

WINTER SOLSTICE 2024

THE OVENBIRD

WITH THE PASSING OF ANOTHER SEASON, I AM REMINDED AGAIN HOW QUICKLY MOTHER NATURE SHIFTS INTO THE NEXT SEASON. WITHIN THE THREE-MONTH SEASON OF FALL, PFEIFFER HAS BEEN WONDERFULLY BUSY.

PFEIFFER ENJOYED THE FALL SEASON FULL OF MANY ACTIVITIES. FALL FEST, FIELD DAY WITH SBU AND 190 K-2 SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE LILLIBRIDGE PROPERTY, HUNTING, OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISER-THE WREATH FUNDRAISER HELD AT PLEASANT VALLEY GREENHOUSE, GIVING DAY WAS HELD ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, JINGLE JUBILEE WITH GOACC IN OLEAN, A LIBRARY CRAFT WITH PORTVILLE LIBRARY, A HOLIDAY BAZAAR HELD AT THE OLD PORTVILLE PHARMACY, AND A FULL MOON HIKE. THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS REFLECT THE FUN, JOY AND THE IMMERSION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS ON THE PFEIFFER PROPERTIES.

AS THE WINTER SOLSTICE ARRIVES ON DECEMBER 21ST, MAY YOU HAVE HOPE FOR THE COMING MONTHS THAT LIGHT WILL PROVIDE WARMTH, AND A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH GOODNESS.

PFEIFFER HAD MANY PEOPLE PARTICIPATE AND VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENTS, CLEANING TRAILS, OR HELPING DECORATE A WREATH. PFEIFFER HAS HAD A WONDERFUL FALL SEASON OF EVENTS AND PROGRAMS. AS DIRECTOR, I SINCERELY EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS & DONORS THAT HELP MAKE PFEIFFER CONTINUE ONWARD. DURING THIS SEASON OF TIME CHANGING, SEASONS CHANGING AND THE BEAUTY OF THE HOLIDAYS-I SINCERELY THANK ALL OF YOU.

ENJOY THE DAY AND ENJOY THE SEASON-

BETH

PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER



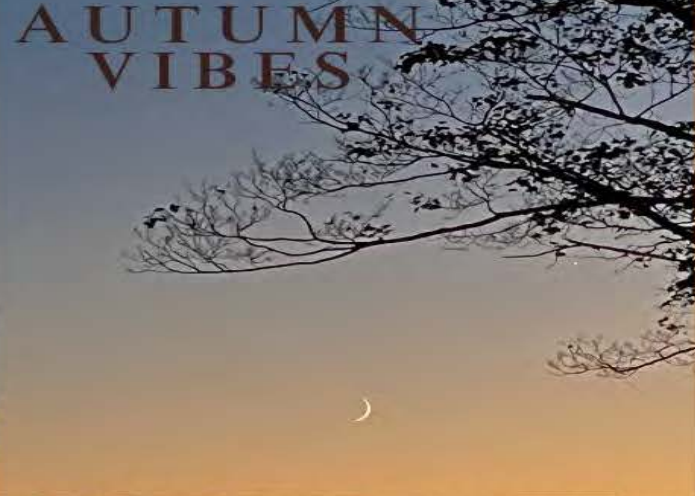
Junco birds thrive in the cold, traveling south to the upper United States in the winter. The dark eyed junco has a cute nickname: snowbird! This is because a junco bird seems to bring snowy winter weather on its wings as it migrates.

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED			SAT
1	2	3		5	6	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



DECEMBER 21ST-THE WINTER SOLSTICE



PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER
Fall Festival

TRAIN RIDES FROM 4-5:30 PM

Come celebrate with Pfeiffer Nature Center for a Family Day with Vendors, Hikes, Pumpkin Lane, Garden Chairs, a Train Ride & Sweet Ride Food Truck.

\$5.00 per person and all children are free 18 & under. Pay at the door.

Saturday October 5th from 4-8 PM
 1974 Lillibridge Road



From the nature desk...

In the darkest nights of the year, as winter settles in around the solstice, I feel a deep connection to the land here in Western New York. The air is sharp and still and all the experiences of summer and fall begin to crystalize as the earth hardens with frost.

On the full moon in December, a group of chilly hikers gathered at Pfeiffer to celebrate the beauty of the night and the darkness before the return of the light. Together, we navigated the icy forest, marveling at animal tracks illuminated under the moon. It was a magical night.

This first winter full moon is known as the Oak Moon in many Celtic traditions. To me, this seems perfect and meaningful. I've lived close to the earth for many years. One of the things that has always profoundly impacted me during the most frigid days is the deafening silence that settles onto the land. It can be lonesome at times, without the sounds of insects, animals, birds, grasses, running water and a rustling forest. But even during the darkest time of the year, I find joy in the mighty oaks. They seem to stand resolute in the cold, holding on to their leaves long after autumn has passed. I've always found something beautiful in this unique quality—how the brown, dried oak leaves cling through winter, rustling in the wind like memories that refuse to fade. The sound of the wind stirring through the oak's leaves has become one of my favorite "sounds of life" in the depths of winter. It's a soft rattle that seems to sing... "Endure, reflect, hold on." There's a quiet wisdom in the sound. Winter is a time for coziness. It's the season to gather by the fire and sing songs, to dream, to write new stories and revisit old ones. The long, dark nights also invite a slower pace. It's a chance to craft, to create, and to retreat. There's something sacred about this time of year—a moment to connect with ourselves and our loved ones. A time to appreciate what brightens our darkest days and sustains us for the year ahead.

Bliss Rodkey (Nature Education Coordinator)



FIELD DAY WITH SBU & K-2



FIELD DAY WITH SBU & K-2



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



PFEIFFER'S ANNUAL WREATH FUNDRAISER 2024



MY HOME PARK NATIVE PLANT SPONSORS 2024



SHANE & FIRKEL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



THANK YOU TO ALL
OUR WONDERFUL
SPONSORS



**PORTVILLE-OBI
STONE, LLC**

1ST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
PORTVILLE, NY





JOIN PFEIFFER FOR A
HOLIDAY BAZAAR
FREE ENTRY!

DECEMBER **14TH** 10 AM - 2 PM

12 S. MAIN STREET/PORTVILLE, NY

GIFTS • CRAFTS • FOOD

WWW.PFEIFFERNATURECENTER.ORG



Door prize \$1.00 per ticket



**The Solstice
full moon hike
and
celebration lit
up our darkest
days with
warmth,
togetherness,
and crisp air!**



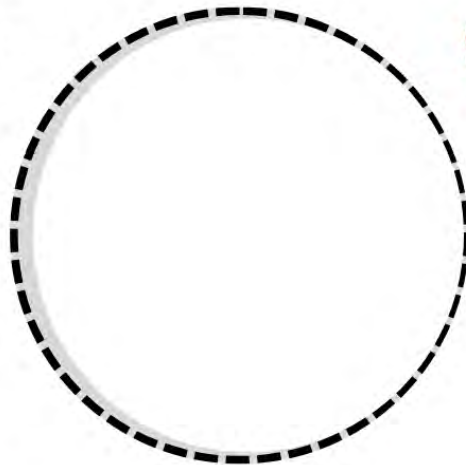
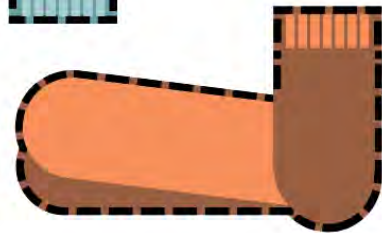
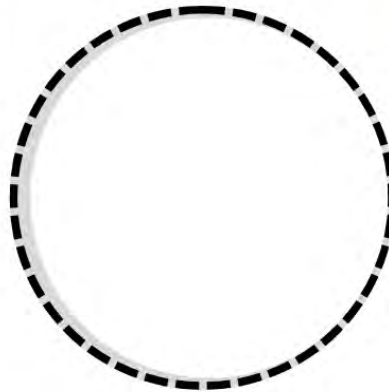
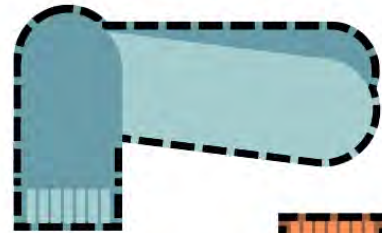
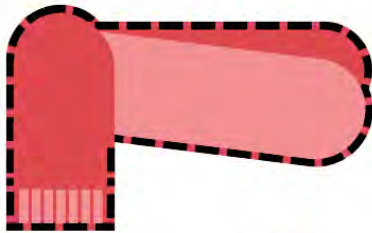
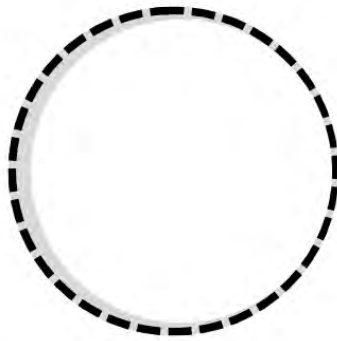


WINTER

BUILD A SNOWMAN



Cut out the outlines below.
Glue them together to build your snowman.



Winter crafts

