

The Lily Pad



The Newsletter of Friends of Reinstein Woods

Share In Nature's Harmony

Winter 2016 / 2017

Save the Date: Winter Wonderland in the Woods Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Join us for Reinstein Woods' annual winter open house!

- Try snowshoes or cross-country skis for free
- Go on a winter scavenger hunt
- Enjoy ice fishing demonstrations
- Make snow art, nature crafts and more!

No registration required. Check <http://reinsteinwoods.org/events/> for event updates!



Visitors Enjoying Exhibits

Friends of Reinstein Board of Directors

Terrence Boyle
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Dan Carlson

Esther Clabeaux

Stefanie Ecker
Vice President

Michael Gettings,

Denine Jackson

Jerry Krajna

Jeremy Occek

Charles Rauch,
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Lori Stilwell

Vinod Suchak
Treasurer

DEC Representative
Meaghan
Boice-Green

FORW Educator
Brittany Rowan

FORW Liaison
Michael Adriaansen

Office Manager
Ann Murphy

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Joan Beaton Scott

Fall Happenings at Reinstein Woods

Fall passed quickly at Reinstein Woods, with fun annual events like the 16th Annual Fall Festival and new events like "Passport to Play" held in partnership with the Buffalo Zoo in late October.



Kids at "Passport to Play"

The annual October membership meeting of Friends of Reinstein Woods also featured some new faces. Members elected two new people to the board of directors: Esther Clabeaux, a CPA and manager with the Bonadio Group, and Erie County Park Ranger Jerome Krajna. In November, the board elected Terry Boyle as president to succeed outgoing president Mike Gettings. Stefanie Ecker was elected Vice President, and Charles Rauch and Vinod Suchak were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. Special thanks were given to Mike Gettings for his three years as board president.

Scouts Build Library, Make Trail Improvements

Cheektowaga is home to two libraries built with donations from the Reinstein family. It is fitting that this summer, Reinstein Woods added a third, albeit smaller, library to the town. The "Library in the Woods," constructed by Eugene Maciejewski of Boy Scout Troop 601 for his Eagle Scout project, provides a weather-proof space for books in a grove of trees just off the Footprint Trail in Reinstein Woods.



Visitors can peruse nature books, children's books and even novels that line the small library's shelves, and then enjoy reading in the woods on a nearby bench. The books were donated, and visitors are encouraged (but not required) to leave a book if they decide to take a book home for further reading.

"We hope that the library will encourage reading and quiet contemplation in the woods, but we also see it as a community-building tool," said Education Center Director Meaghan Boice-Green. "If people find a book they like and take it home, we hope they will visit again to return the book or add a new one to the collection."



In summer and early fall, members of Girl Scout Troop 30491 added some extra beauty to the library and a nearby trail as part of their Silver Award project. Cadettes Judine Lynch, Kylie Simkins and Elizabeth Rusinski led the project, adding natural decorations to the library and a storage area in the rear of the structure. They also painted designs on benches built as part of the Eagle Scout project, adding a colorful touch to the seating area.

Meanwhile, Troop members Nicole Reichert, Brooke Seifert and Kayla Cieslikowski worked on improving the Stone Marker Trail, a short trail that leads from the History Trail to a stone believed to have been placed in the woods more than 100 years ago to mark the property boundary of one of the area's first settlers. The girls cleared the overgrown trail, lined it with large logs, and added a bridge over a wet area along the trail. They also added a sign and log seating at the entrance to the trail.



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

Students Experience “Day in the Life”

By Jill Zerkowski, Naturalist Intern



On September 29, more than 300 students, teachers and volunteers arrived on the shores of the Buffalo River and its tributaries. Equipped with tools such as nets, tubes, clipboards and data sheets, students from six schools from across western New York were ready to explore the complex relationships that are found in the Buffalo River. The fourth annual Day in the Life of the Buffalo River found students ankle deep in water, giving them a unique hands-on experience.

In addition to the students, teachers and volunteers, several partner organizations were on-site to help with the event. Representatives from the Erie County Park Rangers, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Great Lakes Program, and US Fish & Wildlife Service's Lower Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office worked with students at ten different sites to

collect data about water quality, biodiversity, create maps, as well as to share the history of the Buffalo River.

All of the data collected by the students will be posted online (<http://reinsteinwoods.org/dayinthelife/data/>) and shared between the participating classes.

Reinstein Woods gave students and educators a day they most likely won't forget. Learning to do real science, like measuring turbidity (the cloudiness in the water), is one benefit of the program. "The turbidity tube was awesome! We poured the water in (the tube), and the secchi disk actually disappeared! It was so cool when we let the water out and could see the disk again," said one student.

Brittany Rowan, Friends of Reinstein Woods environmental educator, said, "This event is a great opportunity for students to investigate this local water resource and take real-world data. It's exciting for them to become scientists for a day."

Special thanks to the local offices of Ingram Micro and Northrop Grumman for providing funding to support this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. The Julia B. Reinstein Trust also provides financial support that makes this program possible.



Volunteer this Winter!

Have you been looking for a way to contribute to the Friends?

We are looking for volunteers to assist with passing out snowshoes and cross-country skis on weekends starting in January. Training is provided, and this is a great way to help the Friends while hanging out with other volunteers!

Help is needed between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. If you are interested in helping, info@reinsteinwoods.org or call Reinstein Woods at 683-5959.



Junior League Grant Provides Summer Experience

"This week was the highlight of my summer."

So proclaimed one of the campers who attended Camp Rushford, an environmental education summer camp in Allegany County. The camper was one of more than a dozen kids who attended camp through NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's campership program, offered in partnership with Friends of Reinstein Woods. The program recruits kids from urban, underserved areas and enables them to go to camp for free. Friends of Reinstein Woods also pays to sponsor a child to attend camp through the Peter Losi Memorial Campership.

The children spent a week immersed in hands-on learning and fun, discovering the wonders of field, forest, and pond, as well as studying the impact of humans on the environment. A grant from the Junior League of Buffalo provided bus transportation for the children attending camp this summer.



Starr, the 2016 Peter Losi Memorial Campership Recipient

The students had a life-affirming experience, as expressed here:

"This week was the best week of the summer... My favorite part of camp was to make new friends and to play games that I never played before."

"I had a great time meeting new friends, bonding with counselors, and seeing things I have never sought to see. I would for sure love to come back and have another great time!"

Four of the campers in this program received "Outstanding Camper of the Week" awards. Some of them will have the opportunity to return to camp next year, furthering their development as the next generation of environmental stewards.



Campers on a Hike at Camp Rushford



Campers Resting

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!



Pat Taeger Field Trip Fund Supports Fall Nature Experience!

A group of students from Sweet Home High School got the chance to explore Reinstein Woods recently thanks to a grant from the Pat Taeger Field Trip Fund, which provides funds for students in special education or alternative ed programs to visit Reinstein Woods.

Pat Taeger was a dedicated Reinstein Woods volunteer who passed away in 2015. The field trip grants cover the cost of a bus, and field trip fees. Applications for spring field trip grants are due December 15. You can apply here: <http://reinsteinwoods.org/explore/programs-services/school-programs/ptfgrant/>



Naturalist Intern Jill Z. shares a scent with students from Sweet Home HS

Wineries and Art Mix at Nature's Gathering

Thank you to all the artists, wineries, businesses and board members who donated their time, products and funds to make *Nature's Gathering: An Evening of Art, Wine & Cheese* a big success! Be sure to support these fine businesses:

Battistoni Italian Specialty Meats

Long Cliff Winery

Midgard Winery

Midnight Run Wine Cellars

Schultz Vineyards & Winery

Rich Products

Yancey's Fancy, Inc.

B & B Liquors * Camellia Meats * Cordially Yours * Key Liquors
* Kohl's Employees* Penn Dixie Outdoor Education Center *
Universal Market Liquor & Wine * Victorianbourg Wine Estate

Other donors: Linda Arndt, Bill Boehm, Cheryl Buechi, Friends of Reinstein Board of Directors, Julia A. Reinstein, Karen Smith



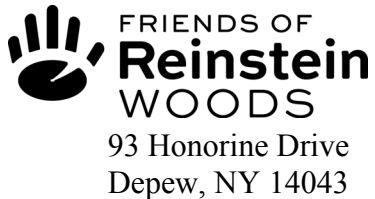
Upcoming Member-Only Programs: LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Place: Reinstein Woods

Cross country skiing is a great way to enjoy the winter season. Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short guided ski tour. Rentals will be free for this program. New members are welcome! **Registration is required, please call (716) 683-5959 to register.**

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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