

The Ovenbird

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

SUMMER, 2013



A Glimpse of
Upcoming Programs

July 28: **NATURE
SKETCHING WITH FERNS**
July 28: **EXHALE SERIES, Wk. 4**
Aug. 4: **EXHALE SERIES, Wk. 5**
Aug. 10: **KNOW THE NIGHT**
Aug. 11: **EXHALE SERIES,
Wk. 6**
Aug. 18: **EXHALE SERIES,
Wk. 7**
Aug. 24: **SUMMER
BOUNTY—FLOWERS,
EDIBLES, AND BALMS**
Aug. 25: **EXHALE SERIES,
Wk. 8**
Sept. 7: **FIRE & FLAVOR—
OPEN FIRE COOKING**
Sept. 21: **AWESOME
AMPHIBIA**
Visit our website for more
info on these and other
programs



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.

FIELDS OF GOLD

The fields and roadsides are quickly being filled with showy blooms. I often wonder how these open spaces looked to the original homesteaders settling in the Portville area over 150 years ago. Did they see the same summer favorites gracing roadsides and open fields?

I presume they didn't as the common summer roadside flowers we see today—Yarrow, Chicory, Ox-Eye Daisy, Queen Anne's Lace, Birds foot Trefoil, Chickweed—are not native to New York but are introduced aliens. One flower that would have been present in the 1800's is goldenrod.

Goldenrod is truly an all-American wildflower, with native species in every state. It is the state flower/herb of Kentucky, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Delaware. Great American poets and authors have used goldenrod to create imagery of a beautiful natural America from Robert Frost's "rain-fresh goldenrod" to Willa Cather's "sea of wind-blown grasses".

The Genus name for goldenrods is *Solidago*, which means "to make whole." Early Europeans recognized the value of goldenrod, identifying it with common names like woundwort. *Wort* in a plant name indicates its beneficial use medicinally or as a foodstuff. Goldenrod has been used to treat everything from allergies to kidney stones. Native Americans used goldenrod as a remedy for sore throats. Recent clinical studies have confirmed many of the medicinal properties of goldenrod.

Goldenrod is often mistaken as the cause for summer allergy ailments. Although some people suffer contact dermatitis from exposure to goldenrod, Ragweed that is the primary culprit behind a summer sneezing.



Goldenrod
(left) Lance-
like or Oval
Leaves.



Ragweed
(right)
Dissected
Leaves

Several varieties of goldenrod are edible. Identifying local goldenrods will be part of the an upcoming program at the nature center,
Summer Bounty – Flowers, Edibles,

and Balms on August 24.

Participants will become acquainted with these native species and sample goldenrod teas.



Goldenrod is predominant in old fields and roadsides in late summer. Although it has minor value as food for mammals and birds, it is extremely important food source for common pollinators as bees, butterflies, wasps, moths, and flies. Other creatures further up the food chain, like spiders and Praying Mantis, take advantage of these popular feeding sites and prey on the insects that visit goldenrod for the nectar.

Goldenrods account for a large portion of the summer field biomass. It provides an important function in the earth's ecosystem, as do all plants and trees, in carbon dioxide uptake and sequestration. It is one of many plants currently being studied as source material for green fuel pellets.

Long a favorite in European gardens, Americans are beginning to appreciate goldenrod as a native plant addition to their gardens. These large, perennial, showy plants, blooming from July thru September, are members of the Aster family. Goldenrods stand erect up to 5 feet tall, have alternate leaves, stiff structure, and are topped with plumes of yellow flowers. The plant is easy to grow, hearty, and adaptable to most garden situations.

There are over one hundred species of goldenrod worldwide. According to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services) there are 77 native species of goldenrod in the United States, twenty-seven in New York State and fifteen in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties.

Telling the difference between individual goldenrod species can be difficult. Goldenrods commonly cross-pollinate with members of the same family, so it is easy to see why many people think all goldenrods look the same. Having only fifteen species in our area, some with very distinct characteristics, make the task of learning local goldenrods a bit less daunting.

2 FIELDS OF GOLD CONTINUED

One simple goldenrod to learn is *Solidago odora*. *Odora* is Latin for fragrant and this goldenrod, standing 2"-5", in open fields and blooming in August & September, will have a strong anise smell when the leaves are crushed. Also referred to commonly as "sweet" goldenrod or "anise-scented," the leaves make a pleasant tasting tea.

Three other simple goldenrods to identify have very distinct features. The Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*) has a stem that angles back and forth at each leaf node. Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*) has leaves that remind me of the texture of seersucker. Last of the simple goldenrods is *Solidago patula*, the Round-leaf or Rough Goldenrod. It has an obvious four-sided stem when rolled between your fingers and rough textured leaves.

Bog Goldenrod (*Solidago uliginosa*) is primarily found in a bog, swamp, or damp meadow as is *Solidago patula*, but *patula* will have the 4-sided stem.

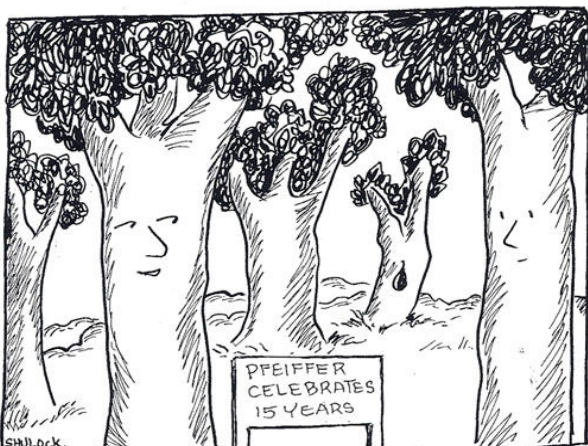
Solidago bicolor, also known as White Goldenrod or Silverrod is the only goldenrod in our area with white flowers.

From this point, it is helpful to know a few botanical terms to sort out the remaining local species: *Solidago altissima*, *Solidago gigantea*, *Solidago Canadensis*, *Solidago caesia*, *Solidago squarrosa*, *Solidago nemoralis*, *Solidago juncea*, *Solidago arguta*, and *Solidago ulmifolia*.

Many flower keys sort goldenrods by their flower heads or "inflorescence".



Above left to right: plume, elm, club, wand, flat-topped



"LET 'EM CELEBRATE THEIR PUNY, LITTLE ANNIVERSARY, YOU AND I KNOW WHAT REAL LONGEVITY LOOKS LIKE!"

Margaret Shulock lives in Friendship, NY. Her "Sticks" cartoons can be seen in the Olean Times Herald.

Another characteristic is leaf shape and leaf veining.



Above left: parallel-veined leaf, right: feather-veined leaf.

Guides also describe stems and/or leaves as hairy or smooth. Unfortunately, several species can be both hairy and smooth, which compounds the task of correctly identifying goldenrods.

Solidago nemoralis and *Solidago juncea* have leaflets on their axils (see right). *Solidago nemoralis* (Gray Goldenrod) will have leaves and stems that are fuzzy and *Solidago juncea* (Plume Goldenrod) will have smooth stems and leaves.



Three remaining goldenrods in our area have parallel veins on their leaves. They are *Solidago altissima* (Tall Goldenrod), *Solidago canadensis* (Canada Goldenrod), and *Solidago gigantea* (Giant Goldenrod). All three can be 3-6' tall, grow in open fields and roadsides, bloom August - September, grow in sun or partial sun, have plume-like inflorescence, and toothed leaves. Giant Goldenrod has smooth stems and leaves. Stems can be pale green or purplish. Tall Goldenrod is the common goldenrod with galls (see right), and usually has toothed leaves and a downy gray stem. Canada Goldenrod is very similar to *altissima* but the leaves can be denser on the stem and the leaves appear sharply toothed.



Frankly, it is amusing that these three species are called by the same common names, Tall, Late, Canada, Giant, Smooth, and Early. Obviously, others are also stumped by this group.

The last group of local goldenrod is primarily woodland species with feather-veined leaves. One is distinct in that it has a wand-like inflorescence and a basal rosette, *Solidago squarrosa* (Stout Goldenrod). One has a club-like inflorescence with flower tufts on the axils (see right), *Solidago caesia* (Bluestem or Wreath Goldenrod). *Solidago arguta* (Atlantic Goldenrod) has reddish brown stems and double-toothed leaves. *Solidago ulmifolia* (Elmleaf Goldenrod) has hairy flower braches.



A short key is included in the newsletter insert to help you sort the local varieties of goldenrod. A good flower book is very helpful when learning about goldenrods. Choose one with line drawings in addition to color plates such as Newcomb's Wildflower Guide.

Wandering the fields full of goldenrod I have to say I totally agree with Will Shakespeare "I like this place and could willingly waste my time in it." The Eshelman property has ten of the local species of goldenrod located along the Hawthorne and Eshelman lower loop trails. Come and explore goldenrod!

From the President

Pfeiffer Nature Center is sustainable. That is what our annual review tells us. For a tiny organization set on top of a mountain we do pretty well. Since 2008 when the bottom dropped out of the market and many non-profits shuttered their doors we are still welcoming visitors. Last year with the help of friends and grants we were even able to hire local contractors to replace the leaky cabin roof. But beyond that we have been in a holding pattern and some of you have noticed.

We too have noticed that we need to do more than just maintain. Since October we have been gaining momentum. As with all previous Boards of Directors we are working hard to not only be fiscally responsible but live our mission and vision as well. We have taken the bold step to hire an additional part-time employee. We are working hard to have the downtown office open five days per week. We are also working to again have greater visibility in the community. This month we renewed our participation in Portville Heritage Days and in conjunction with Nick Vaczek offered a tour of the historic chestnut cabin.

It has been almost ten years since the timber frame pavilion was constructed. At the time we had other projects underway and unfortunately some of those became stalled. Again, some of you noticed. But we have caught our breath. We are currently developing plans to enhance the facilities at the Lillibridge property. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of using the little blue box behind the sheds. A few weekends ago when the Pavilion was to be rented I drove up to the property with a friend. When we pulled in she exclaimed, "Oh my, the bride needs to use that with her dress on!" Of course she was referring to the port-a-john. I said yes and added so does the mother-in-law!

I have personally heard some frustrations expressed by members, volunteers and others from the community about things that need to be done and should have been done a while ago. And, I agree. We are working to make those changes. Pfeiffer Nature Center is a membership driven

community. We currently have 250+ members and an annual operating budget under \$90,000. It has only been with judicious budgeting that we have been able to keep two staff on the payroll and the doors open. So as we work on some of the things, we know we also need to do new things. Increasing membership is one of those.

We have also embarked on some new, fresh programming. I humorously say we need to tell those spotted salamanders to look lively and the wood thrush to change the score from Piano to Forte. Friends have commented on the Exhale Series which appeared on the program calendar earlier this year. They sent me emails questioning my sanity for suggesting the programming. Some said it was too liberal; some said it was too conservative. We are averaging an audience of about forty each week. Half of the audiences have never been to the nature center before.

The idea for the Exhale Series is to bring nature, music and community together. In the first week Della Moore delighted the audience by reading some of her poetry. In week two we sang, "Puff the Magic Dragon" with Mike Mortimer and Brian

Lothridge while Br Joe Kutola from Mt Irenaeus talked about the importance the old growth forest plays in our lives. When I first shared the idea with Yogi Kothari who is one of the speakers later in the series, she said it is important to hear each other in times of peace because it makes it easier to hear each other when times are not so peaceful. Call me crazy, but I think we might be on to something here. As we near the end of the series, I'm willing to bet that less than half of the audience is new each week. We will have made new friends who will hopefully become lasting members.

Woods Walk and Holiday Wreath Sale are our biggest fundraisers. Those fundraisers do more than pay salaries; they also help to keep the nature center community together.

Volunteers who do the decorating look forward to it every year. The weekend the wreaths are decorated brings people together. That is a community of friends, most of whom are also members. When I popped up to the property a few weeks ago, I also bumped into the guy who was to be the DJ for the wedding. He is also friend and he remarked he had never been up to the property before. He told me how great it was and now that he knew, he was going to come back with his wife to hike around.

So the committees of the Board have a lot on their plates. Members of the Programming, Fund Development, Facilities and Land Use committees

are working hard to get things done. The Executive Committee has tasked the Director, who usually occupies this space, with substantially increasing the earned and unearned income. This is no small task! But if we are to take care of those things you have noticed, it has to be done. So when Peg calls, please do listen.



The vision since incorporation: "To build a foundation of knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the intrinsic values and aesthetic qualities of the natural world and instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the natural world within the community."

I hope to find each of you enjoying Pfeiffer Nature Center. I appreciate all that all of you have shared. Please keep telling me what you think.

We move forward,
Colleen Kent

Take a deep breath...now

EXHALE

The Exhale Series is new programming for the nature center. This summer Sunday evening activity brings to the Lillibridge Pavilion music, nature and community members who share perspectives on joyful living. The series was designed to be similar to Chautauqua Institute in style and format; Being out in nature with live music followed by fifteen to thirty minutes of sharing and reflection and then another fifteen to thirty minutes of music to complete the evening. Visitors are welcome to join or depart the program at their leisure. Although the program starts at 5:30pm some folks have been arriving early to walk the trails or picnic.

The Exhale Series which is as much about music as art as it is about joyful living, featured in the first Sunday program Della Moore, Director of the African American Center for Cultural Development in Olean and Isaac Spaeth also of Olean. Della read some of her poetry and some other poems by local authors. Isaac opened with music on his mountain dulcimer and finished with saxophone solos.

Each week the experience is designed to be different from the last. In week two, Br Joe Kutola from Mt Irenaeus talked about the old growth forest. He elaborated on how lucky we are to have the nature center protecting such an important aspect of our environment. He also shared how nature connects us. Mike Mortimer and Brian Lothridge with help from their friend, Mark Sabella had the audience singing, "Puff the Magic Dragon" and other easily recognizable tunes. They also played some nice folks spirituals. Mike said to the audience that music is the way to bring people together. He said having people sing together is the easiest way to build community.

Other speakers for the series include Dan McKee, Yogi Kothari, Marilyn Hale, Barry Gan, Pastor Steve Beattie and Pastor Clara Wilder. The music as art portion also includes The Walden Family Band accompanied by Roy Griffin with old time favorites; Moses Howden and the Olean African Drum Ensemble; Jessica Anderson playing classic folk songs on guitar; Chris Piaggi on bagpipes; Mark Sabella; and the final week features the band not Norman.

Exhale Series began on Sunday, July 7th and runs through August 25th. Friends, neighbors and community members are invited to the free event to enjoy the beauty of the Lillibridge Property and just being outdoors surrounded by nature. Topics and themes are expected to range from humanistic, theological, social justice or simply words from the heart. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or umbrellas. The evening is expected to proceed

Summer Nature Notes

July ~ Common Milkweed is beginning to bloom in fields and along roadsides. The blooming coincides with the return of the Monarch Butterflies. One of the most widely recognized butterflies, the Monarch migrates north from Mexico usually reaching the United States early March.

In one year Monarch can have as many as 4-5 generations. When the first group reaches the U.S. in March they stop, mate, lays eggs, and die. The eggs hatch and become the second generation and continue the move north. This cycle repeats several times. The last generation are the butterflies hatched furthest north who will migrate back to Mexico at the end of summer.

August ~ This month can be the hottest of the year. With short nights and long days, the heat is absorbed by the earth and does not get to dissipate fully during the short nights. After dark notice where the heat is coming from and you'll sense that it is being released from the earth.

Summer is also the peak of wildfire season. In the south and west,

ecosystems rely on naturally occurring fires to regenerate their forests. In the northeast where our ecosystem is succession-based, fire does a double whammy adding carbon dioxide to the air as well as destroying plants which are nature's carbon capturers.

Goldenrods begin to fill the fields and roadsides with showy yellow blooms. Goldenrod and other forbs can account for 50% or more of the plant life in an old field and are critical habitat for insects, butterflies, bees, and grazing mammals.

September ~ Plants are completing their efforts to produce the next generation. Fall blooming plants must rush against the first frost to produce, ripen, and disperse their seed. As a result, many fall plants have very small seeds.

Additionally, mammals like bears are preparing for winter by harvesting nuts and berries to add additional fat for hibernating. Squirrels are "caching" their finds underground, in hollows, and other spots where they can draw upon them once the snow flies.

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

Can You Help? We Need...

- Dedicated volunteers who can help collect, sort, organize and create an album for press clipping and an album for photographs. All source material is at the office. Project should take 10-20 hours.
- People interested in making periodic nature observations and sharing them on our Facebook page or blog
- People to gather and dry flowers for our wreath decorations (see p. 7)
- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide
- Swingline GBC Fusion 1000L 9" Pouch Laminator
- 10—Carson LumiLoupe 5x Stand Magnifiers LL-55 for science exploration

Contact us for more information about any of these—we'd love to hear from you!

Thank You to Our Dedicated Volunteers



Thanks go to new volunteers **Lissa Mulherin** and **Karen McCarthy** for volunteering to read forest stories to the children at

Portville Free Library at our Spring nature literacy event "Living, Giving Trees".

Thanks to a very hearty group of volunteers **Val Tigh, Karen McCarthy, Rob Hurlburt, Ann Hurlburt, and Emily Hurlburt** for replacing the sponsor tags in the Adopt a Tree forest.



Thanks to **Rick Tetlak** for repairing and replacing the Lillibridge Trails Geocache boxes and for plotting coordinates for a new Geocache to be placed on the Eshelman property.

A big thanks to **Burt Schweigert** for his commitment and excellent job leading the bird walks in May. Additional thanks to **Jeff Reed** and the **Cattaraugus Bird Club** for their support.



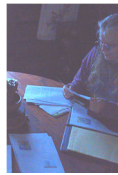
Thanks to **Joe Schueckler** for traveling to Wellsville and completing the 6-hour water sentinel training and being

available as back up to test water quality on the nature center's properties.

We appreciate the support of our Adopt a Tree teachers **Mr. Kio, Mrs. Raudenbush and Mrs. Funk** from Port Allegany; **Mrs. Whittaker, Mrs. Myers, and Mrs. Klotz** from Cuba Rushford; **Mrs. Mahar, Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Given** from Otto Eldred for another round of wonderful field trips to our outdoor learning lab.

Thanks to **Rob Hurlburt** for including us in **St Bona's** celebration of Earth Day.

We appreciate the help of **Robin Valeri and Kristen Kaszubowski** for their wonderful blog entries.



Thanks to **Faith Tanner Thrush** for leading the Poems and Trees workshop.

Thanks to **Carmen Soplop and Olean High School** for the donation of tree guides.

Thanks to **Roy Griffin and Nick Vaczek** for conducting oral interviews to add to our Pfeiffer history.



Thanks to **Kristen Rosenberg** and **NYS DEC** for conducting Project Learning Tree.

We have so many

volunteers to thank for all their help with a very successful Woods Walk & Trail Run I'm afraid we'll forget to mention some, but I'll do our best here:

Onsite Check In: Ann Feightner, Charlie Battaglia, Cecily Higgins, Jeanne Walk & Hank Storch.

Timing: Colleen Kent, Franz & Emily Hodge, Bob Weber, Ray Valeri, Gloria Burton

Trails: Carol Bradley, Chris Piaggi, Lillibridge & Eshelman Committees, Preston & Wendy Van Curen, Ann Marie Zimmerman, Julian Ziaggi, Jason Burt

Tents & Grounds: Mike, Joyce & Alex Ermer, Don Ast, Dave Michie

Finish Line Arena: Sue Stevens, Judy Patton, Marilyn Hale, Janet Ast, Melissa Nix, Velma Tanner, Wendy Brand, Tonya, Jeff, Austin, Justin & Matt Reisman, Pat McNeil, Mark Baker

Safety & Aid Stations: Vicki Schmidt, Portville Fire Department, Pam Dominsky, Pat Schoonover, Brian Grosso, Theresa Schueckler, Mary Eich, Denise & Aaron McCoy, Mikke & Alex Cole, Steve Potter, Joe & Betty Leo, Rich McNeil, Jack Haley, Jim Pomeroy, Tim Houseknecht

Sponsors & Advertisers: Marcia Storch, Ann Feightner, Ryan Wilcox

There are also countless landowners, sponsors, and advertisers who are crucial to our success. I'll happily provide you with a program booklet that lists them all—just let me know you'd like one.

Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation

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Welcome New & Renewing Members

Mar. 16 – June 30, 2013

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A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Mar. 16—June 30, 2013

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Create a Lasting Tribute

Recognize your loved ones in a way that will have lasting impact on Pfeiffer Nature Center and the local community. Gifts of any size may be made to honor or memorialize relatives, friends, or pets. With no minimum donation, this option provides giving opportunities for all.

Gifts to the **Kay Pfeiffer Gerkin Endowment Fund** are separately maintained and managed; the principle is retained exclusively for investments and income generation, 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.

All gifts will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Make a gift today!

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

7

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 coupon
Individual	\$25	1 \$5 off program admission coupon
Family	\$35	3 \$5 off program admission coupons
Steward	\$50	4 \$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: _____

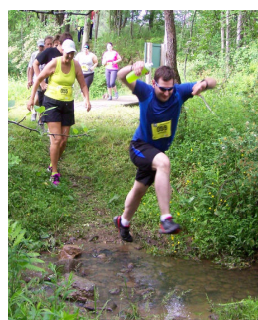
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL: _____ Is this a _____ new or _____ renewing membership? (Check one)

May we contact you about volunteering? _____ Yes _____ No, thank you.

Woods Walk & Trail Run Success!



our 7th annual Woods Walk & Trail Run.

Every single woman, man, & child completed the chosen course, ranging from a challenging 5K to an incredibly intense 10 miles. Lots of rain the previous week made for plenty of muddy sneakers but didn't dampen the spirits of either volunteers or participants.

Here are the overall male & female winners in each race.

On June 1st more than 150 people jumped, ran, and walked on trails specifically groomed & marked for

5K Run

Ryan Thierman—24:49
Sarah Dineen—31:32

10K Run

Leah Eddy—1:00:00
Tim McKee—1:18:45

10 Mile Run

Jon Melnik—1:38:29
Kathy Schwenk—1:52:19

Woods Walk & Trail Run is the single largest fund raiser for Pfeiffer Nature Center each year. This is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors, the hard work of an amazing crew of volunteers, and the cooperation of many landowners. See all of our sponsors and the finish times of all the runners at our website: WoodsWalk.net.



Thinking Ahead

"WHAT?! It's July and you're talking to us about wreaths?!"

Yep, I am. Because our stunning holiday wreaths are adorned with all-natural decorations, we start planning for them early. In fact I planted statice and straw flowers in my garden 6 weeks ago just for wreaths. I've been gathering and drying flowers from my paprika yarrow and I already have a pot full of lovely little pine cones I've picked up on my daily walks.

What do you have in your garden?
What do you see on your walks?
What creative ideas do you have for us to incorporate into this year's wreaths?



I'll be glad to teach you how to dry flowers, make pine cone cups, and simply to look at both wild and cultivated plants differently, to see the beauty in the everyday.

Pfeiffer Nature Center and
Foundation

PO Box 802
Portville, NY 14770

Phone: 716.933.0187
Email: info@PfeifferNatureCenter.org
Facebook : Pfeiffer Nature Center



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

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #18
Olean, NY
14760

Or Current Resident



Hours of Operation

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

Generally weekday mornings;
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**

**Come Celebrate With Us!**



It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and all of sudden it's our 15<sup>th</sup>! Time flies when you're having fun, and here at the Nature Center we try to have fun every day, whether we're leading a hike, planting trees or clearing trails.

We're holding a special **Sunset at the Cabin** on in honor of this milestone. It's a great opportunity to mingle with Pfeiffer Nature Center friends and supporters in a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

Our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will include delicious food prepared by Sheila Darrow. We're also offering tastings of locally-made artisanal wines crafted by award winners Mike & Diane Canada and Vicky & Ray McKinney. The atmosphere will be enhanced by soft, live music.

Choose to join one of our three property tours, ranging from an easy 10 minute stroll to a bracing 45 minute hike

To top it all off, we have the **best sunset view in the County!**

Watch your mail for an invitation. More details available online soon.

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.