



FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE
BALTIMORE, MD 21207
www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

SUMMER 2010

MYSTERIOUS WATERWHEEL

Heide Grundmann

There is not an old mill, there is not a millrace, so did the wheel ever work? Nothing is said in the 26 volumes of Winans records at the Baltimore Historical Society; there is only a picture of it with two pumps in a circa 1875 winter view from Franklinton Road.

Let's look closer at this still impressive structure and the facts we do know about the estate. Wealthy Thomas Winans, the railroad engineer and inventor, assembled the Crimea estate from several farm properties to create his summer estate in the early 1850s. The mansion, Orianda House, was built in one year and the stone structure included cisterns on the third floor--a sign that gravity-fed running water was available at the mansion. Financial records show orders of a large amount of ceramic pipes. The wetlands near the Winans Meadow picnic grove could easily be the remnants of a farm pond near the former farmhouse and at least 3 barns at that location. Springs still flow into the wetland.

The waterwheel is said to have been fed by spring water. What looks like a splash guard over the wheel is in fact an enclosed channel ending at the crest of the wheel. The baskets, the metal pockets between the rims, received the water from above, turning the wheel clockwise, making it an overshot wheel. Looking closely, one notices a pipe entering the wall on the east side of the wheel coinciding with the location of the channel. After consulting with some water engineers, we assume that this pipe fed the channel with piped water from the pond. By gravity force, the water was driven up the channel and emptied into the baskets turning the wheel. The movement

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ENJOY SECOND SUNDAYS IN THE PARK
The evening concerts on every second Sunday return this year in June, July & August.

Jo Orser

Music will begin on the central lawn area opposite the Orianda House at 6:00 p.m. but you are invited to begin your evening with a picnic at one of the tables in the park or on your own blanket. Bringing portable chairs greatly enhances the comfort of the evening. The following bands will play:

-  **June 13—fiddling' around:** Traditional Irish, Bluegrass to Eclectic
-  **July 11—Groove Mammals:** Latin, Jazz, Motown, R and B
-  **August 8—The Joe Cooper Project -** Soft Reggae

(In case of rain, the concerts will move to the Orianda House.)

Sunday, June 13th is the next Second Sunday in the Park with the running of the **miniature trains** from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., hosted by the Chesapeake and Allegheny Steam Preservation Society. Other points of interest for park visitors that day will be the historic Winans chapel, the Hopi labyrinth, and the 1850s era Orianda House. At each of these sites, a volunteer will be available to explain the history and answer questions.

At 1 p.m., a two-hour guided hike focusing on historic points and nature will begin from the Friends information table near the tennis courts. Trail maps for walking and biking will be available for those wanting to explore on their own.

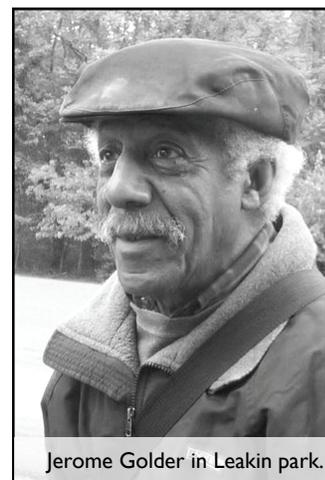
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JEROME GOLDER: PHOTOGRAPHER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Roberta Sharper

The Friends have designated Jerome Golder as the official photographer of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. There is no person who has had a longer love affair with the park and with documenting its beauty with such photographic skill than Jerome.

The sixth child in a family of eleven siblings, Jerome was born in 1933 in Baltimore, where he has lived all of his life, except for three years in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. With marriage in 1963, he moved to the Edmondson Village area. The park became his back yard, and his love and fascination with nature began. For 10 years in the late 60s extending into the 70s, during the last two weeks of August, Jerome, his wife, two daughters, and two nephews loaded the family car with camping equipment for trips to national parks all over the country and into Canada. He marveled at the wonder in his "backyard" but he also knew that there was the majesty of



Jerome Golder in Leakin park.

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TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND SIGNAGE

George Farrant

FOGFLP volunteers have been very busy this past year improving the park trail system. Last summer, all trails were color blazed, clipped, and trimmed of brush and branches. In September '09, the new trail map was printed and distributed to the membership and to the neighborhoods adjacent to the park. Color maps are now available to others at the cost of \$2.00.

However, even with trail blazes and the map, it appeared that first time users had difficulty locating starting points from parking lots and navigating between one trail and another. With investigation, the Board concluded that our signage was sparse throughout the park and that additional signs were needed to increase the comfort level of hikers.

In January, board member Joe O'Connor wrote a grant on behalf of the Friends to the Parks and People Foundation for funds to dramatically increase the number of signs. The grant was awarded, making possible the construction of new



From left, Heide Grundmann, Joe O'Connor, Jo Orser and Rubin Dagold.

wooden signs, almost identical to the ones already in place. Joe crafted the signs, and other volunteers assisted him with the hole digging and planting of posts. Most of the 32 signs are now in place as the outdoor walking season begins, and work continues on a few remaining ones.

For a number of years various trails have been blocked by very **LARGE** fallen trees that created difficult obstacles for walkers. Cutting doors in them proved impossible for volunteers because they required large power saws. However, just weeks ago, Parks and People "loaned" us one of their work crews of five men who expertly cut the old decaying trees (which presented the greatest challenge to the workers) and the newly fallen ones. Now the many trails in the Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park system are free of downed trees and are walkable. A number of you will be very happy to see the change.

In addition to the signage and cutting, volunteers have been walking the trails, clearing brush, and repainting blazes. Soon it will be possible to pick up a black and white hiking map at an attached mailbox at the major trailheads in Winans Meadow and the Trail House on Eagle Drive.

It is time to take a hike!! Let us know what you think by sending an e-mail to the address on our website:

www.friendsofgwynnsfalls/leakinpark.org

TAKE AN AUDIO TOUR OF THE GWYNNNS FALLS TRAIL

Ed Orser

Now you can listen via podcast to sounds and voices along the Gwynns Falls Trail, thanks to a new audio tour produced by UMBC colleagues, historian Ed Orser and audio artist Steve Bradley. Over the course of this past summer and fall, the two walked the trail, recording sounds (birds, crickets, water running over rapids, church bells, railroad trains), talking with other trail users, and discussing sights and sites they observed along the way. In addition, they recorded interviews with a variety of stakeholders, who shared their engagement with the trail and with the landscape, parks, neighborhoods, organizations and institutions along this 15-mile slice of West Baltimore. The audio tour is a project of the Gwynns Falls Trail Council, with funding from the Chesapeake Gateways program of the National Park Service

The podcast can be accessed on a computer and/or downloaded to an MP3

device. Podcast selections are keyed to the nine trailhead numbers, and each ranges from 20 to 25 minutes in length. Trailheads 1-5 are all in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Users may want to listen before, during, or after a visit to the trail or simply experience the trail vicariously through this audio medium. It can be accessed on the Gwynns Falls Trail web site (see the right hand column for "audio tour") @ <http://www.gwynnsfallstrail.org/>

Steve first encountered the trail when he took part in the "More Kids in the Woods" initiative, using audio devices to help the children pick up sounds from nature. Ed has been involved with the trail since he was a member of the original master planning team, and his

continuing work on the history of the area led to publication of the recent book, *The Gwynns Falls: Baltimore's Greenway to the Chesapeake Bay*. For more on the project, go to UMBC's Sustainability web page @ <http://www.umbc.edu/sustainability/gft.html/>





AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Jo Orser

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School teacher Carin Kirkos was looking for a way to make her recent science and history lessons more tangible for her class when she discovered that Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, just blocks from the school's front door, had educational possibilities. She first asked Ed Orser, author of the recent history of the Gwynns Falls, to explain to her class about the significance of the Gwynns Falls watershed, historically as well as environmentally. After his classroom presentation, the class walked into the park on the Thomas Jefferson trail, newly redesigned by Scott Pelton of the Gwynns Falls Watershed Association. Friends member Heide Grundmann talked to the students about the 1850s-era Winans estate, now a park. Approaching the waterwheel through the woods was an "awesome" sight, said more than one young listener, and walking around the structure on a narrow ledge made the experience even more exciting. Heide even demonstrated the way the waterwheel would have worked with a hand-made model.

Much learning about science and history took place during the field trip, but what the teacher and chaperones marveled at even more was the comfort level that the students began to feel with their time in the park. For most it was a first visit, and they expressed anxiety at being in the woods as well as in the open, grassy Winans Meadow. At first some children were reluctant to run freely across the meadow

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SUMMER EVENTS AT THE CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CENTER

Joan Gebhardt

The Carrie Murray Nature Center is an answer to the question, "What can the children do this summer?" Located at 1901 Ridgetop Road, the Center boasts an array of activities, events and on-going exhibits.

My recent visit disclosed an astonishing variety of animals, wild and tame, cared for by the staff at the Nature Center. There is an 18 foot-long albino Burmese python, exquisite and intimidating. There is a Kookaburra, a bird usually found in Australia, resting on a limb in an airy spacious cage. There are a variety of turtles, snakes, large and small, and other mammals and reptiles. These animals were donated to the Center by people who no longer wanted them or who did not know how to care for them. Once housed at the Nature Center, they are regularly seen by a veterinarian, given healthy meals and clean cages and generous amounts of love from employees and volunteers. In 2009 alone, the Carrie Murray Nature Center saved hundreds of wild and domestic animals.

The Center's mission is to educate the public on two subjects: animals and the outdoors. Experienced naturalists introduce students of all ages to the wooded environment sur-

rounding the Center and to the animals being rehabilitated. Interacting up close with wild animals children normally do not see and working with counselors who are passionate about their jobs and their cause adds up to an experience not usually encountered by inner city children.

During the summer months Carrie Murray becomes a hub of activity. Beginning June 28th and running through August 6th there is summer day camp for children ages 5 through 15, which offers weekly sessions with a theme based on a mammal, insect, reptile or amphibian. Because the camp activities review and re-teach curriculum found in MSA standards in schools, attendance is especially useful for elementary children. There is an option for early drop-off beginning at 8 a.m. and late care until 5:30 p.m. for parents who desire a longer day for their children.

In addition to the day camp, the Center offers a variety of Saturday programs which vary weekly and do not overlap with the day camp activities. For information, call the Center at 410-396-0808.

To become a member of the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, please send this completed form along with your check* to: Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, 1920 Eagle Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21207.

LEVEL: Individual _____\$10 Family _____\$20 Nonprofit _____\$25 Patron _____\$100 Sustainer _____\$250

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

*Contributions to FOGFLP are tax deductible.



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Waterwheel, cont.

of the wheel activated the pumps. The conversion to lateral action and the mounting bolts are still traceable on site. The pumps in turn pumped spring water up to the mansion.

However, we are missing a few pieces to our story: Where are the pipes leading up hill? Where is the pipe coming from a spring water source? What was the function of those grand stairs leading down to the wheel? Personally, I believe the water wheel was supplying water to the mansion and was not just decorative. Would it have been restored after it was toppled by a severe storm and flood, as was reported in the Baltimore Gazette, Oct. 1866? And in case you wondered, water never remains in the waterwheel trough, because a tunnel and channel (endrace) take water out into the Dead Run.

Wouldn't it be great to have a functioning model of the wheel one day? Can we find a retired water engineer interested in researching our mysterious waterwheel?

Second Sundays, cont.

In June, the winning photographs from the Friends Photography Contest will be announced and prizes given at a reception in the Orianda House at 2 p.m. The photos will be on display from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on June 13th and on July 11th during the same hours. Samples of Jerome Golder who is featured in another article in this issue will also be on display on these two days.

Outdoor Adventure, cont.

(could there be snakes?), but soon they were excited to learn things about the natural setting, like how to see the glow from a Buttercup on the underside of their chin.

Most of the children said that they wanted to return with a family member to see the waterwheel again or to use the park's trails. Carin Kirikos of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School saw herself effecting change in the lives of her students that day.

Jerome Golder, cont.

the Rockies, the redwoods, Yosemite, the bubbling pots of Yellowstone and the rocky coasts of Nova Scotia and Maine. They wanted to see it all.

Jerome is a man of many interests and talents, but we at Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park know him as a sensitive, nature lover who documents the flora and fauna of the park in the many albums he has produced, the beautiful pictures on the walls of various buildings, the displays on easels throughout the Orianda mansion and the special gifts he has given to grateful recipients. Not only is his photographic skill pleasing to the eye, but many of his works are enhanced by the literary messages that accompany them.

Some of Jerome's work will be on display on Second Sundays in June and July at the Photography Contest exhibit in the Orianda Mansion. Be sure to stop by to see the winning photos of the contest and to see Jerome's work as well. But be careful, he has been known to capture humans on film as well.