

The Ovenbird

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

Fall, 2012



**ANNUAL HOLIDAY
WREATH SALE!**

**PLACE YOUR ORDER BY
NOVEMBER 8TH**

**INTRODUCTION TO WINE
MAKING**

OCTOBER 20

**EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKY
NOVEMBER 8**

**ESHELMAN PROPERTY
CLOSED THRU DEC 25**



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.

Bats

I had a bat under my wall barometer. I had bats in the eave of the cabin. They're gone now, migrating off to find more suitable sites to hibernate this winter but they'll be back in early spring. As much as I enjoy the bats, watching them perform amazing feats as they dive and consume pesky insects around the cabin, it's time for them to leave.

I'm not asking that they go far, just out into the yard where I will soon install the bat houses I've made for them. I've checked off the habitat requirements... a southern exposure, a tall pole away from trees, available water and as soon as I can locate a post-hole tool and learn how to mix concrete, the new digs will be installed and ready for their return in April.

Our bats took up residence about two years ago. Four years ago I wrote about the growing issue of bat conservation with the emergence of white nose syndrome in our little brown bats. Needless to say, having a colony take up residence at the cabin was surprising.

As happy as I am to have bats at my home, I was dismayed to see an article in the New York Times quoting sources from the new York State Department of Environmental Conservation stating since the emergence of White Nose Syndrome, discovered in Howe Cavern, just outside Albany in 2006, the state has lost 90% of the Little Brown Bat population.

In 2010 researchers at Boston University predicted the possibility of extinction of bats affected with White Nose Syndrome within 20 years.

Two years since the Boston University report and we've lost 90% of the Little Brown Bat population in the state. Wow! 90%!

There are plenty of conservation efforts underway to try and address the little brown bat concern. States have limited or

banned people from entering caves and caverns where bats live to prevent the spread of the fungus. Among the neatest idea I've seen was the construction of an artificial bat cave downstate to create a new fungus free environment.



Although they understand what causes the disease and how it is transmitted, researchers still do not know how to prevent it. There are some encouraging trends in the earliest bat populations affected.

Populations are growing in some of the first cave populations observed with the fungus. Researchers are studying what changes may have led to these bats being able to ward off the disease.

Much like watching a parent try to isolate a sick child, the bats have chosen sites less remote, more exposed to fresh air currents. They've grouped into small units, all possibly to limit the exposure and spread of the fungus that causes the disease.

So what can you do to help? Probably the same thing I'm doing. If you have suitable bat habitat (and if you've seen bats around your home, you probably have suitable habitat), construct and erect a bat house.

Plans and habitat information is available at www.batconservation.org.

We don't have plans to run a bat house workshop in 2013 but we're here to be a resource if you want information on how to build one. We have samples in the office.

You can also observe these magnificent creatures at work at the Lillibridge site feeding over the vernal pool behind the kiosk and at the Eshelman site feeding along the creeks edge.

From the Director

Warm Welcomes & Fond Farewells

Autumn is a time of change. The leaves change their colors, creating beautiful earth-toned patchwork on the hillsides. Birds leave their summer homes, returning to their winter residences. Squirrels busily pack their stores of nuts, deer and turkey hope that they've given their young enough skills to survive whatever winter may bring. Here at the Nature Center it's the time of year that we have to say goodbye to some of our board members and welcome others.

Sarah Larson has served us well as president for more than year, and has now entered the next phase of her life in Erie, PA. Her strong organizational skills and willingness to tackle tough tasks will be missed.

Carol Bradley has been a board member since 2009. She shared her easy smile, connection to the Cuba community, and diligence in everything from co-chairing the Trails Committee to cleaning the cabin, where she's leaving us a friend to remember her by.

Ed Reisman has also been on the board for six years. Often working out of town and unable to attend meetings, Ed he has graciously donated many hours to help make Woods Walk a success, and now to help us preserve our cabin. One of our close neighbors, Ed is always willing to help out when we're in a bind.

We are welcoming Ann Feightner (Total Senior Care), Jason Burt (Cooper Power Systems), and Ryan Wilcox (Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation). We're looking forward to getting to know them better and benefitting from their particular talents.

This year we also have some staff hellos and goodbyes.

Reann Ehman, who has served as our Naturalist for the past 2 years, completed her Master's Degree and obtained a full-time teaching position. While it's sad to see her leave, we are happy for her success and thankful for the time she spent with us, adding

her own touches to our programs, *The Ovenbird*, and more.

Susan Avery, our Naturalist from 2008 to 2010, is returning to the area and to this position. We're excited to again see her smiles and feel her energy infused throughout our operations. It's her work on this issue of *The Ovenbird*, plus she's already developed our program calendar for next year and done lots of marketing.

♪ *"Somewhere in my wicked, miserable past, I must have done something good."* ♪

If you've watched the movie as many times as I have, you know that's a line from one of the songs in *The Sound of Music*. It seems quite fitting here, as I ponder all the wonderful things that have occurred at Pfeiffer Nature Center in the past few months. Here are a few highlights.

Our Historic American Chestnut cabin has generated *lots* of community interest and support. So many people have been so generous! Please read the article on page 3 of this issue of *The Ovenbird* for more details.

Thanks to Dr. Robin Valeri at St. Bonaventure University, Pfeiffer Nature Center is the class project for her Social Influence class. We provided lots of information about our current marketing strategies a few weeks ago, and as the semester progresses the students will do research and present us with their ideas about how to improve our marketing, particularly targeting young adults.

In another partnership with St. Bonaventure, this summer we were part of a project that brought students from South America to the United States. The purpose of the program is to build positive relationships with the next generation of leaders so that in the coming years our countries can expand our collaborations. We loved sharing about our nature center and learning about environmental policies from their homelands.

Gratefully, Peg Cherre

This was a busy summer for the cabin.

We held two Sunset At The Cabin events, Business After Hours, and a Cabin Open House, each of which was well attended, each of which included people who gushed at the beauty of the view, marveled at the unique features of the cabin construction, and gaped at the photographic evidence of the difference in cabin surroundings from the 1940s to present day.

Many of these people made contributions to our Cabin Preservation Project, as did others who couldn't make our events but wanted to help. With contributions large and small, we have hit our target goal for Phase 1 of the cabin preservation! We would like to publicly thank the following people who have made donations since our last issue of *The Ovenbird*.

Manley Family Foundation

Eulalia Dempsey Trust

Anonymous

Tim Baird

Angela Cousins

Skip & June Eaton

Hannah Oakleaft

Dana & Karen Perrigo

Douglas & Barbara Pfeiffer

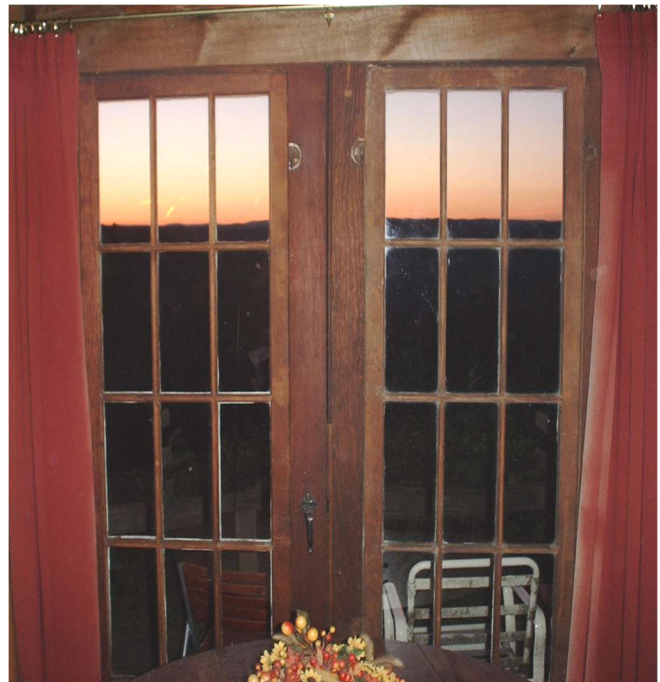
Hank & Marcia Storch

With this generosity, in July we had our entire roof replaced. This included both the shingled parts of the original roof and the low-slope, newer construction

sections. General Roofing did a complete tear off, and we were happy to learn that our underlying roof structures were sturdy and sound. It's a pleasure to look up and see the shiny copper flashing around the chimney. As time passes, that copper will weather to a verdigris, which will blend in nicely with the woodsy style.

Ed Reisman has begun the site work around the cabin. Trees that must be dropped have been marked, and the felling work has begun. This involves both cutting the trees and removing branches, limbs, and logs to appropriate locations. Tree removal is just the initial stage, preparing the area for reshaping the hillside behind the cabin and installing drain tile to divert the water away from our foundation. Ed is generously donating his time and talents for the many hours that will be involved. Thanks also the L.C. Whitford for the loan of the needed equipment.

Although no work will take place on the cabin itself over the winter, the Facilities Committee is strategizing our next steps. In addition to essential maintenance tasks such as fixing our shutters



and chimney cap, we need to determine priorities and costs for things like making the bathroom usable and installing a heating source. At least one of those jobs will probably be Phase 2.

We invite you to join us in supporting the Cabin Preservation Project, helping to ensure that coming generations will be able to enjoy this marvelous piece of history. In addition, as we complete more project phases, we will be able to expand cabin usage, extending offers to the community for small gatherings. Your dedicated contribution, at any level, will help us to achieve these goals.

Cabin Preservation Fund

Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation

PO Box 802

Portville, NY 14770

Annual Wreath Sale!

The holidays will be here before you know it!

Let Pfeiffer Nature Center help beautify the exterior of your home or office.

Pfeiffer Nature Center never lets you down when you order one of our stunning holiday wreaths. Hung on your front door, these wreaths are guaranteed to last from Thanksgiving through New Years; depending on your specific location, it may still look good on Valentine's Day!

Our decorated wreaths include a lovely hand-tied bow in a range of holiday colors and a selection of artfully arranged all-natural decorations, many in traditional designs in response to your requests. By working closely with Pleasant Valley Nursery, we're still able to keep our quality high and our prices low. Your purchase will benefit the Center and help us to continue to offer quality nature education and recreation to this area. *All wreath orders must be placed by November 8.*



Decorated Wreaths: hand-tied bow and all natural decorations

24" Fraser Fir - \$34 22" Boxwood - \$45

Undecorated Wreaths: ready for your adornments

24" Fraser Fir - \$29 22" Boxwood - \$40

Orders can be picked up ONLY from 1-4 pm on either Friday 11/23 or Saturday 11/24, at Pleasant Valley Nursery, Rt. 16, Hinsdale.

Call 716-933-0187 or use the form below to place your order.

Quantities are limited

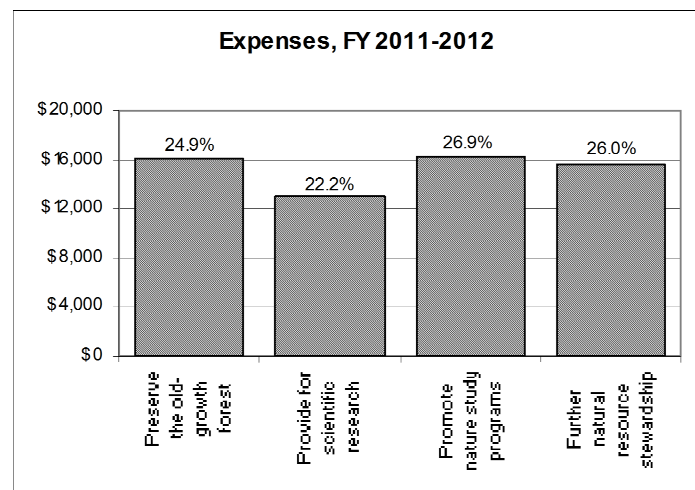
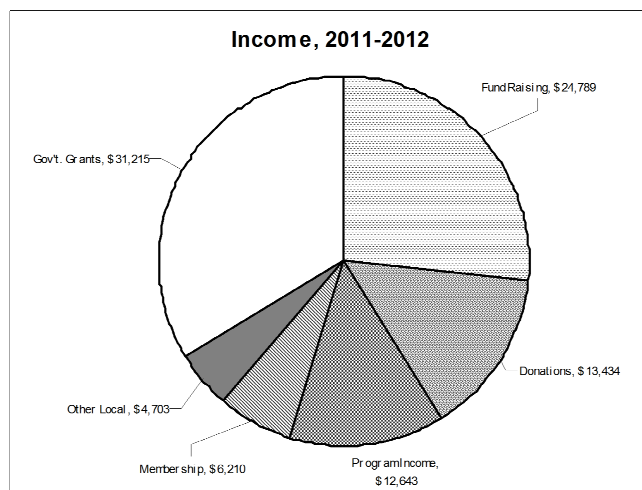
2012 PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER WREATH ORDER FORM

NAME:		DATE:	
STREET ADDRESS:			
CITY, STATE, ZIP:		PHONE:	
WREATH ORDER ~			
<u>Wreath Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Decorated Fraser Fir	\$34		
Decorated Boxwood	\$45		
Undecorated Fraser Fir	\$29		
Undecorated Boxwood	\$40		
	Order Total		
SELECT A PAYMENT OPTION ~			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have enclosed the following amount with this order (\$_____) OR		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will mail a check to the Nature Center office by 11/23/12 OR		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay for my order (check or cash) when I pick my wreath up at Pleasant Valley Nursery OR		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay for my order via debit/credit card. Call me at the phone number above for this.		
Send orders and make checks payable to: Pfeiffer Nature Center ~ P.O. Box 802 Portville, NY 14770			

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Revitalized Facilities Committee, developed priority-based plans for cabin preservation, receiving grants and donations totaling \$5,421 for this purpose
- Hosted 94 members of Greater Chamber of Commerce for Business After Hours program, including a falconry exhibit
- Hosted 44 volunteers and visitors and gave cabin tours for Sunset at the Cabin
- Created Program Committee, examining program offerings and opportunities
- Prepared materials for & hosted reception and show of Muir Books and related materials, providing public education through this, articles and community presentations
- Held successful 5th Annual Woods Walk & Trail Run, hosting runners and walkers from 2 states and 12 countries
- Held 53 nature-study programs, serving 727 children and 1,058 adults
- Worked with students from St. Bonaventure University to help with property maintenance and improvement
- Helped 15 people make houses for Eastern Bluebirds, our New York State bird
- Taught 19 people how to prune young trees for optimal growth and health
- Worked with 500+ students from 6 school systems through Adopt A Tree
- Continued streambed research with St. Bonaventure University Biology Department
- Engaged more than 50 adults and children in using snowshoes, many for the first time

FINANCES



Shaded areas in pie graph represent **local dollars** and total 66% of Nature Center support.

Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation

Administrative Office:
14 S. Main St. Portville NY 14770
Mailing Address:
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716.933.0187
www.PfeifferNatureCenter.org
info@PfeifferNatureCenter.org

Staff

Margaret Cherre, Director
Susan Avery, Naturalist

Board of Directors

President: Colleen Kent
Vice President: Ray Valeri
Secretary: Pam Dominsky
Treasurer: Bob Weber

Board Members

Jason Burt
Mike Ermer
Ann Feightner
Ted Georgian
Tim Houseknecht
Steve Potter
Ryan Wilcox
Chris Scott
Rob Walk

Thank You To Our Financial Supporters

Thank You & Welcome to New & Renewing Members

June 21 – Sept 30, 2012

Bill & Kay Anderson

Stephen Andrea

Don & Lucy Benson

Carol Bradley

Doug & Betsy Cashing

Coni Coletti

Albert Cousins

Angela Cousins

Larry & Pam Dominsky

Bob & Barb Fairbanks

LaDorna Fox

Shannon Halsaver

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Curen

John Van Hoff

Gregg & Cinda Warner

Lanna Waterman

Bob Weber

Daniel Wilson

Helen Worth

Shawn & Heather Wray

A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Albert Cousins

Darlene Goetzman

Roy Griffin

Colleen Kent

Marcia Storch

In Memory Of

Leonard Bixby

By Ruth Bixby Bray, Craig
Bixby, Mack Bixby, Ruthie
Riehle, Julie Bixby

Jeff Gross

By Wal-Mart Associates
2159

*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.

Pfeiffer Nature Center Mission

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

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

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 coupons
Individual	\$25	1 \$5 off program admission coupons
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.

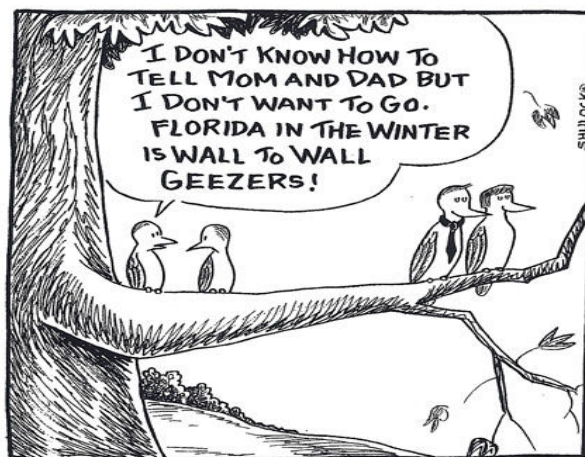
Seasonal Stirrings & Nature Notes

Fall is a wonderful season. With each passing day we are losing 20 minutes of daytime per week. Plants are finishing fruiting, seeds are being dispersed, photosynthesis is slowing triggered by the shorter days.

The leaves are changing color, not actually changing, but revealing the true colors of the compounds (beta carotenes, tannins, and anthocyanins) contained in the leaves but hidden by the active chloroplasts which color the leaves green.

Mammals are getting their winter coats, stashing away foodstuffs for the winter and preparing either to hibernate or hunt in much harsher conditions.

Speaking of harsh conditions, the Farmers Almanac has predicted that our area of the earth should be experiencing a return to "real winter weather" with snowier and colder conditions than we've had in recent years.



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.

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

PO Box 802
Portville, NY 14770

Phone: 716.933.0187
Email: info@PfeifferNatureCenter.org
Twitter: PfeifferNature
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 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**

**New Programs for 2013**

We are excited to offer a selection of new programs for the new year. Look for details in the next edition of the Ovenbird.

We'll be working with the Olean Public Library offering a **nature journaling** workshop in May. Ray & Vicky McKinney will be teaching natural **soda pop making** also in May. We've popped in a **poetry and the woods** workshop in June.

During Portville Heritage Days, in July, we'll be leading a **heritage walk** exploring the links between the Pfeiffer family and the Portville area.

There will be **family full moon hikes** ending with marshmallows around the campfire in June and October. If you're into the fine arts, there's **nature sketching** in July and a **nature photography** workshop in fall.

We'll have more activities geared for parents and children to enjoy together with our **Nurturing Nature in Children** series in April and November.

Returning will be some of your favorites: the **Snowshoe Blitz** in February, **Awesome Amphibia** in September, and the ever popular **Sunset at the Cabin** in October.

Join our program email list and keep informed about these and other programs by calling us at 716-933-0187. Please plan to join us next year as we continue to be THE place where science, art, and nature come together!

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.