

The Lily Pad



Winter 2020 Newsletter

What Are You Thankful For? We're Thankful for You!

I want to thank you all for your patience with us during 2020. With the staff working mostly from home, the challenges posed by the closing of our facilities and a huge increase in trail visitors, I am sure there have been delays in returning phone calls or emails, confusion about what services we still offer, and disappointment when programs fill quicker than normal due to Covid group size restrictions.

In August, I participated in the Association of Nature Center Administrator's annual conference. The challenges faced by Reinstein Woods are the same as those facing nature preserves and environmental education centers across the country. As we enter the holiday season, I want to express my appreciation for the strong base of member support and our fantastic non-profit, Friends of Reinstein Woods, that helped us get through a difficult year. As we look ahead to 2021, I hope that you stay connected to us by visiting the trails, signing up for programs, and sharing with us on social media what you are thankful for: Is there a favorite trail, program, or person you've encountered at Reinstein Woods over the years? Let us know @reinsteinwoods on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

- Meaghan Boice-Green, Center Director, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Current Reinstein Woods Hours:

Trails Open Sunrise to Sunset
Bathrooms Open 8 AM to 5 PM Daily
Education Center Closed

President's Message

As 2020 wraps up and the pandemic takes more of our attention, Reinstein Woods is still there to help everyone cope! Recently you may have walked the trails to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage or attended a staff-guided program. It's times like these that we discover how truly fortunate we are to have Reinstein Woods to take the "edge" off our daily routines. Even at home: I want to thank the photographers who have shared beautiful pictures on social media of sunsets, plants and animals at the preserve. The old saying holds true: A picture is worth a thousand words!

With colder weather on the way, you can bundle up and enjoy the beauty of our winter landscape (and it's not a bad idea to bring some hot chocolate either!). We sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts to respect the preserve's rules and protect fellow visitors by wearing a mask and maintaining social distance.

We had a good turnout for our virtual Annual Membership Meeting in October, enjoying Mark Carra's presentation on "garden insects" – well done! I hope you will check out the winter virtual programs being offered by Reinstein Woods or join us for a winter members-only program. Visit our websites for updates.

As always, we sincerely appreciate our members who diligently renew their annual membership. Your support helps us succeed. Memberships also make a great holiday gift! As you'll see in this newsletter, you can also help us succeed by joining a committee, as our work will continue through the winter, albeit virtually.

Please be safe, enjoy and respect nature and I hope to see you at the Woods soon!

*-Terrence Boyle, President
Friends of Reinstein Woods*

Dr. Ronald Gramza Receives Al Schick Award

Although we were unable to hold the annual picnic for our volunteers, we did present the Al Schick Volunteer Recognition Award to Dr. Ronald Gramza for his decade of photographing events at Reinstein Woods. Ron has been a reliable photographer at our festivals any time of year, providing shots we can use for publicity and publications. In recent years, Ron has been bringing his grandchildren along as assistants, helping to grow the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts.



You can see some of Ron's photos in the Fall Festival Memories videos available at reinsteinwoods.org/explore/20-2020fest/virtual-fall-festival/. Congratulations Dr. Gramza!

Get INVOLVED!

Friends of Reinstein Woods is looking for people to help on Committees! Good with numbers? Join the Finance Committee. Want to plan a hike? Join the Membership Committee! Want to support the Friends any way you can? The Development Committee is for you. To learn more visit reinsteinwoods.org or email president@reinsteinwoods.org.

AmeriCorps Member Finishes with Adventure

SCA AmeriCorps Member Rachel Jones has been serving at Reinstein Woods since early 2020. She coordinated our Trail Thursday and Phragmites Strike Team volunteers, and she conducted surveys of visitors to help us better understand the audience using our trails.

This fall, Rachel spearheaded a new Teen Nature Club. Teens met outdoors biweekly to enjoy masked and socially distant activities. Daniel Mlodozienec accompanied Rachel and the group for a recent evening walk and provides this summary of their adventure:

"Tuesday's Teen Naturalist Club outing was one to remember. The plan was to observe nocturnal wildlife and nighttime constellations. Our first wildlife sighting immediately set the tone for an incredible hike when an eastern screech owl was observed roosting in a dead tree, before we even started calling for owls! This nocturnal raptor was joined by two Great Horned Owls, hooting tenaciously at us. Adding to the avian drama was a Merlin, a member of the falcon family not often seen at Reinstein Woods, that appeared and dove at the larger owls.



Mammal friends showed up too! We were fortunate to watch two beavers swimming near shore. For the finale, the stars came out right at the end of our beaver encounter, the perfect time for Rachel to share with the group how to 'star hop' to find a variety of constellations."

The Teen Club was so popular we are planning to continue it in some form in 2021. We wish to thank Rachel for her service and hope that her next adventure is as exciting as the Teen Club outing!

Meet Environmental Ed Intern Britney-Bay Croyle

If you've visited Reinstein Woods recently, you may have seen Environmental Education Intern Britney-Bay Croyle monitoring the trails and interacting with visitors. "I grew up mostly in Niagara Falls, but my family also spent a few years in Florida. That's where I fell in love with all things outdoors. My two brothers and I would spend the day running barefoot through the fields in search of red ant hills, collecting tadpoles to watch them grow and looking for manatees in canals... I graduated from the University at Buffalo with degrees in Environmental Studies and Studio Arts and a minor in Education. I am working on a master's degree in Sustainability Leadership. I am very passionate about environmental and socio-economic justice for our WNY community!"



Britney spent the fall helping with the Teen Nature Club and Wild Wednesdays programs. Look for her assisting with snowshoe and other group tours throughout the winter.

Friends of Reinstein Woods is excited to continue their internship partnership with DEC in 2021! This paid internship provides hands-on experience in the field of Environmental Education. More information and an application can be found on DEC's website at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1829.html>.

Fall Education Programs Go Virtual!

With field trips unavailable for most students this fall, Reinstein Woods turned to virtual trips instead! Educator Mike Adriaansen conducted weekly live sessions for students from two Buffalo public high schools. Students discovered and identified macroinvertebrates, learned outdoor skills like shelter-building, and explored nature locations beyond Reinstein Woods. Teacher Jerry Krajna (a former Reinstein Woods intern) even provided his students with directions to reach some locations by bus so students could explore in-person on their own time.



Two of our Watershed STEM Grant partners (<https://reinsteinwoods.org/stem-grant/>) also switched to virtual services for students this fall, so Reinstein Woods switched too! We provided nature kits to students to help them explore weather and water in and around their own home. Educator Daniel Mlodozieniec stars in some of the videos created to supplement the experience. Thanks to Friends of Reinstein Woods, we've been able to use a learning platform called NearPod to create lessons and monitor student participation and learning.

20-2020 Festival Winners Announced!

When we couldn't hold our 20th Fall Festival in person, Reinstein Woods decided a 20-2020 Fest would be even better, offering online and self-directed activities! Thank you to everyone who supported Reinstein Woods by registering for the 20-Day Get Outdoors Challenge, which encouraged people to explore Reinstein Woods and other lands in WNY.

More than 80 people participated in the 20-day Sustainability Challenge (<https://reinsteinwoods.org/explore/20-dsc-resources/>). Sustainability Challenge participants were entered into a drawing for a free membership to Friends of Reinstein Woods. Congratulations to winner Loreen G.!

The 20-Day Virtual Fall Festival included a chance to win a "door prize" featuring merchandise and memberships to some of our partner organizations (reinsteinwoods.org/explore/20-2020fest/virtual-fall-festival/). Winner April Manna and her son have enjoyed learning about WNY animals and geology. "Just wanted to thank you again for everything. My son and I can't wait to use our winnings and go out and explore...We are so blessed to have such a vast area in practically our back yard!"



We are pleased to offer small in-person walks as well as virtual programs. **The number of participants for in-person programs is limited; all participants over age 2 are required to wear masks covering their mouths and noses, and to maintain social distance whenever possible.**

Pre-registration is required for ALL programs; call 716-683-5959 to register for an in-person program. For virtual programs, please register online at reinsteinwoods.org.

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

PROGRAMS AT REINSTEIN WOODS

- You must pre-register by phone; you will receive a call confirming your registration or waitlist status. PLEASE SPEAK CLEARLY when leaving your name and phone number as our system does not have caller ID. Unless you receive a callback, you are not registered. *Registration for popular programs is limited to 3 people per party.
- All participants are required to wear a mask; social distancing of 6 feet or more will be practiced whenever possible.
- In case of poor weather, programs may be cancelled.
- We cannot accommodate organized youth/civic groups at these programs. Please call to make other arrangements.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 2 at 1:00 PM

WILD WEDNESDAY

Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a fun hour-long outdoor activity. **For children in grades K through 5.**

Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 AM

WARMING UP TO NATURE

On this guided walk, we will learn about animals' behaviors and adaptations to keep warm.

Saturday, December 5 at 11:00 AM

BIRDING AT AMHERST STATE PARK *

Join a quest in search of birds! Learn how birds survive the winter and count how many bird species we can find. **Note: this program takes place at Amherst State Park.**

Wednesday, December 9 at 1:00 PM

WILD WEDNESDAY

Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a fun hour-long outdoor activity. **For children in grades K through 5.**

Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 AM

HOLIDAY SNOWSHOE HIKE

Step away from the holiday madness and enjoy a walk in the woods on snowshoes. We will still walk if there is no snow. **\$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.**

Wednesday, December 16 at 1:00 PM

WILD WEDNESDAY

Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a fun hour-long outdoor activity. **For children in grades K through 5.**

Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM

OWL PROWL*

Learn about the owls that live in Reinstein Woods and join a nocturnal hike to try to find them. **For adults and children ages 8 and older.**

Monday, December 21 at 6:30 PM

EVENING SOLSTICE WALK

Celebrate the winter solstice on an evening walk through the forest. Bring your own lantern to light the way!

Thursday, December 24 at 10:30 AM

COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROJECT: WINTER CRITTER TRACKS & SCAT RECORDING

Learn how to identify and record tracks and scat (poop) of local wildlife at Reinstein Woods, a park, or in your backyard. **For adults and children ages 12 and older.**

Saturday, December 26 at 10:30 AM

HOLIDAY NATURE WALK

Slow down this holiday season and surround yourself with nature on this mid-morning walk through the Woods.

Wednesday, December 30 at 10:00 AM

LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI *

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short, guided ski tour. **\$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.**

Thursday, December 31 at 1:30 PM

LAST DAY HIKE

Celebrate the end of 2020 and make a resolution to spend more time outside!

JANUARY

Friday, January 1 at 10:00 AM

FIRST DAY HIKE *

Ring in New Year's Day with a hike led by a DEC Forest Ranger, who will discuss how to prepare for any outdoor adventure.

Saturday, January 2 at 10:30 AM

NEW YEAR SNOWSHOE HIKE IN AMHERST

Learn the basics of snowshoeing and enjoy a guided snowshoe walk.

Note: this program takes place at Billy Wilson Park/Great Baehre Swamp in the Town of Amherst. \$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 AM

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS

A great way to introduce kids to birding and escape the post-holiday blahs! Small teams of kids will compete to see who can find the most birds during 90-minute hikes at Reinstein Woods and other nearby sites. Binocular instructions provided. For more information, call 716-683-5959. Pre-registration required; register online at <https://reinsteinwoods.org/events/cbc-for-kids2021/>.

Saturday, January 16 at 10:00 AM

WINTER BIRDS: FEEDING AND FORAGING *

Enjoy a short walk to search for birds foraging on the trail following an outdoor demonstration on winter bird-feeding tips.

Sunday, January 17 at 10:00 AM

LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI *

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short, guided ski tour. \$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 AM

LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI *

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short, guided ski tour. \$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Saturday, January 30 at 10:00 AM

WINTER TREE ID

Don't know the difference between a spruce and a pine tree? Come learn how to ID local trees in winter. **For adults and children ages 10 and older.**

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 6 at 10:00 AM

GROUNDHOGS AND WOOLLY BEARS

Explore the folklore of weather predictors and discover the best spots to watch for signs of spring at Reinstein Woods.

Sunday, February 7 at 10:00 AM

LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI *

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short, guided ski tour. \$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Saturday, February 13 at 10:30 AM

FAMILY NATURE QUEST: WINTER WILDLIFE

Join us for a guided morning walk along the trails as we look for signs of wildlife.

Thursday, February 18 at 10:00 AM

LEARN TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI *

Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short, guided ski tour. \$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 AM

BIRDING 101 *

Learn how to bird during wintertime by searching for them at Reinstein Woods. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, February 27 at 10:00 AM

FAMILY SNOWSHOE HIKE

Explore the woods on snowshoes. We will still walk if there is no snow. \$15.00/person; Friends members = \$10.00. Pre-registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

- All programs require online pre-registration.
- Participants will be emailed a link for the presentation.
- To register, go to: www.reinsteinwoods.org/events

Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS—EARTH-FRIENDLY EDITION

Join us virtually as we dive into the world of wrapping, packing, and decorating for the festive season. We will discuss and explore sustainable and ethical alternatives to present wrapping and gift giving while putting a unique and creative spin on the traditional holiday season.

Monday, December 28 at 11:00 AM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: TERRIFIC TURTLES

Virtually meet and learn about the three turtles that live in the Education Center at Reinstein Woods.

Tuesday, January 19 at 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: WINTER WILDFLOWERS

Explore the world of winter plants and see what next summer's wildflowers will look like. **For adults only.**

Tuesday, January 26 at 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

It's never too early to think about your summer garden! Discover how choosing the right plants can benefit wildlife while also beautifying your yard.

Wednesday, February 10 at 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: UNDER THE ICE

Where do beavers and turtles go in the winter? Join us for a virtual exploration of what is living under the ice at Reinstein Woods.

Tuesday, February 16 at 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: TIPS FOR WINTER PLAY

Worried about being bored this school break? Join us for a short presentation on winter nature play ideas and make a bucket list for your break week!

Thank you to all our generous donors!

Donors & Renewed Members May 16, 2020 – October 31, 2020

Frima Ackerhalt	Linda Dugan	Amy Jo Lauber	Mary Jane Runkel
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Matthew Donahue	Susan LaGraves	Stuart Rubin	

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Robert Windsor: Maria McNally

In Memory of Kenneth "Kenny" Wojtowicz: William Ilecki, Karen Kazmierczak, Ernie Scales, Sarah Wolf



REMEMBER REINSTEIN AT THE HOLIDAYS!

With other income for Friends of Reinstein severely limited in 2020, donating to Reinstein Woods makes a huge impact. And a membership to Friends of Reinstein Woods makes a great gift! Your year-end gift to Friends of Reinstein Woods will help us sustain our efforts to care for Reinstein Woods and share nature's harmony with the wider community in 2021. Or, consider adding Friends of Reinstein to your will or retirement plan (learn more at reinsteinwoods.org/donate/planned-giving).

You can donate or purchase a gift membership online at reinsteinwoods.org/donate, or mail your donation to: Friends of Reinstein Woods, 93 Honorine Drive, Depew, NY 14043. We appreciate your generosity!




Contact Us

While most staff are working remotely, phones are checked daily and calls will be returned.

716-683-5959

info@reinsteinwoods.org

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