



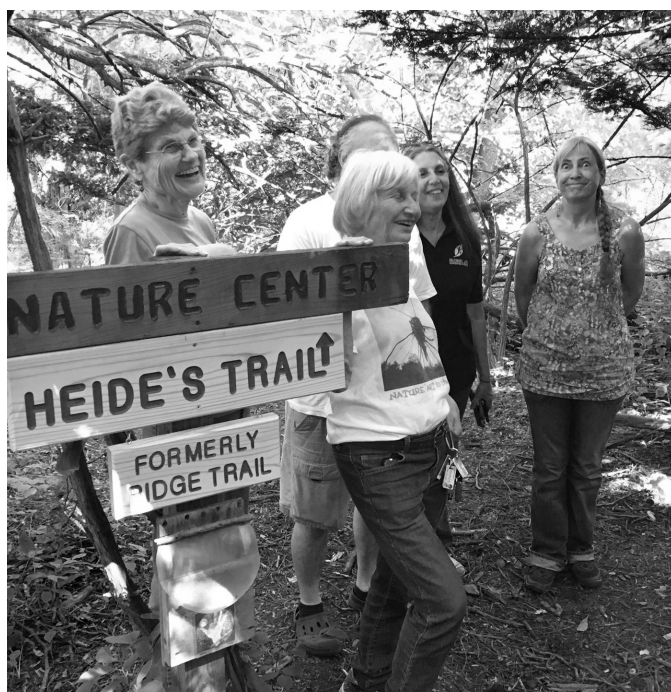
# FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

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

Summer 2017

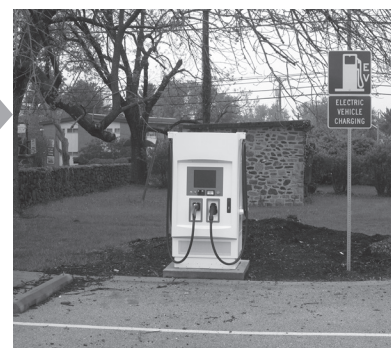


## HONORING HEIDE GRUNDMANN

On May 28, there was a gathering of people at the Orianda House to celebrate and honor Heide Grundmann, a founding member of The Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and longtime advocate for GFLP (and all Baltimore City parks), the Gwynns Falls Trail, the arts community, and numerous other organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for Baltimore City residents. The event was the brainchild of Doug Retzler, Heide's cohort with Nature Art in the Park, and Jo Orser, of FOG-FLP. Those who know Heide, knew it would be hard to keep it a secret as Heide usually knows about everything. Congratulations to Doug and Jo for pulling it off and to the many people who showed up to celebrate Heide and honor her 40 years of service to parks, people, Mother Nature, and all of us. The world is truly a better place because of Heide's presence, determination, passion, knowledge, and commitment. Part of the celebration was the re-naming of the Ridge Trail which is now officially "Heide's Trail". Heide was not keen on having a trail named after her but this is one time when she did not have the last word. The official trail re-naming ceremony took place on June 3, National Trails Day, and the opening of Nature Art in the Park 2017 Exhibition. The official proclamation from Baltimore City recognizes Heide for "Your exemplary contribution to Baltimore civic life, your tireless commitment to green spaces, and your special devotion to Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park". Those of us who know Heide and see her regularly, know that her actions go way beyond this description and we are forever grateful for her tireless efforts to make Baltimore City a better place.



*EV Charging Station  
at GFLP Eagle Dr Parking Lot*



Follow The Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park  
on Twitter (@FOGFLPMEDIA or @FOGFLP or  
on Instagram (FOGFLPMEDIA)

## MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH GWYNNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

By Reuben Dagold

It all began when I lived near Gwynns Falls Parkway and Hilton Street and went to Windsor Hills Elementary School. I would ride my red Schwinn coaster-brake bike or my barbarian (i.e., ball-bearing) roller skates to the park to climb on the lions guarding the entrance to the Crimea Mansion (those lions are now lolling safely inside the entrance to the zoo in Druid Hill Park) or climb on the black cannons below the hill from the mansion. Bean Hill, at the southern end of Wetheredsville Road at Franklinton Road, was a challenging climb up its steep bare face for us boys (you can't see that bare face today because of the trees and bushes that have sprouted there over many decades). The Gelston Heights Trail now ascends gradually to that peak. Going downstream from Windsor Mill Road on Wetheredsville Road was the Witch's House (actually, the gatehouse for the Windsor Estate), and at the edge of the river was an abandoned stone building, which was probably washed away by 1972's Hurricane Agnes.

After these younger years I had scant contact with Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. While in college I did play some tennis at the courts on Eagle Drive. And later on, working for the Baltimore City Health Department, I inspected the abandoned stables near Soman Drive for a would-be entrepreneur with ideas to revive them. Upon retirement, I began hiking with the Mountain Club of Maryland and became interested in leading hikes in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. At that time, the Club had a few short hikes in GF/LP on their schedule and I wanted to create some more substantial hikes. I contacted a staff member of the City's Planning Department to obtain trail maps for GF/LP and was referred to Parks and People who gave me a large-scale contour map of the park's trails. The map, published in 1997, had been commissioned by Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park (my introduction to FOGFLP).

Utilizing the map, I began exploring. Back then in 2002, there was a paucity of trail signage and blazes, and few of the trails on the map were named. At forks and intersections, the contour lines helped me decide which way to turn. Sometimes I couldn't see where a trail broke into another one, and was forced to follow that trail from its other end and then break through. I strategically attached red ribbons onto trees and bushes. After managing to follow every trail on the map, I began to plan out hike routes, originally aiming for 10-mile hikes. Believe it or not, you can create 10-mile hikes in GF/LP with minimal backtracking. In addition to the well-known and better-used trails, there are Wetheredsville Road into Dickeyville, the Windsor Hills Conservation Trail, and the Gelston Heights Trail. If you don't mind walking along some residential streets, there are Clifton Avenue between The Windsor Hills Conservation Trail and the bridge spanning Windsor Mill Road and Winterbourne Road between Morris Road and Chesholm Road (take a look at the present-day trail map). Along Clifton Avenue there are interesting houses which overlook the park. More recently, I've been leading 7-mile hikes. With the diversity of trails, rarely are any two exactly alike. Of course, the same trail is different in different seasons and going in reverse order is a different experience. From 2002 to the present, I have led 22 hikes for the Mountain Club of Maryland in GF/LP and 9 hikes on the Gwynns Falls Trail which included part of GF/LP. Many of the attendees of my hikes had never been in GF/LP, much less been aware of it, despite having been born and bred in Baltimore and its environs. I remind them that the entire forested hike is within the city limits of Baltimore. I explain the strange name of the park and some of the land's history and point out some remains of earlier activity and, of course, I explain that Leakin Park had been a dumping ground, not a killing field.

For the Mountain Club of Maryland hiking schedule, [www.mcomd.org](http://www.mcomd.org)



### Mushroom City Art Festival - A Great Success and Returning in 2017

Heidi Grundmann

On October 22, 2016, the Mushroom City Art Festival was held in Leakin Park. The event was staged by Robin Gunkel and her artist friends and volunteers. Over 400 visitors came to hear lectures, listen to and make music, and hunt for mushrooms with knowledgeable guides. Many thanks to Robin and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks for making this event possible.



We hope to see you again on October 21, 2017, from 1:00-9:00pm, for the next Mushroom City Art Festival in Leakin Park. (rain date Oct. 22)

*Just one example of many recent FOGFLP Work Projects completed by the CJC in GF/LP, new sturdy steps on the Ravine Trail. Many thanks to George Farrant for his leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts to continue to make our park better and beautiful.*





## Annual Meeting

The Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park held their annual meeting on April 2, 2017, at the Orianda House. The guest speaker was Erik Dihle, Baltimore City Arborist and Chief of Urban Forestry. Mr. Dihle discussed a range of topics related to trees and Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Topics included the tree canopy in Baltimore (currently at 20% with a goal of 40%), the condition of trees in Baltimore (50% of our trees are in good condition, 25% are in fair condition, and 25% are dying), invasive education management, vegetation management, the BGE gas line, and much more.

Awards of recognition and appreciation were bestowed on individuals who have contributed greatly to the Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and our efforts to improve and enhance our park for everyone.

**2017 Awardees** - Tony and Sandy Crute faithfully participate in weekly trail work in the park, regularly volunteer for other park related activities, and are always willing to lend a hand when needed. They even bring their own tools!



*From Left: Tony Crute, Bud Smith, Sandy Crute, Eric Crawford*

Bud Smith, a Hunting Ridge resident, made sturdy and attractive signs for the trails in GF/LP to aid hikers in their travels throughout our park.

Eric Crawford, President of MORE, an organization that builds trails in parks in the region. Eric has provided tremendous guidance to FOGFLP in our efforts to build better and sustainable trails for hikers and mountain bikers in our park.



## New Parking Loop Opens

After a year of construction, the parking area on the west side of Leakin Park, near the Sloman Athletic Fields, opened for us just in time for the Herb Festival.

Sloman Drive has been narrowed by a foot and a very substantial wood fence has been installed on the east side to preclude parking. The road forks to provide a teardrop-shaped loop. There are 135 parking spaces around the loop. Off the west side, behind the crumbling stables, there is a side extension providing more parking for the uses of the gardens and the athletic fields.

Across the throat of the fork there is a connector so that it is a connector so that it is possible both to make another circle of the loop and also for the Chesapeake & Allegheny train club members to reach their driveways.

## ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/etc

Summer Concerts at GF/LP (4921 Windsor Mill Rd)

**June 22** - Kelly Bell Band, 6:30 - 8:30

**July 27** - Baltimore Brass Band, 6:30 - 8:30

**August 24** Jan Knutson featuring Cassandra Allen, 6:30 - 8:30

OrchKids Green Festival at Leon Day Park, 1200 Franklinton Rd, featuring Baltimore City students performing classical music and other festivities, Noon - 4:00pm. [bsomusic.org/education](http://bsomusic.org/education) **Second Sundays in the Park**, 4921 Windsor Mill Rd, 11:00 - 3:00. Second Sundays from April - November. Featuring FREE miniature train rides and much more

Check the calendar on our website, [www.friendsofgwynnsfalls-leakinpark.org](http://www.friendsofgwynnsfalls-leakinpark.org) **September 22, 2017**, 4-9pm - Autumn Equinox Special Event <http://darsombra.com/sightsounds.html>

**October 21, 2017**, 1-9pm - Annual Mushroom City Arts Festival <http://mushrooncycartfestival.org> November 12, 2017, 2-5pm - Closing Event & Last Day of Exhibit for Nature Art in the Park

Gwynn Falls Trail Monthly Clean-ups all along the trail on the **last Saturday of the month**, 10 -12:00pm. Contact Bridget McCusker - [mccbrid@gmail.com](mailto:mccbrid@gmail.com)

NEW EVENT - Beginning **June 24** at 9:00am, parkrun will be starting weekly 5K runs on Saturdays in GFLP in the Winans Meadow area, 4601 Franklinton Rd. This is not a race, it is an opportunity to participate in a timed run with other runners. Walkers are welcome, [www.parkrun.us/register](http://www.parkrun.us/register)

FYI - Dick Fairbanks, FOGFLP Board member, is available to discuss Emerald Ash Borer concerns and measures to take if you have an Ash tree that you want to protect. He can be reached at [rbfairbanks@juno.com](mailto:rbfairbanks@juno.com)



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*Tour Dem Parks 2017 !*

## Summer 2017

### Sharing a Love of Nature

*Ed Orser*

Catonsville native Hillary Nix fell in love with the study of Environmental Biology while a student at Howard Community College and carried that passion with her to Towson University, where she graduated this May. But it was an internship with the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) program at the Carrie Murray Nature Center this spring that gave her an opportunity to learn how much she could enjoy communicating that love to five to ten year-olds.

During her internship, Hillary taught environmental education lessons, hiked the trails, and conducted park clean-ups. She also had an opportunity to participate in outreach for the Center, developing its social media presence and meeting in person with some neighboring community groups. One of the assignments that Hillary especially enjoyed was to develop a program about maple tree tapping at the request of the Center's Director, Corinne Parks. She did background research on the topic and helped to introduce it to children's groups as winter turned into spring.

Director Parks was so impressed with Hillary's effectiveness in her work at the Center that she has appointed her to a position as a counselor for summer camp programs and, for the coming year, as one of the Center's naturalists.

The URI internship program was established in 1989 as a partnership between the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Parks & People Foundation. Staff members from both organizations propose high priority projects for which they seek interns, who are then recruited from area universities. URI typically appoints 5-10 each for the summer, fall, and spring semesters. For the past six years Ed Orser has served as coordinator of the program.

