



FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

Winter 2016

Winans Chapel Preservation Campaign Launched

Ed Orser

You may be among the 2,000 people who attend the Baltimore Herb Festival each Memorial Day weekend, but did you know that when the event was initiated in 1987 one of its primary goals was to raise funds for the maintenance and improvement of the Winans Chapel? Now, very concerned about the critical deterioration of the exterior wooden features of the structure, the Herb Festival has appointed the Committee for the Preservation of the Winans Chapel in Leakin Park and launched a campaign to raise \$225,000 for the work through grants and contributions.

In the late 1850s wealthy railroad builder Thomas Winans acquired the property he called the Crimea as his country estate, erecting the Italianate stone Orianda mansion and stable, as well as the distinctive Carpenter Gothic wooden chapel. Historians believe that his wife requested construction of the chapel to serve the religious needs of workers on the estate. All three buildings have been designated as Baltimore City Landmarks.

In the 1940s the property was acquired by Baltimore City to become Leakin Park on the recommendation of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Purchase of the spacious estate created the largest woodland park in an eastern city, distinguished by the historic set of buildings at its center, and bordered by thirteen



West Baltimore neighborhoods. Today, the Winans Chapel serves as the gateway to the park's historic campus. The committee considers the present project not only essential for its preservation, but an opportunity to bring greater attention for visitors to the historic features of the former estate.

Many of the founders of the Baltimore Herb Festival had been active in the fight against the proposed interstate expressway through the park, the final route of which would have seriously compromised the chapel. The first festival event in 1987 drew large crowds, but it also was marked by tragedy when lightning

struck the chapel, killing one person and seriously damaging the building. Over the years the Baltimore Herb Festival has partnered with the City's Department of Recreation and Parks to address challenges to the structure; in 2009 its event funds were used to replace the shingle roof.

Individual contributions will be essential for matching funds as the committee seeks substantial grants for the project and the FOGFLP Board has agreed to contribute \$5,000.00 to the chapel. Watch for forthcoming information about the campaign.



Follow The Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park on
Twitter (@FOGFLPMEDIA or @FOGFLP or
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CALL FOR ARTISTS TO ENTER NATURE ART IN THE PARK 2016

Artists, artists at heart, and other creative and adventurous nature lovers are invited to walk the Nature Art in the Park Trails in Leakin Park to become inspired by a location where they might want to create a piece of art made from natural materials.

Guided tours will take place on the following dates:

Saturday - February 20 and Sunday - February 21

Saturday - March 19 and Sunday - March 20

Walks leave from the parking lot at 4900 Windsor Mill Rd/ Eagle Dr entrance to Leakin Park, Baltimore, MD 21207. Walks will commence at 2:00pm and please allow 2 hours for the visit.

Application deadline is April 29, 2016. For more information please contact Heide (hgrundot@aol.com)

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIKES - Thursday Morning Gentle Walks -9:00-10:00am.

Discover nature and its changes throughout the season 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 Rd, Baltimore, MD 21229. For information contact Heide G. at hgrundot@aol.com (410) 945-0586

Second Sunday Walks - 1-3pm. Meet at Windsor Mill Rd./Eagle Dr. entrance, Baltimore (21207) parking lot. Contact same as noted above.

Project Clean Stream - Saturday, April 2, 2016. Coordinated by Blue Water Baltimore and FOGFLP. Please volunteer to clean the Dead Run Stream which empties into the Gwynns Falls here in the park. Gwynns Falls is a tributary into the Patapsco Middle Branch which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Meet at 4500 Franklinton Rd at Winans Meadow parking lot. Gloves and bags will be provided. For information contact Jo Orser at (410) 566-2230.

Tuesday Park Maintenance Days start up again in March. Join FOGFLP and help to maintain trails and park areas, guide volunteers, meet new people, enjoy nature, get exercise, and promote

our park. Meet at 1920 Eagle Dr off of Windsor Mill Rd, yellow trail house across from the Chapel. Contact George for more info. at gfarrant@yahoo.com

FOGFLP ANNUAL MEETING - April 17, 2016, 2-4:00pm at the Orianda House. Guest speaker is Lisa Schroeder, Director of Parks and People Foundation.



SECOND SUNDAYS - Second Sundays in the Park start back up in April. This years dates are: April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13. Get ready for train rides, hikes, games, bikes, historic sites, play grounds, picnic sites, tennis courts, Nature Center, and much more.

NATURE ART IN THE PARK - see article in newsletter and don't forget tours on Feb. 20 & 21 and Mar. 19 & 20 so you can find the perfect spot for your creation.

EARTH DAY - April 22, 2016

BALTIMORE HERB FESTIVAL - May 28, 2016

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - June 4, 2016

CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CENTER - www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org - check out their site for a list of activities and events

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and Commemoration

George Farrant

On January 18, 2016, FOGFLP combined forces with Parks and People and Outward Bound to help organize volunteers to clear invasive vines from entwining trees in the the Winans Meadow area of Leakin Park. It was a very cold day but about 35 hardy folks from all over the Baltimore area showed up and put in three hours of hard labor clearing vines and overgrowth from the forest edge around the Ben Cardin Pavilion. Volunteers also cleared the area around the walls of the old farmhouse ruins and now the walls can be clearly seen. The vines that were removed filled two truckloads which was picked up by the Parks Department. Remaining debris that has been covered with snow will be removed in the spring. Many thanks to all who showed up up on a cold but sunny day to honor MLK with service to our park and each other.



BIRD WATCHING

Eloise Kreiss

On September 13th, 2015, the Baltimore Bird Club sponsored a Bird Walk in the park. Ten birders met at Winans Meadows on a cool overcast morning and made a loop traveling along Dead Run Stream to the Gwynns Falls, up Hutton Avenue to the Carrie Murray Center and down hill following the Ridge Trail to the Cardin Pavilion and back to Winans Meadow parking lot.

Highlights included a Summer Tanager and Yellow-billed cuckoo. Particularly cooperative birds included a grouping of four Red-eyed Vireos and a couple of Great-crested Flyers in good view at the Carrie Murray Center. A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was also seen. Numerous Common Grackles on migration were viewed from the parking lot, along with a few Cedar Waxwings. Goldfinches were present in good numbers and the begging cries of the young were also heard. Only a handful of warbler species were seen or heard. These included a Blue-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warblers, a Magnolia Warbler, a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Black and White Warbler, American Redstarts and Common Yellowthroats. Surprising in their absence, the group sighted no hawks, sparrows or thrush other than robins on this trip. The next Bird Walk will be on May 15, 2016. Meeting at 4500 Franklinton Rd at 8:00am.





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FOGFLP'S Annual New Year's Day Hike - 2016

George Farrant

Approximately 25 eager hikers showed up for the second annual New Years Day Hike. It was another cold day and the sun was shining. The hike started at 10 am and hikers were broken into three groups and covered most of the trails in Leakin Park. All hikes started and ended at the Winans Meadow Parking Lot. George Farrant led about 14 people on a two hour hike up to the Carrie Murray Nature Center via the Old Fort, Upper Fort, and Ridge Trails. The return trip included the Wetland, Old Spring, and Ridge Trails for a return to the parking lot. Heide Grundmann led a group of hikers and a dog on a hike to Dickeyville by way of the Gwynns Falls and Wetland Trails. A third group was led by Jo Orser who utilized trails that led up to the Orianda House and the opportunity to explore the Crimea area. Many thanks to our fearless hike leaders, George, Heide, and Jo, for their continued commitment to our park.

