

THE LILY PAD

Spring 2024 Newsletter



FRIENDS OF
Reinstein
WOODS

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UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

While our trail stewardship work has taken a sabbatical for the winter months, we're already planning to get our shovels ready for spring. A big project that is on the top of our list is the installation of the Woodland Garden fence. Volunteers made great strides in clearing out some invasive plants and mapping out the area for this project last year. And once the ground has thawed, we want to continue with this work and get the next phase complete! Fence installation work, like installing posts, digging holes and clearing invasive species will be some of the first projects taken on during Trail Thursdays.

The Phragmites Strike Team and Trail Thursdays programs will both pick back up in May. You can prepare to join forces with other dedicated volunteers by making sure your volunteer paperwork is up-to-date. If you are new to volunteering, visit our website to get your volunteer application started. You can always email volunteer@reinsteinwoods.org to learn more, too!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello, friends!

It may be hard to believe it, but spring is just around the corner. Maybe I feel it more because the development committee and I are already planning for this summer's Artisan Market, or because our annual plant sale is underway. Or even because I'm writing my message for the Spring 2024 newsletter!

With warm weather and longer days, there will be more ways to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Reinstein Woods. Although, the trails have still been quite busy here with skiers and snowshoers! There is always something to do at the Woods. If you were looking to get more involved this year, I strongly encourage you to join a committee or one of our trail stewardship programs. We welcome all the help we can get – especially with the installation of the Woodland Garden fence coming up. Or, if you are interested in becoming a nature guide and helping with tours, or maybe even a front desk greeter! There are many opportunities to get more involved as a friend of the woods.

The Board of Directors and I have been working hard to update our strategic plan. We've made so much progress since drafting our last plan in 2017 – even while handling the changes necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have secured the education center expansion, with planning underway to have the expansion complete sometime in 2026. We have maximized our assets and scaled up our operations so that we have more capacity to help our community share in nature's harmony. This updated plan will carry forth this momentum so we can continue advancing our mission.

It's both exciting and humbling to be a part of this community and see all the good that comes from it. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being an avid supporter of this beautiful place and the educational opportunities it provides.

With gratitude,

Eric Gallo



SAVE THE DATE!

We are planning a members-only hike to celebrate the Spring Solstice. We invite new members and longstanding members alike to join us for an early evening stroll through the woods, some great conversation and some light refreshments.

More details will be emailed out as we solidify our plans. Registration will be required. You can call and email for more information as well.

 716-683-5959  kristen@reinsteinwoods.org

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

This spring, Buffalo will experience a total solar eclipse. The moon will be in front of the sun, blocking its light and making it appear like nighttime in the middle of the day! During the eclipse, streetlights may come on, animals may become quiet, and you will feel a difference in the temperature. Before the moon is fully in front of the sun, you can use special glasses to view the moon's movements. You may also be able to see stars and planets during the eclipse, and the sun's corona (the atmosphere around the sun).



It's important that you never look directly at the sun. To view the eclipse, you need special eclipse glasses. Your glasses or solar viewers should have an ISO 12312-2 certification on them. If you are planning to use binoculars, telescopes or a camera, you will need to purchase additional safety equipment. We have ISO certified eclipse glasses for sale at our education center. Stop by during business hours (M-F 9am-4:30pm and Sat. 1-4:30pm) to purchase some eclipse glasses. They are \$2 for 1 pair of glasses, or \$5 for 3 pairs.

UPCOMING ECLIPSE PROGRAMMING

To prepare for this remarkable event, we have some upcoming programming to celebrate this natural phenomenon. We hope you will join us for one!

WILD WEDNESDAY: ECLIPSE EDITION

3/13/24
4:30 PM

Through interactive activities, kids and their caregivers can enjoy learning what a solar eclipse is and how to view it safely. For children in grades K-5.

SOUNDS OF THE ECLIPSE

4/2/24
10 AM

Join us on this walk to learn different animal sounds to listen to during the solar eclipse. Participants will learn to identify common bird, insect, and frog calls.

HOW TO THROW AN ECLIPSE PARTY

3/16/24
10 AM

Plan for sun location and safe viewing options, brainstorm eclipse-themed snacks, and try multiple kid- and adult-friendly activities to keep your guests entertained!

SUN CLOCKS FOR KIDS (10+)

4/4/24
1 PM

Explore some out-of-this-world science by making a pocket sun clock! Learn how the Earth, sun, and moon move and become an expert for the Total Solar Eclipse.

EGGCLIPSE FOR KIDS!

3/30/24
10 AM

Learn about the eclipse and then dye eggs to make a "sun" and "moon." For kids age 6-10. Eclipse glasses included. \$8/child; \$5 Friends of Reinstein Woods members.

ECLIPSE SURVIVAL WALK

4/5/24
10 AM

Walk through the woods and learn how to view the eclipse safely, what will happen during the solar eclipse and what changes in the environment to look for during totality.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

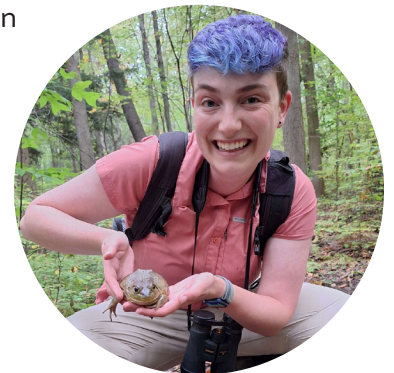


In the fall of 2023, Tessa joined the Reinstein Woods family! Tessa is an Environmental Educator who will lead school, youth and public programs, coordinate the DEC Camp Rushford Campership Program, and lead outreach & recruitment for DEC Camp Rushford!

“My love for nature and the environment was inspired by two family traditions: my family’s annual trip to the Adirondack Mountains and attending YMCA Camp Weona for many summers. While attending SUNY ESF for undergrad, I found a way to combine my two inspirations by working at DEC Summer Camps in the Adirondacks. I spent four summers working as a camp counselor at DEC Summer Camps, and since then, I’ve taught Environmental Education around the U.S. and outside of the U.S. No matter where in the world I’ve been, being able to inspire people to appreciate and respect nature is always my goal. I’m happy to be settled back into WNY, where I can help provide experiences in nature for youth at DEC Camp Rushford and all ages at the beautiful Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve!”

Please welcome Jean Kostin, our new Environmental Education Assistant! Jean will help with volunteer coordination, outreach events and education programs.

“I know I am not alone in calling Reinstein Woods my happy place. Since completing my DEC internship here in 2019, I jumped at any opportunity to come back and visit the trails and familiar faces in the Education Center. From Reinstein Woods I then coordinated the Outdoor Education Program for Stella Niagara Education Park in Lewiston, NY for four years. Reinstein Woods had completely prepared me to enter the field of environmental education! Following my time at Stella, I took a seasonal position at Niagara Falls State Park with NYS Parks to reacclimate to informal education, my preferred way to educate. At Niagara Falls I discovered my love for birding, (please talk to me about birds!) but I still felt a longing to give back to the wonderful place that started it all for me. Now, five years later, I am thrilled to do just that! I am eager to work with volunteers that feel similarly about Reinstein Woods. Join me in supporting our happy place!”



Please welcome our Winter-Summer 2024 Environmental Education Intern Niyat!



“I enjoy being outdoors and exploring; this love started from a childhood swimming in Lake Erie and visiting WNY’s many creeks in the summer. This grew into my hobbies of camping, hiking, and learning about plants. My childhood curiosity in exploring led to me completing a bachelor degree in environmental studies at UB and pursuing a masters in sustainability. These degrees have allowed me to explore the Niagara Gorge, Reinstein Woods, Buffalo Outer Harbor, Grand Island through an ecologist’s lens, looking for insects, studying plant diversity, and using the environment around me as a classroom. WNY is rich in beautiful landscapes and biodiversity and I am excited to be able to grow my ecological knowledge and science communication skills to encourage the next generation of naturalists. I know first hand that being able to explore and connect with nature by being outdoors is important. I also believe that everyone should have opportunities to be in nature and I’m excited to foster these opportunities at Reinstein Woods.”



Please welcome our Winter-Summer 2024 Environmental Education Intern Cassidy!

“I am a May 2023 graduate of the University at Buffalo with a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and a minor in earths systems science. I’ve spent much of my environmental career working at Teatown Lake Reservation’s summer camp in Westchester County. This was a very fulfilling experience for me as it allowed for a lot of hands-on teaching experience in nature. Much of my time at Teatown was spent working with a group called “Teatown Nature Girls” to encourage and nurture their interest in the natural world. More recently, I have become very interested in botany and spend my time in my hometown working in a local greenhouse. I am originally from Wappingers Falls, NY but have been in Buffalo since 2020 while attending UB. A strong personal interest of mine is ceramics! I have been doing ceramics for eight years now and I find that it is a great way to connect with the outside world. I look forward to my time at Reinstein Woods this year!”

IMPACT HIGHLIGHT: EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

In the Fall of 2023, ten Buffalo Public School educators participated in our “Environmental Literacy Model for Hands-On Great Lakes Learning” course. Throughout this six-week program, educators explored environmental issues in our watershed through outdoor field investigations, became familiar with resources and tools available through Reinstein Woods, and learned about transportation and funding opportunities for field trips. All these experiences helped the participants to develop unit plans that included Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for their students. Participants ranged from teaching 2nd grade all the way up to high school! Equipped with their new knowledge, they will be able to inspire kids of all ages to become more hands-on in science!



Our 15-hour course focused on the framework for a successful MWEE, including guiding students through hands-on, outdoor field studies and standards-based classroom activities while also empowering students to take action to protect local freshwater resources. The teachers studied existing Environmental Literacy Models, researched local partners and sites to support place-based learning opportunities, and discussed overcoming obstacles to outdoor learning experiences with peers. At the end of the course, educators presented their Environmental Literacy Models. At the end of the course, educators presented their Environmental Literacy Models to the other teachers and Reinstein Woods educator, getting great feedback and ideas to empower their students. These Environmental Literacy Models are available to view at the bottom of the NRLE Classroom Teacher page at bit.ly/NRLEteachers.

We’re so grateful for your generous donations and continuing membership with Friends of Reinstein Woods. Because of you, courses like this are made possible. Your contributions make sure we have the supplies we need to make this workshop series possible!

2024 PLANT SALE



How to Order

Online or mail
in an order
form **by**
February 29,
2024.

Learn more or order online:



reinsteinwoods.org/plantsale



When to Pick Up?

June 1

from 10am-1pm

June 3

from 2pm - 7pm

Native plants create an attractive garden, and help pollinators such as hummingbirds, butterflies, and honeybees.

All proceeds support Friends of Reinstein Woods!

Visit reinsteinwoods.org or call 716-683-5959 to learn more.

Plants available:

- Wild Columbine
- Blue Flag Iris
- Virginia Anemone
- Smooth Penstemon
- Green Coneflower
- Showy Goldenrod
- Black Cohosh
- White Wood Aster
- Virginia Mountain Mint
- New York Aster
- Sideoats Grama Grass
- Oxeye Sunflower
- Big Bluestem Grass
- Little Bluestem Grass
- Willow Blue Amsonia
- Wild Bergamot
- Joe Pye Weed
- Swamp Milkweed
- Common Milkweed
- Great Blue Lobelia
- Switchgrass
- Short-toothed Mountain Mint



SAVE THE DATE



DON'T DITCH IT

Fix it!

Save the Date
Dare to Repair
Workshop
Sat. May 18

FRIENDS OF REINSTEIN WOODS

ARTISAN MARKET

SAT. JULY 13, 2024

11AM TO 4PM

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

We will be accepting applications for vendors for this year's Artisan Market soon. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact kristen@reinsteinwoods.org.

CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS IN MARCH!

Our Kids in the Woods Summer Day Camp offers exciting outdoor experiences for kids age 4 to 15! Visit reinsteinwoods.org for details on prices and session dates. Friends of Reinstein Woods offers scholarships for children who would otherwise be unable to attend camp. Extended care is available.

AGE GROUPS:

Little Sprouts — Age 4-6

Nature Explorers — Age 7-9

Wilderness Adventurers — Age 10-12

Junior Naturalists — Age 13-15

For details:

📞 716-683-5959

✉ campdirector@reinsteinwoods.org

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 AGES 4-6 9AM - 12PM	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 AGES 7-9 9AM - 3PM	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 AGES 10-12 9AM - 3PM	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 AGES 7-9 9AM - 3PM	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 AGES 13-15 9AM - 3PM	30	31	1	2	3

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 AGES 10-12 9AM - 3PM	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 AGES 4-6 9AM - 12PM	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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