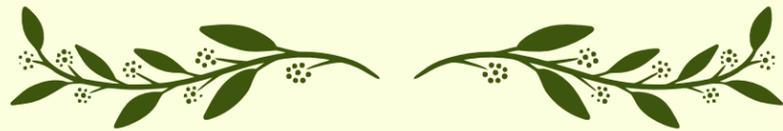


## Winter 2025 Lily Pad Newsletter

- Plant Sale
- Woodland Garden Update
- Giving Tuesday - December 2
- Members Holiday Party
- Day in the Life Update
- Winter Public Programs

# Plant Sale



Our annual pre-order plant sale is around the corner!  
We offer native varieties, including some grown from  
seeds collected in Western New York.

**PRE-SALE ORDERS  
BEGIN FEBURARY 2026**

Check out our website for more information  
and fill out an interest form!



## Embrace the Spirit of Generosity On Giving Tuesday, December 2

Giving Tuesday is a worldwide initiative that inspires individuals to give back to their communities and support charitable causes.

Mark your calendar and donate online to Friends of Reinstein Woods, the organization dedicated to the beloved place we all cherish. We provide essential tools for stewardship to combat invasive species. Thanks to past contributions, we are nearing completion of the Woodland Garden Enclosure, where beautiful native plant species are flourishing. The Friends are continuously working to create opportunities for everyone to appreciate nature, from public programs to paid professional development for a dozen high school Pathways students, hundreds of teachers, and numerous interns!

Join the wave of generosity sweeping across the nation by donating at: [givebutter.com/FoRW-GivingTuesday](https://givebutter.com/FoRW-GivingTuesday) and leave your own comment for all to see! See more examples of how your donation helps us **Share In Nature's Harmony!**

Have a cherished memory of Reinstein Woods? Send it to at [Development@reinsteinwoods.org](mailto:Development@reinsteinwoods.org) and potentially be featured on our Instagram and Facebook!



*Planting natives in Woodland Garden's raised beds*



*Environmental Education Intern working with children*



## Friends of Reinstein Woods Holiday Party Saturday, December 13 from 1 pm to 4 pm

Bring your kids, grandkids, or a friend and join other Friends of Reinstein members for lunch, warm beverages and desserts, craft making, and more! You can opt to bring a dessert or appetizer to share. For Friends Members and their guests only. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please email Joann Flores at [joann@reinsteinwoods.org](mailto:joann@reinsteinwoods.org) or call the Education Center at (716) 683-5959.

Not a member yet? Join at [reinsteinwoods.org/join](https://reinsteinwoods.org/join)

## Woodland Garden Partnerships Bloom!

The caterpillar raised its head for a bite of milkweed as its tufts of black, orange and white hairs shone. Soon it would create a cocoon to overwinter, and in spring emerge as a milkweed tussock moth.

This caterpillar was spotted inside Reinstein Woods' Woodland Garden in early September. On a walk at Reinstein Woods, you may have noticed milkweed and other native plants in raised garden beds behind a tall black fence. This is the Woodland Garden, a space where native plants can blossom without being eaten by deer.

Many hands contributed to the garden's growth this year. Cheektowaga Central High School teens in our Pathways Program built the garden beds in May, and Trail Thursdays volunteers filled them with soil and a variety of plants. Over the summer, volunteers from NYSEG, M & T Bank, UB Primary Care Research Institute, and Community Service for Every1 cared for the plants and the fence.



*Milkweed tussock moth*

Students in the University at Buffalo's Philosophy, Politics, and Economics major also contributed as part of their Capstone project. "Team Won with Nature" sourced several kinds of native plants and shrubs and arranged for them to grow at Pelion Community Garden over the summer. In October, staff and volunteers planted shrubs like snowberry and buttonbush, as well as butterfly-friendly plants like white turtlehead and monkeyflower from another local nursery.

Friends of Reinstein Woods and DEC will continue to develop the garden and eventually provide public access to the space, with the help of funds from Parks & Trails NY's Park and Trail Partnership Grants program.



*L to R: UB "Team Won" Students Rain Ligot, Annika Easaw, Phoenix Corkin, Keilai Angeldekao, Bryce Lincoln*

## Engaging Students in Water Quality Monitoring

Since 2013, students have been actively collecting water quality data across Western New York as part of the "Day in the Life" program. This year, on October 3, over 400 students from 18 schools in WNY took part in the Day In The Life of the Niagara River/Lake Erie (NRLE) Watershed. The data gathered—including turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and macroinvertebrate measurements—is shared online, helping students comprehend how their sample site relates to the larger watershed.

Such a large-scale effort certainly requires support! We are grateful for collaborators at NYS Parks, Niagara River Greenway Commission, NY Sea Grant, NYSDEC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization.



*Students exploring their discoveries at Como Park*



*Students performing a phosphate test at Como Park*

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, we were able to provide students with fresh chemical tests and replace aging equipment, and to provide extra training for some participating teachers. We also extend our gratitude to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for providing four buses to transport students to their local watersheds.

*"The students are still talking about it."*

*Leslyy Harmon,  
#301 Burgard High School*

See our winter public programs by visiting [reinsteinwoods.org/events](https://reinsteinwoods.org/events) or scan this QR code.

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

