

The Lily Pad

The Newsletter of Friends of Reinstein Woods

Spring 2015



Share In Nature's Harmony

Celebrate Earth Day by Cleaning Your Closet!

We've all done it: when cleaning a closet, you find an old shirt that you loved ten years ago. Not only is it out of style, you'll never wear it again because of the stain on the collar and the tear in the sleeve. Thinking even your local charity won't want it, you put it in the trash....*but wait!*

Even items that are torn, stained, missing buttons, or have broken zippers *can* be recycled. These "textiles," which also include household items like sheets, blankets, curtains and even stuffed animals, are accepted for recycling by many organizations. If the items can't be reused here or abroad, they are broken down into their fibers to be recycled into other useful things!



*Reinstein Woods Staff recycle...in what year?
Email your guess to info@reinsteinwoods.org.*

Every year New York State residents and businesses throw away 1,390,000,000 pounds of usable and recyclable textiles. We'd like to reduce that number! On Saturday, May 2 at our annual Earth Day in May event, you can recycle that favorite shirt from long ago. Reinstein Woods is partnering with the WNY Coalition for Donated Goods to offer a recycling drive so that you can bring everything from towels, socks and underwear to belts, backpacks and bedspreads to be recycled! Details on hours will follow soon. To find out more about our Earthday in Mayevent, visit:

<http://reinsteinwoods.org/events/earth-day-2/>

In the meantime, if you want to learn more and find places to recycle textiles in your local community, visit the NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling's:

http://www.nysar3.org/textile_recovery_locations.php

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March 31 Early-bird Registration Deadline for Summer Camp!

Registration is now open for "Kids in the Woods" summer day camp at Reinstein Woods! These week-long programs get kids outside and connect them with nature. We offer camps for kids entering kindergarten to seventh grade. Register by March 31 to receive \$10 off the registration fee! The registration deadline is June 30, 2015.



Summer Science Safari: A great way to end the summer!

For the third year in a row, we are collaborating with Penn Dixie and Evangola State Park to offer a unique nature adventure: Summer Science Safari camp for kids age 8 to 12. Dig for fossils, explore the world of the pond, swim at a beach, build a survival shelter and more! We offer two weeks of safari camp, and the second week, August 24 to 28, is a week when few other camps are in session. It's a great way to wind up a summer with fun! Download the brochure for more information and a registration form here:

<http://reinsteinwoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/KITW-2015-Brochure.pdf>

For questions about any of these camp offerings, contact Brittany at 683-5959 ext. 205.

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

Save the Date: Upcoming Member Event Canoeing at Beaver Meadow Audobon

Saturday, June 27

Enjoy a relaxing paddle around some of the lakes at Beaver Meadow Audobon Center. Watch your mailbox for more information.



Spring It On For Reinstein Woods!

Mark your calendars for "Spring It On," a 24-hour fundraising event sponsored by United Way!

This year's event kicks off at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 and ends at 8 a.m. Friday, March 20.

Our goal is to raise \$1000 to help protect our ash trees from the destructive Emerald Ash Borer beetle. Watch your email for more details as the event approaches, and thank you in advance for your support!



Ash tree being inoculated



Basket Raffle

Save the Date: BBQ at Reinstein Woods Saturday, June 13, 2015

Save the date for Friends of Reinstein's spring fundraiser! This year's event will include a gigantic basket raffle, barbecue, music and more! Be sure to mark your calendars and watch your mailbox for more information.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the event, contact Carol Gettings at 688-3996. If you can donate a basket, please contact Cheryl Buechi at 668-7010. Thank you!

Thaw Out at a Reinstein Woods Spring Program!

Whether you are interested in birds, salamanders, gardening, or just getting outside after the long winter, there's a program for you happening at Reinstein Woods this spring. Registration is now open and you can view the schedule at the end of the newsletter. Many programs fill up quickly, so be sure to call 683-5959 to sign up soon!

Sign up for Birding 101 classes March 21 & April 18!



Winter, Winter, WINTER!

A message from Friends President Michael Gettings

Greetings from the frozen North!

When my wife and I returned in February from a warm Florida vacation, my initial thought was “are you kidding” after seeing the snowy landscape. I’m old enough to remember the days when snow was over the roof tops, there was no such thing as wind chill and you stayed outside all day and half of the night. But, this winter seems to be breaking all the records, imagined or otherwise.

My thoughts quickly improved, based on two recent events at “The Woods” which made me adjust my attitude concerning the winter season.

The first event was Winter Wonderland. Not only was the attendance fantastic, over 500 strong, but the families and kids had a great time and enjoyed the outdoors. I didn’t hear one complaint about the weather, the guests had fun, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow painting, ice fishing and watching the rescue dog Jackson perform.

The second event was an evening snowshoeing tour. On a clear 12 degree February evening, five individuals with disabilities who had never used snowshoes had a great time trekking for almost an hour on the frozen trails. Each explorer took turns leading the group, asked many questions and was excited about being outdoors. It was not the participants who got tired; it was me, the tour guide.

I’m sometimes negative about the winter weather, but I’m always amazed at the active winter related activities that I witness at Reinstein Woods. Lots of individuals and families enjoy the winter season here, either for the first time or as a regular customer. I’m grateful that Reinstein Woods provides these opportunities and that I can play a small role in these worthwhile experiences.

Stay Warm – Spring Will Arrive!!!!

Mike Gettings

President, Friends of Reinstein Woods



Visitors trying cross-country skiing at Winter Wonderland

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!



Winter Wonderland A Big Success!

Thanks to a "warm" day and lots of snow, we had a record crowd at Winter Wonderland, with just over 500 people enjoying skiing, snowshoeing, crafts and more! Visitors delighted in interacting with Earth Spirit, Niagara Frontier Search & Rescue Team, SPCA Serving Erie County, and NYS Parks Interpretive Office staff, who all helped make the day successful!



Visitors enjoying the snow

Special thanks go to "Nature Mary" for her talks on winter survival and to the Town of Amherst for loaning us their snowball target, as well as all our volunteers who worked inside and out to ensure an enjoyable afternoon.

If you missed this event, it's not too late to visit Reinstein Woods to try a pair of snowshoes or skis for yourself by visiting during our rental hours.



Visitors enjoying the trails

Rental Hours:

Monday – Friday 9 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday 1 pm – 4:30 pm

Some Sundays: 1 pm – 4:30 pm Jan. 4 – Feb. 1, and March 1 & 8

CLOSED on State Holidays

NEW THIS YEAR: For parents looking to enjoy snowshoeing with a very young child, **we have infant/toddler sleds available to rent for \$5.**

Cost:

\$5 per pair, \$2 for Friends of Reinstein members

Credit cards accepted for sales of \$10 or more

Cash only on Sundays

During the Education Center business hours, Friends of Reinstein Woods, in partnership with DEC, rents snowshoes and cross-country skis to use at Reinstein Woods. We have a large selection of snowshoes (fitting small children to large adults). We have a decent selection of adult cross-country skis and a limited number of skis for youth. Rentals are made on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A minimum of 6" of snow on the ground is required in order to use the snowshoes and skis, and **we reserve the right to refuse rentals during inappropriate or dangerous trail conditions.** One renter from each party must be at least 16 years old and leave their driver's license or non-driver photo ID at the reception desk. Friends of Reinstein members must show their membership card to receive the discount.

Spring 2015 Programs

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

MARCH

After-School Escape

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26 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.

"Not There Yet" Snowshoe Walk

Saturday, March 7 at 10:30 AM

As winter thaws into spring, when do the animals reappear? On this guided walk, discover what's happening in the woods as spring approaches. We will just walk if there is no snow. Snowshoe rental \$5 per person, \$2 for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. **

Knee-High Naturalists

Thursday, March 12 at 10:30 AM

Join us for a fun morning as we listen to a short story, plant a flower seed to take home and have a flowering snack. For children ages 3 to 5. Materials fee \$4 per child; \$2 per child for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. **

Create a Butterfly-Fairy House in a Box

Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 AM

Learn how to create a shoe box-size butterfly-fairy house for butterflies this spring. We will supply the box, seeds, and items for your fairy house. For children ages 6 to 12. Materials fee \$4 per child; \$2 per child for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. **

Knee-High Naturalists

Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 AM

Enjoy a variety of nature-themed activities with your young child, such as stories, games, crafts and snacks. For children ages 3 to 5. Materials fee \$4 per child; \$2 per child for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. **

Birding 101: Class #3

Saturday, March 21 at 2:30 PM

What bird am I? Come learn the general types of birds found in Reinstein Woods. For adults and children ages 8 and older. **

Snowy with a Chance of Salamanders

Saturday, March 28 at 10:30 AM

We will explore the spring pools and search under logs for spotted salamanders. This is the time for them to lay their eggs and a chance to get a glimpse of this secretive creature. **

Frogwatch USA Volunteer Training

Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 PM

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

APRIL

Trail Tuesdays

Every Tuesday from April - August from 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Turn your love for the outdoors into rewarding action. Assist with projects to help maintain and improve ecosystems and trails throughout the preserve. There is something for almost every age and ability to help with! Refreshments provided. **

After-School Escape

Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 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.

Geo-caching Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 AM

Participants will learn how to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and then use these handheld GPS units to find hidden eggs in the preserve. Fee \$2 per person; free for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. **

No-Housework-Day Hike

Tuesday, April 7 at 10:30 AM

It's spring break, so moms and dads deserve a day off—from housework at least! Bring the family for an early spring hike, and explore how animals keep house at Reinstein Woods. **

CSI: Critter Sign Investigation

Wednesday, April 8 at 10:30 AM

Become a nature detective and look for "clues" left by wildlife along the trails. For children ages 6 to 10. **

Owl Prowl

Friday, April 10 at 7:30 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. For adults and children ages 8 and older. Fee \$4 per person; \$2 per person for Friends of Reinstein Woods members. **

Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Experiences

Saturday, April 11 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

This workshop helps educators engage young children (ages 3 to 6) in outdoor exploration. Attendees receive a curriculum guide and music CD that infuse nature into art, reading, math, music and movement. **

Gardening for Health

Saturday, April 11 at 2:00 PM

Lavender calms the nerves, and rose petals brighten and cleanse your skin. Discover how to use your garden to its full potential. For adults only. **

Gardening by the Moon

Saturday, April 18 at 10:30 AM

Did you ever wonder what you can plant in your garden during the new moon or a full moon? Here's your chance to find out! We'll go through the moon's cycle and learn when and what to plant in your garden. For adults only. **

Spring 2015 Programs

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Please call 716-683-5959 to sign-up for a program.**

APRIL (*continued*)

Birding 101: Class #4

Saturday, April 18 at 2:30 PM

*Which woodpecker am I? Learn how to identify the different woodpeckers found in Reinstein Woods. For adults and children ages 8 and older. ***

Crepuscular Walk: Call of the Peeper

Friday, April 24 at 7:00 PM

*You recognize the sound but do you know who makes it? Join us for an evening hike as we set out to find the elusive spring peeper and other wetland residents. ***

Flower Folklore

Saturday, April 25 at 10:30 AM

*Search for blooming spring wildflowers like amber bells and spring beauties, and discover their secrets on this guided walk. ***

Animal Superpowers

Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 PM

*They may not be faster than a speeding bullet or more powerful than a locomotive, but many animals have abilities beyond those of humans. On this guided walk, you will learn about some of these amazing residents of the woods. ***

MAY

Trail Tuesdays

Every Tuesday from April - August from 6:30 to 7:30 PM

*Turn your love for the outdoors into rewarding action. Assist with projects to help maintain and improve ecosystems and trails throughout the preserve. There is something for almost every age and ability to help with! Refreshments provided. ***

After-School Escape

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21 and 28 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.

Earth Day in May

Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

*Help us clear debris from our trails to prepare them for summer and plant native wildflowers. Families and organizations are welcome. Bring gloves, shovels and rakes if you have them. Refreshments provided. ***

Avian Arrivals

Saturday, May 9 at 9:30 AM

*Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by searching for the birds of spring during a guided walk. Bring binoculars if you have them. ***

Project Camp Out

Saturday, May 9 at 2:00 PM

*Just in time for camping season, learn the basic skills of camping at a campground, in the wilderness and even in your own backyard! For adults and children age 11 and older. ***

Project WILD Workshop

Tuesday, May 12 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM

*Project WILD is an award-winning program to help K-12 teachers use wildlife to teach a variety of subjects, including math, English language arts and more. Participants receive a guide with more than 100 lesson plans. Pizza and refreshments served. ***

Jewels of the Sky (at Great Baehre Swamp in Amherst)

Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 AM

*Explore the Great Baehre Swamp boardwalk for ebony jewelwings and tiger swallowtails as well as other dragonflies and butterflies that may be in flight. ***

Birding 101: Class #5

Saturday, May 16 at 2:30 PM

*Who's in the pond? Who's flying over the pond? And who's hiding in the reeds? Learn about the ducks and wetland birds of Reinstein Woods. For adults and children ages 8 and older. ***

Warbler Walk

Friday, May 22 at 9:30 AM

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

Stories in the Woods

Saturday, May 23 at 10:30 AM

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

Born Wild

Saturday, May 23 at 2:00 PM

*Join us for a nature walk as we search for the next generation of Reinstein Woods's wildlife. ***

Garbage Can Composting

Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 AM

*Learn how to use your plastic garbage can to do outdoor composting. Please bring a plastic garbage can with lid (any size) to create your composter and learn how to use it. For adults only. ***

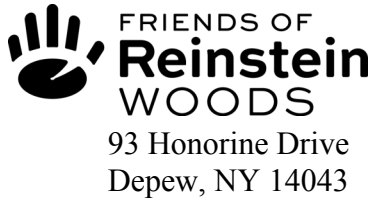
Prehistoric Reinstein Woods

Saturday, May 30 at 2:00 PM

*Through all of Earth's disasters, certain animal and plant species have survived. Take a journey through time, and find out how far back some of them go. ***

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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