

THE OVENBIRD

PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER & FOUNDATION

From the Director

As the chill of winter gradually gives way to the warmth of Spring, the natural world around us awakens with a sense of renewed vitality and splendor. Springtime holds immense significance for both humans and our wildlife neighbors, marking a time of transition, rejuvenation, and vibrant growth. For countless species of plants and animals, Spring heralds the beginning of a new life cycle, as dormant plants burst forth in a riot of colors and fragrances, and migratory birds return to their breeding grounds with songs of courtship and renewal.



On the tranquil grounds of Pfeiffer Nature Center, springtime offers a wealth of opportunities for observation, exploration, and appreciation of the natural world. Visitors can witness the spectacle of migrating birds as they wing their way northward, stopping to rest and refuel in our meadows, trees, and wetland. Wildflowers line the sides of our paths and paint our preserves, signaling the arrival of warmer days and beckoning pollinators with their nectar-rich blooms. From the emergence of our amphibious friends to the bustling activity of nesting birds, every corner of PNC teems with the energy and excitement of springtime.

Moreover, spring serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness of all living beings and the delicate balance of ecosystems. As we marvel at the beauty and resilience of nature's springtime spectacle, we are inspired to redouble our efforts in conservation and stewardship. By nurturing and protecting the habitats that sustain wildlife through the changing seasons, we ensure that future generations can continue to experience the wonder and awe of spring in all its glory.

A Complete Team Again!

Pfeiffer Nature Center is thrilled to welcome our brand new Nature Education Coordinator to the team! Along with a lifelong affinity with our Lillibridge Preserve, Bliss brings a wealth of experience in nature-based programming. Her expertise in herbal medicine, permaculture, and primitive skills will enhance the experiences of visitors and community members alike. Bliss is eager to breathe new and fresh perspectives into PNC, as well as continue to offer more of our proven time-tested programs. Bliss envisions Pfeiffer as being a hub for bringing people together to deepen their connection with the earth, fostering a community of land stewards, and growing as a place for nature enthusiasts. Her diverse educational and experiential offerings will aim to cultivate knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for all of the earth's intrinsic values. She plans on doing this by offering enlightening, fun and creative programs for all ages. Bliss's genuine passion for the healing properties of nature fuels her desire to share its wonders with the community.



Left to right is Nick Burt (Executive Director), Bliss Rodkey (Nature Education Coordinator), and Beth Bergreen-Frost (Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper) as featured in the Olean Times Herald.

Since We Last Spoke!



First Hike 1/1



New Trail Mapping 2/3-2/11



Bluebird House Building 3/9

Our Environment at Risk

How many endangered species do you know? What about at risk? Special concern? Surely, you've read of DDT and Bald Eagle eggs, turtles in soda rings, or polluting vernal pools. What do we know about our less publicly noted neighbors? A neighbor of special concern right here in Cattaraugus County is the Cerulean Warbler (*Dentroica cerulea*).

Over the years, the Cerulean Warbler has inspired scientists and birder, yes, but also poets, photographers, writers, and other artists due to their striking appearance and unique behavior. These beauties prefer large deciduous forests, specifically old-growth forests near rivers, lakes, and streams.

As a neotropical migratory bird, it travels thousands of miles each year, connecting ecosystems across North and South American. Its presence relies on mature, contiguous woodlands for nesting and foraging and it utilizes a large array of materials (including reinforcing with spider silk!) in its canopy nests. This warbler consumes a variety of different "pests," including the Spruce budworm, and without the help of the Cerulean Warbler, we would have much less satisfying fir and spruce canopies to enjoy.

The Cerulean Warbler unfortunately faces a lot of manmade issues that have caused a decline in their population size and distribution. Pesticides have caused not only drops in their food, but also health issues from consuming contaminated insects and poisoned water sources. Beyond the destruction of their diet, degradation of their habitats from shrinking canopies and smaller areas of old-growth forests have led to their steady decline.

Fear not though! We can still help the Cerulean Warbler at this time. Through care of our woodlands and



planting/caring for native plants, we can help see them back on the rise. See if you can spot any at Pfeiffer!



Pfeiffer Nature Center's Trail Sale 2024

Saturday, May 11th, 10a-6p
Rain Date: Sunday, May 19th

**Join us on the trail for fun,
food, raffles, vendors,
music, and more!**



PNC's Eshelman Preserve
1420 Yubadam Road Portville, NY

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**



Pfeiffer Nature Center and Foundation

Where science, art, and nature come together



Spring

A bursting into greenness;
A waking as from sleep;
A twitter and a warble
That make the pulses leap:
A watching, as in childhood,
For the flowers that, one by one,
Open their golden petals
To woo the fitful sun.
A gust, a flash, a gurgle,
A wish to shout and sing,
As, filled with hope and gladness,
We hail the vernal Spring.

By H. G. Adams



VERNAL
COUNTRY

PHOTOS BY BETH
BERGREEN-FROST



Spring Scramble

ALNVER

RAWBRLE

BNNYU

RCILAEARPL

TIMRGAOIN

MLBOO

OGIBRNSD

HRTEBRI

EUNOIXQ

NRTMDOA

TMWAHR

RGPISN

WGHOTR

SCURCO

MGEEER

IDRUEBBL

Answers: Vernal, Warbler, Bunny, Caterpillar, Migration, Bloom, Songbird, Rebirth, Equinox, Dormant, Warmth, Spring, Growth, Crocus, Emerge, Bluebird



Equinox Eats

Fruit Friends

Ingredients (all optional):

- Grapes, red or green
- Strawberries, quartered/sliced
- Oranges, sliced
- Apples, sliced
- Bananas, sliced
- Raisins
- Blueberries
- Shredded Carrots
- Raspberries
- Mini chocolate chips
- Celery Sticks
- Peanut butter/Fluff
- Cucumber, sliced
- Cherry tomatoes
- Kiwi, sliced
- Toothpicks

Directions:

Using your trusty grownup helper, toothpicks, peanut butter or fluff, and creativity, piece together your Fruit Friends to look like your favorite animal or bug!



Why Pfeiffer loves this recipe:

We love to “eat our colors” to make sure we’re keeping a balanced and nutritious diet! Having a variety of fruits and vegetables available in an appealing way is great way to help families introduce (and keep) new vitamin-packed snacks on hand and keep a variety of foods in their meals. We also love the creative outlet this gives children and their grownups and the quality time it provides!