

WELCOME

Summer

Solstice Ovenbird

Friday June 20th, 2023

10:42 PM

© Dan Jordan
2023



Welcome Summer Solstice June 20th, 2025

The summer solstice is the longest day and the shortest night of 2025. The sun is at its highest point in the sky and arrives at the same time for every country independently of which side of Earth is facing the sun. This means the exact moment of summer solstice can occur in the middle of the night for some people and the middle of the day for others.

There are many benefits of the extended daylight. With increased exposure to sunlight, it helps boost serotonin levels in the brain, which can enhance mood and increase energy levels.

Ways to celebrate the summer solstice can include planning a scavenger hunt with your family and friends. You can pack a picnic and eat outside and tune into nature. One can greet the sun with a family sun salutation. Other ideas include creating summer rituals, staying up late and stargazing. One can get their hands dirty and embrace the earth by planting flowers or a small garden. Many Native American tribes have rich traditions surrounding the summer solstice involving dancing, singing and prayers to honor the sun and seek spiritual renewal. In Celtic tradition, storytelling, throwing bones into bonfires and scattering ashes into fields for crop blessings are held.

Swedes begin the day by gathering flowers and making wreaths. These beautiful flowery items are then added to the festive maypole. On the day of Midsummer, the maypole is erected. Children and adults dance around the flowered pole. No matter what your celebration for ringing in the summer solstice, enjoy yourselves.

Pfeiffer has had many activities and programs leading into the spring and summer months. Two birding walk and talk programs were held at the Eshelman Property. An insect program was held at Lillibridge with many attending the program. A guided nature walk with a NYSDEC officer took place at Lillibridge with the public and 50 students and teachers from Hinsdale Central School attending. We have lots of wonderful photos to share with everyone reading and enjoying the Ovenbird.

The Pfeiffer Nature Center Membership drive was held on Thursday June 19th at the pavilion. You can complete a Membership online at your convenience: www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org

Please visit our website to find out more information about Pfeiffer Nature Center and upcoming scheduled programs.

Enjoy your day and be well-Beth

www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org

**Pfeiffer Nature Center OFFICE
has moved as of March 1st,
2025.**

**NEW LOCATION:
996 PORTVILLE OLEAN
ROAD/PORTVILLE, NY
14770**

**716-933-0187
PO BOX 802**



The sky is a blank canvas, reminding us that
each day is a chance to create something new.

Indian pipe, or *Monotropa uniflora*, are white because they have no chlorophyll and so cannot photosynthesize.

Because they can't photosynthesize, they cannot make their own sugar.

Once the plant has been pollinated, the seeds are pushed through the petals in a tiny slit and dispersed via wind methods.

INDIAN PIPE



*Please do not
harvest ghost pipe-
only enjoy their
beauty.*

Symbolizes mystery,
introspection, and
the unseen wonders
of the natural world.

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	
Patron	\$250	
Guardian	\$500	1 decorated holiday wreath
Benefactor	\$1,000	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**



Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

Where science, art, and nature come together



**THE EARTH LAUGHS IN FLOWERS - JUNE 20TH,
2025 SUMMER SOLSTICE**

PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER



ESHELMAN PROPERTY

From the nature desk...

It was one of those perfect hazy early summer days. I set out for a long walk with no destination in mind. The air was heavy with the sweet, almost dizzying scent of blooming locust trees, their creamy-white flowers cascading in soft bunches like offerings. They looked like nature's candy and, of course, I had to try one. Over the years, I've taught myself to trust my senses when it comes to plants, nibbling here and there, often learning directly. I had never tried these flowers before or heard rumor that they were edible! The locust flowers were delicious—delicate, pea-like, fragrant, and filled with life, pollen-dusted and protein-rich. I ate a handful, then another, feeling like I was being nourished by something ancient and generous. Further down the road, a weasel darted across my path. Its coat a warm chestnut brown that shimmered in the sun. There's something otherworldly about weasels—like they're tiny forest familiars, slipping between the seen and unseen.

On my way home, I gathered a small bundle of the flowers for my dear friend Lois, who proudly calls herself a “woods-crone.” She's in her late seventies and lives more rootedly than anyone I know, tending her garden, cooking with local foods, living by the rhythm of the seasons. She lit up when I handed her the flowers, her hands cradling them like treasure. In return, she gifted me two young plum trees, promising fruit in a few years if I care for them well. It felt like an exchange from a different time: food for food, beauty for beauty, rootedness for rootedness. As I walked back home, trees in tow and the scent of locust blossoms still clinging to my hands, I thought about how these small acts...walking, noticing, tasting, sharing...are what weave us into the joy of the web of life.

-Bliss Rodkey (Nature Education Coordinator for Pfeiffer Nature Center)



Working with natural materials



Come weave with our naturalist, Bliss! Together, we'll explore natural materials, simple techniques, and the joy of making something beautiful by hand.

6:30pm Friday May 30th

Mountain Park Nature Center



Spring birding
walks...

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2025




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2025



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2025





Explore the Forest with a NYS DEC Forester!

Join us for a guided nature walk at **Pfeiffer Nature Center** (1974 Lillibridge Rd, Portville, NY) on **June 12, 2025**, starting at **10:00 AM till 12!**

A New York State DEC Forester will lead the way as we explore the woods, learning how to identify common trees, shrubs, and invasive plants found in Western New York. You'll hear how foresters balance tree harvesting with the needs of wildlife, recreation, and long-term forest health. Perfect for curious minds of all ages!





Some photos from our birding walk, captured by Dan Jordon





Pfeiffer's Membership Drive at the Pavilion

BY NOTHING TO LOSE

GARDEN CHAIR DOOR PRIZE

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
JUNE- 5 - 6	19TH PM	PFEIFFER PAVILION
2025		1974 LILLIBRIDGE ROAD

ROCKET DOG FLY SHOP



SUMMER MANDALA FUN

