

THE LILY PAD

Fall 2023 Newsletter



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THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE 2023 ARTISAN MARKET A SUCCESS!

This year's event had more than 35 different vendors and 1300 attendees! We are eternally grateful for all the volunteers and vendors who make this event possible. A huge thank you to Wegmans for sending out both volunteers and snacks for our artists. And the Buffalo Ukulele Club —thank you for your continued support! You are phenomenal!

Thank you to our event sponsors!



(Continued on next page)

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR'S ARTISAN MARKET!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It seems like I was just writing to you about the upcoming Summer programs – yet here we go with the Fall newsletter! August is our official month of incorporation, so Friends of Reinstein Woods is a flurry of activity. At the beginning of August, my fellow board members and I put together a matching gift of \$1001.50. We used this amount to double the donations of our supporters so that we could raise \$2003 in honor of the year Friends of Reinstein Woods was incorporated. I'm so proud that the leadership of this organization came together to make this giving challenge possible – thank you! We plan to have a few more matching gift giving days in

November and December of this year.

August 17th is another exciting celebration for our 20th anniversary campaign – we will have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at Chef's Restaurant. Dine in or take out on that day and 20% of your bill will be donated to our campaign!

Then we move along into September and onto the annual Fall Festival! Not too long after that, we will have our Annual Membership Meeting in October. But, before the annual meeting, we have an exciting members-only Owl Prowl scheduled! Make sure your membership is up-to-date so you can enjoy the Freedom Seekers Hike and Hoot on October 11, 2023.

I hope that you are as excited as I am about all these upcoming events and opportunities. I hope to see many of you at one of the upcoming events, and I thank you for continuing to be a friend of the woods.

With gratitude,

Eric Gallo

VOLUNTEER PICNIC

At the end of July we held our annual volunteer appreciation picnic. It's always so special to gather this dedicated group of people together and celebrate all their accomplishments and express our gratitude for their commitment and support.

Amongst the dinner and socializing, we took a moment to honor a few volunteers that have gone above and beyond.

Each year our partners at the NYSDEC select a volunteer to receive the Al Schick Volunteer Recognition Award. This year this honor was given to not one volunteer, but four — the Hebrank family.

Jenn, Andy, Sam and Maisie are familiar faces around Reinstein Woods. Whether they are here to enjoy a hike or do some birding, or here to participate in Trail Thursdays or the Phragmites Strike team, they are true Friends to Reinstein Woods. We have counted on their help for events, stewardship, and even taking care of the outdoor turtle enclosure.

Additionally, Jenn Hebrank is a member of our Board of Directors, and interim Chair of the Development Committee. She has participated on nearly every committee the Friends group has, and has tirelessly worked to advance our mission. In recognition of her unwavering support, she was awarded the Peter Losi Memorial Award for outstanding commitment to Friends of Reinstein Woods.

This year's volunteer picnic was also extra special because so many former board members (many of whom were founding board members and are pictured below) joined us. In celebration of our 20th anniversary, we tracked down as many folks as we could that have retired from the board. It was spectacular to reminisce about the early days of the Friends group — back when there was just a shed serving as the education center! Thank you for joining us and sharing your memories and insights. You continue to shape this organization and make sure that we help everyone share in nature's harmony!



REINSTEIN WOODS

Environmental Education Center, Depew



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

REINSTEIN WOODS 23RD ANNUAL

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

10AM - 4PM

INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS

POND EXPLORATION ZONE

SCAVENGER HUNT & PRIZES

SCIENCE ZONE FOR KIDS

FOOD FOR SALE

LIVE ANIMALS

MUSIC, FACE PAINTING, DOOR PRIZE AND MORE!

No Registration Required. Donations Welcome.

For More Info: (716) 683-5959

www.reinsteinwoods.org/events



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STUDENTS SHARE SUPPORT WITH STICKER SALE

Casey Eco-Kids Club raised \$100 for Friends of Reinstein Woods

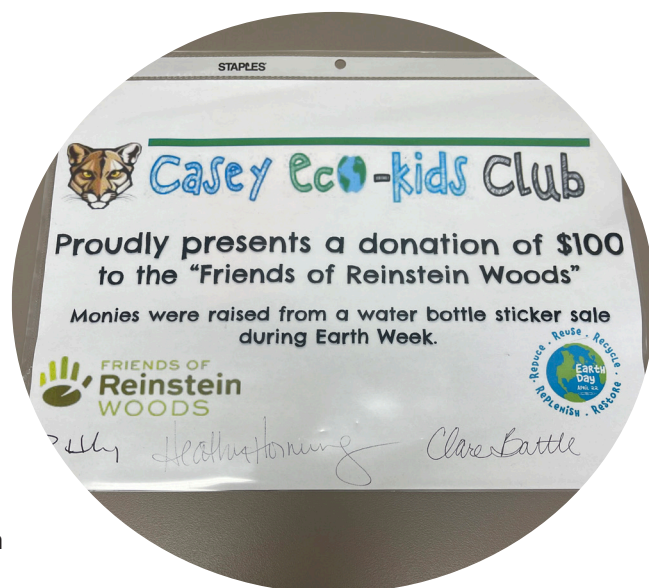
Over the years, Earth Day has grown into more than just a one day celebration of our planet. The month of April is dedicated to showing appreciation for our Earth and giving back to it. At Casey Middle School in Williamsville, they have a whole week where there are awareness activities and outreach opportunities.

This year, the students of the Casey Eco-Kids Club decided to do a fundraiser to support local environmental agencies as a part of Earth Week. This small but mighty group of students worked fast to find earth-themed stickers that they could sell to raise funds. Using the morning announcements and making a video to publicize their efforts, they sold stickers during morning free periods and at lunch time. This tenacious group of do-gooders had a goal of raising \$100 to split between Friends of Reinstein Woods and Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper.

The students far exceeded their goal and DOUBLED the amount of money they raised! Please join us in thanking this extraordinary group of young people who worked hard during Earth Week to raise funds and donate \$100 to support the stewardship of Reinstein Woods and our programming. THANK YOU!

Heather Hornung is the Casey Eco-Kids Club advisor, as well as a participant in the Niagara River/Lake Erie (NRLE) Classrooms Program. As part of this program, she has collaborated with Reinstein Woods for activities like the Day in the Life Watershed Program and a BioBlitz at their school. Experiences like these are made possible in part by our wonderful donors and members, as well as through grant funding.

“As a teacher I see the benefit of working with outside agencies/groups to have students learn from scientists and experience real science,” said Heather. We’re so grateful we get to work with wonderful educators like Heather!



NEW PLANT FOUND

A spike moss called *Selaginella eclipses* was recently identified for the first time on the preserve. Spike moss is a bit of a misnomer, since they are actually a species of lycophyte, related to ferns and not mosses. It’s a truly unique plant! This population is a bit outside its documented range, which makes it an interesting find. You never know what you’ll come across in the woods!



OUR ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN IS IN FULL SWING!



Our official month of incorporation is here and so our anniversary campaign is full steam ahead.

We're 30% of the way to our goal of \$20,000!

Earlier this month, we hosted our first matching gift challenge as part of this campaign. Our goal for the challenge was to raise \$2003 in honor of the year we were founded. Our board members pooled together their donations to offer matching gifts to donors so they could double their impact.

We're so grateful to our board and all those who participated! More challenges are coming!



If you are interested in supporting our 20th anniversary campaign, you can donate online or in person at the education center.

Another element of this campaign has been our commemorative merch. We've partnered with Branding Buffalo to have t-shirts and hoodies featuring our anniversary logo. The first round of orders were available at the Artisan Market where Branding Buffalo made the shirts on-site for customers! You can still order an anniversary t-shirt or hoodie and pick it up at the Education Center.



Please join us in thanking our campaign sponsors for our 20th anniversary campaign! Thank you for helping us to reach our goal!

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SEEDLING SPONSORS:

WNY Young Birders Club
The Spark Bird Project

If you know a business interested in sponsoring our campaign, reach out to Kristen Kaszubowski Perry at 716-683-5959 x210 or kristen@reinsteinwoods.org.



Learn more about the campaign, or donate, by scanning the code below:

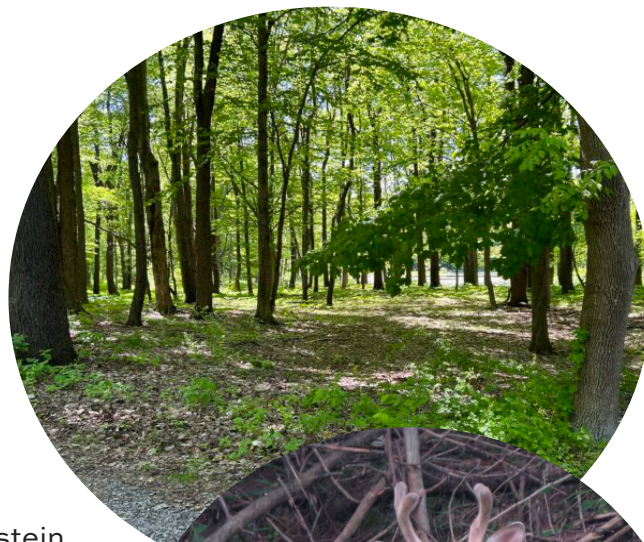


WOODLAND GARDEN ENCLOSURE

Friends of Reinstein Woods was awarded a \$10,500 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund's Park and Trail Partnership Grants program to build an enclosure that will protect and establish the native forest as well as to improve public access and education related to forest ecosystems. Friends of Reinstein Woods has already raised a 10% match for the project so that work can begin.

Reinstein Woods' 2021 Forest Management Plan warned that the severe pressure from deer predation will cause the forest to regress until there is no longer a mature forest at the site. With this grant, Friends of Reinstein Woods will enclose about an acre of forest at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve to protect a portion of the preserve from the sizable deer population. The enclosure will protect existing trees and allow the establishment of native forest wildflowers and shrubs that are often eliminated by grazing deer. A trail through the enclosure, to be added once the garden is established, will connect visitors to these plants and offer learning opportunities.

This will help us implement some of the recommendations from the Forest Management Plan we commissioned in 2021 and help ensure that Reinstein Woods is here for all to enjoy for generations to come.



COMING UP THIS FALL

Every October, our members gather for an annual meeting. Its a great opportunity to meet up with other members of our organization, learn about this year's accomplishments, what is in the works, and find new ways to get involved. There is also the annual vote, and an educational presentation.

This year, the membership committee has chosen a theme of exploring our past! There will be a members-only event just a week before the annual meeting. The Freedom Seekers Hike and Hoot will explore the natural history knowledge of Freedom Seekers who relied on local plants and wildlife for survival on their journey from slavery to freedom. We will hike to learn about wild edible and medicinal plants and then go on an owl prowl to experience the communication strategy of the Underground Railroad. So make sure to save the dates!



Freedom Seekers Hike & Hoot

Wed. Oct. 11
6:30 - 8:30pm

Annual Member Meeting

Tue. Oct. 17
6 - 8pm

JOIN US FOR A SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

Who's hungry?!

On Thursday, August 17th, head to Chef's Restaurant to enjoy a delicious meal. 20% of all sales — dine-in or takeout — will be donated to our anniversary campaign. Have some spaghetti parm, a meatball sandwich, or even a cannoli, all while helping your favorite nature preserve!

We're so grateful to our partners at Chef's Restaurant, and also want to congratulate them on their anniversary as well — 100 years in business!

We hope to see you there!

Thursday, August 17th

11am - 8pm

Chef's Restaurant

291 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14204



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