



# THE LILY PAD



Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve  
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg9/reinstein>

Summer 2004

Volume No. IV, Issue No. 1

## Unit Management Plan Public Meeting

DEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Fire Hall, 511 Como Park Boulevard, Cheektowaga. The purpose of the session is to gather public comments on a draft unit management plan that will guide management of Reinstein Woods for the next decade. Copies of the draft plan are available at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library (1030 Losson Road) and the Cheektowaga Town Hall (3301 Broadway). A summary of the draft plan is on page 3 of this newsletter and on-line at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us>. Written comments may also be submitted to DEC by July 20, 2004. For more information, please call DEC at 851-7201.

### FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULED IN JUNE

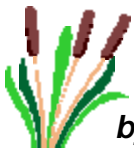
It's time to start thinking about the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival! The first planning meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30 PM** at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library on Losson Road in Cheektowaga. Members of the planning committee help to decide on activities, solicit donations, and contact volunteers. Meetings will be held about once a month through the summer. If you enjoyed the past three Fall Festivals, come take part in planning our next celebration of nature this fall! Call 683-5959 for more information or directions to the meeting.

***The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival is Saturday, September 18 from 10 AM-4 PM.***

### WHAT'S NEW IN THE WOODS

Anyone who has visited Reinstein Woods has probably noticed the Stone House sitting on the shore of Flattail Lake. The house was built by the Reinstein Family in 1965. The family used the house as a summer home.

When DEC acquired the Woods, Dr. Reinstein's son, Robert Reinstein, was given a life estate to the Stone House and about 5 acres around it. Last summer Mr. Reinstein graciously relinquished his life estate, and DEC took possession of the property in March 2004. We thank Mr. Reinstein for his generous donation. Look for more information about the Stone House in future newsletters.



## Nature Notes

by Kristen Buechi, DEC Educator

As the end of the school year approaches, we are in the midst of the busiest season at Reinstein Woods. Nearly a thousand students, grade Pre K - 9, will come to the Woods for a guided tour in May and June. In a two hour visit, we might scoop for aquatic creatures in a pond, search for animal homes, watch a white-tailed deer wander by, or look under a log for salamanders and worms. Our volunteer tour guides are encouraged to share a sense of wonder with children...excitement over a caterpillar crawling along the trail, a wildflower blooming, and yes, even scat (animal droppings)!

While a few kids hang on every word and commit each observation to memory, we don't expect them to remember the name of every tree, bird, insect, etc. that we share. Instead, we hope that they will leave with respect for living organisms, an appreciation for nature, and maybe a little curiosity about what's living in their own neighborhood or backyard.

This year, our springtime visitors have enjoyed seeing painted turtles sunning on logs, Canada geese followed by fluffy yellow goslings, white-tailed deer running through the woods, pileated woodpeckers pounding on trees, toads hopping along the trails, and dragonflies buzzing over Lily Pond.

### NEED TO CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS?

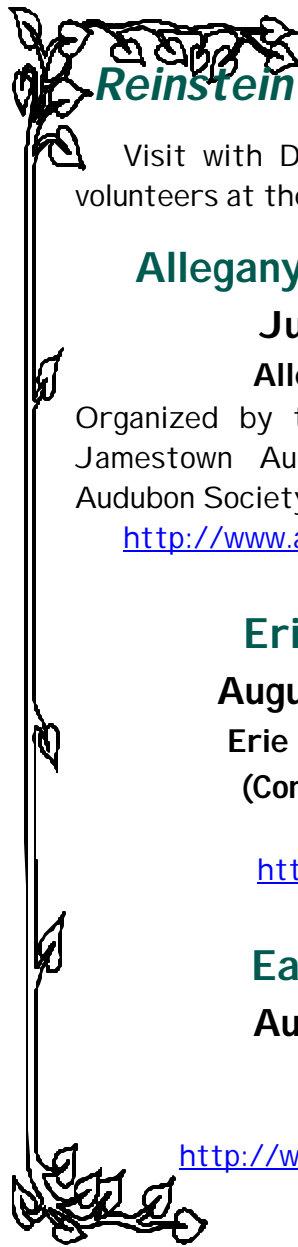
Get rid of unwanted items and make a donation to Reinstein Woods! We're looking for the following items in new or gently used condition. Please contact us at 683-5959 to arrange drop off/pick up of donations. Thank you!

- yarn, ribbon, chenille stems/pipe cleaners
- silk or dried flowers and leaves, pine cones
- beads (any color & size)
- mixed bird seed, black oil sunflower seed, niger thistle, suet cakes

### THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations for making donations to Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve this spring:

- Phyllis E. – nature art supplies
- Mike Koestler – mammal skulls
- Stella Popiela – birdseed
- Old Sanborn Milling Co. – basket of pinecones
- Brookedge Drive families – birdseed
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst – pinecones and cross-country skis



## Reinstein Woods on the Road

Visit with DEC staff and Reinstein Woods volunteers at the following events this summer:

### Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage

June 4-6, 2004

Allegheny State Park

Organized by the Buffalo Audubon Society, Jamestown Audubon Society, Presque Isle Audubon Society, and Burroughs Nature Club

<http://www.alleghenyaturepilgrimage.org>

### Erie County Fair

August 11-22, 2004

Erie County Fairgrounds  
(Conservation Building)

716-649-3900

<http://www.ecfair.org>

### Earth Day Expo

August 15, 2004

Buffalo Zoo

716-829-3535

<http://www.wnyearthday.org/expo.html>

### Walking Sticks Wanted!

We are looking for walking sticks for our fall festival activities. If you will be trimming or cutting any small trees over the summer and would like to recycle them, we could use straight branches/sticks in 3-5' lengths. Please call 683-5959 to arrange a time to drop off sticks. Thanks!

### NEW VOLUNTEER TOUR GUIDES

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new volunteers who participated in our April tour guide training session:

Harry Brand

Rita Hammond

Ray Davis

Elise Vincett



# Meeting Announcement

## DEC Issues Draft Management Plan for Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) invites you to a public meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 to discuss a draft Unit Management Plan for the Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve in Cheektowaga (see box at right). The purpose of the session is to gather public comments on the plan.

The draft plan identifies the natural and physical resources present at the Woods and discusses management needs and goals for the property. The plan will guide future management of the property and will be subject to periodic review.

DEC acquired the Woods from the Estate of Dr. Victor Reinstein in 1986 and signed an agreement with the Reinstein Estate outlining several activities, such as environmental education programs, staffing, etc., DEC would make its best efforts to pursue. DEC drafted a Unit Management Plan for the property in 1987, but the plan was never formally adopted. Since that time, DEC has provided limited public access to the Woods. In recent years, DEC has expanded the environmental education programs available at the Woods.

The 292-acre Woods includes eight miles of gravel roads, 19 ponds and wetlands created by a man-made system of dams, and approximately 76 acres of mature or old-growth Beech-Maple forest. Other important habitats include immature forests, conifer plantations, vernal pools, shrub swamp, and wet meadow. Past research has not indicated the presence of rare or endangered plants or animals. Non-native plants and an overpopulation of deer pose potential long-term threats to the habitats of the Woods.

### Highlights from the Draft Plan:

A team of staff from DEC's Divisions of Lands & Forests, Fish & Wildlife and Public Affairs & Education worked together to develop a draft plan for Reinstein Woods. The mission of DEC in operating the Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve (the Woods) will be:

1. To carry out a comprehensive program of interpretive, education and information services which leads the public to a better understanding, appreciation and sense of responsibility for the environment, and which raises public awareness and understanding of DEC's programs and responsibilities for natural resource and environmental quality management, and
2. To preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve.

The draft plan outlines a variety of activities DEC will undertake to accomplish this mission. The plan calls for DEC to continue offering environmental education programs and services for school and youth groups, organized groups and the

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2004**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
Bellevue Fire Hall  
511 Como Park Boulevard  
Cheektowaga

DEC staff will make a brief presentation about the draft Unit Management Plan and then will take comments and questions from the public.

general public. DEC also will provide environmental education training to teachers and other educators. DEC will enter into a formal agreement with the non-profit Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve, Inc. to provide support for the educational programs offered at the Woods.

The plan calls for DEC to strive to maintain the Woods' biological diversity by maintaining a variety of wetlands, mature deciduous forest and some coniferous forest habitats. The plan discusses future management actions needed to maintain these habitats, such as dam maintenance and controlling potentially damaging exotic species. Additional research needed to assess the biological resources at the Woods is outlined. The plan also calls for a variety of wildlife monitoring activities. Consumptive uses such as hunting, logging etc. continue to be prohibited.

To address the negative impacts caused by the overpopulation of deer in the Woods, the plan outlines specific research needed to assess the deer population and recommends increasing the number of deer exclosures within the Woods to encourage regeneration of the mature forest. (An exclosure is a fence that is designed to keep deer from eating the vegetation growing on an area of the forest floor.) Once more information about the deer population is obtained, DEC can consider whether other management activities are appropriate.

In terms of public use, the plan divides the Woods into three basic areas: sanctuary, intensive use, and interpretive area. The sanctuary provides a limited access area reserved for wildlife. This area is essentially the same as an 85-acre sanctuary proposed in the 1987 management plan. This area will continue to be off-limits to the public except for when they are assisting with maintenance or research projects. Guided and self-guided public tours will not be conducted in this area.

The 15-acre intensive use area includes public amenities such as the parking lot, restrooms and DEC staff residence are located. DEC is currently designing an environmental education center that will be built in this area. The original agreement between DEC and the Reinstein Estate called for construction of such a visitor center.

The remainder of the Woods will be part of the interpretive use area. This area includes a variety of habitats that are typically visited on guided tours. This area will be the primary area for outdoor environmental education activities and general public enjoyment of the natural resources of the Woods. Wildlife management activities will take place in this area. Additionally, the plan calls for slowly designating parts of the gravel roads that exist in this area as interpretive trails that eventually will be open to the public using a trail-head sign-in/sign-out system. Interpretive trails include wayside stations that provide information about the resource being visited and provide an opportunity for users to enjoy the resource at their own pace instead of having to keep up with a group. A self-guided interpretive nature trail, the Lily Loop trail, is currently open to the public two days a week. Photographers, artists, birdwatchers and college classes have benefitted from the access provided by this trail.

The plan includes provisions for monitoring public use of the Woods and adjusting management activities and access if necessary. DEC's long-term goal is to allow use of the Woods for environmental education and public enjoyment purposes without placing undue stress on the Woods' natural resources.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

DEC will accept written comments on the plan until **July 20, 2004**. Written comments should be sent to: Meaghan Boice-Green, DEC, 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo NY 14203. Copies of the plan can be reviewed by appointment at Reinstein Woods or DEC's Buffalo office and are also available for review at the following locations:

Julia B. Reinstein Library

1030 Losson Road, Cheektowaga Phone#: 668-4991

Cheektowaga Town Clerk's Office

Broadway and Union, Cheektowaga Phone#: 686-3400

# Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve – Summer 2004 Programs

77 Honorine Drive Depew, NY 14043

Pre-registration is required for some programs; call 851-7201 (weekdays) or 683-5959.

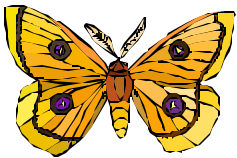
## JUNE



### **National Trails Day Trail Work Event** **Saturday, June 5 at 9:00 AM**

Celebrate National Trails Day by helping to clean up trails at Reinstein Woods, and enter a drawing for National Trails Day t-shirts and other items! Bring workgloves if you have them. **Registration requested.**

### **\* Bugs by Nightlight \*** **(FORNP members-only program)**



### **Thursday, June 10 at 9:30 PM**

Learn what's buzzing by you at night! Entomologist Wayne Gall will use special lights to attract insects and identify these night visitors. See page 6 for information on joining FORNP.

### **Evening in the Woods** **Friday, June 25 at 7:30 PM**

Experience the sights and sounds of nature as the sun goes down! Bring a flashlight if you have one. **Pre-registration required.**

### **Stroller Strut (For kids age 0-3)** **Monday, June 28 at 10:00 AM**

Bring your stroller and share a sensory exploration of nature with your young child. **Pre-registration required.**

## JULY

### **Full Moon Walk** **Friday, July 2 at 8:00 PM**

Start off the holiday weekend with a walk in the woods as the full moon rises. **Pre-registration required.**

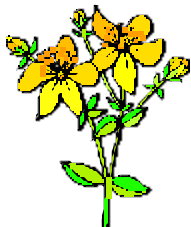


### **Pond Life (For kids age 6-12)** **Thursday, July 8 at 10:00 AM**

Dive into the world of aquatic organisms, and see who is living in our ponds! **Pre-registration required.**

### **Summer Wildflowers** **Saturday, July 10 at 1:00 PM**

Search for the wildflowers of summer along our trails.



### **Stories in the Woods (For kids age 4-6)** **Tuesday, July 13 at 10:00 AM**

Listen to a nature story followed by a walk in the woods. **Pre-registration required.**

### **Stroller Strut (For kids age 0-3)** **Monday, July 19 at 10:00 AM**

Bring your stroller and share a sensory exploration of nature with your young child. **Pre-registration required.**

### **Project WILD Workshop** **Tuesday, July 20 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Join this workshop for educators and receive a book with activities for grades K-12 focusing on wildlife. Project WILD activities are effective for teaching problem-solving and decision-making skills and correlate to NYS learning standards. **Pre-registration required.**

### **Nocturnal Adventure** **Wednesday, July 28 at 8:00 PM**

Come out for an evening walk to see what our wildlife is up to. **Pre-registration required.**



## **PLEASE NOTE:**

All programs are held entirely outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Call 683-5959 after hours & weekends to see if a program has been canceled due to severe weather.

**We are unable to accommodate organized groups of more than ten people or groups with special needs for these programs; please call to schedule a separate program for a group of this size or larger.**

Programs last approximately 1½ hours, unless otherwise noted. If you register for a program and are unable to attend, please cancel your registration so that others may sign up! (851-7201 weekdays or 683-5959 after 5:00 PM & weekends). See our website for more info:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg9/reinstein>

## AUGUST

### **Pond Life (For kids age 6-12)**

**Tuesday, August 3 at 10:00 AM**

Dive into the world of aquatic organisms, and see who is living in our ponds! **Pre-registration required.**

### **Tour Guide Training**

**Thursday, August 5 at 9:00 AM**

**Saturday, August 7 at 1:00 PM**

Join a training session to become a volunteer tour guide. No experience is necessary, just a love of nature and the desire to share it with people of all ages.

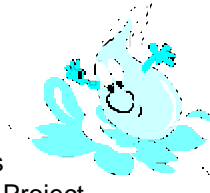
**Pre-registration required.**

### **Project WET Workshop**

**Thursday, August 12**

**9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

For educators and youth leaders, this interdisciplinary workshop will introduce Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Workshop attendees participate in several hands-on activities, and receive the Curriculum Guide, state-specific water resource information, and access to water education materials. **Pre-registration required.**



### **Sunset Stroll**

**Wednesday, August 25 at 7:30 PM**

Enjoy a walk in the woods as the sun sets.

**Pre-registration required.**

### **Stories in the Woods (For kids age 4-6)**

**Thursday, August 26 at 10:00 AM**

Listen to a nature story followed by a walk in the woods. **Pre-registration required.**



### **Stroller Strut (For kids age 0-3)**

**Monday, August 30 at 10:00 AM**

Bring your stroller and share a sensory exploration of nature with your young child. **Pre-registration required.**

## **VISITOR HOURS**

### ***PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS***

**Wednesday & Saturday**

**10:00 AM**

*(No reservations required)*

### ***LILY POND LOOP SELF-GUIDED TRAIL***

**Tuesday & Thursday**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

*(Visitors must sign in and out at trailhead kiosk)*

**CLOSED ON STATE HOLIDAYS**



## **FRIENDS CORNER**

*by Mary Losi, FORNP President*

Despite a very chilly early spring evening on May 3, 23 members of the Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve enjoyed our first Members-Only program, learning about some of the edible and medicinal plants of the Preserve. Sandy Geffner of Earth Spirit Educational Services led us around Lily Pond, stopping frequently to share his extensive knowledge of the vegetation. We learned plant identification, uses, cautions, and preparation suggestions and had many opportunities for tasting a variety of plants. As we rounded the last side of Lily Pond, we startled one of the beavers and got to see – and hear – the large splash his flat tail made as he sounded a warning. He later swam across the pond, keeping an eye on us and providing a wonderful ending to a delightful walk.

Our next Members-Only event will be a “Bugs by Nightlight” program presented by Wayne Gall. It will take place in the Preserve on **June 10**, beginning at 9:30 PM. (**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM JUNE 17 TO JUNE 10**). Wayne is a very well known entomologist who will help us learn about the insects which are attracted to the lights he sets up. If you’re a FORNP member and would like to learn more about the bugs that fly by in the dark, this is your chance to have your questions answered!

Many good things have happened to Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve in the last few months. Due primarily to the efforts of our vice president, Terry Boyle, FORNP now has both federal and state tax exempt status. As a result of this, any donations for the support of the Preserve are now income tax deductible. We were also extremely pleased when Dennis Bischof of Hagelin & Bischof volunteered to serve as FORNP’s attorney in a pro bono capacity. As our membership has continued to grow, we have been able to use funds raised by the group to purchase storage bins for snowshoes, rakes for trail work, and lunch for volunteers at the trail work day. At our most recent Board meeting, we began planning for our annual membership meeting in October.

So...we are very pleased with the progress of our fledgling Friend's group and hope more individuals will join us in supporting this wonderful natural area by becoming members of FORNP.

**PLEASE JOIN US!!!** For more information on how to join and become involved in FORNP, please call 683-5959, email [BUFFCADMAN@adelphia.net](mailto:BUFFCADMAN@adelphia.net), pick up a brochure in the visitor building on your next visit to Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, or check out our new webpage:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg9/reinstein/friends.html>

### **Welcome to our New Members**

Brooke Ayoub, Ann & Dennis Bischof, Harry Brand, Nicholas DiMascio, Galazka Family, Sunny Hojnacki, Victor & Janet Kosloski, Lynda Kurek, Heather LaGraves, Kalista Lehrer, Milson Family, Rick & Sue Obermeier, Dave & Julie Panepento, Doreen Tarangelo, Tricia Tworek, and Eileen Wall



## FROGWATCH USA UPDATE

## A SUCCESSFUL TRAIL WORK DAY!

A dozen people participated in the Frogwatch USA training session held in March. These new volunteers have joined several returning "Frogwatchers" in listening for frogs at various wetlands in Reinstein Woods. Heard so far this spring: spring peepers, American toads, and wood, green, northern leopard, and pickerel frogs.

The volunteers enjoyed a get-together on May 14 to discuss their "listening" techniques and swap stories about the night creatures they're encountered in their Frogwatching excursions. Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve provided refreshments for the affair. For more information on the Frogwatch USA program, visit <http://www.frogwatch.org>.

Thanks to our Frogwatch volunteers: Rick Allen, Laura Bhatti, Bill Boehm, Angela Dugrenier, Kevin Grzybek, Janet, Sarah, & Victor Kosloski, Bob Krantz, Lynda Kurek, Candi Litwin, Ann Marie Nixon, John Paner, Cecelia Schroeder, AJ & Krissy Sokolik, and Bill & Pat Townsend.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at our Trail Work Day on April 17. The weather was warm and windy, and fortunately the rain stayed away. Volunteers raked and woodchipped two trails, and picked up trash along Honorine Drive. They even enjoyed some wildlife sightings, including a mallard duck nest, six Canada geese nests, garter snakes, white-tailed deer, and painted turtles. Afterwards, the hard workers enjoyed a pizza lunch provided by Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve. If you missed this event but are still interested in getting outside and helping out Reinstein Woods, join our next trail work day on National Trails Day, on Saturday, June 5 at 9:00 AM!

Thanks again to the following volunteers for participating in the Trail Work Day: Terry Boyle, Barbara Evans, Scott Gee, Judy, Jonathan, & Scott Gruchy, Sunny Hojnacki, Mary & Peter Losi, Jeanne Pawlik, Chuck Rosenburg, Cecelia & Andrew Schroeder, Tom Stoll, and Cub Scout Pack 37 (8 scouts and 11 family members) of Kenmore (our apologies to anyone who was left off the list!).

### LAST CHANCE FOR NEWSLETTER RENEWAL!

If you see the number "0004" on your address label, this is your final chance to renew. ***If you do not respond by 6/30/04, your name will be removed from the newsletter mailing list.***

**To remain on the newsletter mailing list, you must do one of the following:**

1. \*Email your complete name and mailing address to: [rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us) (\*preferred method)

**OR**

2. Cut out this form and mail it to:

Reinstein Woods  
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203

**OR**

3. Call 716-851-7201 between 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM, Monday - Friday.

***Please contact us by 6/30/04 to keep your name on our mailing list—or this will be your final copy.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEER GATHERING

Reinstein Woods volunteers are invited to a potluck dinner to meet and socialize with other volunteers on Saturday, July 17 at 4:00 PM. Volunteers are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own place settings. Drinks and hot dogs will be provided by Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve. ***Reservations are required!*** More information to follow in the mail.

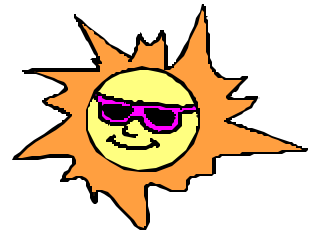
### Thank You to Our Tour Guides

We owe our gratitude to the volunteers who helped lead public and group tours at Reinstein Woods during the spring season: Rick Allen, Jake Bajdas, Terry Boyle, Ann Marie Nixon, Cecelia Schroeder, Roy Seiders, Ginger Wszalek, and Carrie Zaenglein.

Special thanks to our weekday tour guides, who have helped lead tours for hundreds of school kids (grades PreK-8) this spring: Mary & Peter Losi, Julie Panepento, Christine Parish, Karen Smith, and Tom Stoll.



New York State  
 Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve



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**Friends of Reinstein Nature Preserve, Inc. (FORNP)**

***Officers***

**President: Mary Losi**  
**Vice President: Terry Boyle**  
**Treasurer: Jeanne Pawlik**  
**Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Lazeration**  
**Recording Secretary: Mark Lazeration**

***Board of Directors***

<b>Judy Gruchy</b>	<b>Sue Obermeier</b>
<b>Keith Gruchy</b>	<b>Cecelia Schroeder</b>
<b>Peter Losi</b>	<b>Jim Zak</b>

Information: 716-683-5959 or  
[BUFFCADMAN@adelphia.net](mailto:BUFFCADMAN@adelphia.net)

**DR. VICTOR REINSTEIN WOODS NATURE PRESERVE**  
 77 Honorine Drive, Depew, NY 14043  
 (716) 851-7201 (weekdays) / (716) 683-5959 (evenings/weekends)  
 Fax: (716) 851-7211  
 E-Mail: [rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

<p><u>MAILING ADDRESS:</u>          270 Michigan Ave.          Buffalo, NY 14203-2999</p> <p><u>DEC OFFICE HOURS:</u>          Monday - Friday 8:30 AM-4:45 PM</p>	<p><u>STAFF:</u>          Kristen Buechi, Environmental Educator          Meaghan Boice-Green, Citizen Participation Specialist 2          Patricia Nelson, Citizen Participation Specialist</p>
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