



FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

Spring 2018

GFLP and the Old-Growth Forest Network

Tony Crute

On May 21, three FOGFLP board members and seven members of the Baltimore City Forestry Board met in the park with Joan Maloof, founder of the Old-Growth Forest Network and Professor Emeritus of biology and environmental studies at Salisbury University. The mission of her organization is to identify old-growth and "future old-growth" forests and protect them from future logging and development.

In the eastern US, true old-growth (never logged) forests have been almost completely eradicated. The native forests that once blanketed the entire US east of the Mississippi River, excluding only the southern tip of Florida, have been reduced to a fraction of one percent of their former area. The OGFN therefore seeks to protect mature native forests that are developing old-growth characteristics. These characteristics include the presence of mixed-age native trees, very large trees, standing dead trees, downed trees in various stages of decay, canopy openings due to tree falls, pit-and-mound topography, minimal signs of human disturbance, absence of exotic plant species, and healthy ecosystems, from mammals to soil microbes.

Upon entering the Jastrow Levin area in Gwynns Falls Park, at the trail head on Windsor Mill Road, Dr. Maloof immediately began noting the presence of many of these characteristics. She pronounced the mixed-age stands of oak, beech and tulip



poplar to be of rare quality and declared our park to be a national treasure. This, despite the fact that we were in a area of relatively heavy human use, where tires, rubble and bags full of trash have to be regularly removed by FOGFLP volunteers, and despite the incessant roar of BGE's pipeline construction from across the Gwynns Falls. Members of the forestry board busied themselves identifying and measuring notable trees (a tree is "notable" if it is more than 70% as large as the known "champion" of its species). On the previ-

ous day they had already documented a dozen such trees in the Crimea area.

It was decided that the Forestry Board, guided by FOGFLP members, would systematically explore GFLP to identify specific areas worthy of being included in a proposed resolution to be passed by the City Council "to preserve the ancient Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park forest in its original condition." The resolution would protect the designated areas in perpetuity with a "forever wild" easement held by a Maryland environmental trust, and make them part of the national Old-Growth Forest Network.

While such a resolution obviously would be too late to stop the BGE pipeline or to avert the two DPW storm water projects that currently threaten the beautiful Hunting Ridge and Thomas Jefferson Trail areas, it would preserve some of the remaining wild areas of our treasured urban wilderness park for the enjoyment and enrichment of future generations.



Making a splash in GFLP !



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

EVENTS AND MORE

Summer Concerts in GFLP, 4921 Windsor Mill Rd (21207)

June 28 - **Jacob Panic (Bluegrass)**

July 26 - **Quentin Randall (funky blues)**

August 23 - **Amelia White (Americana)**

Parkrun - FREE 5k timed run in Winans Meadow area every Saturday morning at 9:00am, rain or shine. If you are not a runner, walkers are welcome as well as dogs on a leash and children in strollers. INFO AT parkrun.us.leakinpark

Monthly clean ups on the Gwynns Falls Trail, 4th Saturday of every month. Contact Joel.Conde@baltimorecity.gov
FOGFLP Trail Work, clean up, planting, etc... every Tuesday in GFLP, 9-11:00am. Contact gfarrant@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY UPDATE

In the February 2018 edition of the newsletter, you received a postcard asking you to indicate if you preferred to receive a hard copy (USPS) or an email copy. Most of those who responded voted to receive their newsletter by email. We will continue to mail a hard copy to those who indicated they want to continue with that version. Those who chose to receive an email copy will receive the current newsletter by email. This is still a work in progress so your patience is appreciated. We are forming a committee to explore how we can improve communication with our members and with the community at large. If you have a background in this area and are interested in joining us in this endeavor, please let me know.

Bridget McCusker, mccbrid@gmail.com



Wild Haven Forest Immersion Programs
for Young Children at Carrie Murray Nature Center
www.wildhaven.us

Annual Meeting

The Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park held their annual meeting on April 15 at the Orianda House. Outgoing President, George Farrant, delivered a brief and comprehensive summary of FOGFLP's activities in GFLP over the past year and highlighted several construction projects and numerous events sponsored by FOGFLP. Our guest speaker was Ned Tillman, Author, Earth Scientist, Environmental Educator, and Sustainability Advisor. He spoke about his recent publication, *Saving the Places We Love: Paths to Environmental Stewardship*.

The proposed slate of FOGFLP officers and new board members was presented to the membership for a vote and was approved. The slate of officers and new board members is as follows: Bridget McCusker (President),

George Farrant (1st Vice President), John McCaul (2nd Vice President), Joy Goodie (Treasurer), Zachary White (Secretary), and new board members: Tony Crute, Amy Stump, Jack Lattimore, and Craig Close. Other board members include: Antonio Carpenter, John Chambers, Dick Fairbanks, Jerome Golder, Heide Grundmann (Historian), Karen Hull, and Jo Orser.

Heide Grundmann presented three awards to deserving community members who through their dedication and service have contributed much to the health and well being of GFLP and the people that the park serves. Award were presented to: Janet Westcott, David Risavi, Corinne Parks, and John McDonald.

Parkrun News

Leakin Park parkrun in Baltimore is approaching its one year mark and it has seen wonderful growth as a community. One of the team's goals was to be able to bring people into the largest green space in Baltimore which is sadly underutilized. More than 1,000 people have visited parkrun and are enjoying the close parkrun community and becoming regulars. The runs would not be possible without the countless volunteers. Event Director Doug Jones tells the story of Iman Newman, who went from stumbling across parkrun to becoming a key member of the team.

Like many of our parkrunners, Iman stumbled onto parkrun by happenstance. Being new to the area, Iman loves to spend the weekends exploring local parks with his children. Their favorite trails happen to be those in Leakin Park. During one of his visits, Iman came across a sign for our event, and he joined us for parkrun in our second week.

Since that time, Iman has run with us more than forty times. Leakin Park parkrun has helped Iman find time for himself while focusing on hitting a number of goals. Each week, Iman arrives with his smile, ready to run and catch up with friends. A notable milestone was the first week that Iman managed to run the full 5k. The community was aware of the achievement and cheered him to the finish. As Iman quickly became a regular, his natural reaction was to welcome newcomers and give them not



only an understanding of parkrun but also a sense of community. Desiring to give back, he has volunteered in every role we offer. Iman is now a member of our core team and we couldn't be happier to have him be an ambassador for our event.

Native trees planted at Sloman Field

On April 24 Tony Crute, George Farrant, Jack Lattimore, and Jo Orser planted 6 eastern redbud trees (*Cercis Canadensis*) at Sloman Field along N. Forest Park Avenue near Wind-sor Mill Road. The installation went quickly thanks to great teamwork. The trees were supplied by Tree Baltimore.

Redbuds are a native species which grow 15 to 30 feet tall and spread 15 to 25 feet wide. It is native in zones 5 –9. The tree is tolerant of deer, clay soils, and Black Walnut trees. Eastern redbud is usually one of the first trees to bloom in spring. The blooms appear before the foliage so the tree creates a lovely bright pink display sprinkled throughout the woods in the early spring. Leaves mature to about four by four inches wide and are distinctively heart shaped. It is an understory species of open woods and enjoys sunshine. This small tree is easily identified in the win-



ter by its slender, alternate, zigzag twigs. Native Americans boiled the bark to make tea to treat whooping cough. Dysentery was treated using an astringent from the bark. The roots and inner bark were utilized for fevers, congestion, and vomiting. The flowers can be eaten raw or fried. Some people say they taste like broccoli. Wildlife will browse the tree for food but it is not

highly desirable and is considered an emergency food source. The Henry's elfin butterfly and hummingbirds utilize eastern redbud for nectar. Honeybees use the flowers for pollen. The tree is a member of the pea family!

Sources: Wikipedia, online website, 5/27/18 USDA Plant Fact Sheet [Brakie, Melinda. 2010. Plant fact sheet for eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Texas Plant Materials Center. Nacogdoches, TX 75964] Jack Lattimore, May 27, 2018



Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
 1920 Eagle Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21207
www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark



Spring 2018

Nature Art in the Park 2018 - Opening!

Young and old are invited to discover Nature Art in the Park installations along Gwynns Falls/ Leakin Park's enchanting woodland trails between Eagle Drive and the Carrie Murray Nature Center. Nature Art in the Park, in its 8th year, is an annual juried outdoor exhibition bringing the concept of environmental art to the public in this unique setting. There will be an Artists' Reception on Saturday, June 23, from 2-5pm. This event is free to the public and includes guided walks, artist performances, live music, yoga lessons, and light refreshments. It will be held at the gazebo and picnic area just to the north of the historic Orianda House (1901 Eagle Drive, Baltimore 21207). Parking is at the Eagle Drive entrance. Some of the trails can be rocky in parts so wear sturdy shoes! (Rain Date: Sunday, June 24)

Should you wish to become involved, contact: natureartbaltimore@gmail.com. There will be community events, tours and creative nature art-making workshops over the duration of this continuously evolving exhibit (June 23–Nov. 11, 2018). For more information, see: www.facebook.com/NatureArtInThePark

Exhibit Opening Saturday, June 23 2-5 pm
(Rain date: Sunday, June 24)

Artist Reception at Gazebo on Eagle Drive.
1901 Eagle Drive, Baltimore 21207

