



# FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

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

Winter 2013

SAVE THE DATE

## Annual Meeting,

2:00-4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2013

ORIANDA HOUSE

Celebrate 30th Anniversary of FOGFLP.

A Look At the Past and Into the Future

## Forest Park Little League

5-16 year olds

Registration - on the field, 12:00-2:00 pm. Every Saturday,  
Feb 16th - March 30th \$75 fee

(Money Order only, payable to FPLP)

Must bring player birth certificate

[www.leagueliveup.com/forestpark](http://www.leagueliveup.com/forestpark)

## ANNUAL MEETING A LOOK INTO THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park will bring together persons who proudly remember 30 years of commitment to this large urban wilderness environment within the boundaries of Baltimore City. Some started as Volunteers Opposing Leakin Park Expressway (VOLPE), fending for the preservation of the parkland instead of construction of an expressway. The cause required strong will, vision and the hard work of planning and strategizing for a way to protect the park. With the highway fight resolved in 1982, several members of VOLPE felt it appropriate to remain organized but to continue as a friends group to protect this rescued land from other potentially harmful projects. After incorporation in 1983, a number of other challenges did present themselves. Encroaching landfills, pipelines with no concern of the routing, road widening, parceling off of land for development and the erection of communication towers were threats that required the constant vigilance of the newly formed Friends group.

Also early advocacy work from the group helped direct funding toward park improvements and the development of the Gwynns Falls Trail. Sup-

Should  
Baltimore  
have an  
8 lane  
superhighway  
through 1200 acres  
of magnificent  
park land?



1970s VOLPE brochure

port was given for the original establishment of Outward Bound's urban headquarters in the park, for the use of parkland for the model steam trains and for the creation of the Herb Festival and the permanent chapel herb garden. Concerts, theater performances, guided walks, heavy duty clean ups and trail maintenances were sponsored throughout the park and continue today.

While trash and intermittent dumping remains a problem, there are other challenges for the Friends of 2013. Invasive species harm and, sometimes, kill the trees, and severe weather conditions erode trails and stream landscapes, creating heavy run-off into

our streams. These are issues for all city parks and need to be addressed citywide. The Friends of GF/LP must join the park system leadership in promoting and encouraging a move for systemic urban forest management. It will require up-to-date education regarding the problem and then planning for sustainability in partnership with research centers, non-profits, government and environmental agencies. Prevention and/or control of invasives are paramount for the park woodlands.

In special recognition of the 30th anniversary and in keeping with the mission, the Friends want to offer an outdoor learning experience for city children this summer. The event will need funds for bus transportation and for programming. To reach that goal, a feature of the Annual Meeting will be a silent auction and a request for voluntary donations.

When visitors come to park events, many say that they "didn't know the park existed". Others comment that they "haven't been here since childhood." The 2013 Friends would like to increase the number of Baltimore City children who have an outdoor experience that will bring them back before adulthood.

**Come join us for the celebration on April 21st of the history of the Friends and for the opportunity of continuing the mission.**

## SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FORESTS

Last fall when Friends Board member, Ed VandenBosche, a volunteer on National Public Lands Day, was clearing overgrown limbs and vines on one of the bridges along the Gwynns Falls Trail, he took notice of the large number of trees in the immediate vicinity with vines of varying sizes growing up the trunks. He became even more concerned as he walked along the trail and saw the same picture everywhere he looked. As a result, soon afterwards Ed started with a personal challenge of removing all vines in the area between Franklinton Road and the Dead Run stream along the bike trail as it proceeds from the Winans Meadow parking lot toward the Gwynns Falls.

Ed also set out to research methods of eradication. He checked out the possibility of bringing in goats (there is a company that does that) and he researched effective insecticides. The goats are effective on small areas but

the vines are just eaten back, not eradicated. Insecticides are reported to kill the entire plant to the roots, not just the vine above the cutout portion, but they can be used only with stringent regulations. Use in a park like the GF/LP with flowing streams would require utmost care by well-trained persons.

Ed brought his concerns to the Board, and in January representatives from the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, the Baltimore City Department of Forestry and the Dept. of Recreation and Parks met with the Board. All acknowledged the problem but no one could recommend effective measures for long term results.

The invasive infestation is not unique to Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. It is in all area woods and nearby neighborhoods. In the 2012 summer edition of this newsletter, Alvera Winkler wrote an article about "The English Ivy Infestation" with a photo from nearby Catonsville documenting her concerns. Invasives may be a result of environmental change but more knowledge is needed.



Ed VandenBosche's concern, which is voiced by many others who walk the woods, has led the Board to adopt a Goal for 2013 to begin a study and implementation of a Plan of Sustainability for the park forests. On February 19th, representatives from the Board will meet with an UMBC professor who teaches a course on Forest Ecology to discuss his research. That will be the first step toward implementation of a plan to improve the health of the forest. More information will follow as the process continues.

## ORIANDA HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Once again the Orianda Holiday Open House proved to be the park event of the season with over 400 persons in attendance during the course of the evening. In every window and corner stood a tree decorated with items pertinent to a group involved in some activity in the park in the past year. Volunteer musicians provided the musical sounds of the holiday, as guests chatted with friends and delighted in the festive atmosphere. On the second floor, the Carrie Murray Center, the Multicultural Education Training & Research organization, the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and Outward Bound Baltimore/Chesapeake Bay welcomed visitors to rooms filled with fliers and objects explaining their programs and activities.

A very special feature of this year's Open House was an opportunity to see

results of the restoration process of energy efficient replacement windows that took place during the summer and fall of 2012. Front windows on the first floor were returned to their 1850s original floor-to-ceiling height. Throughout the rest of the building, including the cupola, hand-made historically correct, replacement windows were constructed and hung. Over the past two years, the Orianda House has seen dramatic changes as a result of restoration to the original floors and windows and improvements to the outside drainage. Painting of the exterior wood features and the ballroom is yet to come.

In keeping with this year's theme of restoration, the keynote speaker for the evening was Julian "Jack" Lapides, past president of Baltimore Heritage, who reminded guests of many area historic buildings by sharing thoughts and photos of "Endangered Baltimore Landmarks".



Outward Bound Baltimore/Chesapeake Bay, which uses the Orianda House to house its seasonal staff and is responsible for upkeep, has been able to make the necessary repairs and restorations with funds from a grant from the Middendorf Foundation. All improvements comply with CHAP guidelines for historic buildings.

Grateful thanks go to Rick Smith and the many other volunteers who worked diligently to make the event a very special occasion.



## THE DAUGHERTY FAMILY LIVING IN THE PARK

Imagine taking a new position with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks with an accompanying job perk that included living quarters for the family. So it was for the Daughterty family with three teenage daughters when in 1950 their father, Norman Wray Daughterty, became foreman for the Gwynns Falls Division of the Dept. of Recreation and Parks. The residence offered to the family was the second floor of the Orianda House. The Thomas Winans estate had become a part of the City park system in the 1940s, and Mr. Daughterty was given the opportunity to live in the mansion as part of his income as well as making the big house look lived in to discourage vandalism.

On a visit this past fall, the first since a marriage reception for each daughter in the Orianda ballroom, the Daughterty sisters reminisced about life in the big house. They recalled the enormous space of their bedrooms with the tall windows. They remember exploring the grounds and adjoining woods of the mansion, but they also expressed surprise to see the greater number of trees, especially in back of the Orianda House. They recalled sledding on the hill in the area now referred to as Winans Meadow. They said that they also used the shorter hill at the present trail house because it was much closer. Today that hillside is too tangled with vines and tree stumps to make a suitable site for sledding.



One of the first tasks that Mr. Daughterty had in his new job was to design and lay out the clay (now hard surface) tennis courts near the entrance at Windsor Mill Road. Other responsibilities included general park maintenance as well as caring for the Forest Park and Carroll Park golf courses. Daughter Norma Ray said that she had the privilege of being taught to play by several excellent golfers on the courses where her father worked. She still plays and gives thanks for good instruction that she might not have had except for the unusual arrangement her father's job afforded her.

School presented a challenge for the sisters. Getting to school meant walking to catch a trolley in Dickeyville

and then a couple of transfers on buses for each daily trip back and forth. And they also found the city curriculum much tougher than what they were accustomed to in the county schools. They all graduated from Forest Park High in the 1950s or early 60s.

Although the daughters moved away at the time of their marriages, the parents stayed on in the Orianda House until Mr. Daughterty's retirement in 1972. Their recent visit with Rick Smith brought back many memories for the sisters, who provided helpful information about this period of the mansion history. The sisters also donated to Rick a number of family photos to add to his collection of memorabilia about the house and the grounds.

## CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMP -- 2013

Summer camp at the Carrie Murray Nature Center is alive and well and starts June 24, 2013. Returning to direct the camp for youngsters between the ages of 4 and 13 years is Kelly Frazier, herself a former camper and counselor. Kelly states that the purpose of the camp is to give campers a variety of daily active outdoor activities, to experience the natural habitat of the park setting, and to learn about the animals at the nature center.

During the summer there are nine weekly sessions, each with a different theme, so that if a child attends more than one session the learning experience is not the same. Each week

the 30-40 total campers are divided into smaller age appropriate groups with five to six children per counselor. Camp runs Monday - Friday from 8:30-3:30 with before and after care available for the working parent for whom the hours pose a problem. A weekly session costs \$175.00, and a nominal additional fee is required for the before and/or after care.

All necessary information will be on the website ([www.carriemurraynaturecamp.org](http://www.carriemurraynaturecamp.org)) in February. The application form, which may be printed from the website, should be brought to the nature center office. Additional information may be obtained at 443-474-3032.

Of course, Corinne Parks, PJ Boyce and Lloyd Tydings, familiar caregivers

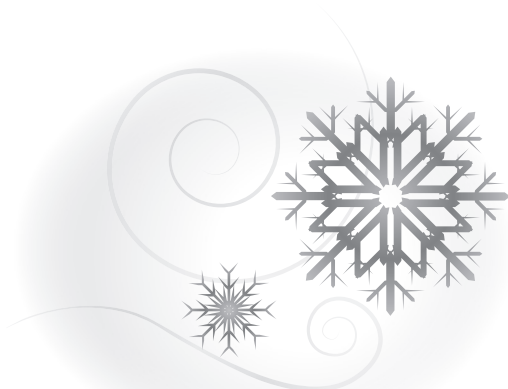


of both children and animals at the Nature Center, will still be close at hand all summer, and when their knowledge is irreplaceable, they will be involved with the camp as well.

For other information about on-going programs at the Center, scroll the calendar on the website.



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### THE MINIATURE TRAINS IN LEAKIN PARK

Are you aware that there are train rides available in Leakin Park? The Chesapeake and Allegheny Live Steamers have been giving rides to the public on their miniature trains for almost 30 years. The trains have been a major attraction on Second Sundays of each month from April through November, and they are being prepared for another season of rides in 2013. While the term “miniature” is used, they are not small enough to be run indoors. They are one-eighth scale, running on track which has a gauge of 7 ½ inches between the rails. There are almost 3500 feet of double-track on the mainline, and almost anybody—from young to old—can ride. The passenger cars are now being checked according to the state-approved procedures before the state performs its annual inspection. The state inspectors also annually check the boiler of every steam locomotive that will be used to pull trains to ensure that the steamers will operate properly and safely. The trains are run in a professional manner with station safety announcements, conductors with safety flags, and locomotive whistles and horns. Locomotives look like the real thing, whether powered by steam, gasoline, or batteries.

Members of CALS work hard to ensure your riding safety so that you can have fun, and they hope you will come out on a Second Sunday for a train ride, starting on April 14. No tick-



ets needed! The rides are FREE! All aboard! Donations are greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in the trains and would like to work with them or just provide monetary support, join CALS. Student members are welcome, too. Check the Chesapeake and Allegheny Steam Preservation Society’s web site for photos, information, and a membership application form: <http://calslivesteam.org/>