The summer season at Reinstein Woods is quickly getting underway! It's hard to believe it's already time for summer camps and nature play. In the same respect, we are so unbelievably grateful to be given the opportunity to have the programs we can this year. We are all ready to soak in the longer daylight hours, enjoy quiet sunsets by the glistening water, and taste the crisp, cool flavor of a refreshing popsicle. We are all ready for the sounds of children laughing, the unmistakable prudence of inquiring minds, and the relaxing mood that accompanies summertime for even the most frazzled person.

The unpredictability of the past year has left us in awe of the obstacles we can overcome as a community. We have shown we are capable of collective caring, in more than one way. We welcome the giddy anticipation of the resurgence of energy Western New York is famous for.

Here at Reinstein, we are excitedly ramping up for summer camps, watershed education, our annual summer fundraiser and much more! Keep reading to follow along with the excitement.
Hello Friends -
Welcome to Summer - it seemed like it would never get here! I recently walked through the woods with my family and thoroughly enjoyed all the sights and sounds it had to offer. Still being mindful of COVID protocols, it felt great to breathe the fresh air and enjoy the expanse of such a wonderful place. Attendance numbers at Reinstein Woods continue to rise, and I truly believe that the pandemic has made everyone aware of how important green spaces are, whether it be Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, one of our many county parks, or even their own backyard. We have discovered our own sanctuaries to help us relieve the stress of everyday life, and may have even learned about how fragile the environment can be if we don’t take care of it. I hope many of you have seen the educational nature videos the staff at the Woods put together to keep our thirst for knowledge in-check. The educators have done a great job keeping programs rolling during the pandemic – not an easy task! We are very fortunate to have this preserve in our “backyard.”

While normal in-person fundraisers are not possible due to the pandemic, we are having our first drive-thru BBQ and virtual auction this summer. Be sure to get a sneak peek at the auction June 1 and mark your calendars to remember to bid from July 1-17. You can read details on page 4-5 of this newsletter. I must admit, I am a bit nervous as this is new territory for us, but with the overwhelming support of our members and the community it will no doubt be a success! We are also excited to be offering summer day camps again, albeit with reduced numbers of kids to meet pandemic safety guidelines. My fingers are crossed that our annual Fall Festival can happen – my personal favorite!

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

Birds & Beans Coffee Club Update!

We are excited to announce that we will be starting a Birds & Beans Coffee Club! Members will order coffee through Reinstein Woods and pick it up at the Education Center every-other-month.

Not sure why your coffee matters? 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.

The proceeds benefit both the birds and Reinstein Woods. Stay tuned to our Birds and Beans website and your e-mails as we get this program started. The first order by date will be August 15, 2021 for September pick-up. Details to follow.

Questions? Call 716-683-5959 or email vickie@reinsteinwoods.org.
We are excited that our Kids in the Woods Summer Day Camp is returning this summer, although at reduced capacity to address pandemic safety guidelines. To provide a camping experience for kids who missed last year’s session and are now in middle or high school, this year we added a Junior Naturalist Camp. Kids entering seventh to tenth grade will discover how to interpret the environment; master outdoor skills such as fishing, shelter building and orienteering; and engage in team competitions.

For dates and registration information, visit our summer camps webpage or email campdirector@reinsteinwoods.org.

COMMUNITY SOLAR

Storms in Texas. Wildfires in New Mexico. The news about changes to our climate can be depressing, but science says we still have a window of opportunity to drastically cut the amount of climate-destroying gases we release when we burn fossil fuels to make electricity. Here in New York, almost anyone who pays an electric bill (even most renters), can switch from natural gas (the largest source of our electricity) to renewable energy right now, by signing up for a Community Solar project.

Community solar is a group of solar panels that feed electricity into the local power grid. By subscribing to a project, you earn monthly credits on your electric bill from your portion of the electricity that’s generated by the project. So you get the benefits of solar without needing to install panels at your home! To learn more and find a project near you, visit NYSERDA’s community solar webpage.

Virtual Sustainability Lunch Talk: Electricity
Thursday, June 19 at Noon
Register at reinsteinwoods.org/events

New Summer Camp for Teens!
JUNIOR NATURALIST CAMP FOR KIDS ENTERING GRADES 7-10

LEARN MORE!
You're invited to

FRIENDS OF
Reinstein
WOODS

Summer Fundraiser featuring
BW's Smokin' Barrels BBQ

BBQ + Auction

Starting June 1, 2021 pre-order your dinner and view the virtual auction at reinsteinwoods.betterworld.org

DINNER PICK-UP
SATURDAY, 07. 17. 2021
3:30 P.M. TO 6:30PM
*DINNER PRE-ORDER ONLY BY WEDNESDAY, 07.07.2021

VIRTUAL AUCTION OPEN
THURSDAY, 07.01.2021 TO SATURDAY, 07.17.2021

*Drive-thru pick-up at
Reinstein Woods
93 Honorine Drive
Depew, NY 14043

Event Sponsored By:

BID TO WIN A GIANT ESCAPE 3 HYBRID BIKE!
Join us July 1, 2021 to July 17, 2021 for an exciting virtual auction! Similar to a silent auction, place a bid on your favorite item, then bid as many times as you’d like to "win" that item. The auction boasts loads of gear and experiences such as a Giant brand hybrid bike, 1-year membership to the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2 sets of traditional Faber snowshoes, a propane firepit, a variety of one-of-a-kind art, a Fitbit, autographed books, and much, much more! Scope out the items starting June 1 at reinsteinwoods.betterworld.org.

Then, gear up your appetite for delicious BBQ from BW's Smokin' Barrels BBQ. Pre-order your meal and pick it up at a drive-thru at Reinstein Woods on Saturday, July 17, 2021. Tickets will not be available at the door.

A $15 ticket includes potato salad, coleslaw, roll & butter, and a choice of entrée: 1/2 chicken dinner, pulled pork sandwich and 1/4 chicken dinner, 1/4 rack of ribs and 1/4 chicken dinner, or vegetable lasagna.

Order tickets starting Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at reinsteinwoods.betterworld.org or download a mail-in order form at reinsteinwoods/BBQ. Order by 9:00pm July 7, 2021.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Auction items generously donated by:
- AB Global Solutions
- Andrew's Estate Service
- Amazing Bargains USA, LLC
- Albright Knox Art Gallery
- Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Carolyn Celeste
- Crafts by Rose and Bill's Wood Works
- Daniel Mlodozeniec
- Dorothy Klink
- Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
- Holly Graham
- Jenn Lodi-Smith
- Jerry Bond CPA and Lucy Bond
- Julie Reinstein
- Kathy Tevington
- Loaded Lumber Buffalo
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- Paths, Peaks and Paddles
- Penn Dixie Fossil Park & Nature Reserve
- Proforma Total Business
- Running With Needles
- Sarah Dayan Mueller
- Tim Robson
- Vinod Suchak
- West Seneca Art Society
- Wischmeyer's Plumbing Plus
- ZanieCrafts
- ZubaZone716

Volunteers Needed for Summer Fundraiser
Would you like to help with the fundraiser!? Volunteers are needed Saturday, July 17 1pm-7pm. Please contact Vickie at Vickie@reinsteinwoods.org or 716-683-5959 ext. 210 if you're interested!

SAVE THE DATE!
Like many around the world, our dreams for this school year have been washed away like the runoff we hoped to sample, measure, and mitigate with students during our Watershed STEM in the Schoolyard program. As environmental educators, we teach about the adaptations of plants and animals and the changes found in succession and metamorphosis. This year, “change” and “adapt” took on new meaning for all of us. The Education Center at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve had been empty for six months when staff began preparing to lead the new Watershed STEM in the Schoolyard program. Mighty water surrounds us, but for many of the students we were about to work with, that water was inaccessible and inconsequential. We hoped to change that with a new program supported by a NOAA-21st Century Community Learning Centers Watershed STEM Education Partnership grant.

Our challenge was changing student perspective from a computer screen. This year, we have worked with elementary students at both Maryvale Intermediate School in Cheektowaga, NY and the Learning Together Changing Lives Program in Buffalo, NY. Both 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) sites transitioned to virtual programming this year.

Reinstein Woods’ educator Daniel Mlodozenic, an avid wildlife photographer and fisherman, was up for the challenge. He took his camera to the crashing beaches of Lake Ontario, dove underwater to follow a snapping turtle, identified waterfowl along the Niagara River, and invited students to share his favorite places at Reinstein Woods. Daniel has paired these weekly virtual field trips with virtual live engagement with students at both sites, a feat only made possible with the full support and active engagement of 21st CCLC staff. Students spent the Fall collecting weather data using student kits made possible through the Watershed STEM grant.

Daniel helped students connect these field observations to the local Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed, threats to water quality, and careers in water-related fields. After seeing a picture of a Lake Erie beach in one virtual lesson, a young student shared “We have that ocean next to my house!” At that moment it was clear that this large lake encompassed all the mystery, appeal, and excitement of a vast ocean.

"Stepping Outside" Continued on Page 7
Daniel didn’t waste a minute grabbing onto that wonder and drawing students in deeper into the world of the Great Lakes. After a few weeks, students greeted on-screen animals like old friends: “I know that! It’s a sea lamprey. It’s an invasive species,” and “That’s a sturgeon!” A fifth-grade student had a hard time recalling if a mystery call was a “great blue-heron, osprey, or barred owl,” listing more species than most beginning adult birders can identify. After weeks of programming, students continue to be excited about learning. When Daniel recently asked for a volunteer to collect temperature data, one student threw both hands into the air, his thermometer clutched tightly in one fist.

Spring is just starting to pop up in Western New York. In our streets, the flowers of red and silver maples are opening, just in time to witness 30 students and 7 educators stepping outside, noting the cloud cover, and stepping back in to report their data. We are all looking at our world with fresh eyes, but thanks to this Watershed STEM grant, we’re not all seeing the same thing. “I never noticed red-tailed hawks until we started doing this,” one 21st CCLC staff member remarked, “but now I see them everywhere.”

Reinstein Woods celebrated World Water Day on March 22 with a week of virtual watershed videos celebrating the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed with videos created by Reinstein Educator, Mary Ronan. Daily videos- covering major tributary locations, threats to water quality, and local restoration efforts- premiered on Facebook and YouTube. Students at Niagara Falls High School and Errick Road Elementary School, as well as multiple community members tuned in to learn more about their watershed. The videos included data results and analysis of the 2020 “Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed” event in which students and community partners joined Reinstein Woods staff and volunteers in collecting water quality data at 21 sites throughout the watershed. The complete series is available to view here.
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.

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**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.

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**JUNE**

**WILD WEDNESDAY**

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 2, 9, 16 AND 23 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.**

Tuesday, June 8 at 10:00 AM
WEAVING WITH WEEDS
Weave a mat from the invasive *Phragmites* (common reed) plant.

Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 PM
WEAVING WITH WEEDS
Weave a mat from the invasive *Phragmites* (common reed) plant.

Friday, June 11 at 10:00 AM
BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO HERBALISM
Join us on this guided walk where we will learn how to harvest and identify common edible plants, including a few invasive species! **For adults and children ages 10 and older.**

Saturday, June 12 at 10:00 AM
OUTDOORS DAY: GEOCACHING AT BILLY WILSON PARK
Learn how to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and use handheld GPS units to find hidden geocaches. **For adults and children ages 8 and older. Note: This program takes place at Billy Wilson Park, Amherst.**

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Saturday, June 12 at 11:00 AM
OUTDOORS DAY: PLANT ID SKILLS
Learn tips for identifying local plants and how to use field guides. **For adults and children ages 10 and older.**

Saturday, June 12 at 1:00 PM
OUTDOORS DAY: BIRDING FOR KIDS
Discover how to use binoculars and basic bird identification techniques. **For children ages 8 and older.**

Friday, June 18 at 9:00 AM
BIRDING 101*
Learn how to identify birds by hiking the trails at Reinstein Woods in search of our summer birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Thursday, June 24 at 8:00 PM
POLINATOR FULL MOON WALK*
Discover who is feasting on nectar at night as we celebrate Pollinator Awareness Week and the full moon.

Saturday, June 26 at 10:00 AM
INTRO TO ORIENTEERING
Learn everything you need to know to enjoy the multiple orienteering courses in Western New York.

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**JULY**

Saturday, July 3 at 10:00 AM
BIRDING BY EAR *
Practice identifying common bird species by ear.
Saturday, July 10 at 10:00 AM
JEWELS OF THE SKY
On this guided walk we will search for ebony jewelwings and tiger swallowtails as well as other dragonflies and butterflies in flight.

Wednesday, July 14 at 10:00 AM
INSECT EXPLORATION WALK AT BILLY WILSON PARK
Join us as we explore the pond and fields for insects that call it home.
Note: This program takes place at Billy Wilson Park, Amherst.

Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 AM
TURTLE WALK
Discover turtles living at Reinstein Woods on this guided walk.

Tuesday, July 20 to Wednesday, July 21 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM
SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE: DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE NIAGARA RIVER/LAKE ERIE WATERSHED
Dive into watershed STEM, become a certified GLOBE educator, and plan a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for your students. For educators of students in grades 5-12. Twelve CTLE hours provided. $25 fee to cover program experiences. Register online at https://reinsteinwoods.org/explore/programs-services/educator-workshops/.

Wednesday, July 21 at 10:30 AM
FAIRY HOUSES AT AMHERST STATE PARK
Join a naturalist from Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve in creating a house to attract nature’s fairies. For children age 5-10 and their caregivers. Note: This program takes place at Amherst State Park.

Saturday, July 24 at 10:00 AM
SUMMER WILDFLOWERS
Search for seasonal wildflowers and learn about their uses and folklore. For adults and children ages 10 and older.

Wednesday, July 28 at 10:30 AM
CREEK CRITTERS AT AMHERST STATE PARK
Discover which amazing animals are lurking underwater in Ellicott Creek. Note: This program takes place at Amherst State Park.

Saturday, July 31 at 9:00 AM
BIRDING 101*
Learn how to identify birds by their calls while on a guided hike.

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 3 to Wednesday, August 4 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM
SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE: STEM IN THE SCHOOLYARD
Transform any schoolyard into a NYSSLS learning laboratory using nationally recognized Project WILD activities and more. For educators of students in grades K-12. Twelve CTLE hours provided. $25 fee to cover program experiences. Register online at https://reinsteinwoods.org/explore/programs-services/educator-workshops/.

Thursday, August 5 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM
WATERSHED STEM IN THE SCHOOLYARD
Learn how to use water sampling equipment in our Watershed STEM kits to engage students in hands-on learning. For educators of students in grades K-12. Six CTLE hours provided. Register online at https://reinsteinwoods.org/explore/programs-services/educator-workshops/.

Saturday, August 7 at 10:30 AM
FAMILY NATURE QUEST: WORLD OF THE POND
Join us as we use nets and scoop in the pond to search for aquatic animals. Wear waterproof boots or old sneakers.

Saturday, August 14 at 10:00 AM
RIBBIT, SLITHER, CROAK!
Discover snakes, turtles, frogs and salamanders as we explore the ponds and forests at Reinstein Woods.

Saturday, August 21 at 10:00 AM
TRAIL STEWARD SATURDAY
Give back to the place you love by helping to remove invasive plants and care for the trails at Reinstein Woods.

Monday, August 23 at 8:00 PM
FULL MOON WALK*
Enjoy the full moon as we search for critters of the night.

Saturday, August 28 at 10:00 AM
CATERPILLAR CRAWL
Search for caterpillars and their favorite foods on this guided walk.

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

Thursday, June 10 at 10:00 AM
VIRTUAL PROGRAM: INVASIVE SPECIES AND NATIVE LANDSCAPING
Learn about the benefits of landscaping with native plants and how to discourage harmful invasive species.

Tuesday June 22 at Noon
VIRTUAL PROGRAM: POLLINATOR GARDENING 101
Discover how choosing the right plants can benefit wildlife while also beautifying your yard and learn tips for attracting and supporting pollinators.

Friday, July 30 at 9:30 PM
VIRTUAL PROGRAM: INSECTS OF THE NIGHT
The night offers a different world of insects that is rarely explored. Join us as we search our own backyards for moths and other insects attracted by light and scent.

Thursday, August 19 at Noon
VIRTUAL PROGRAM: SUSTAINABILITY LUNCH TALK—ELECTRICITY
Explore options for buying renewable energy, whether you live in an urban apartment, a suburban townhouse or a rural farm, and regardless of your income level.
Welcome to our New Interns!

SADIE KRATT

"I am very excited to be joining Reinstein for the winter/summer 2021 season. Originally from the Hudson Valley, I grew up hiking in the Catskills and capital region, and have always had a passion for the outdoors. While at the University at Buffalo, I earned my Bachelor's in Environmental Geoscience and GIS, as well as took on many environmental leadership positions including Environment Affairs Director for our student government and President of the Environmental Network club. I'm currently working on my Master's Degree in Environment and Land Use Planning at UB and hope to help Buffalo become a more livable city for all. My main interests are sustainability, cartography, and owls! I also have a strong passion for hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, and biking.

I am really looking forward to engaging the public with the outdoors! As a full-time graduate student, I don't get a lot of time to be in the woods so it's really a privilege to spend my time outside. I am currently working on getting a podcast up and running. It is a naturalist/outdoors podcast aimed at bringing people closer to the woods when they can't physically be here. It also offers a new outlet for staff and other local environmentalists to share their knowledge. I also am looking forward to being involved with our upcoming programs and summer camp!"

TORI MILLER

"It all started when I was eight. Driving home with my family from the beach, we came across an opossum that was hit by a car. We pulled over and noticed that there were five joeys still alive in the mother's pouch. We carefully transported them to a wildlife rehabilitator from Messinger Woods, where they were successfully rehabilitated and released into the wild. From that moment on, my life has been dedicated to protecting the environment, especially wildlife. I graduated from Erie Community College with a degree in Environmental Science and have also obtained a NYS Class I Wildlife Rehabilitator license. After I finished college, I worked for Earth Spirit Educational Services where I discovered my passion for environmental education. In my free time you can find me volunteering with Messinger Woods, hiking, making field guides, or foraging for edible and medicinal plants."
We are pleased to introduce Jenn, her husband, Andy, and their children, Sam and Maisie. Of all the wonderful things about Reinstein Woods, one of the best things is the sense of family that surrounds this community. Here is a story from Reinstein members and volunteers, the Hebranks, on their memories here at Reinstein:

One day years ago when Maisie was a newborn and Sam was three, we were walking at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. Sam was complaining he was tired and wanted to go back. So, we stopped and looked around and found something interesting along the trail - a bug or a toad or a cool plant, we don't remember. But, what we do remember was in that moment it was like a switch turned on in Sam. He came alive with curiosity running ahead finding other cool things and has been in love with nature ever since. That spark spread to Maisie when she was three and fell in love with nature in general and birds in particular. It spread to our family and we go for a wander in nature at least once a week. It has been well kindled by so many amazing people and organizations in our community - not the least of which is Reinstein camp! This past year, Reinstein and our nature family have become even more important as nature brings us joy and peace through the pandemic and through grief.

Thanks for all you do Jenn, Andy, Sam & Maisie!

Donors January 2021-April 2021
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF REINSTEIN WOODS AND OUR PROGRAMS!

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North American Association for Environmental Education
NY Power Authority Parks & Trails New York

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Andrew Moon
Mary Hughes

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Reinstein Stories and Member Highlight

Is there someone you think should be highlighted for their amazing volunteering? Do you know a member that is always inspired by Reinstein Woods? How has Reinstein Woods influenced your life? Please contact Vickie at Vickie@reinsteinwoods.org or 716-683-5959 ext. 210 with your stories!

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/)