

THE LILY PAD

Winter 2023 Newsletter



FRIENDS OF
Reinstein
WOODS

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CRUNCHY LEAVES THEN CROSS COUNTRY SKIS!

First it's the crunching of leaves. Then it will be the crunching of snow! It's such a treat to walk through Reinstein Woods during any season to see how the natural world around us is adjusting to the changes! Snowshoes and cross-country skis give you a fun way to explore the woods in the winter.



As of right now, our snowshoe and ski rentals will kick off **December 30 and run through March 2** during normal Education Center Hours. Rentals are all made on a first-come, first-serve basis, and are only offered when there is enough snow and trail conditions are safe.

Weekday rentals may start earlier depending on conditions. We will update our website and social media, but it's always best to give us a call to check on availability: 716-683-5959.

See you on the trails!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

With just weeks left in 2023, I find it to be a fantastic time to reflect on what a year we just had. We've had thousands of students come to the woods for a class trip and tour of the preserve. The experiences had by these students help foster curiosity and create an interest in the natural world around them. All of which is supported by the hundreds of after-school program interactions that our amazing educators have with kids all over Western New York. This work is making a true ripple effect on the future of the environmental landscape, and may just inspire the next scientist, naturalist or advocate!

We can see this enthusiasm and passion for the outdoors in our very own Summer Day Camp Program, which served 155 campers this year! Former intern, now Camp Director Sarah Klos jumped in to run the camp program just before it started in June, and she has been a fantastic addition to our Friends staff.

This year was also the year we surpassed 90 interns being a part of the environmental education internship program that we support. To celebrate, we invited the very first intern from the program, Jerry Krajna, to come and speak with our donors. He shared his story about how Reinstein Woods has supported him as a teacher, and how he has seen a difference in his students as well!

And of course, it's our anniversary year. Our campaign to raise \$20,000 in honor of our 20th anniversary is 70% of the way to completion! I hope that with the upcoming Giving Tuesday on November 28, we will move the needle even closer to reaching this goal! Please join me in spreading the word about a generous matching gift we got to help make the most of your donations on Giving Tuesday. Read more about that in this edition of the Lily Pad, and make sure you are following us on Facebook and Instagram to get all the updates as the day of giving draws closer.

With gratitude,

WELCOME TO THE BOARD

We would like to welcome Sarah Grimaldi to the Board of Directors!

Sarah is an associate at Hodgson Russ Attorneys. We are very excited to have her join our board and share her expertise with us so that we can help people share in nature's harmony.



REMEMBERING A TRUE FRIEND

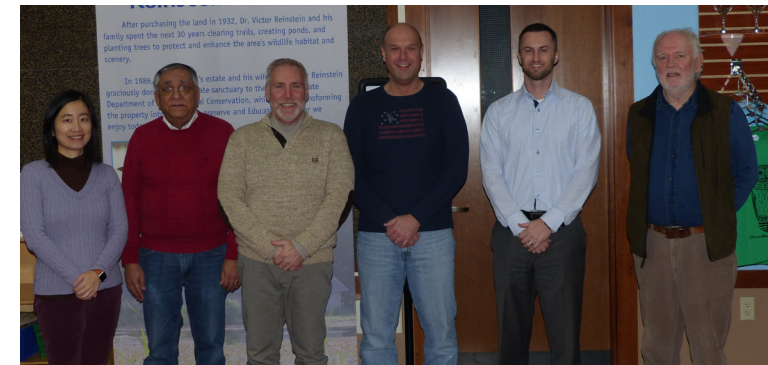


Friends of Reinstein Woods lost a dedicated volunteer with the passing of Michael Gettings on October 15. Mike lived a life of service and joy. He became a nature guide at Reinstein Woods in 2009, after retiring from a career working with people with disabilities. He joined the Friends' board of directors in 2010, and over the next nine years served as Vice-President, President, and Membership Committee Chair. He convinced his wife Carol, who taught non-profit leadership at Buffalo State, to lead the board in developing the organization's first strategic plan.

Mike then led the board in implementing that plan, which included developing the website we use today. As Membership Committee Chair, Mike wanted to help members explore the outdoors beyond Reinstein Woods, organizing field trips to places as far away as Canandaigua.

Mike was a "people person," and he loved guiding people through Reinstein Woods, particularly groups of people with disabilities. His granddaughter, Hope, was his "assistant" on many tours. Mike connected Reinstein Woods to groups like the Center for Self Advocacy, leading to improvements such as automatic door handles that make Reinstein Woods more accessible.

Mike was always spreading joy, whether collecting donations at the Fall Festival or passing out snowshoes and skis to visitors in the winter. Beyond the day-to-day needs of Reinstein Woods, Mike could be counted on for help wherever needed, whether lending a shoulder to a staff member having a bad day or connecting a fellow volunteer to hospice services. His energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



Sarah Klos is the Friends of Reinstein Woods Camp Director/Educator. She oversees the Summer Day Camp Program as well as leads school tours and after-school programs.

“I am a UB graduate with a degree in Geological Sciences. In January 2023, I started at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve as an Environmental Education Intern. As an intern, I learned about the plants and animals at Reinstein and how to be an outdoor educator. I’m so grateful for that experience and I’m proud to now be working for the Friends as the Camp Director and Educator. I can’t wait to share my knowledge with the summer camp kids, in after-school activities, and whenever else I can. As a kid, I loved going for walks at my town’s ecology center and exploring outside with my brother. Now as an adult, getting to provide meaningful outdoor experiences for kids means so much to me.”

We’re so lucky to have Sarah as part of our team!

THANK YOU TO OUR GIVING TUESDAY SPONSOR



While some may be thinking about turkey dinners or holiday shopping, the date circled on our calendars is November 28 — Giving Tuesday. This national day of giving is even more special for Friends of Reinstein Woods this year, because of a generous matching gift from Bond, Schoeneck & King!

Our goal for Giving Tuesday is to raise \$879.

That’s \$1 for every interaction with a student in our after school programs last year. This goal helps us celebrate the impact that generous donors and members have on the lives of students and the future of environmental education.

To help us reach this goal, Bond, Schoeneck & King is matching up to \$439.50 in donations on November 28. If we take full advantage of this matching gift, we will meet our goal! All money raised on Giving Tuesday will go toward our 20th Anniversary Campaign. We have a couple weeks left in 2023 to reach our \$20,000 goal, and we’re already 70% of the way there!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see our announcements about Giving Tuesday as it draws closer!



SAVE THE DATE!

MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

YOU CAN NOW AUTO-RENEW!

Never forget to renew your membership again!

Now, when you buy or renew your membership online, you can choose to have it automatically renew each year. Just select the box that says “Show my support by making this a recurring donation,” and set the frequency to yearly. Whatever card you use to process payment for your membership, will be the card that is charged annually.

The screenshot shows the 'DONATION' form on the Friends of Reinstein Woods website. The form includes a search bar, navigation links (ABOUT, SUPPORT, MEMBERS, EVENTS, NEWS), and buttons for EXPLORE and DONATE. Below the navigation is a message: "Funds raised through membership dues help to support volunteer and educational programs at Reinstein Woods." The donation options are listed as follows:

- \$25.00 - Individual one-year membership
- \$40.00 - Family one-year membership
- \$40.00 - Grandparent one-year membership
- \$45.00 - Individual two-year membership
- \$72.00 - Family two-year membership
- \$72.00 - Grandparent two-year membership
- \$100.00 - Patron
- \$250.00 - Sustainer
- \$500.00 - Cornerstone
- Other

Below the options, there is a checkbox labeled "Show my support by making this a recurring donation" which is checked. Underneath, there is a "Frequency" dropdown menu set to "Yearly" and a "Start Date" field with a calendar icon.

VOLUNTEER & COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Are you thinking about New Year’s Resolutions yet? How about getting more involved with your favorite, local nature preserve?!

We are currently looking for volunteers with experience in **human resources** to join our board and also **landscaping/fencing companies and gardening groups** who might be interested in helping our Woodland Garden project.

We always have room on our committees as well! Are you interested in planning events and fundraisers? Do you want to brainstorm engagement opportunities for our members? Then, there’s a spot for you!

If you are interested in joining a committee or if you know a business interested in volunteering, reach out to Kristen Kaszubowski Perry at 716-683-5959 x210 or kristen@reinsteinwoods.org.

CLIMATE CONNECTIONS FOR BUFFALO'S EAST SIDE YOUTH

Friends of Reinstein Woods has partnered with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, and the Omega Mentoring Program to connect students from the East Side with community leaders working on climate action.

During the 2023-2024 school year, about 30 high school students will meet biweekly to go on field trips and work on environmental projects. The field trips introduce students to habitats and environmental issues in WNY while exploring business, nonprofit and government careers related to the environment. The environmental projects were chosen by the students. Some projects include supporting community gardens and hosting a Dare to Repair Café at Johnny B. Wiley Center.

The first field trip was to Niagara Falls and the NY Power Authority Vista, where students learned about the Niagara River's Important Bird Area and the generation of clean electricity at the Niagara Power Project.

On the second field trip, students visited the Buffalo Freedom Gardens and met with gardens founder Gail Wells. The gardens were founded to provide BIPOC community members effected by the pandemic access to healthy food.

Future field trips will include: Solar Powered Solar Carousel, Just Buffalo Literary Center, Bailey Green, Viridi Parente, Buffalo State University Great Lakes Center, Colonel Ward Pumping Station, Tifft Nature Preserve, Steels Winds.

A big thank you to the donors and members of Friends of Reinstein Woods, Ingram Micro and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo for supporting this program.



DAY IN THE LIFE RECAP

2023 was another great year for the Day In The Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed program! About 440 students and teachers from 14 schools collected physical, chemical and biological data from creeks throughout the watershed as part of this annual event sponsored by Friends of Reinstein Woods.



Students from Niagara Falls High School collect samples from Gill Creek as part of the Day in the Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed program in October.

THE ECLIPSE IS COMING!

On April 8, 2024, Western New York will experience a Total Solar Eclipse! That means we will experience about three and a half minutes of darkness in the middle of the afternoon. You will also be able to see the moon move in front of the sun if you have the right gear!

We have solar eclipse glasses that will allow you to do just that. These glasses are safe for personal use, and use with a smart phone (if you're going to try and catch a picture of the eclipse on your phone). If you want to use binoculars, telescopes, or cameras to view and capture the eclipse, you will need different safety gear.

Stop by the education center to buy your solar eclipse glasses from us. They are \$2 for a single pair, or \$5 for 3 pairs. Make sure you are ready for this amazing event. The next time this will happen in New York will be May 1, 2079!



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