

The Lily Pad

The newsletter of Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve

February 2013



Kids in the Woods Summer Day Camp!

Registration is now open for the "Kids in the Woods" summer day camps at Reinstein Woods! This week-long program gets kids outside and connects them with nature. This year camps are being offered for three age groups: Little Sprouts (Grades K-1), Nature Explorers (Grades 2-4), Wilderness Adventurers (Grades 5-7). Register by February 28 and receive \$10 off the registration fee.

For more information and a registration form, see the Kids in the Woods brochure (visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/rwcampform.pdf) or call 683-5959 x 205.



Save the Date: Meander in the Woods

Saturday, June 15, 2013. This year our wonderful fundraiser will be a bit different; instead of an appetizer trail we will be serving once again desserts along with our catered barbecue dinner. Yum! We will have the opportunity to sample desserts and beverages that represent the plants that grow in Reinstein, such as raspberries, mint or maple trees.

Friends of Reinstein Board of Directors

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Volunteers and Donations Needed for Meander in The Woods

It's not too early to start thinking about Meander In the Woods, the Friends' spring fundraiser happening Saturday, June 15, 2013. The event will feature the popular basket raffle, BBQ dinner and dessert trail featuring wild edibles. Meander is a fun and delicious event!

A significant part of the funds raised at this event come from the basket raffle. It would be a great help to the Friends' group and a great gift to Reinstein Woods if members would donate a basket to the raffle. There's lots of time between now and June to think of a theme for a basket and plenty of time to watch for sales! Gift cards to local businesses are also appreciated as they make excellent raffle items. Volunteers are needed to help out, too. Thanks in advance for you help!

If you can help with this event or would like to donate an item, please call 683-5959 x209. Tickets will be available in late April- watch for more info!

Volunteers Help With EAB Survey

On February 2, Reinstein Woods volunteers braved cold and snowy conditions to take part in a survey of the Woods' ash trees. Volunteers were trained by DEC Forester Patrick Marren and Naturalist Intern Brittany Rowan to identify ash trees that showed signs of woodpecker damage.

Significant woodpecker damage to an ash tree is often the first clue that the tree is infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB is an invasive beetle that targets only ash trees, killing them within two to four years of infestation. It was discovered in Reinstein Woods in September 2012.

The survey was part of a collaborative effort between Reinstein Woods volunteers, 4-H, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and DEC. Volunteers tagged damaged ash trees with green and purple ribbons, and tallied the number of ash trees they encountered. They provided valuable information as to the extent of the EAB infestation. In addition, individual ash trees were identified as candidates for inoculation against EAB.

This survey was the first step to managing this new invasive threat to the Woods.

Thank you, volunteers!



Contact
Friends of
Reinstein Nature
Preserve

Reinsteinwoods
@yahoo.com

716-683-5959

Hours of Operation
Education Center
M - F 9 am - 4:30 pm
Sat. 1 pm - 4:30 pm

**Spring
Program
Schedule**

See insert in
newsletter
To view
schedule of
Spring
Programs

Garlic Mustard Challenge Is BACK!

For the third year in a row, we invite you to gather up your scout group, church group, civic club, or even your neighbors and participate in the Garlic Mustard Challenge this spring.

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that is harming the forest at Reinstein Woods. The goal of the Challenge is to harness volunteer power to help restore the forest, in a fun and exciting way. The team that removes the most garlic mustard over a three month period will win a prize!



Last year our volunteers earned us the title of "Challenge Champion" in our friendly competition with Buffalo Audubon Society's Beaver Meadow Nature Center and the Western New York Land Conservancy's Kenneglenn Preserve. The competition is getting fierce this year, with the Land Conservancy adding a second property to their efforts: the Lewiston Plateau Habitat Area in Niagara County. We are counting on your support so we can win bragging rights for a second year!

The challenge kicks off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Reinstein Woods. Participants will learn how to identify and remove garlic mustard, as well as how their efforts will be tallied for the competition. Groups may send a representative, or the whole group may attend and start collecting plants that day. After the kickoff event, groups can visit Reinstein Woods to remove garlic mustard as often as they please until June 21, 2013. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Saturday, June 22, 2013.

Special thanks to former Assemblyman Paul Tokasz for providing financial support for the Challenge. For more information or to register your organization, contact Jacob Bajdas at (716) 683-5959 x210.

President's Message

Happy Winter from the Friends of Reinstein New President, Linda Arndt!

As the new president of the Friends, I would like to personally thank Terry Boyle for all his years as president and member of the Friends of Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve Board. You will be missed, but we know you will still be active as a volunteer. Thank you for all your assistance!



Late winter is a great time to visit the Woods. I know a lot of people like to hibernate during the cold months, but during this season you can go snowshoeing or cross-country skiing at Reinstein. As a member you receive one free rental coupon with membership and discounts on future visits. With this benefit, you can experience "Buffalo's Backyard Wilderness" at Reinstein in a new light. Please come out and enjoy. Don't forget to check out the great programs being offered at Reinstein or come on your own.

Welcome New Members:

Helen Ziembiec

Terry Wojteczek

Mary Wojciechowski

Matthew Venhaus

Michael Sullivan

Linda Stockmeyer

John and Terese Rooney

Cecily Rodriguez

Charles Rauch

Karen Peissinger

Pat Perry

Mark and Bonnie Morgante

Zinta & Vidis Malejas

Michelle Lepczyk

Susan LaGraves

Steven & Natalie Danielski

Kimberly Damian

Matthew Clabeaux

Clarke and Jane Burke

Roli Bansal

Earth Day in May

We are offering an opportunity to celebrate Earth Day (April 22) when the weather will hopefully be a little warmer: the annual Earth Day Service Day will take place Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will be planting native wildflowers in the woods and cleaning trails for the summer. Individuals, families, and organizations are welcome, and Friends of Reinstein provides lunch for all participants.

To register, call Reinstein Woods at 683-5959.

Winter Wonderland A Big Success!

January's Winter Wonderland event was a big success! More than 350 people enjoyed discovering the trails, learning about ice fishing, snow painting, competing in the Winter Animal Olympics and more.

Special thanks to:

Mike Todd, NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries
Mary Jo Sicurella, SPCA Wildlife
Department

Susan Diachun and Tina Spencer, NYS
Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic
Preservation

Sandy Geffner, Earth Spirit Educational
Services, Inc.
Reinstein Woods Volunteers



Staffing News

The start of the New Year brought several staff changes at Reinstein Woods.

Welcome back to DEC Volunteer Coordinator Ginger Wszalek, who has returned after a leave of absence. Jacob Bajdas joined the staff as the AmeriCorps Invasive Species Coordinator, taking over the invasive species role previously held by Brittany Rowan. Brittany Rowan is continuing to coordinate the expanded Summer Day Camp program as well as a new "Day in the Life of the Buffalo River" program. Friends of Reinstein also welcomed Naturalist Intern Zachary Goodrich, who will be serving at Reinstein Woods through March.



Cans into Cash

Recycle and support at the same time! Bring returnable bottles/cans to **Cash for Cans** and you can donate all or a portion of your deposit refund to Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve. There's no work on your part, you just bring in your bottles and cans and they count them for you. It's an easy way to support Friends of Reinstein. Cash for Cans has three locations: 2990 Seneca Street in West Seneca; 651 Oakwood Ave, East Aurora; and 1785 Abbott Road in Lackawanna (on the corner of Abbott and Martin).

THANK YOU DONORS

Friends of Reinstein wishes to thank **Former Assemblyman Paul Tokasz**, for a generous donation in support of the Garlic Mustard Challenge. We also thank member **Ronald Dekanski**, for his donation to support protecting trees from our overactive beaver population!

Thank you to the following people who recently joined or renewed:

At the Donor (\$50) membership level:

Ann Harrison

Tom Stoll

Roli Bansal

Margaret Diamond

Nickolas Morse

Michele Sanner

Gary Steils

Karen Peissinger and Matthew Venhaus

At the Contributor (\$100) level:

Thomas and Deborah Mannion

Wish List

The Friends are looking for:

- bird seed
- laptop computer (in good condition)
- modular office furniture (desktops and file storage)
- donations for the Meander in the Woods basket raffle

If you have any items available, please call 683-5959.

Recycle Old Clothes and Shoes at Reinstein Woods

Visitors to the parking lot may have noticed a new bright red collection bin for clothing, shoes and bedding.

Usable items are sold in a Buffalo store that supports the local homeless population. Other items are sold to markets abroad or recycled into other products, such as running tracks (sneakers) or liners for car interiors (cloth fibers).

In the near future, Friends of Reinstein will receive a portion of proceeds for donated items, so your donations will keep usable items out of landfills and help support Reinstein Woods!



Friends of Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve
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