

The Lily Pad

Winter 2022 Newsletter



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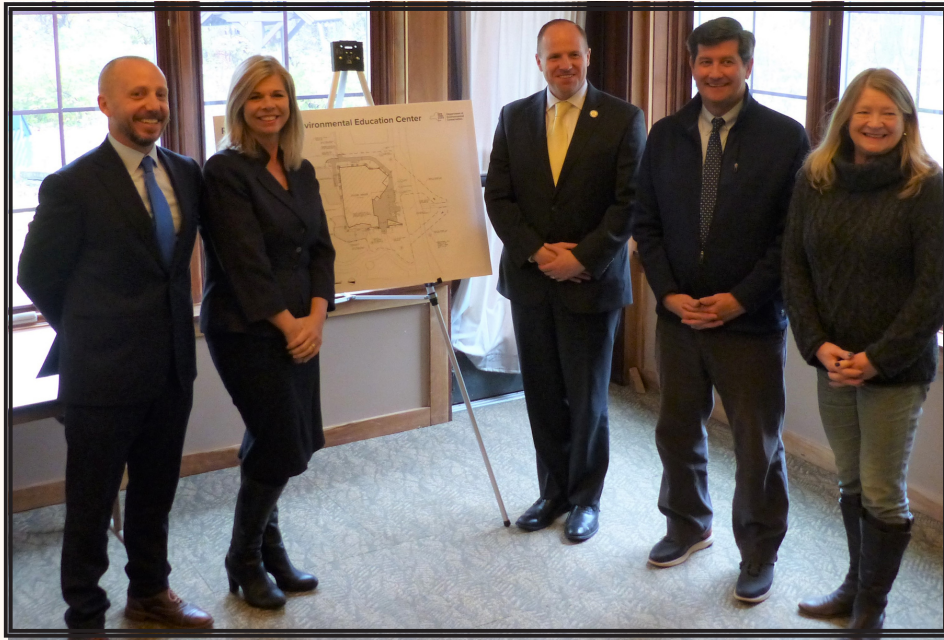
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Change was in the air at Reinstein Woods this autumn! As the leaves started to fall, we announced some big trail and facility improvements. If you haven't visited recently, now is the time to plan a trip to experience the trail improvements first-hand this winter, maybe on snowshoes or cross-country skis! Check out the winter program schedule to see what guided experiences are available.

We also have recent staff changes to announce. In September, Friends of Reinstein Woods Development Manager Vickie Dymock left for a job at the University of Buffalo Foundation. In November, AmeriCorps Member James Brown finished his service time at Reinstein Woods. We wish them both well in their future endeavors!

DEC to Expand Reinstein Woods Ed Center



In October, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos (above, left) was joined by local officials to announce plans to double the size of Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center. The 7,000 sq. ft. addition will enhance outdoor recreation and environmental education programs while improving accessibility for visitors. Officials joining the Commissioner included (above, l to r) NYS Assemblymember Monica Wallace, NYS Senator Tim Kennedy, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and NYS Assemblymember Karen McMahan.

Friends of Reinstein Woods would also like to thank Assemblymember Monica Wallace, who worked with her colleagues to gain support for the project. "Reinstein Woods is a tremendous asset to our community. It is a place where everyone in Western New York can enjoy nature, go on a hike, snowshoe, and learn about our environment," said Assemblymember Wallace. "The fabulous programs at Reinstein Woods have created an increased demand for more programs, and the expansion ... will allow the facility to meet those demands."

Friends of Reinstein President Terry Boyle (right) also spoke at the event. "From more accessible recreation to innovative exhibits that connect people to the environment in creative ways, we are excited for the opportunities that the expansion of Reinstein Woods' Education Center will bring," said President Boyle. "We thank Commissioner Seggos and DEC for these improvements that will benefit all visitors to Reinstein Woods."



Construction is expected to start in 2024. View a short video about the expansion [here](#) and read a press release [here](#).

History Trail Improvements Completed!



L to R: Vickie Dymock; Lynn Ryback representing Cheektowaga Town Supervisor Diane Benczkowski; Friends board members Esther Clabeaux, Jennifer Hebrank, and President Terrence Boyle; Center Director Meaghan Boice-Green; Friends board members Vinod Suchak and Eric Gallo; NYS Assemblymember Wallace; DEC Regional Director Julie Barrett-O'Neill.

In September, Friends of Reinstein Woods board members and staff joined local officials for a ribbon-cutting to officially open an improved History Trail at Reinstein Woods. The History Trail was one of the first trails that DEC opened to the public for self-guided access around 2005. Trailside signs tell the story of how Dr. Victor Reinstein and his wife Julia B. Reinstein managed this land and then donated it. The original signs were small and not designed for outdoor weather, so they were in desperate need of replacement.

Thanks to an anonymous donor and a [Park & Trail Partnership Grant](#) from Parks & Trails New York, we replaced the signs, placed them at the proper height and angle for accessibility, and added an [audio tour](#) to make the trail more welcoming to all. DEC Operations staff installed the signs and improved the surface of the trail in its worst spots so that people who use wheelchairs or canes have an easier time on the trail.

We would also like to thank NY Senator Tim Kennedy and NY Assemblymember Monica P. Wallace for writing letters of support for the grant.



interpretive Signs like this one tell the history of Reinstein Woods.

Snowshoe and Ski Rentals Available This Winter!

Reinstein Woods will be renting snowshoes and cross-country skis this winter! Rentals will be available Monday through Friday as soon as there is enough snow, and on Saturdays starting at the end of the calendar year. Details about rentals can be found on our [website](#).

Volunteers are needed to help with distributing snowshoes and skis on Saturdays. If you are interested in helping out, contact Michael Adriaansen by email at michael.adriaansen@dec.ny.gov or call [\(716\) 683-5959 x 202](tel:(716)683-5959).



SAVE THE DATE: WINTER WONDERLAND

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023
Noon- 4 p.m.

- Try snowshoes or cross-country skis for free
- Make snow art
- Learn about ice fishing
- Winter crafts for kids, exhibits, refreshments for sale, and more!

No registration required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

reinsteinwoods.org

or call 716-683-5959

****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.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 AM

THE ECOLOGY OF THE BIRD FEEDER

Cozy up inside the Education Center to learn how to identify our feathered visitors and explore the ecosystem that forms at the feeders. **

Saturday, December 3 at 11:00 AM

WOODS WALK: BARK, BARK, BARK

No dogs are allowed at Reinstein Woods, but you can join a guided, leisurely nature walk to identify some of the trees found here. Bring a hand lens and any guidebooks you may have. **No registration required.**

Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 AM

NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING

Take a guided walk to learn about how our local wildlife get ready for the long winter season. **

Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 AM

MIXED FLOCK

Join us as we search for winter birds that join feeding flocks. Binoculars provided. **For adults and children ages 8 and older.** **

Saturday, December 17 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: WHO'S HERE AND WHO'S NOT?

We'll look for animal signs in winter on this guided walk. **No registration required.**

Wednesday, December 28 at 6:30 PM

NIGHT LIGHT WALK

Bring your flashlights and lanterns to explore Reinstein Woods at night. **

Thursday, December 29 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/person, \$10 for Friends members.** **

Saturday, December 31 at 10:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE LEARN TO SNOWSHOE WALK

Say goodbye to 2022 by trying a new winter activity—snowshoeing! **\$10/person, \$7 for Friends members.** **

JANUARY

Sunday, 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 7 at 9:00 AM

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS

A great way to introduce kids to birding and escape the post-holiday blues! 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. **Register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.**

Saturday, January 7 at 11:00 AM

WOODS WALK: THE WOODS IN WINTER

Look for changes in the woods during winter. Identify trees without leaves and search for signs of animal activity. **No registration required.**

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

Tuesday, January 10 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/person, \$10 for Friends members. ****

Wednesday January 11 at Noon

WEBINAR: LUNCH FOR A LIVABLE PLANET— FOOD AND FOOD WASTE

How can eating delicious food and reducing food waste help the planet? Make A New Year's resolution to find out at this virtual presentation.

Register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Wednesday, January 11 from 4:30–6:00 PM

WATERSHED BINS FOR EDUCATORS

Educators of students in grades K–12 are invited to explore the activity bins available to borrow, including Watershed STEM in the Schoolyard, Watershed Book Bin, Great Lakes Basin Bin, The Watershed Game, and Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed. **Register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/explore/programs-services/educator-workshops.**

Wednesday, January 11 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, January 14 at 10:30 AM

FROSTY FOREST

Learn how to identify trees and shrubs in the winter by taking an up-close look at bark, buds, and more. ******

Wednesday, January 18 at Noon

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: HEAT PUMP BASICS

If you currently heat with electricity, propane, or oil, a heat pump can save you money! Heat pumps are an energy-efficient, fossil fuel-free system that can heat AND cool your home. Get your questions answered at this session. Presented by PUSH Buffalo. **Register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.**

Saturday, January 21 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/person, \$10 for Friends members. ****

Saturday, January 21 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: COPING WITH THE COLD

Join a guided walk to learn how animals survive the winter season. **No registration required.**

Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 PM

STARGAZING WALK

Learn the winter constellations on this walk under the sliver of a waxing crescent moon. ******

Wednesday, January 25 at 10:30 AM

WINTER WILDFLOWERS

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

Saturday, January 28 at 10:00 AM

FAMILY NATURE QUEST: SNOWSHOE WALK

Enjoy a guided snowshoe walk along the trails. **\$10/person, \$7 for Friends members. ****

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 2 from 4:00–7:00 PM

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP: PROJECT WET

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) helps teachers use water to teach English language arts, science, math, and more. Participants will receive a free Activity Guide 2.0 that features 64 field-tested activities focusing on the physical properties of water, water quality and what impacts it, and people's relationship to water throughout their lives.

Register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/explore/programs-services/educator-workshops.

WINTER WONDERLAND IN THE WOODS

Saturday, February 4, 2023, from Noon–4:00 PM

Discover the woods in winter! Try snowshoes or cross-country skis for free. Make snow art, enjoy ice fishing demonstrations, winter crafts for kids, and more. Refreshments for sale. For more information, visit www.reinsteinwoods.org or call 716-683-5959. **No registration required.**

Tuesday, February 7 at 10:30 AM

WINTER TREE ID

Don't know the difference between a spruce and a pine tree? Come learn how to identify local trees in winter. **For adults only. ****

Wednesday, February 8 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, February 18 at 10:00 AM

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Locally join the global effort to identify and count birds this weekend on a walk at Reinstein Woods. ******

Saturday, February 18 at 1:00 PM

WOODS WALK: IT'S NOT ALL ICE AND SNOW

Winter in Buffalo is a wonderful mix of weather. Join a walk to explore what makes the weather at Reinstein Woods. **No registration required.**

Thursday, February 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/person, \$10 for Friends members. ****

Friday, February 24 at 1:00 PM

ANIMAL TRACKS AND TRACES

Search for signs of wildlife and learn how animals survive the winter. ******

Saturday, February 25 at 10:30 AM

SOUNDS IN THE SNOW

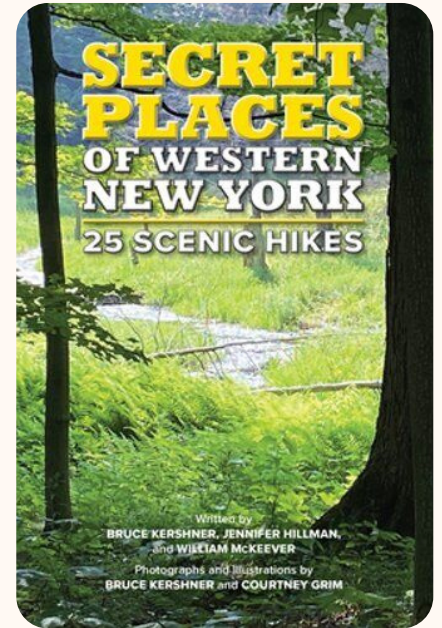
Take a quiet stroll through the woods and listen to the sounds of winter wildlife. **For adults and children ages 12 and older. ****

Give the Gift of Reinstein Woods

Spread holiday cheer and support Reinstein Woods with a gift from our Education Center! We sell stocking stuffers like Smencils (made from recycled newspapers) and nature sticker books for kids, and gifts for grownups like the newly printed *Secret Places of Western New York*. Check out our adult and child-size t-shirts with a winning design by Reinstein Woods volunteer Fen Stanczyk.

Better yet, purchase a gift membership ([online](#) or in person) to help others enjoy the benefits of Friends of Reinstein Woods all year long!

Education Center Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays until December 23, and Saturdays 1 to 4:30 p.m.



Holiday Recycling Tips:

It's the most wonderful time of year... and the time when lots of waste is generated! Here are a few tips to help you have a waste-free holiday!

Christmas Trees:

Lets' Goat Buffalo is holding a Christmas Tree Drive Jan 1-8, 2023. You can donate your used evergreen as a special treat for "rescue" goats to eat. These goats spend their summers munching on invasive plants, but spend the winter on a farm at [7512 Genesee Rd, Springville](#). The farm is having a special "meet the goats" event on January 7. For more info, visit [Letsgoatbuffalo.com](#).

Holiday Lights:

Some local hardware stores accept old inefficient holiday lights for recycling.

Additionally, [Holidayleds.com](#) and [Christmas Light Source](#) both accept holiday lights through the mail and then offer a discount toward the purchase of new LED lights.

Holiday Wrapping:

Gift boxes (the kind that shirts come in) can be flattened and put in your blue bin. However, most wrapping paper, and all tissue paper, is NOT recyclable through curbside recycling. If you choose to use store-bought gift bags instead, flatten the bags and tissue paper and store them with your Christmas decorations to use again next year. (Same with gift boxes!)

A Fall Filled with Adventures for Students...



Students taking part in the Reinstein Woods Campership Program hiked at Akron Falls Park and went pumpkin picking with Reinstein Woods Educator Mike Adriaansen.

Day in the Life of the Niagara River/ Lake Erie Watershed



About 655 students from 16 schools and home school groups participated in Reinstein Woods' [Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed program](#) in early October. Students collected chemical, physical, and biological data about the watershed. The data is added to an international database for future study.

...and Reinstein Woods Members!



More than 20 Friends members enjoyed Halloween treats and a hunt for fossils at the *Trilobites & Treats* member event at Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Reserve in Hamburg (*photos left and right*). In September, members & non-members enjoyed the *Yogis in Service* event at Reinstein Woods (*photo below*). The non-profit *Yogis in Service* has a vision to connect and empower communities, especially underserved communities, by providing access to free, community-based classes.



A Hellbender of a good time at the Annual Meeting!

More than 30 Friends members gathered on October 18 for the annual membership meeting. Canisius College Professor Robin Foster presented on the [Eastern Hellbender](#), a fascinating salamander that inhabits the southern part of WNY. Friends also heard reports from committees and DEC Center Director Meaghan Boice-Green on the Friends' accomplishments in the last year.



GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendar for Tuesday November 29th, and join the biggest worldwide annual day of giving, Giving Tuesday! Donors like you make all of our great programs possible. On Giving Tuesday, you can make a [contribution](#) and encourage your friends to join in by creating your own social media fundraiser to benefit Reinstein Woods. Thank you for your support!

Leave a Legacy...

You can make a lasting impact on Reinstein Woods 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/>

Follow us to stay up-to-date:



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