



FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

Fall 2015

NATURE ART IN THE PARK NEWS

Heide Grundmann

Color and Mushrooms, a first at Nature Art in the Park 2015. During the snowy days in March a new group of regional artist volunteers began looking for sites where they wanted to create their nature art projects along the dedicated trails, A-D, starting at the Eagle Drive parking lot. They took guided tours and let their imaginations envision potential creations among the vines, trees, and tree trunks. As existing Nature Art pieces deteriorate, artists are recruited to create new art installations.

About 50 Nature Art aficionados attended the 2015 Opening on May 17 to explore the new art projects and appreciate existing pieces. Visitors enjoyed refreshments together and ran away from a long black rat snake. We were honored to have Acting Major Jones, from the SW District, and one of our trail police officers along with family members on our three guided tours. That was a first and a very collegial encounter on a perfect weather day. Here is just a sampling of some of the art we discovered along the trails:

Artist Edna Emmitt and her friend Carol Higgs created "Enchanted Forest" (#2 on B-Trail), painting vines, twigs and branches with milk-based paint in magical ways, "just like the Indians paint their faces", a first grader commented. A group of Coppin University art students modeled clay into sections for a totem pole but hung them like beads on to interconnecting

branches. A new dragon flies along A-Trail (Jude Asher), engine based sounds mixed with bird and cricket sounds from an audio collage in a tree, and a solar powered recording by sound artist Elsa Lankford (A-4).

Mushrooms had popped up, felted in poisonous colors (Gisela Brown), others made from egg-shells, paper or orange tops, and a huge mushroom is being nourished by the winged gator (Fred Merrill). Those fungi hint to what is to come when the Mushroom City Art Festival takes place in October. (Stay

tuned for a new date as Oct. 3 date has been postponed due to weather forecast, check Mushroom City Art Fest on fb). Nature Art in the Park is partnering with Mushroom City Art and even more artists will create mushrooms along our Nature Art trails. There will be lectures, videos and mushroom-growing demonstrations to emphasize the ever increasing scientific importance of mushrooms for our lives.

Visitors to Nature Art will find brochures including a map about the 49 art installations at the tennis court fence and in the Belfry for Bats information tree by the pavilion off Eagle Drive.

Nature Art in the Park thanks all artists, volunteers, contributors and especially the City's Department of Recreation and Parks for their support of this unique art show. And what makes the Friends happy, when we hear over and over again: "What an amazing Park and inspiring project, I have to come back!"



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Summer Concerts in the Park

Outdoor concerts returned to the park this summer and were a great success. Concerts were held on the fourth Thursday of each month on the lawn in front of the Orianda House.

In July, the audience was entertained by The Crowdaddies, a Cajun/Zydeco/Blues band, with about 100 people in attendance. There were picnickers, knitters, Outward Bounders, and dancers among the many local neighborhoods represented. The St. Veronica's Youth Steel Drum Orchestra performed in August and Chandra and Ryze played in September with a crowd that danced well into the dark. During the intermission, visitors were able to walk the labyrinth and tour the mansion.

The Friends would like to thank Baltimore City Recreation and Parks for bringing back the concerts this year and the many helpers who assisted with parking and traffic control, organization, and distribution of information. We hope to see you back there again next summer and don't forget to bring along some friends and neighbors.



Scholars Lend a Helping Hand

The Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park are grateful to the 60 UMBC Sondheim Scholars who showed up to do community service work in our park on August 29th. The efforts of the students and FOGFLP volunteers contributed to the accomplishment of some needed trail and park maintenance and increased awareness for the students about the park and what it takes to keep it open and inviting to visitors. Many students commented that it was their first visit to the park and liked the close proximity to their campus and plan on returning to enjoy the trails and the history.



Boardwalk

FOGLP was very active this past summer making sure that the trails were maintained and improved. A portion at the end of the boardwalk section of the Wetland Trail that heads south from Hutton Road had become very muddy this spring and was impassible even in June. The addition to the existing boardwalk was badly needed as many hikers had to avoid the trail due to such wet and muddy conditions.

The Friends obtained a grant from the Mountain Club of Maryland to buy the wood and hardware and with the help of the Student Conservation Association (SCA), the boardwalk was extended 78 feet. Harry Kuttner, the councilor for the SCA, led six Baltimore high school students in this project. The Friends were delighted to have students, Anthony Farrare, Alissa Purdy, Anthony (Ant) Dias, Jayden Jones, Abigail Weaver, and Amirah Vonhendricks to do the hard and dirty work over a five week period in June and July. In addition to this work, the SCA students built a railing from the Millrace on the Gwynns Falls Bike Trail to the steps that lead to the Jastrow Levine Trail that heads to the Girl Scout Camp in Gwynns Falls Park. The SCA students were also able to start work on a railing on another bridge off the Ravine Trail in Winans Meadow. The Friends are always pleased to have projects for the SCA who have helped reroute and improve the hiking trails in Leakin Park over that last four years.

The SCA also had another crew of twelve students and two councilors working to reroute and improve the Windsor Hill Conservation Trail that starts across from the Millrace Parking Lot on Windsor Mill Road and leads up to the Windsor Hills Community. Portions of that trail were badly eroded and needed rerouting. Elaine Yamada of the Windsor Hill Community Association took the lead in that improvement project. You are all invited to come out and see the improvements to our beautiful hiking trails in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park.



EVENTS

Mushroom City Art Festival at Leakin Park on Oct. 3 was postponed. The new date is Oct. 25 from noon 'til 9:00pm. Please come by to share this event with Nature Art in the Park at the Windsor Mill Rd park entrance, 4900 Windsor Mill Rd.

Nov. 8 - Nature Art in the Park Tour and Gathering, 2:00-5:00pm, at the Windsor Mill Rd entrance to the park, 4900 Windsor Mill Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 12 from 5-9 PM - Orianda House Holiday Open House. Guest speaker, Steve Walk will speak about his relatives, the Winans Family, first owners of Orianda House, and their work on the Russian Railroad from St.Petersburg to Moscow.

Tuesday trail work sessions - 9-11am through the middle of Dec. Contact Jo - (410)566-2230 or George-(410)566-2101.

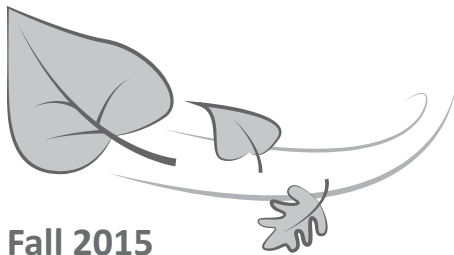
Please refer to the Carrie Murray Nature Center web site for their events, www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org

Second Sundays in the Park will wrap up on November 8 this year. If you have not visited this year, you'd better hurry. We'll be there from 11:00-3:30. Miniature train rides, pony rides, hikes, nature art, and the lovely outdoors in Autumn -Windsor Mill Rd entrance to Leakin Park, 4900 Windsor Mill Rd. Guided hikes available, contact Heide, (410)945-0586, hgrundot@aol.com

Thursday morning Gentle Walks from 9-10, meeting at Winans Meadow, 4500 N. Franklinton Rd, 21229 Contact Heide at 410 945 0586, hgrundot@aol.com



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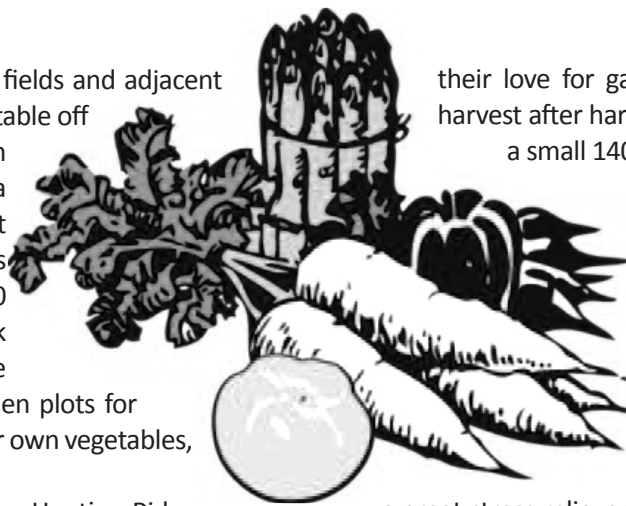
COMMUNITY GARDENS

Rob Naumann

Tucked away behind the athletic fields and adjacent to the remnant of the old horse stable off Windsor Mill Road is the Leakin Park Community Garden. This is a special place bounded by 10 foot high fencing where urban dwellers connect to the land with their 10 x 14 foot plots. The Leakin Park Community Garden is part of the City Farm program, offering garden plots for rent to City residents to grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Having been a resident of the Hunting Ridge Community for almost 7 years and frequent user of numerous trails and recreational opportunities that Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park offers, we had no idea there was a community of “urban farmers” right in our very own back yards. We stumbled across the program in our search of finding a place away from the shade of the towering oaks in our yard where we could attempt growing our own vegetables.

Last summer marked our second year at the Leakin Park Community Garden. Residents from all walks of life, ages and neighborhoods surrounding the park come together to share



their love for gardening and to share the reward of harvest after harvest. We were shocked by the bounty a small 140 square foot plot could produce ...first lettuces, followed by rainbow chard, broccoli, and cauliflower, cucumbers and squash, then tomatoes and peppers. This past year we decided to also add some color to our plot (and to our house) by including zinnias and cosmos.

Although the growing and caring for our small plot was therapeutic and a great stress reliever, we quickly became anxious over the amount of vegetables being produced and what to do with them! A rather simple solution was to share our success with our neighbors.

If you are interested in finding out more about the City Farms program and the Leakin Park Community Garden, google community gardens at Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks or call 410-396-4850 to speak to Harold McCray, City Farms Coordinator. Late winter is the time when folks begin to think about spring planting so if you are interested, get a head start for reserving a plot.