

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

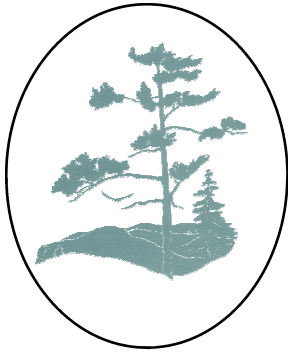
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**Pfeiffer Nature Center—
where science, art, and
nature come together!**

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The Ovenbird

Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

SPRING, 2011

Are We There Yet?

Each spring billions of birds hit the sky on atmospheric roads called flyways for their annual migration. Like roads on the ground, these flyways follow major landforms, such as mountain ridges, coastlines, or river valleys that act as natural funnels. Every type of bird, like human families, has their own special route to travel from home to winter vacation spots. Many birds do use the same general channels and in North America, scientists recognize four major flyways: the Atlantic, the Mississippi, the Central, and the Pacific.

Overall, about 80 percent of the some 650 species of birds that nest in North America migrate along these flyways and each species handles their annual trips a bit differently. Some cut the journey up into short hops, flying low and stopping frequently to rest or feed. Others are more like truckers and like to go for the long haul. They are able to use wind currents or “thermals” of hot air to soar vast distances. Some may fly as high as 30,000 feet to get the best breezes or to cross mountains. Most birds migrate with in the following ranges of altitudes: songbirds 500-6,000 feet, shorebirds, 1,000-13,000 feet, waterfowl 200-4,000 feet, and raptors, 700-4,000 feet.

When it comes to what time of day to travel, some fly during the day, many others prefer to travel only by night. Most long-distance migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and some waterfowl, migrate at night when conditions are more favorable (cooler temperatures and calmer air) and predators are few. Soaring birds, such as hawks and vultures, migrate by day, since the rising currents of air that enable them to soar only form during the day when the sun’s rays heat the earth. Swallows, swifts, and nighthawks are also diurnal, or day migrants, because they feed on flying insects that are active only by day.

The “speed limit” for birds on these highways in the sky varies depending on the bird. In general, larger birds fly faster than smaller birds. For example, songbirds travel at speeds ranging from 10-30 mph, waterfowl are at speeds between 30 and 50 mph and raptors can range from 20 to 45 mph. The speed and direction of the wind influences how fast bird travel. Strong tailwinds (winds blowing in the

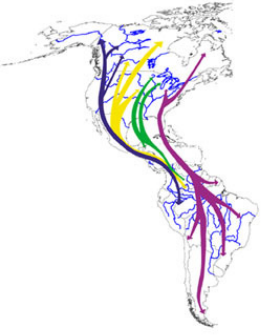
direction the bird is flying) mean faster travel, while headwinds slow a bird’s progress.

Migration distances vary greatly between species and between individual birds of the same species.

The shortest migrations are made by birds that breed in the southern United States and winter in Mexico and the West Indies, a trip that ca be as short as a few hundred miles. Some of the longest migrations are made by shorebirds that nest in the arctic tundra of northernmost Canada and winter as far south as Tierra del Fuego (the southernmost part of South America), a one-way distance of up to 10,000 miles. Other birds that winter in South America, and thus travel great distances, include: Common Nighthawks, Swainson’s Hawks, Red-eyed Vireos, Purple Martins, Barn and Cliff Swallows, Blackpoll, Cerulean and Connecticut Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, and Bobolinks.

Western New York is located in the Atlantic Flyway, which extends from the offshore waters of the Atlantic Coast west to the Allegheny Mountains. This flyway is of great importance to migratory waterfowl and other birds. This is a regular avenue of travel, and along it are many famous points for the observation of migrating land and water birds.

Western New York State is located in close proximity to Lakes Erie and Ontario. The shores of both lakes are noted as staging grounds for many species of birds that migrate north and south each spring and fall. In addition, the strip of land that separates both lakes, known as the Niagara Peninsula, serves as a “flyway” for many species of birds that would prefer over-land migration. There are also a number of sites in Western New York, such as the Iroquois and Montezuma Wildlife Refuges that are renowned as landing and nesting habitats for many types of waterfowl. Because of these features, Western New York State is considered a prime area for bird migration during the spring and fall.



Hours of Operation

Office, 14 S. Main St. Portville:
Generally Tue-Thurs, 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**

Or Current Resident

## JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING HIKE & LEARN!

Looking for a fun, easy way to spend quality time outdoors with family? Look no further!

Pfeiffer Nature Center is hosting a fun and new event called ‘Hike and Learn’. Come spend a few hours hiking with your family and learn new things about many aspects of nature along the way! There will be multiple stations along the trails where you and your children can learn about trees, orienteering, birds, native animals, and there will even be a craft station set up.

Hike and Learn will be held Saturday, April 9 at the Lillibridge property. It will

start at 1:00 pm and run until 4:00 pm. The weather may be chilly and the ground may be muddy, so be sure to dress appropriately.

Please contact Pfeiffer Nature Center to get involved. Call (716) 933-0187 or email [naturalist@pfeiffernaturecenter.org](mailto:naturalist@pfeiffernaturecenter.org) to register. The deadline for registration is April 6. The cost of Hike and Learn is \$5 for PNC members, \$10 to non-member adults, and \$5 to children under ten.



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.



Indoor Explore—  
Listening for Peepers  
@ Office  
April 14

Make & Take – A  
Wildflower Press  
@ Office  
May 26

**Woods Walk & Trail  
Run, Sat., June 4**

Indoor Explore - Insect-  
O-Rama  
@ Office  
June 16

Historic Cabin Tour  
@ Lillibridge  
June 18



**Get Out There And Walk!**  
We support our local hiking interests!  
You can reach them on Yahoo! Groups.  
Olean\_Area\_Hiking &  
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## From the Director:



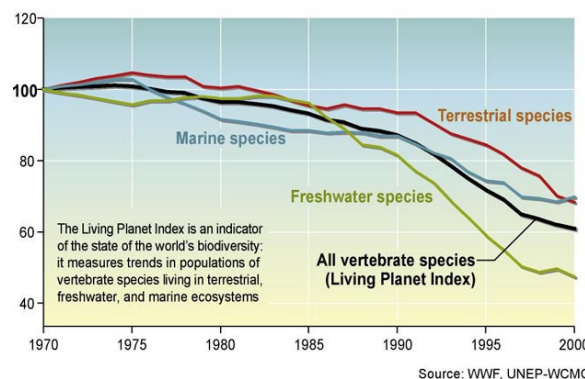
As I type this column, my right hand is swollen and red. Almost 24 hours ago I was stung by a wasp in my house. Not seeing him, I forcefully rammed my finger into him on my stair rail while I hurrying to answer the door. Fighting for his life, his stung me. What, you might ask, was

a hornet doing out in mid-March with more than 6" of snow on the ground? I don't know, but I can tell you that every spring I get these guys, still half asleep, wandering around inside my house, along with cluster flies and Asian lady beetles.

A week before the sting, a warm spell melted all the snow in my yard and I could see that voles had done a number on one of my flower beds, decimating what had been a large patch of lavender creeping phlox. Next to the large patch of crocosmia they'd killed the previous winter. I asked for suggestions on how to live peaceably with voles, hoping for ideas of plants that voles don't like, or natural soil amendments that might encourage them to move elsewhere. Instead, I got a few suggestions on how to kill them. Not at all what I had in mind.

While I wasn't happy to see a flower bed turned into dry, cracked earth, and I sure wasn't looking for a painful hornet sting, I see both of these as simply a fact of rural life. They are infinitely superior to the alternative – living in an environment that's been cleared of insects and rodents. I firmly believe that the long-term survival of human beings as a species depends heavily on us retaining as much biodiversity as we possibly can. Unfortunately we've been doing a pretty good job of killing things off, particularly in the last 30 years or so. According to the World Wildlife Federation, we've lost 40% of all species (terrestrial, freshwater, and marine) since 1970. While there's always been some species loss due to natural environmental changes, human activity – farming, manufacturing, logging, and the like – has dramatically increased the loss rate.

Population Index = 100 in 1970



You may think that it's really immaterial if I kill the hornets near my house, or the voles in my garden, but I think it's the same thing; it's simply a matter of scale. If I'm willing to remove animals that bother me near my home, chances are I'll care a little less when more acres of forest are cleared or more monoculture farms are developed. I do try to live by the "think globally, act locally" philosophy. Sure, I'm not always successful. After all, I do drive about 20 miles to work at the Nature Center, even if it is in a car that gets great mileage. Although I am a shareholder in Cantic Farm where I get most of my veggies from May through October, I still buy bananas and pomegranates that are shipped thousands of miles. I recycle virtually everything, from plastic and metal waste to items I post on Freecycle, but I still buy too many things packaged in styrofoam & plastic.

Say what you will, but I prefer to be stung occasionally than to spray my house with chemicals, trap animals outdoors. I'd rather re-plant my flower beds rather than catch those little voles in mouse traps.

Treading lightly,

Peg Cherre

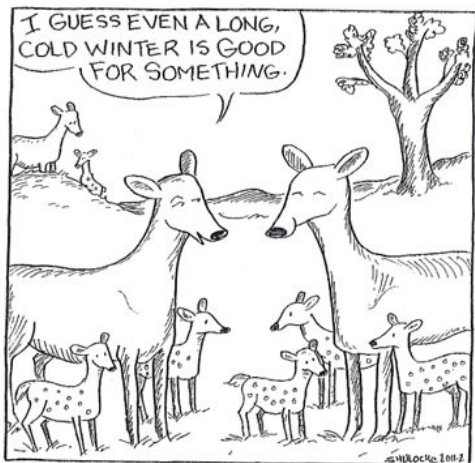
## Seasonal Stirrings & Nature Notes

**April ~** Most birds find their mates in the spring, & the male usually plays the main role in bird courtship rituals. This can include anything from showing off his colorful plumage to, as in the case of the woodcock, engaging in an elaborate aerial ritual in which he may fly as high as 300 feet before plummeting dramatically downward.

In a clear sky, the Lyrid meteor shower presents its nightly show from April 16-25. It produces around 10 meteors/hour but on rare occasions tremendous bursts of up to 100 meteors/hour have been seen. The best views are in the eastern & northeastern skies between midnight & dawn.

**May ~** By creating vibrations in the soil, woodcocks scare earthworms near the surface & then extract them with their long bills. These birds migrate in the fall to avoid having to probe into frozen ground. They return only when the ground has thawed in the spring.

**June~** Mornings of June, especially the first few days, are great times to view planets. This year Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune are visible during morning twilight. Mercury is also visible but only until about June 5th.



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.

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

### Membership Levels and Benefits

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

|                     |         |                                                                            |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Student/senior      | \$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



## Winter to Spring—By the Birds

I know it is past Groundhog's Day and spring is finally on its ways but I ran across an article written by Tim Baird that I thought was interesting. It gives us a different perspective on the arrival spring. Forget the groundhog and listen for the birds!

### Life With Feathers by Tim Baird



It's Groundhog's Day. I know my pulse has quickened. My elevation in heart rate is not a product of anxiety over Phil's shadow, but come through excitement over

the change in season. The weather shows no hint of spring, but I sense it.

Our cardinal senses it too; increasing light to pineal gland to gonad to voice. Cold, wind, and snow will make no difference; it is the beginning of the season of song. I for one have missed that "cheer-cheer-cheer". Somehow I think the cardinal has too.

A walk in the woods reveals the whistled song of the

chickadee in increasing frequency. "Peter, peter, peter" echoes through thaw foods from the titmouse. Birds are getting feisty. Change is in the air.



Somewhere the Great Horned Owl nestles on February eggs as I nestle under an afghan. Cold and snow cannot stop this. Owl young will need more than one season of food from parents. Time to get on with it; young owls will feed on young rabbits in their season.

Soon, without warning, a morning will fill with grackles squeaking their notes of rivalry. A season has changed overnight. Robins will come on south winds and seek bare ground. Like retreating snowflakes, Tundra Swans will meander north. When the air pressure is high the swans are too. Low pressure may ground them; bad weather can bring good birds.

The temperature hovers around zero Fahrenheit today, but it doesn't matter, it's Groundhog's Day.



## Thank You To Our Financial Supporters

### Thank You & Welcome to New & Renewing Members

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#### A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors

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Jim Holcomb by Rich & Pat McNeil  
Jim Holcomb by Albert Cousins  
Raymond & Florence Hull by Linda Monsell  
Betty Hotchkiss by Arthur & Joni Greene  
Mr. & Mrs. DeForest Chaffee by George & Jolene Cretekos  
Jonathan Teuscher by Velma Tanner  
Lawrence Hebdon by Joe & Linda Mecca

*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!**



Pfeiffer Nature Center's timber frame pavilion is the perfect spot for your wedding ceremony, graduation party, family picnic, or class reunion. It offers beautiful natural setting, marvelous views, great photo opportunities, and plenty of space.

Many dates are still available for summer & fall rentals. Visit our website or contact the office for information about pavilion rentals.



### 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

## Spring Bird Arrival Dates—Gerry Rising

(This 1041st *Buffalo Sunday News* column was first published on March 6, 2011. It has been edited from its original version and used with permission.)

These dates are derived from the Buffalo Ornithological Society's very useful *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: The Niagara Frontier Region*, a compilation by a society committee headed by Dave Suggs, who also mans the extremely useful "Dial-a-Bird" current information hotline at 896-1271. That checklist should be in the hands of everyone interested in birds; it provides much more information than this summary column. Copies may be obtained at the Beaver Meadow Nature Center, the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and other nature centers as well as nature stores like Wild Birds Limited in Blasdell.

Here then are the dates at which new arrivals should become, according to that Checklist, "fairly common" in appropriate areas:

February 21-28: tundra swan and Northern pintail.

March 1-10: American wigeon, American black duck and red-winged blackbird.

March 11-20: wood duck, gadwall, Northern shoveler, green-winged teal, lesser scaup, white-winged scoter, horned grebe, Northern harrier, red-shouldered hawk, American coot, killdeer, American woodcock, Eastern bluebird, American robin, Eastern meadowlark, rusty blackbird, common grackle and brown-headed cowbird.

March 21-31: snow goose, ring-necked duck, hooded merganser, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, turkey vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, common snipe, tree swallow, brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet and song sparrow.

April 1-10: blue-winged teal, ruddy duck, common loon, American bittern, osprey, Eastern phoebe,

winter wren and white-throated sparrow.

April 11-20: double-crested cormorant, broad-winged hawk, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, spotted sandpiper, yellow-bellied sapsucker, Northern flicker, purple martin, Northern rough-winged swallow, barn swallow, ruby-crowned kinglet, brown thrasher, yellow-rumped warbler, Eastern towhee, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, savannah sparrow and swamp sparrow.

April 21-31: great egret, green heron, common moorhen, Caspian tern, common tern, belted kingfisher, red-headed woodpecker, bank swallow, red-breasted nuthatch, house wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, hermit thrush, American pipit, yellow warbler, pine warbler, black-and-white warbler, Northern waterthrush, Louisiana waterthrush, fox sparrow, white-throated sparrow and purple finch.

May 1-10: Virginia rail, sora, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, least flycatcher, great-crested flycatcher, Eastern kingbird, yellow-throated vireo, warbling vireo, cliff swallow, wood thrush, gray catbird, Nashville warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, magnolia warbler, black-throated blue warbler, black-throated green warbler, palm warbler, cerulean warbler, ovenbird, hooded warbler and Baltimore oriole.

May 11-20: least bittern, semi-palmated plover, whimbrel, sanderling, least sandpiper, dunlin, Eastern wood-pewee, blue-headed vireo, red-eyed vireo, marsh wren, veery, Swainson's thrush, blue-winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, Blackburnian warbler, bay-breasted warbler, American redstart, mourning warbler, common yellowthroat, Canada warbler, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting and bobolink.

May 21-31: semi-palmated sandpiper, black-billed cuckoo, yellow-billed cuckoo, alder flycatcher, willow flycatcher and blackpoll warbler.

Here too are the dates at which overwintering species become uncommon:

March 10-20: horned lark.

March 21-31: canvasback, Northern shrike and snow bunting.

April 11-20: redhead, rough-legged hawk and American tree sparrow.

April 21-30: greater scaup, bufflehead, common goldeneye and common merganser.

May 11-20: long-tailed duck and red-breasted merganser.

And finally, here are birds that may be found here all year long: Canada goose, mallard, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, bald eagle, Bonaparte's gull, ring-billed gull, herring gull, great black-backed gull, rock dove, mourning dove, Eastern screech owl, great horned owl, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, Northern mockingbird, European starling, cedar waxwing, dark-eyed junco, Northern cardinal, house finch, American goldfinch and house sparrow.

Clearly not all of these 183 species are equally common nor are they to be found everywhere in this region, but every one of them is recorded here every year by someone somewhere.

Many local birders keep annual lists and those most active accumulate year lists of over 200 species. - *Gerry Rising*

You can view other articles by Gerry Rising at his website, Nature Watch at [www.buffalo.edu/~insrisg/nature](http://www.buffalo.edu/~insrisg/nature)



## Forests & Films, Globally & Locally

Serendipity is marvelous. Sometimes when you least expect it, things fall together perfectly.



We announced in the last issue of *The Ovenbird* that we received a wonderful gift from Douglas Pfeiffer of several books written the famous naturalist, John Muir. You'll recall that Muir inscribed these books to Eleanor Wheeler, mother of our founder, Wendy Pfeiffer Lawrence. Since then, we've been working with several groups to plan the best way to share this wonderful asset with the community.

Under the guidance of St. Bonaventure University professor Phillip Payne, students taking History 419 have been doing research and will be preparing written information for online posting. Ronda Pollock of the Portville Historical Society has been digging through archival records in various locations to help us determine how Eleanor Wheeler and John Muir became acquainted enough for him to sign the set of books and send them to her. While that's still a bit of a mystery, we have learned many things about Eleanor and her family while conducting the research.

We're also in the process of planning public displays and presentations of the books, information about the importance of John Muir in creating the National Parks System and in the conservation movement, and the philosophy the Nature Center shares him. Evelyn Penman from the Quick Center at St. Bonaventure University has already been generous with her assistance as we discuss logistics. We'll provide more details as they become available; for now we can tell you to look for us to

be out in the public beginning this summer.

Now here's where serendipity comes into play. In honor of Earth Day and John Muir Day, on April 18 PBS will air a new segment in their *American Masters* series – **John Muir in the New World**. Having won seven Emmy awards, we can count on *American Masters* to do a marvelous job of accurate portraying Muir. "It's incredible what we owe to John Muir and, in our era of Katrina and oil spills, how very much we should revere his message today," says Susan Lacy, series creator and executive producer of *American Masters*. She continues, "Explaining his impact then and now, this 90-minute documentary delves into Muir's life and influences with reenactments... throughout the majestic landscapes he visited: Wisconsin, Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, the Alhambra Valley of California, and the glaciers of Alaska. Placing our nation's most important natural assets in a cultural and social context, **John Muir in the New World** is a timely reminder of America's unique and, ultimately, threatened eco-systems." Check your television listings for local airing time.

In yet another lovely coincidence, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. (Visit their website at <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/index.shtml>)



With more than 200 acres of woodland, the Nature Center is eager to celebrate the multiple benefits of forests with people around the globe. Here are some quick facts provided by the UN.

- Forests cover 31% of the world's total land area.
- Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.
- The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests.
- Trade in forest products was estimated at \$327 billion in 2004.
- Forests store more than 1 trillion tons of carbon.
- Approximately 80% of people living in developing countries depend on non-wood forest products, such as fruits and herbs, for their primary health and nutritional needs. Deforestation accounts for 12-20% of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

As part of their year-long celebration, the United Nations Forum on Forests has collaborated with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organize an International Forest Film Festival. Festival winners were presented to delegates from all 192 United Nations countries in February, 2011. According to the Jackson Hole website, "The film festival is a key part of our outreach efforts of Forests 2011, enabling us to raise awareness on the importance of forests, their relationship with people and the planet we share, and consequently, to inspire a sense of personal responsibility/stewardship for a greener, more equitable, sustainable future." Learn more about the International Forest Film Festival at <http://www.jhfestival.org/forestfestival/index.htm>

In keeping with our ongoing efforts to provide opportunities where science, art & nature overlap, Pfeiffer Nature Center is attempting to build a local coalition of high schools, colleges, and others to bring the International Forest Film Festival to our area. If you're interested in joining us, give us a call or send us an email to be included in the discussions.

### Can You Help? We Need...

Aquatic Collecting Net—D Frame  
Replacement Sweep Nets Muslin 16" Diameter (2)  
Replacement Sweep Nets Poly Mesh 14" Diameter (2)

Snowshoes



## Woods Walk & Trail Run, 2011

It's our fifth year of this great wellness event. As always, we have options for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Want to participate with your toddler and your grandmother? Consider our guided nature walk. At about 1/2 mile, you'll get lots of info about what's blooming, singing, and buzzing in our meadow.

Experienced hikers will like our *challenging* 10K, with lots of elevation changes. Not quite ready for that? Pick our *completely redesigned* 5K; while it still has some climbs, you can opt out at the aid station half way through.

Want a challenge without long distances? Our *new 5K route* is just the ticket for you.

Up for more? Our 10K run has *lots* of elevation changes for strong legs, backs, & hearts.

Serious runners are already training for our **grueling** 10 mile run — you'll want one of our free leg massages when you're through with this one! Our 10 mile run is part of the **Eastern Grip Trail Running Series**—run more races, earn more points.

Get more info & register online at [www.woodswalk.net](http://www.woodswalk.net), via postal mail, or in person. Be sure to meet our early registration



deadline (entry received by 5/19) for the best prices and a T-shirt!

## Thank You to Our Dedicated Volunteers

Our big winter event this year was the Snowshoe Blitz in February. Almost 75 people braved a snowstorm to attend, including some Boy Scouts and Bonavoyagers. Thanks to Paths, Peaks and Paddles and Bona students for helping! The fresh fall made for wonderful conditions for snowshoeing through the old growth forest.

Ray Valeri graciously represented us at the annual Boy Scout pancake breakfast in Cuba, NY. He spent the morning sharing information about the Nature Center and how Scout leaders can use our trails and programs to help their boys earn badges.

The Niagara Frontier Botanical Society invited us to present information about the Nature Center, and we're looking forward to them visiting us in May!

Many thanks to Sue Stevens for creating an updated volunteer list. She talked to lots of people who had expressed an interest in volunteering,

and we've started calling on them already. Want to add your name to that list? Just let us know and we'll add you, too!

Thanks to Barbara Johnston for helping with office work and mailings. Richard Ehman joined our volunteer ranks, helping fold some of our new trail maps and Adopt-A-Tree brochures.

Jeff Reisman kept the entrance to our Eshelman property plowed all winter long through our MANY snowfalls—thanks Jeff!

Thanks to Larry Wise, who spent a cold February morning hiking the trails of Lillibridge with me, sharing his extensive knowledge of the forest.

Look for stargazing programs this summer, thanks to a great class Bert Probst taught at the Ellicottville Memorial Library. Bert, a wonderful amateur astronomer, shared tons of

info learning about outer space, how to locate stars, and how to use telescopes. Bert may lead a program for us in the future.

### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We hope you'll join us at our upcoming work days—many hands make light work.

**April 2—Lillibridge Road**  
General spring trail cleanup

**April 9—Yubadam Road**  
Create a new trail

**April 23—Yubadam Road**  
Work on the development of our Interactive Children's Garden

**April 30—Lillibridge Road**  
Garden cleanup, trail delineation

**May 14—Lillibridge Road**  
Assorted property maintenance

**Call us for details!**

### Pfeiffer Nature Center & Foundation

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Logan Connelly, Technology Intern

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