

Fall 2010

# Pinecone News

A Publication of Pittsfield Woods

## Pittsfield Woods Update

Fall is upon us at Pittsfield Woods, and with it, come many exciting programs and opportunities. Don't miss this year's Fall Fun in the Woods Festival which is complete with live demonstrations, good food, and the chance to try out some elements of our ropes course. Hike a trail during the day, make some candles, play in the leaves, do a nature craft, and join us for an evening bonfire.

We've teamed up with area schools this month, and next, to feature a different animal each week. Join us on as we learn how different animals prepare for the long winter ahead. This special series of animal features will conclude in November when we welcome a new animal to our indoor exhibit. One lucky child will get to unveil the new habitat, and name our newest member of the Pittsfield Woods family!

As you start to think about the holiday gift giving season, please remember that we now have tickets available for the Annual Enchanted Forest Gala. These tickets will make a great holiday gift and directly benefit the educational programs here at Pittsfield Woods. Memberships to Pittsfield Woods also make great gifts, which can be enjoyed all year!

I invite you all to come and spend a hour, a day, or a weekend enjoying nature in our backyard. I promise you won't be disappointed!

Visit soon,

*Jane Q. Smith*

Director

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- ♦ Annual Enchanted Forest Gala
- ♦ 2010 Summer Camp Wrap-up

## Getting Kids Moving

*By John Z. Smeth*

On February 9, 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama launched the White House's initiative to fight childhood obesity in America. According information provided by the website, "childhood obesity rates in America have tripled, and today, nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese."

Current research shows that both overeating and lack of physical activity contribute heavily to obesity; however, the days of pick-up baseball games and sidewalk hopscotch and quickly fading. Tough economic times and rising security concerns are limiting the ability of our children to get outside and enjoy nature.



Here at Pittsfield Woods we believe that every child should experience the joy of jumping in a pile of crisp fall leaves, following a trail of bugs, and building a snow fort. We strive to provide ample space and opportunities for children of all ages to get outside and "experience, explore, and enjoy nature in our backyard." From trails to play areas, the ropes course to the summer camps, there is an experience available for each child and family.

Throughout the coming year we will partner with local schools and community organizations to provide even more opportunities for children to rediscover that exercise can be healthy, educational and fun! We invite you to come move with us!

*For more information on the "Let's Move" initiative at Pittsfield Woods, please visit:*  
[www.pittsfieldwoods.com/letsmove](http://www.pittsfieldwoods.com/letsmove)

# Pittsfield Woods Establishes Endowment and Bequest Society: Helping Education and the Environment Endure Forever

Since it's beginning, Pittsfield Woods has shown thousands of children how to cherish and enjoy nature simultaneously. We strive to protect, educate and help others grow in the world we enjoy.

We are please to announce that the Pittsfield Woods Partnership is continuing the legacy of those who established the society by offering planned giving opportunities that ensure a lasting future for Pittsfield Woods. Through our newly-formed strategic partnership with the Warren County community, we can help facilitate your personal philanthropic and estate planning objectives for Pittsfield Woods.

Individuals may choose to contribute to the Pittsfield Woods Endowment Fund established at Warren County Foundation, or remember Pittsfield Woods in their will. We also gratefully accept IRA/401(k) designate funds as well as annuities, trusts, scholarship endowments, and other forms of contributions.

No matter the size, you can help ensure a bright and strong future for Pittsfield Woods for generations to come by considering a planned gift to the Pittsfield Woods Partnership Today. For more information or to discuss your philanthropic goals for the Woods, please contact Joan Smelt, Development Direct, at (814) 723-6900.

## About Pittsfield Woods:

*The mission of Pittsfield Woods is to provide all members of our community with opportunities to explore, experience and enjoy nature in our own backyard. Our purpose is to educate and inspire all individuals to become caretakers of our environment both now and in the future.*

Pinecone News is published quarterly and is mailed to members, recent program participants and those who request to be on our mail list. If you would like to be added to our mail list, contact us at:

Pittsfield Woods Nature Center  
Route 6 & 27 - Pittsfield, PA 16340  
(814) 723-6900 - [www.pittsfieldwoods.com](http://www.pittsfieldwoods.com)

## Animal Feature: BATS

**Class:** Mammalia (Mammal)

**Order:** Chiroptera

**Family:** 19 families

**Genera:** 187

**Species:** 951

**Wingspan:** largest known is up to 6 feet; smallest is less than 6 inches.

**Weight:** largest recorded to date is 3.3 pounds; smallest is less than a penny!

**Life Span:** average 5 years

### Fun facts

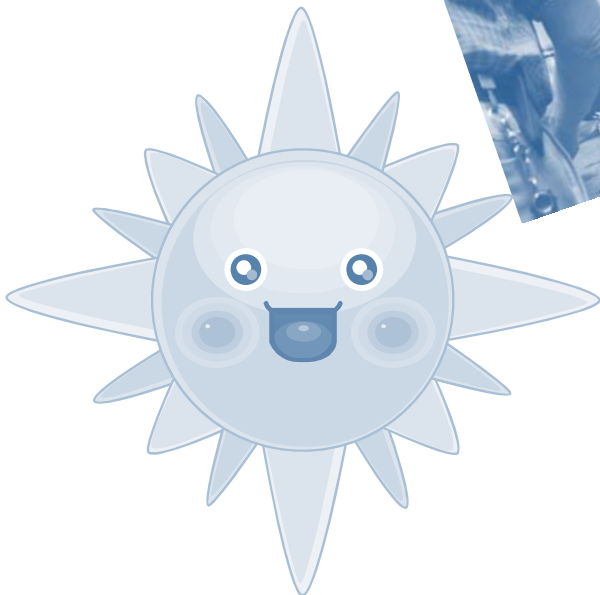
- Do you know that a bat can be your best friend? Not only do they pollinate the world's fruit-producing plants, but they also eat thousands of mosquitoes in a night!
- Out of nearly 1,000 species of bats, only 3 species in the sub-family Desmodontinae actually feed on blood. Bats are incredibly beneficial to the world's ecosystems, and thus to people.
- Bats are not blind, although some bats do use echolocation to find their insect meals.
- A mother bat can locate her pup by its scent and sound out of millions in a roost!

# 2010 Camps a Success!

The summer staff and volunteers at Pittsfield Woods sponsored more day camps this past summer, with the highest recorded of attendance ever! Campers and staff have been heard to say that the programs were “fun,” “educational,” and “not too much like school.”

Over the course of the summer, campers got to experience digital photography, fly fishing, arts in the woods, and water everywhere. A special scout session gave Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts both the chance to earn their respective patches. Each week campers played a variety of games, had the opportunity to cook-out, and took special field trips to the Brookenstraw Pool, the Warren County Conservation Society, the Allegheny National Forest, and the Kinzua Dam.

Be on the look-out for sign-ups for the 2011 camp season soon! Camps fill up fast, and your children won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity.





# ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS



## Ropes Course Bonanza

**Dates:** Saturday, October 2  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm  
**Ages:** Children 10 and up (accompanied by an adult), Adults and Families  
**Fee:** \$20 for members  
\$30 for non-members

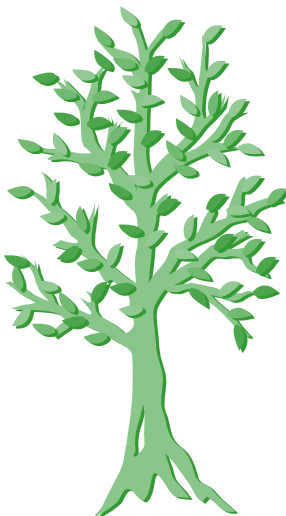
Join us for a special day of fun, adventure and excitement on our Challenge Ropes Course. Certified instructors will lead you through various elements on the low-ropes and high-ropes that will delight and challenge you. Sack lunch included. Program is capped at 60 participants. Call the office to make reservations.

## Friday Fall Foliage Walks

**Dates:** Fridays - October 8,  
October 22,  
November 5  
**Time:** 10:30 am -  
12:00 pm  
**Ages:** Adults and Families  
**Fee:** FREE for members  
\$6 for non-members

Bring your field guide, camera, and boots, as we follow the trails at Pittsfield Woods and enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons. Observe the signs of animals preparing for the long winter.

Bring a sack lunch and join us in the Fireplace Room for conversation and hot cocoa.



## Indoor Container Gardening

**Date:** Saturday, November 6  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
**Ages:** Adults and Families  
**Fee:** \$10 for member  
\$20 for non-members



Join a Penn State Master Gardener as they lead you through all the steps to plant and grow a successful indoor container garden this winter. Class participants will plant and take home a small herb garden.

## Silent World of Reptiles

**Date:** Saturday, November 13  
**Time:** 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Ages:** Families  
**Fee:** FREE for Members  
\$5 adult non-members  
\$3 children non-members

See and learn all about local and exotic reptiles



including boa constrictors, pythons, rat snakes, turtles, and alligators from reptile expert Mike Dohanic. Learn the characteristics of reptiles and what it takes to keep them as pets.

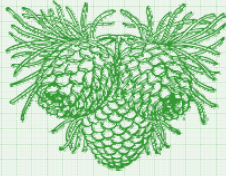
## In the Eager Beaver Gift Shop

- Decorative wall plaques
- Local crafts and art
- Bird and bat houses
- AWNC stuffed animals
- Container garden kits



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## Group Reservations - Special Programs



**Dates:** Dependent on  
Availability of  
Staff and Facility

**Ages:** Youth Groups, Scout groups,  
preK - senior citizens

**Fee:** \$4 per person  
(minimum of \$50 per group)

Pittsfield Woods offers unique programs year round. Live animal presentations, hikes (weather permitting), ropes course sessions (weather permitting), and a variety of hands-on classes are available to the public. Some programs can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Please call for more information.

## Make a Difference Day at Pittsfield Woods

**Date:** October 23  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Ages:** Families, Youth  
Groups, Adults  
**Fee:** FREE



Join us at Pittsfield Woods for a morning full of hard work and excitement. Help prepare the center and the trails for winter, spruce up the indoor exhibits, and brainstorm for next year. Please bring your own shovels, gloves, and rakes if possible. You're welcome to bring a lunch and stay for the afternoon and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

## Saturday Live Animal Programs



**Date:** Every Saturday  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Ages:** All  
**Fee:** FREE for Members  
\$3 for non-members

Bring your family on Saturday mornings for an up close and personal encounter with some of the Center's live animals. Each week a different group of animals will be featured.

## Volunteer at Pittsfield Woods

We could not provide all the activities that we do without the help of our knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers. We have opportunities for all age groups and experience levels. Students in the Warren County School District can also volunteer to complete a required component of their graduation project. Call Jamie Scott today, Volunteer Coordinator, at (814) 723-6900 to set up your volunteer experience!



**Pittsfield  
Woods**

Nature Center and Arboretum

Pittsfield Woods members receive: 10% discount in gift shop, free admission and/or discounts at over 140 nature centers across the United States, program discounts (including camps), advanced program registration, free programs, newsletters and more. Join our forest today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level

- ☐ Senior Seed (\$20)
- ☐ Individual Seed (\$25)
- ☐ Family Seed (\$40)
- ☐ Grandparent Seed (\$40)
- ☐ Contributing Sapling (\$100)
- ☐ Supporting Branch (\$250)

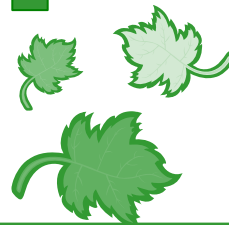
Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Pittsfield Woods Nature Center: Route 6 & 27; Pittsfield, PA 16340

# Fall into Fun!



**Pittsfield Woods Fall Fun in the Woods Festival**  
**Saturday, October 23**  
**9 am - 5 pm**



Bring the whole family down to Pittsfield Woods on Saturday, October 23, and join us for a day of fall fun and excitement! Throughout the day we'll have vendors, live demonstrations, hayrides, music, events for the whole family, and more!

The Pittsfield Woods Fun Run / Walk at 9:00 a.m. Registration is required for this event, and participants are encouraged to pre-register. A signed waiver form is required for all participants.

The year the Campfire Cook-off begins at 9:45 am, with the celebrity judging at noon. Pre-registration is required, and this year's categories include: soup, foil dinner packets, gooey snacks, and hot beverages. Children are welcome to participate with adult supervision.

At 2:00 p.m., in the Fireplace Room, we will have a special event showcasing the winners of our poetry and essay contest. This year's theme is "What Nature Means to Me," and children from all age groups, from throughout the county have been working diligently on their entries. You won't want to miss this exciting presentation!



For more information on any of these events, to register for an event, or to sign-up, please call (814) 723-6900, or fill a form out online at [www.pittsfieldwoods.com](http://www.pittsfieldwoods.com). Registrations and sign-ups will be open until Friday, October 15.

## **Tentative Schedule of Events**

|            |                                                                                                                      |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Admission: | \$3 for members<br>\$5 for Non-members                                                                               |
| All Day    | Craft and Artisan Fair, Food, Free Live Animal Demonstrations, Music, Kids Fair, Hayrides, Campfire Cook-off Contest |
| 9:15 am    | Fun Run / Walk                                                                                                       |
| 9:45 am    | Campfire Cook-off Begins                                                                                             |
| 10:00 am   | Cooking and Baking with Nature                                                                                       |
| 10:30 am   | Guided Wetlands Walk                                                                                                 |
| 11:00 am   | Preparing Your Home for Winter                                                                                       |
| 11:00 am   | Kid Olympics (at ropes course)                                                                                       |
| 11:30 am   | Guided Nature Walk                                                                                                   |
| 12:00 pm   | Campfire Cook-off Judging Begins                                                                                     |
| 12:00 pm   | Preparing Your Garden for Winter                                                                                     |
| 12:30 pm   | Guided Wetlands Walk                                                                                                 |
| 12:45 pm   | Scavenger Hunt                                                                                                       |
| 1:00 pm    | Preparing Your Home for Winter                                                                                       |
| 1:30 pm    | Guided Nature Walk                                                                                                   |
| 2:00 pm    | Poetry/Essay Reading                                                                                                 |
| 2:30 pm    | Guided Wetlands Walk                                                                                                 |
| 3:00 pm    | What's that Sound?                                                                                                   |
| 3:30 pm    | Campfire Cook-off Contest Awards                                                                                     |
| 4:00 pm    | Name that Track                                                                                                      |
| 5:00 pm    | Twilight Hayride and Bonfire                                                                                         |



# An Enchanted Evening

## Pittsfield Woods Annual Enchanted Forest Gala

**December 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m. - midnight**

The results are in, and last year's Enchanted Forest Gala was a rousing success for Pittsfield Woods! Throughout the evening, attendees were treated to some of the finest food, wines, confections that Warren County has to offer. Three local bands helped us dance the night away, and the charity auction raised the most money ever!

Plans are already underway for this year's event, and we can promise you that everything will be more enchanted than last year. This year's event will begin with a cocktail hour sponsored by the local wineries, and featuring local string quartets. Your sit down dinner

will once again feature a homegrown menu, highlighting the finest food and drink in Warren County. After dinner dance the night away with us under the stars.

Donations are already coming in for this year's silent auction and the prizes are even bigger and better than last year. Among them we have a ski weekend for four, a catered holiday dinner for twelve, a trip for two to Niagara Falls, a Pittsburgh Penguins hockey weekend, and much more.



**Don't delay, make your reservations now!**

**An Enchanted Evening**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (\$30.00) for this year's Enchanted Forest Gala.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ tables (seats 8 for \$220.00) for this year's Enchanted Forest Gala.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a Supporting Branch Member of Pittsfield Woods - please apply my %10 discount on up to 4 tickets for this year's event.

*Please make checks payable to: Pittsfield Woods Nature Center; Route 6 & 27; Pittsfield, PA 16340*



**Pittsfield  
Woods**  
Nature Center and Arboretum

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PERMIT NO. 000

Route 6 & 27  
Pittsfield, PA 16340  
(814) 723-6900  
[www.pittsfieldwoods.org](http://www.pittsfieldwoods.org)

## Pittsfield Woods Hours of Operation:

### September 1 thru May 31:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday thru Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday: 12 noon - 4 pm

### June 1 thru August 31:

Monday: 10 am - 5 pm

Tuesday thru Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday: 12 noon - 5 pm

*Trails are open year round, during daylight hours.*

*Leashed pets are welcome on marked trails.*



Pittsfield Woods Nature Center is an educational facility owned and operated by the **Warren County School District**. Additional support is provided by the **Pittsfield Woods Partnership, Inc.** a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity registered with the Bureau of Charitable organizations. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State at 1-800-732-0999. Other funding for community programs, exhibits and trails is provided through the generosity of our Members and Donors.