, but what about our less publicly noted neighbors? An endangered species right in our backyard in Portville and Cattaraugus County is the Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

This bat species, once prevalent across the eastern United States, has faced significant declines due to the threat of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease that affects hibernating bats.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat is characterized by its relatively long ears and a wingspan of around 9 to 10 inches. These bats play a vital ecological role as insect predators, helping to control populations of agricultural pests and disease-carrying insects.

Unfortunately, the spread of White-Nose Syndrome has had devastating effects on Northern Long-Eared Bat populations. This disease disrupts their hibernation patterns and can lead to high mortality rates during the winter months. As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Conservation efforts in the surrounding areas aim to protect and rehabilitate Northern Long-Eared Bat populations. Strategies include monitoring bat colonies, preserving critical roosting habitats, and raising awareness about the importance of these bats in maintaining ecosystem balance.

We can all contribute by supporting bat-friendly practices, such as avoiding disturbing hibernating bats, enhancing natural habitats with bat houses, and participating in citizen science initiatives to monitor bat populations. By taking collective action, residents of Portville can play a crucial role in the survival and recovery of the Northern Long-Eared Bat and contribute to the preservation of local biodiversity.





# *Holiday Wreath Sale*

## **24" Fraser Fir**

**\$43 naturally decorated**  
**\$35 undecorated**  
**\$63 for 2 undecorated**

## **22" Boxwood**

**\$58 naturally decorated**  
**\$50 undecorated**  
**\$90 for 2 undecorated**

*Place Your Order Today!*

**Call Pfeiffer Nature Center at 716-933-0187**

**Visit us at [www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org](http://www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org)**

**Email us at [office@pfeiffernaturecenter.org](mailto:office@pfeiffernaturecenter.org)**



**Additional  
Holiday Bows  
made by  
Pleasant Valley  
Greenhouse  
available for \$10**



# Yes, I'd Like to Become a Member of Pfeiffer Nature Center!

## Membership Level and Benefits

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

|                     |          |  |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| Student/Senior      | \$12     |  |
| Individual          | \$24     |  |
| Family              | \$36     |  |
| Steward             | \$50     |  |
| Conservator         | \$100    | Invitation to Wine & Cheese Reception        |
| Patron              | \$250    | Invitation to Wine & Cheese Reception        |
| Guardian            | \$500    | Same as Patron, 1 decorated holiday wreath   |
| Benefactor          | \$1,000  | Same as Guardian, 1 Adopt-a-Tree Sponsorship |
| 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?

Would you like to become a volunteer? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Send your completed form to:**

**Pfeiffer Nature Center  
PO Box 802  
Portville, NY 14770**

**OR**

**Sign up/renew online at  
[www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org](http://www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org)**



**Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation**

*Where science, art, and nature come together*



## *It's September*

It's September, and the orchards are afire with red and gold,  
And the nights with dew are heavy, and the morning's sharp with cold;  
Now the garden's at its gayest with the salvia blazing red  
And the good old-fashioned asters laughing at us from their bed;  
Once again in shoes and stockings are the children's little feet,  
And the dog now does his snoozing on the bright side of the street.

It's September, and the cornstalks are as high as they will go,  
And the red cheeks of the apples everywhere begin to show;  
Now the supper's scarcely over ere the darkness settles down  
And the moon looms big and yellow at the edges of the town;  
Oh, it's good to see the children, when their little prayers are said,  
Duck beneath the patchwork covers when they tumble into bed.

It's September, and a calmness and a sweetness seem to fall  
Over everything that's living, just as though it hears the call  
Of Old Winter, trudging slowly, with his pack of ice and snow,  
In the distance over yonder, and it somehow seems as though  
Every tiny little blossom wants to look its very best  
When the frost shall bite its petals and it droops away to rest.

It's September! It's the fullness and the ripeness of the year;  
All the work of earth is finished, or the final tasks are near,  
But there is no doleful wailing; every living thing that grows,  
For the end that is approaching wears the finest garb it knows.  
And I pray that I may proudly hold my head up high and smile  
When I come to my September in the golden afterwhile.

By Edward A. Guest





Photos by Beth  
Bergreen-Frost



# Kids Corner

## Fall Finds

M R M G J S E N D A N G E R E D P D N I  
M T A L Q W H K B D U Q K H K K H Y Z T  
U P R K P F M B W M I J E I K T C R G L  
O F T L W U I O L N W Z Y B Q S A B O M  
M E J R O U M O A V D H F E K Q U A O E  
L I A Y S Q Y T P F D Y S R J B T T G Q  
A F X W I W N S W E S K X N B H U S L U  
L F S O Z Q E Y E R Q G D A I H M S Y I  
S E W U R H L A G W G R Z T Z M N N P N  
P R A I N S M Y T E E G Z I K X H A K O  
C U P F R F N H H E M H K O Z X V T Q X  
X B H P A L L Y Q J R G D N E L U U A C  
M L T E C N J O M U R S A A X L E R J I  
M F K D R H F X W E D W O C K B A E G D  
E S H L E M A N U E M B M K H M E V E E  
A H Z H N Z L U W Y R N G R V J F G T R  
V X R M Q L P F R O S T U C O L O R S Q  
F A Q Z E J U L I L L I B R I D G E O N  
X G P X L G Y M Q S P J O J X T H A B S  
N Z V B Q B F G U A O N U K Z Z O I O M

Hibernation

Lillibridge

Endangered

Leaf

Eshleman

Sunflower

Pfeiffer

Bats

Equinox

Sweater

Nature

Autumn

Colors

Boots

Cider

Frost



## Equinox Eats

### Pumpkin Pie Ice Cream

#### Ingredients/Supplies:

- 15 oz can pumpkin puree
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup carrot juice
- 1/4 cup raisins (dried cranberries)
- 5-6 frozen bananas
- Brown sugar/crumbled pecans (Optional)
- Sweet Whipped Cream (Optional)
- Freezer-safe tray/ice cube mold
- Blender/food processor
- Scooper(s)

#### Instructions:

- Blend pumpkin, pumpkin pie spice, vanilla, juice, and cranberries until smooth
- Transfer to an ice cube tray or shallow pan and freeze 12 hours
- Blend frozen pumpkin mixture and frozen bananas until smooth
- Serve immediately as soft serve or transfer back to a freezer-safe container and freeze for 2-3 more hours for scoopable ice cream
- (Optional) Add a sprinkling of brown sugar and/or crumbled pecans with a dollop of whipped cream as a topping

#### Why Pfeiffer loves this recipe:

This seasonal spin on ice cream lends us a transition from summer into fall, letting us get a taste of all of the fall flavors to come while still enjoying one of summer's sweetest treats. It sneaks some healthy fruits and vegetables into the mix too!