

The Lily Pad



The Newsletter of Friends of Reinstein Woods

Share In Nature's Harmony

Spring 2016

Earth Day in May: Cache In, Trash Out!

Saturday, May 7
10 am - 1 pm

Families, scout groups and other organizations are invited to help clean trails and plant native plants as part of our annual trail stewardship day.



New this year: geocachers can explore for geocaches while also removing trash from Reinstein Woods at this "Cache In Trash Out®" event. For more information about geocaching, visit www.geocaching.com/cito/.

A light lunch will be provided by Friends of Reinstein Woods. Registration is required for this event.

To register, call (716)683-5959

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Save the Date for Reinstein Woods Basket Raffle!

**Saturday, June 11, 2016
at Reinstein Woods**

Join us to support Reinstein Woods and take a chance at winning fabulous baskets and prizes! Watch for details coming soon.



Christmas Bird Count for Kids!

Back in January, Reinstein Woods participated in its first ever "Christmas Bird Count for Kids" with assistance from DEC Wildlife Biologist Connie Adams, Beaver Meadow Audubon Society and the Erie County Park Rangers. This is an educational, kid-friendly version of the Audubon Society's citizen science project called "Christmas Bird Count". Citizen science projects such as the Christmas Bird Count provide important data that is used to monitor animal populations.

We are pleased that more than twenty children and their parents showed up to learn how to find and identify birds for this event. Many species of birds were observed, including: Blue jay, Northern cardinal, black –



capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, tufted titmouse, American goldfinch, mallard duck, Canada geese, and more. A total of 17 different species and 259 individual birds were recorded at Reinstein Woods, Stiglmeier Park, and Amherst State Park. The young participants

enjoyed using binoculars and the pizza lunch afterwards. We look forward to even more participation in next years' Christmas Bird Count for Kids!

BioBlitz- Volunteers Needed!

Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve is hosting its first ever BioBlitz this spring! Starting on Friday, May 20 teams of local scientists, naturalists, and volunteers will work together to identify and document as many living organisms as possible within 24 hours. It doesn't matter whether you are an expert taxonomist or a Sunday morning trail-stroller, you can help document Reinstein Woods' biodiversity! If you are interested in volunteering, email marcus.rosten@dec.ny.gov or call (716) 683-5959.



Contact
Friends of
Reinstein Woods

Reinsteinwoods@yahoo.com

716-683-5959

Hours of Operation

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

Snow-fun at Winter Wonderland!

Despite a lack of snow, hundreds of people enjoyed an afternoon of outdoor fun at Winter Wonderland in the Woods. Friends of Reinstein sponsors this annual celebration of winter.

Thank you to our partners:

DEC Environmental Conservation Officers
DEC Forest Rangers
Earth Spirit
Erie County Parks
Niagara Frontier Search & Rescue Team
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
SPCA Wildlife Department

Special thanks to:

Betty Cobb & Dorothy Fairhead
DEC Region 9 Office of Communication Services
DEC Operations Staff
All of the Volunteers who helped make the event a success!



DEC Forest Rangers demonstrate flat ice rescue techniques at Winter Wonderland.

Maple Sugaring With Mark Carra and Other Fun Spring Programs!



If you haven't already, you can register for the members-only Maple Sugaring Program happening in March. Naturalist, Mark Carra will reveal the history of maple sugaring from traditional Native American methods, to early settlers, and finally modern day techniques. At the conclusion of the presentation, attendees will enjoy a pancake served with real maple syrup courtesy of the Friends of Reinstein Woods.

You can register by calling Reinstein Woods at (716) 683-5959 or online by visiting here: <http://reinsteinwoods.org/join/members-programs/>

Additionally, the Reinstein Woods Spring Program Schedule offers something for people of all ages, from birding programs to special spring break programs for kids! Be sure to call and register soon!

View program schedule here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1977.html>

Holiday Hype in February?

On President's Day, I tried to convince my seven year-old granddaughter that my sister was married to a president (her last name is Kennedy). As I pondered this holiday, I started to wonder: do we have too many holidays in the month of February?

My February calendar has Groundhog's, National Freedom, Valentine's and President's Day. February 2016 also includes the Chinese New Year, Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, and the Super Bowl (an unofficial holiday), not to mention the presidential debates. I have a hard time keeping up!

To simplify things, I propose merging President's and Valentine's Day and renaming the Super Bowl the "Groundhog Bowl," where at halftime the groundhog comes out of his burrow to make his prediction. I recommend a two- hour National Freedom celebration at which time *all* presidential candidates come together on mainland China to have *one* debate and celebrate the New Year. These ideas would help reduce the many holidays and events that we all have to remember in the second month of the year.

One special event that seems easy to remember and is fun for all is the annual *Winter Wonderland in the Woods* held at Reinstein Woods. This year's event on February 6 was a great success. Despite the lack of snow, attendance was the best ever. Activities included ice rescue and ice fishing demonstrations, kids exploring an artificial snow tunnel, guided nature walks and live animal presentations by the SPCA, to name just a few. Thanks to the outstanding Reinstein Woods' staff, the enthusiastic volunteers and all the community participants, the event has become a WNY winter favorite. Maybe next year the Reinstein Woods' winter festival will become a national holiday! (Just a thought.)

Michael Gettings
Friends President



Reinstein Roxy getting ready to garden!

Support Reinstein Woods While Holiday Shopping!

If you shop online at Amazon, you can designate Friends of Reinstein Woods as your official charity. Your prices stay the same, but Amazon will donate 0.5% of the cost of all your future purchases to the Friends of Reinstein Woods. You only need to sign up once and the process takes less than 30 seconds. To sign up, visit <http://reinsteinwoods.org/donate/amazon-smile-program/>. Thank you for your support!



Summer Day Camps Include New Camp for Teens Early-Bird Deadline is March 31

Registration is now open for Kids in the Woods summer day camps, including the new Junior Naturalists Camp, an exciting 3-day camp for the budding scientist, artist or outdoor enthusiast in grades 7 to 9!

Other Kids in the Woods' camps provide a unique week-long nature experience for children in kindergarten to seventh grade. Additionally, the Summer Science Safari offers a traveling camp experience for kids age 8 to 13.

Register your child by March 31 to receive a \$10 discount off the registration fee!

For more information and registration forms for all of our summer camp options, visit www.reinsteinwoods.org or call (716) 683-5959.



Thank You Donors!

Friends of Reinstein would like to thank all of the people who have supported Reinstein Woods this winter.

Winter Appeal Donors:

\$5-\$50: Therese Adriaansen, Bill Boehm, Irene Benbenek, M. Campanella, Gary Deneger, M. Gross, Judy Hendee, A. Izydorczak, Dennis & Rebecca Kaniecki, L. Kantor, D. Klink, D. Koenig, P. McCormick, Gary and Marie Michalski, C. Palczewski, M. Sarama, T. Mudd, L. O'Connor, P. O'Hara, S. Rubin, S. Szwarc, D. Wagonblott

\$50-\$99: David and Kathleen Boice, Peter and Cheryl Buechi, Peter and Teresa Corrigan, Helen Cyrulik, D. Delprince, Margaret Diamond, Stefanie Ecker, J. Feeney, Kelly Mayer, R. Spaugh, Connie & Vinod Suchak, and In honor of David Zolnowski

\$100-\$250: T. Banchich, Alfred Dittenhauser, Michael and Carol Gettings, M. Gloss, D. Karb, D. LaGraves, C. Martin.

Other Donors:

- Buffalo Day Hikes Meet Up
 - P. Brown in memory of Grace Losi
 - Mary Losi in memory of Peter Losi
 - ISA in memory of Jane Albrecht
 - Jim Francis for donating cross-country skis
 - Brian Engler for donating books
- Betty Cobb and Dorothy Fairhead for donating to Winter Wonderland

Thank you for your continued support of Reinstein Woods!

Spring 2016 Programs

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise indicated. Dress for the weather! In the event of inclement weather, outdoor programs may be canceled. We regret that we cannot accommodate organized youth/civic groups at these programs. Please call to make alternate arrangements for your organization. Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. **For further information or to register, call Reinstein Woods at 716-683-5959.**

We welcome those who have any type of physical challenge to all of our programs. If you call ahead to let us know your needs, we will be happy to learn how we can serve you.

MARCH

AFTER SCHOOL ESCAPE

Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM

Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, hour-long outdoor activity each week. For children in grades K through 5. *No registration required.*

Wednesday, March 2 at 10:30 AM

SENIOR STROLL

Experience nature at your own pace, and enjoy a leisurely guided walk through the woods. Bring a lunch if you want to eat indoors after the tour. **For adults only.**

Saturday, March 5 at 10:30 AM

SNOWBIRDS WALK

Search for our winter resident birds and early spring migrants on a guided walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, March 12 at 10:30AM

AQUAPONICS GARDENING

Learn the basics of growing fish and vegetables together. **For adults and children age 8 and older.**

Saturday, March 19 at 10:30 AM

BIRD, BUTTERFLY AND BUNNY CRAFTS

Celebrate the start of spring by making animal crafts with your child. **Materials fee: \$3; free for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. For children ages 4 to 10.**

Saturday, March 19 at 2:30 PM

BIRDING 101: CLASS #3

What bird am I? Come learn the general types of birds found in Reinstein Woods. **For adults only.**

SPRING BREAK ADVENTURES (AT 10:30 AM EACH DAY)

Monday, March 21 – Nature Notebooks

Tuesday, March 22 – CSI: Critter Signs Investigations

Wednesday, March 23 – Misunderstood Mammals

Thursday, March 24 – Investigating Insects

Friday, March 25 – Bird Bonanza

Monday, March 28 – Bird Egg Scavenger Hunt

Join us for some fun-filled spring break activities! Come for just one day, or join us all week! Participants are encouraged but are not required to attend all six sessions. **For children in grades K-8.**

Saturday, March 26 at 10:30 AM

STORIES IN THE WOODS

Enjoy hearing a nature story, followed by a guided walk in the woods. **For children ages 3 to 7.**

Saturday, March 26 at 2:30 PM

BIRDWATCHING WALK

Take a guided walk to search for seasonal birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 PM

FROGWATCH USA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Become a citizen scientist! Participate in this training program, and volunteer to help monitor the frogs and toads here at Reinstein Woods.

APRIL

AFTER SCHOOL ESCAPE

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM

Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, hour-long outdoor activity each week. For children in grades K through 5. *No registration required.*

Saturday, April 2 at 10:30 AM

TEDDY BEAR HIKE

Bring your teddy bear or favorite stuffed animal friend on a walk to explore the woods together. **For children ages 3 to 6.**

Wednesday, April 6 at 10:30 AM

SENIOR STROLL

Experience nature at your own pace, and enjoy a leisurely guided walk through the woods. Bring a lunch if you want to eat indoors after the tour. **For adults only.**

Friday, April 8 at 7:30 PM

OWL PROWL

Learn about our local owls, and listen for their calls on a walk in the woods. Program sponsored by Friends of Reinstein to raise funds for purchasing owl mounts. **For adults and children ages 8 and older. Fee \$4/person; \$2/person for Friends of Reinstein Woods members.**

Saturday, April 9 at 1:00 PM

DIGITAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Learn some tips for taking great wildlife photos. Bring your own camera as we head out on a trail to practice taking pictures. Together, we will share photos and questions. **For adults and children ages 12 & older.**

Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 AM

CITIZEN SCIENCE DAY

Learn how to become a citizen scientist and help us record observations for Project BudBurst. **For adults and children ages 8 and older.**

Saturday, April 16 at 2:30 PM

BIRDING 101: CLASS #4

Who's in the pond? Who's flying over the pond? Who's hiding in the reeds? Learn about the ducks and wetland birds of the Woods. **For adults only.**

Spring 2016 Programs

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise indicated. For further information or to register, call Reinstein Woods at 716-683-5959.

Wednesday, April 20 at 4:30 PM

INVESTIGATING NATURE: PRIVATE EYE

Take an up-close peek as we use jeweler's loupes to investigate patterns in nature, during National Environmental Education Week at Reinstein Woods. **For children ages 8 and older.**

Friday, April 22 at 8:00 PM

EARTH DAY FULL MOON WALK

Join us as we learn how the full moon affects our environment.

Saturday, April 23 at 10:30 AM

NATURE'S ENGINEERS

Beavers, caddisflies and spiders are a few animals that build remarkable structures to help them survive. Join us as we explore Reinstein Woods in search of some of nature's finest engineers.

Saturday, April 23 at 2:30 PM

BIRDWATCHING WALK

Take a guided walk to search for seasonal birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Tuesday, April 26 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP: AQUATIC WILD

This hands-on workshop provides educators with an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on aquatic wildlife and ecosystems. Participants receive a curriculum guide of activities that are correlated to the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards – ELA. **For educators of students in grades K-12.**

Thursday, April 28 from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP: PROJECT LEARNING TREE

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program featuring an interdisciplinary, hands-on curriculum that uses the forest as a window on the world. All activities are correlated to Common Core math and ELA standards. **For educators of students in grades PreK-8.**

Saturday, April 30 at 10:30 AM

FUN GUY'S GUIDE TO FUNGI

Our knowledge of fungi has mushroom for improvement, to say the yeast. Come learn about these mysterious organisms and by the end we're sure you'll be lichen them!

Saturday, April 30 at 2:00 PM

ALIENS!

Are there visitors from outer space in Reinstein Woods? No, just plants and animals that have been introduced from other parts of the world. Join a guided tour to meet some of these alien invaders.

MAY

Wednesday, May 4 at 10:30 AM

SENIOR STROLL

Experience nature at your own pace, and enjoy a leisurely guided walk through the woods. Bring a lunch if you want to eat outdoors after the tour. **For adults only.**

AFTER SCHOOL ESCAPE

Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM

Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, hour-long outdoor activity each week. **For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.**

Wednesday, May 4, 11, 18 and 25, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM

JUNIOR SPROUTS

Spend some quality family time learning about gardening! Children will have the opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of starting and caring for a garden. Focus will be on container and square-foot gardens, easily started at home. Participants are encouraged but are not required to attend all four sessions. Children will take home sprouted plants at the end. **For children ages 5 and older.**

Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

EARTH DAY IN MAY: CACHE IN TRASH OUT®

Families, scout groups and other organizations are invited to help rake trails and plant native plants at our annual trail stewardship day. New this year: geocachers can explore for geocaches while also removing trash from Reinstein Woods at this Cache In Trash Out® event.

Saturday, May 14 at 10:30 AM

WARBLER WALK

Join us for a hike as we look for migrating warblers, often called the butterflies of the bird world.

Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 PM

POISONOUS PLANTS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Some of the plants that grow in our yards and gardens can be toxic if you eat the wrong part or prepare them the wrong way. Learn about these common plants, as well as some poisonous plants here in Reinstein Woods. **For adults and children ages 12 and older.**

Tuesday, May 17 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP: PROJECT WET

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) helps teachers use water to teach English language arts, science, math and more! Participants receive a standards-based curriculum guide that includes lessons covering water's physical and chemical properties, cultural connections to water, and water resource management. **For educators of students in grades K-12.**

Saturday, May 21 at 2:30 PM

BIRDING 101: CLASS #5

Which woodpecker am I? Learn how to identify the different woodpeckers found in Reinstein Woods. **For adults only.**

Sunday, May 22 at 11:00 AM

THE BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

Master gardener Lyn Chimera, the owner of "Lessons from Nature," will be giving a presentation on the benefits of native plant landscaping.

Monday, May 23 at 8:00 AM

BIRDWATCHING WALK

Take a guided walk to search for seasonal birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, May 28 at 10:00 AM

TURTLE LORE

Enjoy turtle lore and a stroll around Reinstein Woods' ponds on a quest to spot these fascinating creatures.

ESTATE PLANNING?

Consider the Friends of Reinstein Woods when planning bequests in your estate papers. Help us to continue to share the beauty of Reinstein Woods with future generations. For more information, e-mail Reinsteinwoods@yahoo.com or call Friends of Reinstein at (716) 683-5959.



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