



FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

Summer 2011

Second Sundays in the Park

Ken Kolodner Headlines June 12 Concert

This summer's Second Sundays concerts in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park kick off on June 12 with the music of internationally-known hammered dulcimer/fiddler player Ken Kolodner. Ken will be joined by Scottish National fiddle champion Elke Baker and rising newcomer claw-hammer banjo player Brad Kolodner for a lively concert of traditional music from Appalachia, Scotland, Ireland, Cape Breton, Quebec, and beyond.

L.A. and the Unusual Suspects Perform on July 10

The July 10 concert features L.A. and the Unusual Suspects, performing their mix of R & B, Motown, Blues, Pop, Classic Rock, and Funk. L.A. Young and her group bring a dynamic delivery to contemporary music that ranges from soulful renditions of Otis Redding and Joe Cocker to upbeat dance music, rock, and soul.

Both concerts, free and open to the public, take place at 6:00 p.m. on the lawn of the historic Orianda House in the Crimea section of the park. In case of rain, the concert will move inside to the nearby Orianda House.



Father-son musicians, Ken and Brad Kolodner

Second Sundays Summer Activities

Throughout the summer months Second Sundays in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park offer a full set of events from 11:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. These include free rides on the miniature trains operated by the Chesapeake and Allegheny Steam Preservation Society, opportunities to visit the historic chapel and mansion house of the original Winans estate, guided walks through a traditional Hopi Labyrinth, and hikes on the park's many walking trails.

New this year is a short family-friendly "treasure hunt," encouraging visitors to search for natural and historic features along the loop road to the Orianda House. Based on

an idea by board member Jerome Golder, the printed guide was prepared by a committee of the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park.

Second Sundays this summer fall on June 12, July 10, and August 14.

Second Sundays concert and event information:

The park address is 1901 Eagle Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 21207. The Second Sundays concerts and programs are sponsored by the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park.

For directions and more information, see: <http://friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org/>



Come On Out To the Falls

Guy W. Hager

“Come on out to the Falls” was a familiar phrase heard a 100 years ago. It beckoned people to stroll along the old mill race between Windsor Mill Road and Morris Drive, one of my favorite spots in the 1000 acres of Gwynns Falls and Leakin Parks. Today the path is part of the 15-mile Gwynns Falls Trail, easily accessed at the Windsor Mill Road Trailhead. It is enormously enjoyable to walk or bike on this trail among the large, old trees and within earshot of water rushing toward the Patapsco River basin.

A century ago the millrace was changed to a walking path. In 1913 the *Sun* reported that thousands of people came to use the new path, created when the 120-year old millrace was filled in. Today the Millrace Trail looks much as it did

in 1913, except the trees are larger and more numerous. You can still see the dry stone retaining walls constructed by the Ellicott family when they built this millrace in the mid-1790s to power the Five Mills at Calverton (just east of today’s Leon Day Park).

In 1917 a second millrace was converted into a scenic road called Ellicott Driveway, now also part of the Gwynns Falls Trail between Leon Day Park and Frederick Avenue. A monument at the entrance of Ellicott Driveway at Frederick Avenue marks this as the site of the Ellicott Three Mills, and a large map shows where the old mills and millraces once existed along the Gwynns Falls. However, the mills fell to flood and fire damage, and water power gave way to steam. By the early 1900s the mills had declined, then vanished, and Baltimore City purchased the land for its expanding park system.

The Ellicotts, who arrived in the area from Pennsylvania in 1771, established their mills at Ellicott City. They later built Frederick Road (now MD Rte 144) as a toll facility to connect the mills at Ellicott City, the Three Mills on the Gwynns Falls, and port facilities at Baltimore’s harbor, where they dredged the swamp to construct ship docks. The dredging operation established by Charles Ellis Ellicott later became the Ellicott Dredge Company, which continues to build dredging equipment for projects all over the world and is located between Bush and Bayard Streets along the Gwynns Falls Trail.

As I walk and bike the trails in Gwynns Falls and Leakin Parks, I reflect upon the people who placed their footprint on the landscape that we still see and wonder at their immense accomplishments.

Winter Walks

June Cole



I hike in Leakin Park on Thursday’s Gentle Walk from 9 to 10 a.m. with Heide Grundmann, the Friends volunteer guide for these hikes. We enjoy the distinct seasons in the park. Winter, with its limited palette of browns, grays and the occasional fluorescent green of moss, has its own stark beauty. Without the leaves and understory plants, one can better decipher the topography. Enormous outcroppings of rock and boulders anchor the hillsides and dot the stream valleys. Springs trickle downhill, and broken headstones in forgotten cemeteries puzzle us.

Recently we set out uphill from Winans Meadow along the Ridge Trail. Without the foliage, the sounds around us are more acute: the running water of Dead Run, the scuffling of unseen creatures scurrying for cover and birds calling each other. The massive tree trunks are elegant in their nakedness, and their roots, exposed by erosion, cling tenaciously to the hillside. The Osage Orange “allee” beckons as we stroll through it, cocooned by the interlocking branches overhead. Crossing Eagle Drive we steer towards the red-blazed trail behind the Trail House and then across the hidden meadow. As we are about to re-enter the forest, I hear, then see slight movement in the downhill shrubs, then quiet, nothing. We halt, search and suddenly, a huge deer with enormous antlers bounds through the shrubs. We try to track it, then are stunned when two more large deer with equally large racks rapidly follow the first one. Flashing their bushy white tails, they disappear before we can reach for our cameras.

In awe we follow the newly re-routed section of the Franklinton Loop. Crossing over a brook, we wind our way toward the mysterious fieldstone wall, one of my favorite places in the park. As we approach the tall hollow tree, we are startled by a herd of deer in the brush slightly above us. These are smaller deer without antlers. I am captivated by the stream of undulating bodies. Heide counts nine. Only a bit farther along the trail, right below us, again we hear rustling underbrush—yet another group of smaller deer are fleeing in leaps, hearing our approach. Two halt just like we do. As we stare curiously at each other from a distance, they disappear.

Descending on the Old Fort Trail past the historic structures we return to our cars. Already I miss the serenity and surprises of the forest, but there is always NEXT Thursday!

Friends Volunteers at Work

George Farrant

FOGFLP volunteers have worked hard every Tuesday over the past year. They coordinate and work with other volunteer organizations, including Ameri-Corps, park rangers, city workers, business and school volunteers, to improve trails and beautify the park. They cut low branches and invasive vines from the trees and shrubs around the mansion, azalea garden, the Trail House, and the valley meadow, opening up clearer vistas. With help from middle school students from Friends School they planted and staked fourteen new trees in the Crimea loop area and applied deer fencing.

Along the Franklinton Loop Trail, where a section had turned into a rugged streambed, a new route was laid out in an environmentally appropriate way. The Friends volunteers were aided by expert advice and help from members of MORE, a local mountain biking club, and extra muscle power from AmeriCorps for a combined total of more than 100 man and woman-hours. The new trail now winds pleasantly through the woods, allowing water to run off, rather than flow straight down the path. In the same vicinity, pooling water at a historic fieldstone wall was diverted into existing streams.

Thanks to our expert sign maker, Treasurer Joe O'Connor, the group installed new wooden signs on all woodland trail intersections and major trailheads



Board members, Joe O'Connor and George Farrant Clearing Bush

as well as mail box holders for trail hiking maps. Materials were purchased with funds from a Parks and People Foundation Community Greening grant.

As in the past, the Tuesday morning volunteers performed trail maintenance, freeing them of fallen limbs, hazards, debris, and trash, while also renewing the color blazes. They are grateful to the park department's maintenance yard, which provided personnel and trucks to haul debris away, and to spirited and strong contribution of park staff member, Molly Gallant, who also helped with the coordination and supervision of volunteers.

Additional volunteers are always welcome, since the city's budget for parks and recreation has been put under serious strain. Call Jo Orser (410-566-2230) or George Farrant (410-566-2101).



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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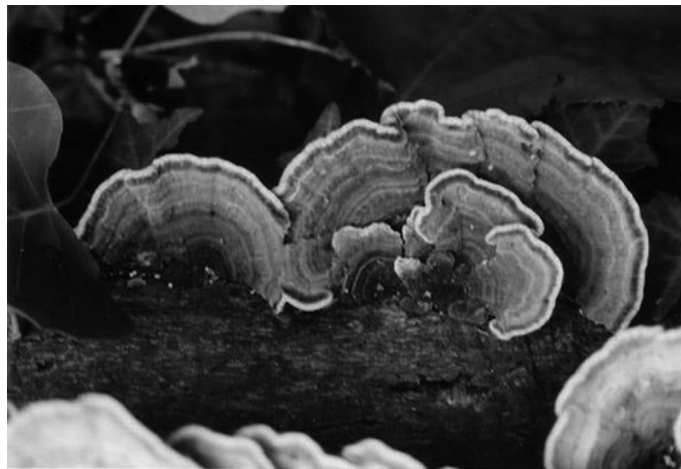
Summer 2011

Bringing Images of the Park to Seniors

Roberta Sharper

In January, the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park launched a project to bring the “outdoors indoors” to senior citizens in residential and day care facilities. Board member Jerome Golder, an amateur photographer who has spent much of his life capturing the beauty of the flora and fauna of the park on film, has accumulated an extensive collection of photographs which has become a traveling exhibit to be shared with persons who love nature but who are no longer able to work in their gardens or visit parks.

The first exhibit was displayed at the Administration Building of Recreation and parks during the months of January and February. After that exposure, Jerome



Nature in the park by Jerome Golder

and Roberta Sharper, also a board member, began visiting the seniors with the exhibit. The collection has been well received wherever it has been taken. Viewers who are familiar with the area are amazed when they find out that the beautiful photos were filmed nearby in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park.

Along with the mounted images are portfolios in which Mr. Golder has chronicled the many events and activities that make this park a very special place, whether taken in the quiet of winter or on warm, green summer days. Seniors

delight in seeing the many ways in which people enjoy the park, even if they may not be able to be as active themselves these days.

The exhibit is already booked through July, when among other venues it will be shown at the Rawlings Conservatory, and plans are being made for a display in City Hall in the Fall.