

The Lily Pad

The Newsletter of Friends of Reinstein Woods

August 2014



Share In Nature's Harmony

Soar Into Autumn at the Fall Festival!

Saturday, September 20, 2014

10 am to 4 pm

Migrate into fall at Reinstein Woods! This year's festival will feature bird-themed activities, along with festival favorites like snowshoeing for kids, a bird-themed scavenger hunt, and live animals! Explore exhibits from more than 30 nature and environmental organizations. Enjoy food, music by Mama Earth, demonstrations, face painting and more. For details on festival activities, visit the Fall Festival webpage at: www.dec.ny.gov/education/68006.html or call Reinstein Woods at (716) 683-5959.



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NATURE'S GATHERING: An Evening of Art, Wine & Cheese *Tickets Available On-line*

Friends of Reinstein Woods' fall fundraiser will take place Saturday, November 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall on Union Road, Cheektowaga.

Enjoy a tasting of fine regional wines, cheese and hors d'oeuvres and help support Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve. Western New York artisans will be showcasing their nature-themed artwork, which will be available for purchase. This year, tickets are available for sale online, and will also be available at Reinstein Woods starting at the Fall Festival. To purchase tickets online, enter Nature's Gathering in a search box at www.reinsteinwoods.org.



VOLUNTEER PICNIC HIGHLIGHTS

On July 22, more than 40 volunteers enjoyed food and camaraderie at the annual Reinstein Woods volunteer picnic. Friends of Reinstein provided the main course, beverages and “Reinstein Floats” for all attendees.

Reinstein Woods Center Director Meaghan Boice-Green noted that the volunteer program could not exist without the support of Friends of Reinstein Woods. She noted that in 2013, volunteers made it possible to share nature’s harmony with more than 11,000 children from school and youth groups, and with about 4,600 people at public programs, the fall festival and other events. Volunteers also improved more than 25 acres of forest through Trail Tuesdays and the Garlic Mustard Challenge. Overall, volunteers donated 4,666 hours in 2013, or the equivalent of 2.25 full-time employees!

Brian Engler was announced as the 2014 recipient of the Al Schick Volunteer Recognition Award. Brian has been volunteering since 2010 and is an avid tour guide who also helps promote Reinstein Woods at off-site events.

Joan Scott was announced as the recipient of the Peter Losi Appreciation Award, given to a volunteer who provides service to Friends of Reinstein Woods. Joan is a true “behind the scenes” volunteer, coordinating the Friends of Reinstein’s online newsletter as well as many email announcements about events like the Fall Festival and Earth Day.



At the picnic we also noted two losses in the volunteer family that happened since the last picnic:

Roy Seiders: For many years, Roy was a tour guide for Saturday morning tours, sharing nature’s harmony with whoever showed up! He was also instrumental in getting the Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club involved in building and maintaining the pond next to the education center. Roy was the 2006 recipient of the Al Schick Volunteer Recognition Award.

Tom Casey: For several years, Tom worked part-time for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as a “green thumb” employee, helping out with maintenance at Reinstein Woods. He was a member of Friends of Reinstein and was a great advocate for Reinstein Woods, bringing friends skiing in the woods and to the Friends’ fundraisers.

We also noted an addition to the Reinstein Woods family: Program Coordinator Kristen Rosenberg and her husband Chuck Rosenberg welcomed a son, Colin David, last August. We expect Colin will be volunteering at Reinstein Woods as soon as he can walk!

Contact
Friends of
Reinstein Woods

[Reinsteinwoods
@yahoo.com](mailto:Reinsteinwoods@yahoo.com)

716-683-5959

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

Fall Program Schedule

See insert in
newsletter
To view
schedule of
Summer
Programs

SUPER SUMMER CAMPS!

A message from Friends President Michael Gettings



As I “meandered” through the woods at the beginning of summer, everything seemed fresher at Reinstein Woods. Maybe it was the fact that I was there right after a heavy summer rain, bringing my granddaughter, Hope, to summer camp.

Hope was excited to start the week long camp, her second year. As we approached the education center, near the deer enclosure, two bright-eyed fawns greeted us. Inside the center, Hope met the new staff, the other campers and her favorite camp director, Brittany.

I gave Hope a kiss when leaving and decided to check on the fawns. They were still there watching closely.

I decided to take a walk and was amazed to find the pink lilies still in bloom and very plentiful. A deer appeared from across the pond, spoke to me, and then leaped away. I traveled around the pond witnessing chipmunks, rabbits, small bunnies and baby chicks. I’m still learning bird sounds but there were many songs, including red winged black birds, woodpeckers and cardinals. I startled several squirrels and painted turtles; the deer returned, bringing her fawn this time.

I really enjoy talking to the young school kids on nature tours at Reinstein Woods but sometimes I miss the quiet solitude of an early morning walk by myself. I headed back to the center when I almost collided with a deer at an intersection (thankfully no one was hurt).

Before summer is gone and we start toward winter, I recommend a visit to Reinstein Woods! Although every season has something to offer, this time of year always seems more exciting.



Thanks to all the summer camp staff, all the “campers” had a great week, even some of the parents and grandparents. Keep up the good work!!!!

Share in Nature’s Harmony

Mike Gettings, President
Friends of Reinstein Woods

BEST WISHES BRITTANY!

In May we said goodbye to Great Lakes Educator Brittany DiLeo. Brittany started her Reinstein Woods experience as an AmeriCorps member in 2010 and later was hired to coordinate the "New York Teachers Get WET for the Great Lakes" program for Reinstein Woods. We are excited that Brittany was able to use her experience here to springboard to a new and exciting job as an Environmental Educator 2 with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in New York City!



REINSTEIN WOODS FEATURED IN PASSPORT TO WELLNESS

The Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Department has teamed with Wegmans supermarkets to provide a “Passport to Family Wellness” program that includes Reinstein Woods. The passport highlights Williamsville and Amherst trails, waterways and parklands as well as a few “Trails of Western New York” locations like Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve.

Passport holders visit each site and make a rubbing in the passport as a souvenir of their outdoor adventure. Look for the passport post near the Nature Play Area at Reinstein Woods.

Passports can be picked up at the Amherst Senior Center, area Wegmans supermarkets and Amherst Youth & Recreation Department.



SCHOOLYARD HABITAT INSTITUTE

Summer School for Teachers!

Summer is a time when we think students and teachers take a break from learning. This summer, 22 teachers from school districts as far away as Syracuse got an outdoor education by participating in Reinstein Woods’ summer teacher workshop, the Schoolyard Habitat Institute.

This two-day training highlighted techniques for using schoolyards to teach math, science and English Language Arts. The goal of the program was to make teachers comfortable taking their students outside, whether into a concrete courtyard or out along their school’s nature trail. We tried provide sparks of inspiration for how to use existing resources like a grassy area or pavement to fan the flames of learning in students.

The program included training in Project WILD, one of several curricula that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) offers through Reinstein Woods.

The program’s best result was the change in the number of teachers who plan to take their students outside



in the upcoming school year: in a pre-workshop survey, only 26% of teachers said they’d take their kids outside once a month or more, but 76% responded that they would after participating in the Institute.

A thank you note from one teacher read: “To all the Instructors at Reinstein Woods, Thank you for running the Schoolyard Habitat Institute. *It was the best workshop ever.*”

GARLIC MUSTARD CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

On Saturday June 14 at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, Reinstein Woods' Cara Politi announced the winners for the fourth annual Garlic Mustard Challenge. More than 300 volunteers removed *5,100 pounds* of the invasive garlic mustard plant from three nature preserves in Western New York, improving hundreds of acres of habitat! The Challenge is a joint effort of Friends of Reinstein Woods, NYSDEC's Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center, Buffalo Audubon Society and the Western New York Land Conservancy.

To increase their impact, 17 volunteers also removed garlic mustard at the Lewiston Plateau Habitat Area in Lewiston, Niagara County, during a one-day "Super Pull." Volunteers pulled 277 pounds of garlic mustard in just three hours.

Beaver Meadow Audubon Center claims bragging rights as "Challenge Champion" for harnessing the most volunteer power (pounds of garlic mustard per person) of the three nature preserves. The organization's 52 volunteers pulled more than 2,394 pounds of garlic mustard!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in the Challenge!

Garlic Mustard Challenge Winners

Reinstein Woods:

First Place: Riptide Plus, Buffalo (168.75 pounds)

Runner Up: Pack 592, Orchard Park (123.75 pounds)

Beaver Meadow Audubon Center (North Java):

First Place: Olivia's Mustard, Lancaster (1,113 pounds)

Runner Up: East Pembroke Grange, Pembroke (769 pounds)

Kenneglenn Preserve:

First Place: Boy Scout Troop 513, East Aurora (1,016) pounds)

Runner Up: Cub Scout Pack 514, East Aurora (348 pounds)



COMING SOON: FAMILY NATURE CLUBS

For families with young children who missed the "How to Raise a Wild Child" workshop held at Reinstein Woods last spring, we are pleased to announce a partnership with the Buffalo Zoo to start Family Nature Clubs in Western New York! Thanks to a grant from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, we'll be holding workshops to kick off the clubs this fall. If you are interested, look for an email with more details coming soon or call us at (716) 683-5959.



MEANDER IN THE WOODS THANK YOU!

Friends of Reinstein Woods' Meander in the Woods event was a success thanks to the efforts of event Chair Karen Smith, the fundraising committee a host of volunteers! Additionally, we extend a sincere thank you to the following donors to the auction:

Art Aigner
Jane Albrecht
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
AMF Airport Lanes
AMF Lancaster Lanes
Linda Arndt
Arthur's Executive Cleaners
BAC for Women
Deborah Bach
Bellevue Hotel
Bistro in the Square
Meaghan Bolce-Green
Peter and Cheryl Buechi
Buffalo Audubon Society
Buffalo Harbor Cruises
Buffalo Zoo
Gerry Casey
Catalyst Fitness

Barb Ciesla
Cookie Expressions
Creekview Restaurant
Darwin Martin House
Dash's Markets
Deniro's Pizzeria
Elaines Flower Shoppe
Brian Engler
Explore and More Children's Museum
French Pub Restaurant
Gear for Adventure
Mike and Carol Gettings
Cynthia Giardina
Judy Gruchy
Harlequin Distribution Center
Herschell Carrousel Museum
Kentucky Greys' Hickory Pit
Lastertron

Tom Lawson
Lodgical
Mary Losi
Mane Street Haircutters
The Market in the Square
Denise Maziarz
Old Fort Niagara
Olive Tree Restaurant
Rolling Hills Golf Course
Chuck and Kristen Rosenberg
Tom Schuler
Karen Smith
Soaptini
The Buffalo History Museum
Union Family Restaurant
Carol Vaughan
Village Sweet Shoppe
What a Woman Wants Boutique

We are grateful to the following volunteers who made the event possible:

Ann DiLeo
Ann Murphy
Art Aigner
Barb Ciesla
Bill & Diane Frick
Bill Boehm
Bobbi Barlow
Brian Engler
Brittany Rowan
Jeanne Pawlak
Carol Vaughan
Carol Gettings
Charles Rausch
Cheryl Buechi
Chris Weider

Dan Carlson
Deborah Bach
Denine Jackson
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Don Saffire
Elizabeth Schasheck
Gaspar Aronica
Gerry Casey
Irene Benbenek
Jane Aigner
Jane Albrecht
Jill Thurston
Judy Gruchy
Karen Smith
Keith Gruchy

Linda Arndt
Mary Losi
Michael Aikan
Mike Gettings
Peter Buechi
Richard Glinski
Rita Zwink
Robert O'Keefe
Rose Antos
Sandy Myers
Stefanie Ecker
Steve Wood
Terry Boyle
Tom Schuler
Wende Mix

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following members who have joined Friends of Reinstein Woods in 2014:

Michele Andolina
Anne Appleby
Gasper Aronica
Ronald Bucelli
Tara Cronin
Marissa Pace
Debbie Dimitrovski
Sonia Frankhouser

Paul & Michelle Gammel
Maria Guzzo
Maggie Hewson
Aanchal Jain
Lazarra Family
Carol Leonardi
Julie McDonald
Tony & Tara Petty

Valerie Will

Donor Level Members:

Amanda Megan
Dave Valley

Contributor Level Members:

Helene Campton

New Member Benefit!

Friends of Reinstein Woods has joined the Association of Nature Center Administrator's reciprocal membership program. Members of Friends of Reinstein can receive discounts on admission, store discounts and other benefits at participating nature centers across the United States and Canada. So before you plan your next trip out of state, be sure to check the list of participating centers on www.reinsteinwoods.org/join/ to find nature centers to visit!

Thank you Donors!

Thank you to the following people for donating to Reinstein Woods:

- Valori Victor, whose "Victor's Angels" scholarship enabled three campers to attend the Kids in the Woods Summer Day Camp
- Brian Engler, for donating books
- Ted and Janet Koeth, for donating bird seed and feeders
- The following donors who gave to the Friends' Annual Appeal since the last newsletter came out in May:

Helen Erkkila-Kaukeano

Dennis and Sandra Needham

Charles Rauch

Michael & Kimberly Tonovitz



Member Events:

Friends of Reinstein Woods Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 21

Time: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Place: Reinstein Woods

Mingle with other Friends members for coffee and dessert, followed by a brief business meeting to highlight the year's accomplishments. A guest speaker from Olmstead Parks Conservancy will round out the event.

Registration is required, please call (716) 683-5959 to register.

Introduction to Geocaching

Date: Saturday, October 25

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Place: Reinstein Woods

Geocaching is a worldwide outdoor recreational activity which uses GPS units to hide and seek containers called geocaches. Participants will learn how to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and use them to find hidden geo-caches at Reinstein Woods. **For Adults and children ages 8 and up. Registration is required, please call (716) 683-5959 to register.**

Friends of Reinstein Woods Holiday Party

Date: December 6

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Place: Reinstein Woods

Members of the Friends of Reinstein Woods will celebrate the beauty of winter at their annual holiday gathering. New members are welcome! **Registration required, please call (716) 683-5959.**

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.

Support Reinstein Woods While 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!



Fall 2014 Programs

**** Advance registration is required for these programs.
Please call 716-683-5959 to sign-up for a program.**

SEPTEMBER

Weeds that Feed and Heal

Saturday, September 6 at 10:00 AM

*Many common non-native plants that we call weeds are edible and have medicinal properties. Discover some of these plants on a walk through Reinstein Woods. ***

Birding 101: Class #7

Saturday, September 6 at 2:30 PM

*We will continue to learn how to identify birds by sight and sound as we take a stroll to search for fall migrants. Bring field guides and binoculars if you have them. ***

Full Harvest Moon Walk

Tuesday, September 9 at 8:30 PM

*Join an evening walk by the glow of the moon as we observe wildlife preparing for the season. ***

Wildlife in Disguise

Saturday, September 13 at 10:30 AM

*Explore some of the unique ways that animals camouflage with their environment on this guided walk. ***

14th Annual Fall Festival

Saturday, September 20

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Kick off the fall season by spending a day in the woods. Enjoy crafts for kids, live animals, hands-on activities, food, live music by Mama Earth and more! Check our website for more information.

No registration required for this event.

Indoor Worm Composting Workshop

Saturday, September 27 at 10:30 AM

*Learn about red wiggler worms and how they can compost your food scraps during the fall and winter months for spring plantings. For adults and children 8 years and older. Materials fee to make a worm starter kit = \$4.00; \$2.00 for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. ***

Habitat Hunt

Sunday, September 28 at 2:00 PM

*Who are the critters in our "neighborhood"? Learn about our resident wildlife—what they eat and where they live. For children under age 12. ***

OCTOBER

After-School Escape

Thursday, October 2 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Knee-High Naturalists

Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 AM

*Enjoy a variety of nature-themed activities with your young child, such as stories, games, crafts and snack. For children ages 3 to 5. Materials fee = \$4.00 per child; \$2.00 per child for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. ***

Fall Plant Hike

Saturday, October 4 at 2:00 PM

*Before winter comes, the plants of fall put on one last show for us. Come see what they have to offer on this guided walk. ***

After-School Escape

Thursday, October 9 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Under a Log Hunt

Saturday, October 11 at 10:30 AM

*Bring the family out for a fun hike as we search under logs for insects, beetles, bugs and fungus. ***

Birding 101: Class #8

Saturday, October 11 at 2:30 PM

*Learn how to identify birds that visit bird feeders in fall and winter, and what to feed them. Bring field guides and binoculars if you have them. ***

After-School Escape

Thursday, October 16 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Leaf Art

Saturday, October 18 at 10:30 AM

*Gather colorful fall leaves on a short walk and use them to create works of art. ***

Fall 2014 Programs

**** Advance registration is required for these programs.
Please call 716-683-5959 to sign-up for a program.**

After-School Escape

Thursday, October 23 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Owl Prowl

Friday, October 24 at 6:30 PM

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 new owl mounts. Fee = \$4.00/person; Friends of Reinstein Woods members = \$2.00/person. For adults and children ages 8 and older.

Creepy Crawly Crafts

Saturday, October 25 at 10:00 AM

*Celebrate Halloween by making nature crafts. For kids ages 6-10. ***

Halloween Night Hike

Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30 PM

*Experience the night forest as owls, beavers and foxes do. Discover the spooky side of Reinstein Woods on this guided sensory walk. ***

After-School Escape

Thursday, October 30 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

NOVEMBER

Nature's Gathering:

An Evening of Art, Wine and Cheese

Saturday, November 1

5:00 to 8:00 PM

Enjoy a tasting of fine regional wines, cheeses and hors d'oeuvres and help support Friends of Reinstein Woods. Western New York artisans will be showcasing their nature-themed artwork, which will for sale. Tickets will be available at Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center. Please Note: This event will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road in Cheektowaga. For more information visit www.reinsteinwoods.org or call Reinstein Woods at 716-683-5959.

Day of the Dead Walk

Saturday, November 1 at 10:30 AM

*What connects Reinstein Woods to the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos? In this program, learn which beautiful creatures visit both the Woods and Mexico. ***

After-School Escape

Thursday, November 6 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Outdoor Skills

Saturday, November 8 at 10:30 AM

*In this program, you will create rope from plants and learn how to build a survival shelter from natural materials. For adults and children age 8 and older. ***

After-School Escape

Thursday, November 13 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

CSI: Critter Sign Investigation

Saturday, November 15 at 10:30 AM

*Become a nature detective and hunt for "clues" that wildlife have left along the trails. ***

After-School Escape

Thursday, November 20 at 4:30 PM

Kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a different, fun, outdoor activity together each week. For children in grades K through 5. No registration required.

Tracks and Scat: Who's Been Here?

Saturday, November 22 at 10:30 AM

*Come for a hike on the trails to discover and investigate which animals have left behind signs of their tracks and scat. For children age 8 and older. ***

Turkey Stroll

Saturday, November 29 at 10:30 AM

*After Thanksgiving is a great time for a walk in the woods. Join us on a guided nature walk as we look for wild turkeys and the clues they leave behind. ***



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