



# FRIENDS OF GWYNN'S FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

[www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org](http://www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org)

Summer 2013

## Second Sunday

July 14th, 11:00-3:00

Trains to ride

Guided hike

Labyrinth to walk

Carrie Murray Nature Center

## Nature in the Park

July 20th, 2:00-5:00

Second Look Opening

Guided Art Tour

Nature Art Making

Music & Refreshments

## Docs in the Park

September 8th, 11:00-3:00

Healthy food and activities

Historic buildings to visit

Trains to ride

Games, games, games



## Welcome back: Nature Art in the Park 2013

*Heide Grundmann*

Follow the trail to the east of the tennis court parking lot and you will enter a self-guided tour of the 2013 Nature Art in Leakin Park exhibit. Improved signs, maps and printed guides will help you discover magical new installations by regional artists along two trail loops and the Carrie Murray Nature Center outdoor campus.

Forty artists and their friends celebrated this 2013 opening on May 19 with BIG thanks to the strong support by the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the volunteers conducting the program. Nineteen new installations, sensitively

executed with natural materials, mostly found on site, carry themes of contemplation, memories and just the joy and play of working with natural materials. Even invasive vines become useful and beautiful as visitors think about nature with a new perspective.

Already two groups of forty students were delighted by their unexpected discovery of Nature Art in the Park while exploring the park for their water-study science research and experiments. The program especially strives to bring environmental art to students and is working with the schools in the nearby communities.

**The Friends continue their fund raising to be able to pay for two buses bringing additional Baltimore City public school children to this exhibit**

**and the opportunity to participate in their own nature art making. It is not too late to make a contribution to this endeavor which will take place in September. The goal is half-way there. Your assistance could help bring two groups come to the park. Make your donation to the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, c/o Nature Art in the Park. Mail to 1920 Eagle Drive, 21207.**

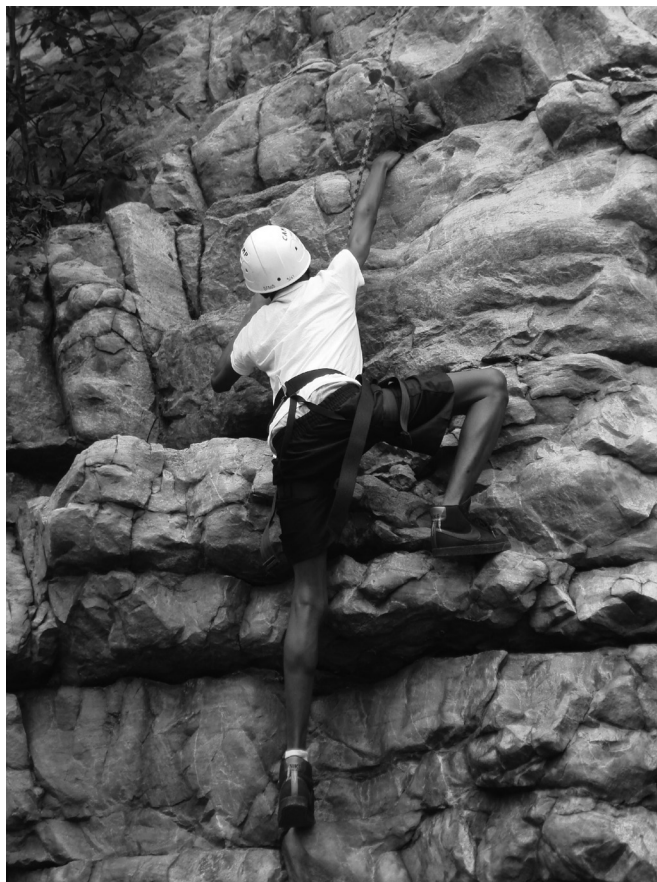
Until November, come and explore with family and friends the exhibition trails during the change of the seasons at our park events. Additional art proposals will be screened by the Nature Art in the Park (NAP) Committee and installed by artists for a continuously growing exhibit.

## The Adventure Gap: Outward Bound's Program for Minority Youth

*Liz Milhollen*

In June of this year a group of nine mountaineers will attempt to be the first all African-American group to climb North American's highest peak (20,320 ft.), Alaska's Mt. Denali (Mt. McKinley), since it was first summited in 1913. The expedition is part of a larger effort whose goal is to encourage people of all races, men and women, young and old, to get more engaged in the great outdoors.

By 2019, it is estimated that minority children will become the majority group in the U.S. These kids will become the leaders of this country and the world and a staggering majority of them for various reasons don't feel the outdoors is a place for them. While the monumental expedition to Denali highlights the effort to promote diversity in outdoor pursuits, local Baltimore non-profit Outward Bound has been providing a way for youth to connect to the outdoors through wilderness expeditions for 25 years.



A snap shot of Baltimore Outward Bound's student demographics reveals that the initiative to get African American youth connected with the outdoors does not have to begin at Denali--it can happen right in our own communities. Since January 2012, 55% of all Baltimore Outward Bound students were African American, 24% Caucasian, 14% Latino, and 5% Asian.

Land conservation and protection has always started with small groups of people who feel passionately about a place that is close to their hearts. It is the connection and experience with nature that helps this bond grow. Outward Bound students immerse themselves in the natural world on their 5 day/ 24 hour expeditions. They rely on the streams for water and the forest floor for a bed as they learn to relate to the natural world. Outward Bound leaders use nature as a classroom for discussions and for life lessons. These experiences can be taken home by the students, but the classroom and the teacher, Nature, won't soon be forgotten.

## Thursday Mornings in Leakin Park: Gentle Walks

*Thomas Berry*

If you don't enjoy lovely lanes, bubbling brooks and scenic sights, Leakin Park is not for you. Every Thursday morning a group of people who DO love nature meet at that park and wonder through the dells and over the hills along well-established paths that reveal wondrous sights: trees that reach to the heavens, flowers that inhabit only the woods, and streams rushing through the meadows and heights. It is a place of calm and contentment. If that description appeals to you, join Heide Grundmann for the weekly walk. (hgrundot@aol.com, Tel. 410 945 0586)

"Colonel Heide," as some hikers teasingly call her, the leader of the program sponsored by the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park (FOGFLP), arrives each Thursday with a plan for the day's hike. The possibilities are numerous. The "colonel" may select a splendid trek along by-ways that pass under concrete bridges with views of rapid currents in waters hurrying through the watershed on the way to the Chesapeake Bay. The walks lead to great results: healthy exercise and fine companionship. You are welcome to join the small, congenial group. On Thursdays arrive at 9:00 a.m. at the Winans Meadow parking lot (4500 N. Franklinton Road) to join the gentle hikers. You won't regret it.

## A Coach Brings Inspiration to Carver's Baseball Team and the Program at Leon Day Athletic Fields

Ed Orser

In a May 11, 2013, article in the Baltimore Sun about the unusual life and career changes that brought Michael Rosenband to coach the baseball team at Carver Vo-Tech High School, which plays its home games at Leon Day Park within the Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, reporter Childs Walker wrote:

*"The broad strokes of the tale sound almost too good to be true: Lifelong go-getter abandons lucrative Wall Street career at age 40 to coach rag-tag inner city baseball team, leads them from an 0-11 season to a win in the playoffs. Along the way, he teaches the players to think like entrepreneurs and develops a passionate interest in the Negro leagues history of his adopted home, Baltimore."*

For people like Dick Fairbanks, FOGFLP board member, Rosenband's involvement has brought new life and energy to the Leon Day baseball program and the Leon Day Foundation: "He's clearly committed to developing the baseball program at Leon Day and has become a tremendous addition to the board."

As Walker's article recounts, the story is indeed true. This year Rosenband coached the Carver Bears into the state 2A baseball playoffs—and though they came up short when they took on Loch Raven H.S. from the county, the turnaround from past years was truly phenomenal. And the difference was not only on the field, but in attitude. Clearly Rosenband is not only a coach of baseball, but of life, who seeks to instill in his players the same kind of commitment and enthusiasm that he exudes.

Rosenband grew up in the industrial setting of Hammond, Indiana, just south of Chicago, but went on to the University of Pennsylvania, where he was president of his class, then earned an MBA in Management from Northwestern University. The next step seemed destined—to a private equity firm in New York City. But the financial crisis of the past decade combined with personal challenges to lead him to seek a new career path—which brought him to teaching in Baltimore, then to adding the baseball job at Carver.

In the process, Rosenband developed a new appreciation for the important contribution of the Negro Leagues, which played a vital role as an outlet for African American talent and community identity in the era of segregation. Struck by his players' reference to the position of "back-catcher," he not only learned of the heritage of this distinctive term in the black community, but chose it as the name for a company he helped his players form to promote skill development for Baltimore students.

In Dick Fairbanks' view, during recent years at Leon Day Park the popularity of baseball has been losing out to football. Maybe Rosenband's involvement there can bring just the spark needed to turn that trend around.

### Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park Officers and Board Members, 2013-2014



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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

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\*Contributions to FOGFLP are tax deductible.





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## The Miniature Trains in Leakin Park—a History

by Craig Close

Not only are the Friends celebrating their 30 year anniversary in 2013, but the Chesapeake and Allegheny Live Steamers got started the same year, giving rides to the public on their miniature trains.

The story goes that in the early 1970s a gentleman placed an ad in the Washington Post inviting people interested in operating large scale, outdoor trains to visit his home, where he had a one-eighth scale railroad in his yard. A score of guys showed up, and they continued to meet in order to operate trains, since some had over time obtained equipment of their own. It was not the best of situations to run the trains in someone's back yard, so, they started looking for property where they could construct a real outdoor railroad. Many locations came under consideration, but size, location, or cost resulted in more looking.

A member in the Baltimore area had a large backyard railroad, and the group held a major summer picnic there each year. An acquaintance knew a politician who happened to have an interest in trains. And so Mayor William Donald Schaefer was invited to the picnic and told of the desire to obtain property. Schaefer went into his famous "Do it now" mode, arranging for a lease of a portion of Leakin Park for 30 years.

The group incorporated as the Chesapeake and Allegheny Steam Preservation Society, a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, and began plans for the railroad. Members surveyed the land, constructed the right-of-way, built the track panels, and installed the

track. By 1985 they were providing the free Second Sunday public ride days each month from April through November that were part of the agreement crafted by Schaefer.

The railroad included an elevated track for smaller scale locomotives as well as the two-thirds mile double track for the one-eighth scale trains. In the interest of safety, members of CALS wrote the regulations used today by the State of Maryland for small boiler inspections. By 2006 the original track's wood crossties were reaching the end of their lives, and a major initiative was begun to replace the entire track with plastic crossties. Over a four-year period, almost all the 3500 foot double track mainline had been replaced.

CALS is now into its second 30-year lease with the City of Baltimore and hopes to remain for many more years, providing train rides for all. If you are interested in the trains and would like to work with CALS or just provide monetary support, join us. Student members are welcome, too. Check the web site for photos, information, and a membership application form: <http://calslivesteam.org/>

