



93 Honorine Drive
Depew, NY 14043

Place
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Here

Fall 2025 Lily Pad Newsletter

- Donor Spotlight
- Fall Festival
- Invasive Japanese Stiltgrass
- Wildlife Day
- Community Engagement
- Fall Public Programs*

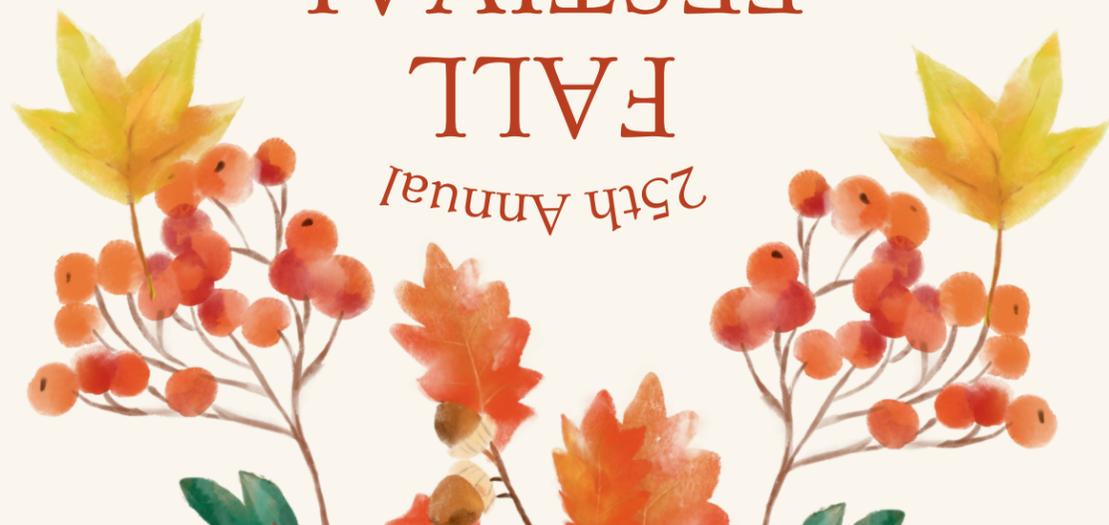


*Call 716-683-5959 to request a paper version of the program schedule.

Celebrate A Milestone With Us at Reinstein Woods!
Crafts for kids, live animals, hands-on activities, food, & more!

Saturday, September 20
10 am to 4 pm

FALL
FESTIVAL
25th Annual



Donor Spotlight: Tim Freeman

Every fall since 2019, Kenmore East High School teacher Tim Freeman has led his students to Eighteen Mile Creek in Hamburg as part of Reinstein Woods' "Day in the Life of the NRLE Watershed" program. The Day in the Life program engages hundreds of students across Buffalo/Niagara in hands-on water testing, giving them valuable, real-world science experience.

Tim learned how to engage his students through trainings offered at Reinstein Woods, joining our NRLE Classroom Teacher network. In 2024, he found a unique way to "thank" Reinstein Woods for his training: he applied for a microgrant from Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) Lab, and then generously gave most of the grant to Friends of Reinstein Woods to purchase hip waders and digital microscopes for students in the "Day in the Life" program.

Tim's generosity will benefit not only students at Kenmore East, but students at dozens of other schools that participate every year in the Day in the Life program (this year on October 2). We are grateful to Tim for his remarkable donation!



Tim Freeman (right) and his co-lead, Bob O'Connor (left).



Students use microscopes thanks to Tim's Generosity!



Help Us Grow Our Audience!

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 10 AM – 2 PM, the Friends of Reinstein Woods' Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will host a special community engagement event at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. The day will include guided walks, exploration of the education center and future plans, a locally-sourced plant-based lunch from West Side Bazaar, and a facilitated discussion on how Reinstein Woods can best serve and support our Western New York community over the next 25 years.

We're seeking suggestions for community groups, organizations, or individuals who should be invited to participate in this conversation. If you know of groups whose perspectives could help shape the future of Reinstein Woods as a welcoming space for all, please share your recommendations with us at info@reinsteinwoods.org.



Reflecting on a Fall Festival Milestone

It's hard to believe that Reinstein Woods will be holding its 25th Fall Festival on September 20, 2025! The first festival was an Anniversary celebration, to mark 15 years since DEC took ownership of Reinstein Woods in September 1986. The volunteers who helped at this event had so much fun they asked DEC to hold the event every year, and the Fall Festival was born!

The festival is usually the third Thursday in September. One exception was 2020, when we held a “virtual” festival, called the 20-2020 Festival. This festival included kid’s crafts that could be done at home, a sustainability challenge, and a fossil hunt challenge that you can still try today!

When the first festival happened, there was only a garden shed and some port-a-johns available. Over the years, the festival grew, and at the same time, DEC grew the facilities at Reinstein Woods, adding a pavilion, bathroom building, and finally the Education Center. As we celebrate 25 years, we are looking forward to more growth. DEC is in the early stages of designing an addition to our Education Center building to provide space to accommodate the growing staff and programs. We hope to have more to share on this in early 2026!



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

M&T Bank

[Reinsteinwoods.org/events/25th-annual-fall-festival/](https://reinsteinwoods.org/events/25th-annual-fall-festival/)



Calling All Fans of Birds: Join us on Wildlife Day!

If you are a fan of our feathered friends, be sure to join one or more Wildlife Day activities on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Those new to birding can learn the basic techniques and how to use binoculars, while more experienced birders can enjoy a walk or talk with knowledgeable folks. Everyone will get to learn simple steps you can take to help birds that make a visit to Reinstein Woods enjoyable. All participants will get to try free samples of Birds & Beans Coffee! To learn more and register for a walk, visit <https://reinsteinwoods.org/events/wildlife-day-birds/>.

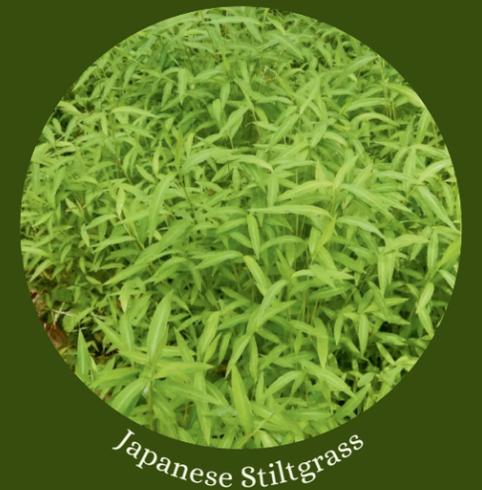


The Ongoing Battle to Protect Reinstein’s Habitats

In July, a crew from the WNY Partnership for Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) surveyed part of Reinstein Woods to look for an invasive species called Japanese stiltgrass. This grass spreads quickly and can form mats that displace native plants, change soil nutrient cycling, and can even increase the risk of fire.

Fortunately, the grass was only detected in one area near Flattail Lake, where it had been previously spotted. Our Trail Thursdays volunteers will pull out the plants, which can be removed by hand.

Friends of Reinstein Woods has been a leader in invasive species control at Reinstein Woods, sponsoring efforts to control some of the worst invaders like common reed and emerald ash borer. We appreciate WNY PRISM’s partnership for helping us detect an invasive plant before it spreads beyond our control.



Donate To Our Woodland Garden Appeal

