



FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE
BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

Winter 2015



SAVE THE DATE

March 15, FOGFLP Annual Meeting, from 2:00-4:00pm Orianda House
"Emerald Ash Borer, ALERT", Speaker Amanda Cunningham (Certified Arborist & Tree Risk Assessor) FOGFLP Annual Report and election of officers.

Tuesday A.M. Work Crew 10:00 - noon, March –November. Help with park projects, Trail maintenance, attending to trees, shrubs and vine cutting. Meet at 1920 Eagle Drive (yellow Trail House opposite the chapel, Baltimore Md 21207. Call (410) 566-2230 contact George at gfarrant@yahoo.com

Second Sunday Family Fun Days start Sunday, April 12 from 11-3:30 featuring: free train rides, hikes, walk the labyrinth, Historic Orianda Mansion & chapel open, Nature Center, Pony rides (\$), games, bike rides, historic sites, play grounds, picnic sites, tennis courts. For details see www.Friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

Thursday Morning Gentle Walks 9AM-10AM: Discover how nature changes throughout the seasons and a bit of park history along the woodland trails and the Gwynns Falls Trail. Meet at Winans Meadow parking lot at 4500 N. Franklinton Road, Baltimore, Md. 21229. Contact Heide G. at hgrundot@aol.com 410.945.0586

2nd Sunday Walks. 1-3 PM. Meet at Windsor Mill Rd. lot, 1920 Eagle Drive, Baltimore, Md 21207. Content similar and contact as above. Registration desired.

Project Clean Stream, Saturday, April 11, 10-2. Coordinated by Blue Water Baltimore and FOGFLP. Please volunteer to clean up the Dead Run Stream which empties into the Gwynns Falls here in the park. The Gwynns Falls is a tributary into the Patapsco Middle Branch which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Meet Winans Meadow parking lot. Gloves and bags provided.

Nature Art in the Park Deadline Friday April 10, to submit a proposal for a Nature Art project

Nature Art in the Park 2015 opens, Sunday, May 17 2-5PM at Eagle Drive Gazebo for event and art application details see: Face book : Nature Art in the Park, Baltimore contact Doug Retzler dougretz@yahoo.com, Heide hgrundot@aol.com

Baltimore Herb Festival Saturday, May 23, for details see <http://www.baltimoreherbfestival.com/index.html>

National Trails Day (NTD) – Baltimore, June 6, 9-4 plan to join any NTD activity or just spend some time on a Baltimore Trail on foot, skateboard, waterway, or bike

New Year's Day Hike in Leakin Park

George Farrant & Jo Orser

It was cool, bright and sunny on January 1st when about 35 hikers gathered on the Winans Meadow parking lot for a hike at 11 AM. Because the number of hikers was large, they were split into two separate groups, one lead by Jo Orser and the other by George Farrant, on two different circular trails. Each circuit was about 3.5 miles but walkers had opportunities of shorter distances and times with several returning points.

The Friends wanted to familiarize walkers to trail possibilities for return visits and to take the opportunity to explain improvements for trail sustainability done by the work of AmeriCorps Volunteers and high school youth under the direction of the Student Conservation Association during the past three years. Many of the hikers, impressed by the ease of hiking the improved trails, gaining familiarity of the routings through the park and seeing the beauty of the woods on a winter day, asked for a second Annual New Year's Day Hike 2016. It's on the calendar!



Also see the **Friends of Carrie Murray** website carriemurraynaturecenter.org for ongoing Friday evening and Saturday midday events access to horseback riding, and registration for summer camp

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Martin Luther King Day Day of Service

Jo Orser

Parks and People, FOGFLP and Outward Bound sponsored a Day of Service on January 19th in commemoration of Dr. King's life and work. Fifty one volunteers, adults, kids and one dog, re-sponded to the call. At the group's gathering, Jo Orser, FOGFLP, paraphrased one of Dr. King's sermons about the worth of every human being and that greatness in life comes from service.

Sam Little of Parks and People explained the tree plantings last spring and summer and the need for continued care and then the work of vine removal began. It was quite impressive at the end of the 3 hours to see our many vines were removed providing protection for the newly planted trees along that portion of the GF Trail and producing an enhanced view of the forest.

Many people who came had never been to the park before and were glad to be a part of the invasive removal project.



Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jo Orser

Yesterday, in thinking about our Service Day here in this park, I felt that it was imperative that at the beginning of our time together we try to put into context how our action today tries to give meaning to Dr. King's mission and his sacrifice. Of course, I knew Dr. King's history for racial justice because I stood in Washington DC on a day the city was burning, the day after his unforgivable death.

My search yesterday took me to some of his early speeches and sermons that exemplified the foundation that had been building in him to be able to take the stands he did for racial justice. I read time and time again his emphasis of the worth of all people and of service to others, especially in one sermon called "The Drum Major Instinct" delivered in Feb. 1968, one month before his death.

He preached that day, "If you want to be important – wonderful. If you want to be recognized – wonderful. If you want to be great – wonderful. But recognize that there is

-- deep down inside all of us a natural instinct, a dominant impulse for that. It's kind of a drum major instinct – a desire to be out front, a desire to lead a parade, a desire to be first. It is not a selfish impulse and it is something that runs through our entire years of life. But Dr. King said that reaching this true definition of greatness does not require you have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know the second thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. As so eloquently stated by Dr. King, anyone can be great because anyone can serve.

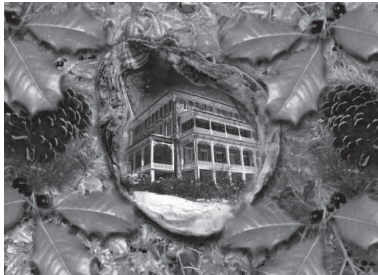
What better way to celebrate his memory and his mission than by engaging ourselves in community service. Too many people see the MLK holiday as just another day off. But your being here means that you see this holiday as a "day on" not just a day off and you are with people who know what true greatness is.....

Now let's get busy.

Orianda Holiday Open House 2014

Heide Grundmann and Rick Smith

Come November, the worker bees move into Orianda Mansion preparing for another Holiday Open House. Rick Smith and Laura Rusanowsky can be heard humming in the mansion's basement as they gather holiday supplies to set up the trees for 18 park related organizations. Laura specializes in climbing the 12-foot ladder to hang garlands, ornaments, and greens up high near the ceiling and windows. All of this hard work takes a lot of time, strategic planning, and tender loving care. Laura smartly designed the lovely holiday invitation around the theme of this year's presentation, the history of "The Oyster, From the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore". Carlisle Hashim and Michael Naylor (DNR-Oyster Restoration) told us of the fate of oysters in the largest estuary in the country from the time of the early Native Americans until today. Oysters that were once plentiful are now scarce and endangered. Both speakers urged us to take responsibility in the restoration efforts of the Chesapeake Bay and oysters in particular. On the second floor, Guy Hager, from the Parks and People Foundation, shared some of his own new research on the Winans Family business functions in Russia with a standing room only attentive audience.



Rick Smith expressed his delight and good fortune for the abundance of historic information about the former Crimea Estate, its owners, workers, and residents that he has received as he continues to meet more people who are eager to share treasured memories. As an example, he read a letter he recently received containing an excerpt of an article featured on May 4, 1874 in the New York Times. The article was written by Washington correspondent and Winans Family friend, Grace Greenwood. It describes how a children's play cottage was built one Christmas Eve overnight (in the late 1850s) as a Christmas surprise to the Winans' children. Rick can still find a footprint of its foundation in the west azalea garden just north of the mansion and has a picture of the fully furnished walk-in replica of the mansion playhouse.

The FOGFLP welcomed the 269 visitors at the door, assisted with parking, and donated many of the refreshments. Many thanks go out to Outward Bound for the use of the mansion and it's board member, Bonny Allen, for the tireless help she offers to the Friends of Orianda House year round.

As is witnessed every year in the true spirit of the holidays, the Orianda Open House continues to attract an extraordinary collaboration of creativity and effort among friends, artists, visitors, volunteers, park related organizations, and many



many others who year after year continue to make this such a joyous celebration. Here is a very big THANK YOU to all who made this 2014 celebration so memorable.

Rick Smith acknowledged co-sponsors Cottage Antiques, Joan Eve Classics & Collectibles, and Lisa Sarubin Emmerling from the Antiques Depot.

Special thanks went to Garland Childress for his help and donation of old-time ornaments from his friend, Frederick Schewdes. Lucky raffle winners took home 2 donated antique vases and a B&O Rail Road plate.

Reference: oysters.Maryland.gov



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Exciting news from our own Leon Day Park!

Dick Fairbanks

Spring baseball returns starting at 3:45 PM on Friday, March 20th when the Carver HS Bears begin the first of 9 crucial home games at the park enroute to the state playoffs in May. The Leon Day Foundation hopes you can come and cheer for both teams, but if you can't, you'll still have several other mid-afternoon home games to pick from on 3/23, 3/27(doubleheader), 3/30, 4/1, 4/20(doubleheader) and 4/27! Please note that doubleheaders begin at 2:45. We hope to see you there for at least some of the games, please come and enjoy the action. Also, keep Saturday, June 13th open as well and help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of Leon Day's 1995 induction into Baseball's Hall of Fame at our annual Leon Day Festival at the park. Last year's festival was a great success and we think that this year's event will be even more special if those who don't ordinarily come decide to enjoy the festivities with us this year. Finally, the Negro League Day of Honors occurs locally on Saturday, May 9th. The Foundation will be involved with this event as well but its location has not yet been finalized. Please don't hesitate to contact me on any of the above items at 410-233-7860 if you have questions or would like to explore becoming a Foundation volunteer or a fellow board member.

