# The Lily Pad

Spring 2021 Newsletter



Arguably, one of the best things about Spring is the new life it brings. Even though Western New York sometimes sees the cold and snow well into the Spring months, from the budding trees, awakening flowers and chirping birds, signs of new growth are a welcome change to the winters our area endures. In that same respect, life itself often brings about its own "Spring" season, with times of encouraging growth and fresh change.

Here at Reinstein Woods, we are experiencing change as we wish a fond farewell to long-time DEC Environmental Educator and Volunteer Coordinator, Ginger Wszalek, and welcome the new Friends of Reinstein Woods Development Manager, Vickie Dymock, and Student Conservation Association AmeriCorps Stewardship Coordinator, Jennifer Taylor. Read more about them in this newsletter and reach out to say hello to our new family members!



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Welcome Friends -

Message from the President

We have all had a very trying winter being cooped up indoors due to the health epidemic, but here's some good news: there is a 60 percent chance that La Niña weather patterns will continue into the spring of 2021. According to the National Weather Service, 56% of La Niña winter months in Buffalo experience above normal temperatures. This means a possible earlier spring and milder temperatures, and who doesn't want that!

Despite the Education Center remaining closed, Reinstein Woods is still offering a variety of programs, both in-person and online. Additionally, we recently hired a Development Manager, Vickie Dymock. We are excited to have her apply her skills in organizing, grant writing and publicity to move our fundraising forward to support our important environmental education and stewardship programs! We continue to rely on support from members like you to keep our organization financially sound and continue our mission. As the pandemic continues to impact operations, I appreciate all our supporters during this difficult time.

You may have heard that Ginger Wszalek, a Reinstein Woods educator who worked for DEC, retired in January. Ginger was an excellent educator and served as Volunteer Coordinator for many years. She will be missed, but she has already committed to returning as a Friends volunteer! If you see her, be sure to say congratulations and thank her for her efforts at Reinstein Woods.

In closing, I hope everyone is well and we can all look forward to an early Spring! Be sure to get out to enjoy the Woods as it "wakes up" and paints a whole new nature-scape for us to enjoy!

Best regards – respect and enjoy nature, Terrence Boyle, President

### Bees for breakfast?

When you pour milk over your cereal, enjoy your first cup of coffee, or bite into a blueberry muffin, you can thank a bee for your breakfast.

The plants that make these foods (including the alfalfa that dairy cows eat) all require bees or other invertebrates to pollinate them. According to the US Department of Agriculture, pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat! But beyond helping produce fruits, vegetables and grains for people and livestock, pollinators create habitat for wildlife (and often serve as food for wildlife too). However, pollinators are threatened by a loss of habitat and by pesticide use.

You can help pollinators like butterflies, moths and our native bees (who most often can't sting) by adding native plants to your yard. Friends of Reinstein Woods is proud to be holding our sixth annual plant sale that features pollinator-friendly plants! If you miss out on the initial sale, you can still buy vouchers to shop this spring at Lavocat's Greenhouses in Clarence. A portion of each voucher sold benefits Reinstein Woods. Learn more about the plant sale on page 8.

### Attention Coffee Drinkers & Bird Lovers!

Do you indulge in a cup of morning joe each day? The way coffee is grown can affect the birds you see at Reinstein Woods. Many species of birds that nest here spend their winters in Latin America, where coffee is grown. By choosing shade-grown organic coffee, we can conserve tropical forests that our birds rely on, help small farmers and keep toxic chemicals out of the environment.

We are gauging interest in starting a bird-friendly coffee club! Members would order coffee through Reinstein Woods and pick it up at the Education Center on a periodic basis. The proceeds benefit both birds and Reinstein Woods! If you would be interested in participating, please fill out the questionnaire at reinsteinwoods.org/birdsandbeans or by emailing vickie@reinsteinwoods.org.

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## Welcome New Staff

Having grown up in Rochester, NY, and lived in Buffalo since 2003, Vickie is well aware of the beauty of Western New York. Her love for the outdoors began at a young age. Since childhood, she has enjoyed hiking, kayaking, canoeing, biking, swimming and camping. She loves the change in seasons and the different adventures each season brings. She and her husband share that love for the outdoors with their two young children, frequently going exploring and encouraging them to discover and develop an appreciation for nature (sometimes bringing along their Golden Retriever, Ellie).

Most of her career Vickie worked in long-term care working with the elderly and other human service non-profits. She also worked with teachers and students on a Geographic Information Systems project and promoted STEM education through the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership at UB.

She is grateful and excited that her journey has led her to Reinstein Woods and that she has the opportunity to combine her passion for the environment with her professional background. Vickie is looking forward to sharing Reinstein Woods' story, sharing her love for the outdoors with like-minded individuals, and making lasting connections with everyone at Reinstein!

## Development Manager VICKIE DYMOCK



## SCA/AmeriCorps Iove and admiration for nature. She spent much or her time growing up exploring different ecosystems and growing her curiosity for human-

JENNIFER TAYLOR



Jenn comes from Arkansas and brings with her a love and admiration for nature. She spent much of her time growing up exploring different ecosystems and growing her curiosity for human-environment interactions. While studying for her BS in Dietetics, Jenn traveled the country to attend conferences, meetings, and lobby groups that promoted conservation and environmental awareness.

After receiving her degree, she spent time in the mountains of California building trails, fighting invasive species, and restoring native habitats! She feels best when enjoying good company while outdoors. She enjoys hiking, petting her dog, gardening, spending time with friends and rock scrambling when she can. Jenn's goal is to communicate the importance of taking care of yourself and the environment, and how these two are connected.

Here at Reinstein she will join the community in leading Trail Thursdays, Phragmites removal, and some education programs! You will see her around the trails and leading some tours during your visits to Reinstein Woods.

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# Happy Retirement Ginger!

In January we congratulated Ginger Wszalek on her retirement after more than 15 years at Reinstein Woods. Ginger excelled as an educator, whether leading Full Moon Walks, showing kids how to plant flowers, or helping teachers grow composting worms for their classroom composting bin. Many people first learned about Reinstein Woods at the Erie County Fair booths that Ginger designed for more than a decade. When she wasn't training new volunteers, she was designing crafts for volunteers to make with kids or sewing the animal costumes that volunteers wore at festivals.

She was especially fond of leading volunteers who took care of our gardens and trails. Ginger coordinated more than 25 Eagle Scout projects, resulting in the nature play area, pond and garden improvements, the library in the woods, and many deer enclosures to encourage new forest growth. We thank Ginger for her many outstanding contributions to Reinstein Woods, and look forward to seeing her return as a volunteer soon!







### **Volunteer Coordination**

Mike Adriaansen is taking over volunteer coordination at Reinstein Woods following Ginger's retirement. Mike has been an educator at Reinstein woods for about thirteen years. He is looking forward to working with volunteers and expanding his job responsibilities. He enjoys crosscountry skiing in the winter and native plant gardening during summer. He also enjoys studying and observing insects and amphibians.

If you are a Reinstein Woods Volunteer, you can now send your volunteer hours to Mike through e-mail Michael.adriaansen@dec.ny.gov or you can submit them monthly (by the 24th of the month) on the website: <a href="https://reinsteinwoods.org/donate/volunteer/submit-hours/">https://reinsteinwoods.org/donate/volunteer/submit-hours/</a>.

Things are constantly changing during these times, therefore some volunteer activities have been restricted. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Mike at (716)683-5959 ext. 203 or Michael.adriaansen@dec.ny.gov.



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## Providing Meaningful Environmental Educational Experiences....In The Midst Of A Pandemic



Every year, hundreds of students and educators gather along local rivers and streams to collect water quality data for our annual "Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed" event. Participation in the annual event was extremely limited this past year due to the pandemic; however, more than 120 participants-including 98 students- collected data at 21 sampling sites throughout the region.

In 2019, Friends of Reinstein Woods received a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support and grow the "Day in the Life" program while helping local educators provide Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for students. Through this grant, Reinstein Woods hosted two educator workshops this past December. Eighteen educators attended the "Meet Your Watershed" virtual training to learn about the history of the watershed and threats to water quality. The following week, two "Day in the Life Teachers"- James Vitale from Randolph High School and Pam Patterson from Holland Central School - shared their

experience incorporating the "Day in the Life" program into classroom learning during the "Day in the Life in Action" virtual training. The audience of twenty local educators called the presentation "inspiring" and "helpful," and noted that "hearing these stories is encouraging me to engage in these programs." We are proud to work with such dedicated educators and look forward to seeing how other teachers incorporate outdoor field experience in the future.

The NOAA B-WET grant has also supported the expansion of supplies for the "Day in the Life" program. This winter, in the wake of COVID, we prepared five stewardship kits designed to help educators engage students in beach and schoolyard cleanups, invasive species removal projects, and growing native plants. The kits provide tools such as hand clippers, gloves, and grow lights, reducing the need for teachers to invest in stewardship equipment. Teachers will put them to use this spring and for many future watershed stewardship projects. Let the learning continue!



### Nature Sightings!

Have you seen the trumpeter swan, or the fisher? Both animals made an appearance at Reinstein Woods this winter! Reinstein Educator Daniel snapped these pictures of the fisher, or "fisher cat." If you spot one, please share your photos with us at info@reinsteinwoods.org.

"Fishers eat a wide variety of small to medium-sized mammals and birds, and a variety of hard and soft mast such as beechnuts, acorns, apples and berries. They are the only known North American mammal that succeeds in killing and consuming porcupines. Other prey items include rabbits, squirrels, mice, shrews and carrion from large mammals."
-NYSDEC

Photo credit: Daniel Mlodozeniec



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## REINSTEIN WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Department of Environmental Conservation

#### **SPRING 2021 Program Schedule**

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 <u>required</u> 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 inperson 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. <u>Unless you receive a callback, you are not registered</u>. \*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.

#### **MARCH**

Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 AM

#### PHENOLOGY WALK

Visit ten locations at Reinstein Woods to discover early signs of spring. Learn to identify winter trees, frog calls, and bird songs along the way.

Friday, March 12 at 7:00 PM

#### **SNOWY WITH A CHANCE OF SALAMANDERS**

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

Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 AM

#### SNOW MUCH FUN WALK

If there's any snow left, we'll do some snow activities! If not, we'll explore outdoor nature play. Either way, it will be snow much fun! For kids ages 10 and under.

Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 AM

#### FIRST DAY OF SPRING WALK

Celebrate the beginning of spring while discovering vernal equinox traditions from around the world

Saturday, March 27 at 9:00 AM

#### **BIRDING 101\***

Join a guided walk in search of migrating birds.

#### **APRIL**

Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 AM

#### **APRIL FOOL'S DAY WALK**

Explore some of the ways nature "fools" us on this guided walk.

Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 AM

#### **OUTDOOR SKILLS\***

In this program, you will build an emergency shelter from natural materials and practice navigation and fire building techniques. For adults and children ages 8 and older.

Monday, April 5 at 11:00AM

#### SPRING REPTILE WALK

Hike around the ponds at Reinstein Woods and learn about the reptiles that are waking up for the season.

Wednesday, April 7 at 10:00 AM

#### **FAMILY NATURE QUEST: WOODPECKERS**

Explore the woods on a quest to find signs and sightings of the many woodpeckers that call Reinstein Woods their home.

#### WILD WEDNESDAY

#### Wednesdays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 1:00 PM

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

Thursday, April 8 at 10:00 AM

#### SILLY WALK

Make sure to stretch before you join us for this silly walk as we discover--and practice--how different animals move.

Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 PM

#### **OWL PROWL\***

Learn about the owls at Reinstein Woods during a nocturnal adventure in search of them. **For adults and children ages 8 and older.** 

Saturday, April 17 at 10:30 AM

#### **CSI: CRITTER SIGN INVESTIGATION**

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

Saturday, April 24 at 10:00 AM

#### PHENOLOGY WALK

Visit 10 locations at Reinstein Woods to see how spring is progressing in the Woods. Look for frog eggs and learn to identify spring wildflowers along the way.

Monday, April 26 at 8:00 PM

#### **FULL MOON WALK\***

Listen for frog calls and search for active beavers in this spring full moon adventure.

Friday, April 30 at 7:00 PM

#### NAME THAT TREE

What better way to celebrate Arbor Day than by taking a hike in the woods and identifying common trees? Join us to discover the tricks to tree identification and to learn fun tree facts along the way.

#### MAY

Saturday, May 1

#### EARTH DAY IN MAY / I LOVE MY PARK DAY

Keep the Earth Day spirit alive by caring for Reinstein Woods' trails on I Love My Park Day. Small groups will venture out to work on projects throughout the day. Scouts and other organizations are welcome, but please note that large groups will be split into multiple parties that may have different start times. Masks and social distancing are required.

Online registration will open in March; check www.reinsteinwoods.org/events for more details.

#### WILD WEDNESDAY

#### Wednesdays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 1:00 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.

Saturday, May 8 at 10:00 AM

#### MOTHER'S DAY WALK

Celebrate all caregivers on this guided walk as we search for new life and discover how young plants and animals survive.

Friday, May 14 at 7:30 PM

#### **INSECTS OF THE NIGHT**

Some insects are much more active at night. We will discover the moths and other insects are attracted to UV lights and baited trees.

Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 AM

#### WARBLER WALK

Search through Reinstein Woods during the warbler migration to find these colorful birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, May 22 at 10:00 AM

#### RIBBIT. SLITHER. CROAK!

Discover snakes, turtles, frogs and salamanders as we explore the ponds and forests at Reinstein Woods.

Wednesday, May 26 at 8:00 PM

#### **FULL FLOWER MOON WALK\***

Join us for an evening walk through the woods as we look for nocturnal critters

Saturday, May 29 at 10:00 AM

#### **KICKOFF SUMMER WALK**

Enjoy a guided walk to celebrate Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial "kick off" of the summer season.

#### **VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

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

Wednesday, March 3 at 10:00 AM

#### VIRTUAL PROGRAM: BACKYARD SUGARING 101

Discover the process of creating maple syrup from tap to bottle with limited materials in your own backyard! We'll share our tips and lessons learned from five years of DIY sugaring.

Thursday, March 4 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.

Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 PM

#### **VIRTUAL PROGRAM: BACKYARD SUGARING 101**

Same program description as on March 3.

Monday through Friday, March 22 to 26 at 10:00 AM

#### **VIRTUAL PROGRAM: WATER WEEK SERIES**

Celebrate World Water Day this whole week with daily 30-minute explorations of our local watershed.

Monday, March 22: Meet Your Watershed

Tuesday, March 23: Watershed Threats

Wednesday, March 24: A Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed

Thursday, March 25: A Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie

Watershed: Looking at the Data

Friday, March 26: **Become a Watershed Warrior** 

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 PM

#### **VIRTUAL PROGRAM: BUSY BEAVERS**

Celebrate International Beaver Day by learning about these amazing rodents, which are also New York State's official mammal.

Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22 and 29 at Noon

#### VIRTUAL PROGRAM: SUSTAINABILITY LUNCH TALKS

As Earth Day approaches, are you looking for ways to live more sustainably? Want to cut back on your use of fossil fuels? Join these lunchtime sessions to help you get started. You can register for one or all of the sessions.

Wednesday, May 26 at 1:00 PM

#### VIRTUAL PROGRAM: POND EXPLORATION

Sit back and enjoy watching the insects, amphibians and fish we've caught from the pond in this virtual program.



The plant sale is back for its 6th annual year!

PRE-SALE ORDERS ONLY: MUST PLACE ORDER BY MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021



visit

#### www.reinsteinwoods.org/plantsale

for more information about plants available and to order online.

We have 15 plants provided by Lavocat's Nursery and Greenhouse in Clarence as well as three varieties from WNY-sourced wild seed:

2 milkweed varieties from the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Garden, and the new addition of Bee Balm from our friends at Buffalo Go Green!

Plant pick-up with be Saturday, June, 12, 2021 10a-1p and Monday, June 14, 2021 5-7p

## 2020 Donors

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF REINSTEIN WOODS AND OUR PROGRAMS!

#### **Grants**

Erie County
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
North American Association for
Environmental Education
NY Power Authority
Parks & Trails New York

#### <del>\$1000+</del>

Joseph & Mary Hughes David Kennedy Jennifer Lodi-Smith Hebrank Janine Maciejewski Andrew Moon Michael James Radomski Reinstein Trust Vinod & Constance Suchak

#### \$500-\$999

James Benz Meaghan Boice-Green & Scott Green Thaddeus & Joyce Fyda Patrick & Ann Murphy David Radka Carrie Spyra

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Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
Citrix Systems
Robert & Carolyn Dukarm
Eric & Shannon Gallo
Kim Harrington/Girl Scout Troop 30733
Mary Holtz
Norman Karin
Mark & Bonnie Morgante
Luann Ream
Timothy Robson
Scot & Karen Smith
Heather Zukowski

#### \$100-\$199

Frima Ackerhalt DiaMaria Acquisto Amazon Smile Foundation Tom & Sue Banchich Ann Bischof Terrence & Linda Boyle Jacqueline Brodfuehrer Tracy Carson Kathleen Chapman Stanley & Patricia Deutsch Alfred Dittenhauser Lee Guterman Boris Harison Lisa Jablinski Amy Johnson Robert & Gina Klick Susan LaGraves Amy Jo Lauber Catherine Lincoln Tyler & Megan MacDavey Edward & Kate Martin Matt & Joanne Meier Gerald & Siri Paolino Suzanne Pilon Maureen Prapestis Richard & Cheryl Radomski

Charles Rauch

Joshua Ring Kathy Stegner Peter & Sandra Sywak Jill Thurston Joann Weibel Olga Wodo

#### <u>Up to \$99</u>

Amos Acree Linda Arndt Gasper Aronica Susan Backstrom Linda Barrows Ed & Jane Bednarczyk Irene Benbenek Benevity Hannah Benson Gwyn Beyer Hedy Bisenius Barbara Blair William Boehm David & Kathy Boice Pamela Bouquin William Brunea Nancy Buck Jeffrey Bucki Peter & Cheryl Buechi Mary Caraccilo-Murphy Lisa Casper Karen Christie Amber Ciesielski Cinderella Isle Garden Club Frank Collins Virginia Conway Bill Cookfair Helen Cyrulik Ashley Del Plato Margaret Diamond Wanda DiCenzo Matthew Donahue Maura Duffy Linda Dugan Lindsay Dzielski Elma United Methodist Coop Preschool Jade Feeney Alice Frasca Charles & Susan Goetz Cynthia Griffin Paul & MaryAnn Gurgol Ann Harrison Judith Hendee Brittany Hernon Julie Hughes William Ilecki Pamela Jones Karen Kamierczak Dennis & Rebecca Kaniecki Diane Karosik Mary Kayanagh Marguerite Kennedy Donna Kiersz Jennifer Kinder Dorothy Klink Catherine Konieczny Joanne Kreher

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#### **Memorial Donations**

**In Memory of Elaine Hayes** Amy Johnson

In Memory of Emmett Jackson Courtney Miller

**In Memory of Tracy Janiszeski** Kathy Stegner

In Memory of Marilyn Melithoniotes John Melithoniotes

In Memory of Fred Ream Sr. Luann Ream

In Memory of Mike Smith Andy Hebrank Jennifer Lodi-Smith Hebrank Maisie Hebrank Sam Hebrank

In Memory of James Strickland Donna Kiersz

In Memory of Robert Windsor Maria McNally

In Memory of Kenneth Wojtowicz
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William Ilecki
Karen Kamierczak
David Radka
Ernie Scales
Carrie Spyra
Louis & Mary Jane Wolentarski
Sarah Wolf

In Memory of Danny Wujek Kathy Stegner

Wondering what your donation does?

#### YOU make it possible

- \$750 pays for a shredding truck
- \$350 sends a kid to a DEC camp
- \$200 provides a new taxidermy mount for use in programs
- \$95 sends a first-grader to a Reinstein Woods' camp
- \$40 per month helps care for our turtles
- \$20 buys a native shrub to replace an invasive plant

If you're interested in donating, visit reinsteinwoods.org/donate/ today!

YOU make a difference!

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Did you really enjoy our winter wildflowers program? Have you seen the fisher cat in the woods? Did you learn something new listening to the "I Wonder..." series? We want to hear about it. Email Vickie at vickie@reinsteinwoods.org to share!

## Reinstein Stories and Experiences

## \*\*Members Only Programs\*\*

One of the many benefits of being a member of the Reinstein Woods family is our members only programs! In addition to our public programs, this Spring we are offering a spotted salamander walk. Register at: <a href="https://reinsteinwoods.org/join/members-programs/">https://reinsteinwoods.org/join/members-programs/</a>.

Not a member, but interested in salamanders...hawks...geocatching...fossils? <a href="mailto:join today!">Join today!</a>

(<a href="https://reinsteinwoods.org/join/">https://reinsteinwoods.org/join/</a>)

## Planned Giving

Don't forget! You can make a lasting impact on Reinstein Woods and its programs by making a commitment through planned giving. Consider adding the Friends of Reinstein Woods to your will or retirement plan.

(learn more at: https://reinsteinwoods.org/donate/planned-giving/)



