

The Lily Pad

Fall 2022 Newsletter



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Message from the President

Hello Friends -

As the days get closer to the end of my term serving as the President of the Friends organization, so does our summer. It seems I was just welcoming summer and now we are transitioning to Fall! Although I'll be leaving the board of directors as my term ends, I plan to continue to serve on committees as I enjoy being a part of this great organization and helping with its accomplishments in furthering environmental education.

I thank all the folks who serve on the Board of Directors, committees and our employees, whose tireless efforts have attributed to our success over the years! Our organization is fortunate to have great talent leading both in the present and the future. Also, a big shout out to the NYSDEC and its employees for their efforts in working side by side with the Friends group to facilitate educational programming at the center and within the community. *(continued on Page 2)*

Message from the President

(continued from Page 1)

Without the close collaboration between the Friends and the NYSDEC, the center could not have accomplished what it has become today! Fall is a great time to see nature transform all the rich greens to a colorful bounty of reds, oranges, and all the different colors in-between. The scenery across New York state is incredible in the Fall, and I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the fall colors because, as we know – it can be a quick transition to the “white” stuff! As Fall approaches, so does “Fall Festival” here at Reinstein Woods. I am excited to volunteer at this event as it really highlights the Woods and is truly a great family orientated event filled with fun activities. See page 7 for more information about this year's event. Also, mark your calendars for the Friends' Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 11th. This members-only meeting covers the Friends' accomplishments and financials along with a short guest presentation. More information will be coming to you, and I hope to see you there!

Being this is my last “President's Message”, I wanted to share how much I thoroughly enjoyed working with all the folks in the organization, the NYSDEC and, mostly, the many new faces I've met over the years, who also share a love for nature. Things will only get better as I have the highest regards for the officers “leading the charge” as things move ahead!

Enjoy and respect nature,
Terrence Boyle, President

Thank You President Boyle & Treasurer Suchak

Every strong organization counts strong leaders in their mix. In 2022, we say thank you to two Friends of Reinstein Woods board members who have made outsized contributions to the organization: President Terry Boyle and Treasurer Vinod Suchak. Both will be stepping down in October after completing their terms of service.

Vinod Suchak:

Vinod Suchak credits his daughter, a biology professor at Canisius College, with getting him interested in conservation-related causes. Vinod was recruited to Reinstein Woods in May 2013, and by November 2013 he was on the board AND was elected treasurer. In a small non-profit, the treasurer performs a lot of functions that larger organizations have staff to handle. Vinod has done everything from researching employee benefits to counting hundreds of dollar bills (and even washing dishes!) at the end of a Reinstein Woods event.

During his tenure, Vinod steered a finance committee that grew alongside the organization, developing internal controls, going beyond CD's to invest in mutual funds, and updating the group's investment policy multiple times to reflect a growing bottom line.

The organization's annual budget is now double what it was when Vinod joined, and the Friends' assets are invested in a fossil-free portfolio that reflects the organization's mission and long-term goals. We are grateful to Vinod for his hard work and dedication to Friends of Reinstein Woods. If you see him at the Fall Festival, be sure to thank him for his service!



Terrence Boyle:

Terry started volunteering at Reinstein Woods as a nature guide 20 years ago. In 2003 he joined other volunteers to form Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve, Inc., becoming the group's first vice-president. He stepped up to become president in late 2005 and led the expanding organization until 2012.

It's hard to overstate Terry's contributions during those early years, as he led a variety of initiatives that expanded and improved the organization. He established the Friends' membership program, designing membership cards and tracking those first members on a spreadsheet. He created fliers, brochures, event postcards, posters, and even buttons for the Friends. He supported DEC's efforts to open the preserve to the public, established the memorial paving brick program, and even involved his children's Boy Scout Troop, which continues to serve food at the Fall Festival to this day! Those children, now grown, may best remember his jolly appearances as Santa at the Friends' annual holiday party. After rejoining the board in late 2013 and resuming the presidency in 2016, Terry also led efforts to create a new strategic plan in 2017.

Terry gave up countless evenings to attend meetings, which could extend into the night. He helped organize fundraising events and loaned his truck to move tents and tables at all kinds of events. Whether it was getting up at 5 a.m. for a "Why Guy" television appearance or making sure staff left the education center safely after a late-night meeting, Terry's dedication to Reinstein Woods is unmatched. While he is leaving the board of directors, we will not let him leave Reinstein Woods! An avid cross-country skier, we hope to continue to see Terry helping others share in nature's harmony at "Learn to Cross-Country Ski" programs. And he'll have time to go back to sharing his love of nature by leading other tours of the Woods.

To thank Terry for his years of service, the Reinstein staff honored him with the Peter Losi Memorial Award at the volunteer picnic in July. See page 4 for pictures of Terry in action over the years! Congratulations Terry for a job well done!

Volunteer Picnic and Awards

Congratulations to Rick McFarland, winner of the 2022 Al Schick Volunteer Recognition Award. Rick started as a volunteer in 2020 and is a regular at Trail Thursdays, helping to remove invasive plants, brushing in trails, and doing whatever else is needed. He's contributed to a variety of special events, including the dreaded parking lot duty. Congratulations Rick!



Thank you for 20+ years of service Terry!



****PLEASE NOTE: Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise indicated.**

We welcome those who have any type of physical challenge to all of 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; call 716-683-5959 to register.
- **Registration is limited to two programs/month. If you want to sign up for additional programs, you will be added to the waitlist. No limit for virtual programs.**
- If you call outside of normal business hours 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.**
- Social distancing and mask protocols are subject to change with current COVID guidelines.
- **If you or a family member feels ill, is waiting for COVID test results or have COVID symptoms, please stay at home.**
- 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.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 3 at 10:00 AM

SUMMER'S END STROLL

Celebrate the end of summer break with a guided walk. **

Saturday, September 3 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: WILDFLOWER AFTERMATH

What happened to all those glorious wildflowers? Check out the "fruits" that all kinds of animals enjoy in the aftermath of their beauty. **No registration required.**

Wednesday, September 14 at 10:00 AM

SENIOR STROLL

Experience nature at your own pace and enjoy a leisurely hour-long guided walk through the woods. **For adults only.**
**

22ND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 17 from 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Kick off the fall season by spending a day in the woods. Enjoy crafts for kids, live animals, hands-on activities, food, live music, and more! Call 716-683-5959 or see reinsteinwoods.org for more information. **No registration required for this free event.**

Thursday, September 22 at 7:30 PM

AUTUMN EQUINOX WALK

Welcome the fall season on this guided night walk. **

Saturday, September 24 from 8:00–11:00 AM

FOREST BATHING AND YOGA

Join our friends from Yogis in Service for a relaxing fall hike at Reinstein Woods followed by a session of outdoor yoga. Bring your own mat. **Ticket cost and registration information available at reinsteinwoods.org.**

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP: PROJECT LEARNING TREE

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program featuring an interdisciplinary, hands-on curriculum that uses the forest as a window into the world. All activities are correlated to Common Core math and ELA standards. 4 CTLE hours provided. **For formal and non-formal educators of students in grades pre-K–8.** **

Saturday, October 1 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: CHANGING SEASONS

Another day, another season. Now that fall is almost here, is there anything that nature is doing to remind us of the change? **No registration required.**

**** NOTE: Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise indicated; call 716-683-5959.**

OCTOBER continued

Saturday, October 8 at 10:00 AM

FUN GUY'S GUIDE TO FUNGI

Our knowledge of fungi has mushroom for improvement to say the yeast. Come learn about these mysterious organisms and by the end we're sure you'll be lichen them! **For adults and children ages 12 and older. ****

Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 AM

SENIOR STROLL

Experience nature at your own pace and enjoy a leisurely hour-long guided walk through the woods. **For adults only. ****

Wednesday, October 12 at 4:30 PM

WILD WEDNESDAY

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

Saturday, October 15 at 10:00 AM

AUTUMN COLORS

Fall foliage is a blaze of color, from flaming oranges and reds to subtle yellows. Enjoy the beauty of autumn's trees on this guided walk as we identify trees in the fall. ******

Saturday, October 15 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: BEAUTY OF THE WOODS

The leaves are changing, and you might know why, but have you ever stopped to notice the details? What a wonderful way to spend an hour or so on the trails. **No registration required.**

Saturday, October 22 at 10:00 AM

KEEPING IT CREEPY

What was that?! Come and explore the creepier side of nature. Join us for a presentation followed by a short, guided walk. **For adults and children ages 8 and older. ****

LIVING SUSTAINABLY FAIR

Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 AM to Noon

Concerned about climate change but not sure what to do about it? This open-house event will connect you with local resources that can help you remove fossil fuels from your lifestyle. You may even save a lot of money as a result! **No registration required.**

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 5 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. ****

Saturday, November 5 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: TREES

They look dead as winter approaches, but what's really going on with these wonderful plants, anyway? **No registration required.**

Wednesday, November 9 at 10:00 AM

SENIOR STROLL

Experience nature at your own pace and enjoy a leisurely hour-long guided walk through the woods. **For adults only. ****

Wednesday, November 9 at 4:30 PM

WILD WEDNESDAY

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

Saturday, November 12 at 10:00 AM

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Learn how to identify winter feeder birds, what to feed them and how to count them for Project FeederWatch, a community science project across North America. **For adults and children ages 10 and older. ****

Saturday, November 19 at 10:30 AM

WHITE-TAIL WALK

Explore the world of the white-tailed deer at Reinstein Woods. We will search for their signs and learn how they impact our forest ecosystems. ******

Saturday, November 19 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: CLOUD STORIES

Ever wonder how people predicted weather before Doppler radar? Learn a bit about the clouds and what they say. We'll also explore the wonders that are always in the woods along the way. **No registration required.**

Saturday, November 26 at 10:00 AM

FAMILY NATURE QUEST: TURKEY TALK

Flock into the world of turkeys, turkey vultures, and even turkey tail fungus in this family adventure. ******

REINSTEIN WOODS

Environmental Education Center, Depew



Department of
Environmental
Conservation








Reinstein Woods 22nd Annual Fall Festival

FALL FOR ALL

Saturday, September 17th

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

-  Interactive exhibits
-  Pond Exploration Zone
-  Scavenger hunt and prizes
-  Science Zone for kids
-  Food for sale
-  Live animals and costumed characters
-  Music, face painting, crafts, door prize, & more!



No Registration Required. Donations Welcome.

For More Info: (716) 683-5959 or visit www.reinsteinwoods.org/events

SPONSORED BY:



Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Drive, Depew, NY 14043

www.dec.ny.gov

A Week at DEC Camp Rushford, a Lifetime of Memories

NYSDEC Summer Camps celebrated their 75th anniversary this year. NYSDEC operates four summer camps. Camp Colby and Camp Pack Forest are in the Adirondacks, Camp Debruce in the Catskills and Camp Rushford in Allegany.

Each year, Reinstein Woods' Educator, Mike Adriaansen, recruits campers from Buffalo City Schools and community centers to receive a free campership to attend Camp Rushford for a week. Mike takes campers on a variety of outings before they leave for camp. They may have gone ice skating, learned to cross country ski, planted native flowers, went fishing, found geocaches or learned about outdoor skills.



"I saw fireflies for the first time ever and slept really well in the tent on our overnight trip." - Andre M.

"My time at camp was 1000% better than any Disney Park. I met the nicest people, and I am crying because I never want to leave."
- Jacob V.



"I caught two fish, a largemouth bass and a blue gill! I also got a fishing award for fishing every day." -Cameron V.

The Friends of Reinstein Woods provides transportation to and from Camp Rushford for the campership program, which is located about an hour and fifteen minutes south of Buffalo. For many campers this is their first time away from home at a sleepaway camp.

While at Camp Rushford, campers learn about nature and the outdoors. They have a chance to go swimming, try archery, go fishing, and many other outdoor activities. They also take an offsite trip which involves either hiking or canoeing and then camping out in a tent. Camp creates memories that will last a lifetime and offers experiences these youth never imagined.

One of Mike's campers, Julianna received a "Potential Volunteer Award", which means that next year she can be a volunteer at camp. Volunteers are super campers that love camp and spread their positive camp vibes while assisting counselors and kitchen staff. We have no doubt she will be a great asset to camp!

Local Teachers Dive Into Watershed Education

Do you remember searching for crayfish in a local creek when you were a kid? We bet it wasn't during science class! Local educators are working to reimagine hands-on learning for their students as part of the Niagara River/Lake Erie (NRLE) Classroom program. Throughout the summer, NRLE Classroom teachers were joined by additional local educators as they learned how to engage students in outdoor, place-based learning through a workshop series. The training was part of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration B-WET grant.

The summer started with a kayak trip along Tonawanda Creek with grant partners Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper. Educators learned about local wildlife, threats to water quality including algal blooms, and recreational improvements along the growing waterfront. Educators spent time at Buffalo Creek at the Charles Burchfield Nature and Art Center in West Seneca practicing water quality tests and preparing to lead a water-based science field trip for their students as part of the annual "Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed" event. Dr. Mike Jabot from SUNY Fredonia trained teachers in NASA's Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program, preparing them to join more than 58,000 trained teachers from 112 countries who collect environmental data used by students and scientists around the world. Teachers learned to set up study plots to investigate land cover and carbon storage. Educators collected marine debris and microplastic data from Gallagher Beach in Buffalo following NOAA and EPA protocols and discussed how to engage students in conversations about plastic pollution and the impact human activity has on local waterways.

Learning how to collect environmental data is only one part of becoming an environmental steward. NRLE Classroom teachers and other educators also looked at ways for students to analyze and better understand data through the Great Lakes Data Jam. They also took the first steps toward planning stewardship projects through training on native plants led by Reinstein Woods educators. We look forward to working with teachers throughout the school year to build on this foundation through fall and winter workshops that support the goals of the NRLE Classroom program. Both formal and informal educators can look for our 2022-2023 workshop guide announcement in September.



Follow us! Stay Up-To-Date



Nature's Nurturers: Monthly Giving Program

Looking for a giving option that allows you to give all year long? Become a Nature's Nurturer! Our monthly giving program will offer convenience so you can easily support Reinstein Woods.

Learn more at <https://reinsteinwoods.org/monthly-giving/>

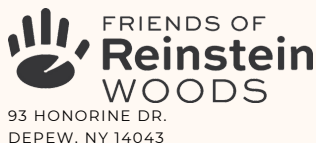
Reinstein Stories and Member Highlight

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 with your stories at Vickie.dymock@dec.ny.gov or 716-683-5959 ext. 210.

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 Friends of Reinstein Woods to your will or retirement plan.

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



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