

The Green Way

No. 10 September 2007

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve – September 30th from 2-4 pm

Join Kingston Greenways Association for a one- mile walk through the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve (1091 Canal Rd., Griggstown) on Sunday, September 30th from 2-4 p.m. We will meet in the parking area for the Preserve (enter at 1091 Canal Road) in Griggstown.

Acres of native grasses have been planted here, sprinkled liberally with wildflowers. On this fall afternoon, goldenrod and aster will be blooming, and the landscape will be painted with a palette of green, gold and brown. – The beginning of fall is a glorious time to visit--the season when many grasses are at their finest.



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) at the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve.
Photographer – Christopher Magarelli

A visit this July found the Preserve abloom with brown-eyed-susans – acres of them. Birders, expect a bountiful offering, as the grassland ecosystem of the Preserve is prime birding territory. We hope to see migrants, stopping to feed on the plentiful seed heads. The preserve was one of two grassland habitats that were recently established through the cooperation of New Jersey Audubon and Franklin Township. A 102-acre section of the property was plowed and planted with native grasses and wildflowers designed to provide habitat for birds that require grasslands for breeding. Grassland landscapes and the birds that rely on them for habitat (species such as bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, and bobwhite quail) are rapidly losing ground in the eastern part of the US, so Federal grants were available for the restoration. For further details contact Karen Linder at 609-683-0483, or visit our

website at www.kingstongreenways.org.

Directions: From the Kingston area, take 603 (Laurel Ave) toward Rocky Hill. Cross Rt. 518 and continue about 3 miles along the D&R Canal on Canal Road to the large green

and gold sign (on your right) for the Preserve at 1091 Canal Road. From 206: Just south of Belle Mead take 630 East (Bellemead-Griggstown Road). Turn left on 533 North and take the first right across the Delaware & Raritan Canal (Griggstown Causeway). Turn right on 632 South (Canal Road). The entrance is roughly 811 feet down on the left-hand side at 1091 Canal Road.

Fall foliage walk! Our ever-popular fall foliage walk will be held on Sunday, October 21st at 2:00 p.m. We will meet in the parking lot of the John Flemer Preserve on the southbound side of Route 27, halfway between River Road and Church/Academy Streets. This year, our walk leaders will be George Luck Jr.(left) and Sam deTuro (right). George Luck, who has lived in Kingston all of his life, is a passionate history buff,



known for his historical talks and ghost walks in the Kingston area. Sam deTuro (the arborist who founded Woodwinds, a Kingston-based tree service that celebrated its 40th anniversary this year) will share his knowledge of trees we'll see along the way to Rockingham, Washington's Revolutionary War Headquarters in Kingston. The fall foliage should be at or near peak. Transportation back to the Flemer Preserve parking lot will be available for those who wish it. The walk will be held rain or shine. For more information, call Karen Linder at 609-683-0483.

Eagle Scout project at Flemer Arboretum. Kingston resident Greg Varga devoted much of this spring to an Eagle Scout project in Kingston. Under the supervision of Stephanie Fox (Naturalist for the D&R Canal State Park), Greg, with the assistance of several volunteers, worked to clear and restore a corner of the Princeton Nursery Lands known as the Flemer Arboretum. After surveying the site last winter and dividing the area to be cleared into sections, Mr. Varga began removing brush, hand pruning, and pulling out stumps. The goal was to expose the plantings that were left behind when Princeton Nurseries left the site in the 1990's. Witch hazel, Forest Pansy Redbuds, crab apples and other flowering trees were liberated from a shroud of poison ivy, bittersweet, grape and Virginia creeper.

Many thanks to Greg and all of his volunteers for their hard work. Special thanks to KGA members Doug Kiofsky, Paul Murray, Tari Pantaleo, Karen Linder and Steve Cochran for lending a hand to the restoration effort on a very, very hot day. Greg is now off to college, but hopes that another Scout will take up where he left off.

Important open space question on November 6th ballot: We urge you to get out and vote YES on Public question #2 – the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Act of 2007. If passed, it will authorize the state to issue \$200 million in bonds to fund the state’s widely popular and successful Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) programs for one year. The funds are desperately needed as the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), the funding mechanism for our state’s preservation programs, is running out of money. The bill authorizes

- \$109 million (\$45 million for the state, \$55 million for local governments, \$9 million for non-profits) in Green Acres funds to acquire/develop lands for public recreation and conservation;
- \$73 million for farmland preservation;
- \$12 million for a new Blue Acres program for the state to purchase public recreation and conservation properties in the Delaware, Passaic and Raritan River basin floodways that are prone to or have incurred flood or storm damage; and
- \$6 million for historic preservation.

Our state is currently losing 40 acres of open space to development each day. By voting yes, New Jersey residents will protect our state’s drinking water, keep our rivers, streams and beaches clean, prevent over-development, preserve our historic treasures and ensure a high quality of life in communities across the state.

New trustee – Welcome Michael Kaplan: At the last KGA public meeting, we asked for nominations from the floor for the position of trustee. Surprisingly, someone volunteered! Our new trustee, Michael Kaplan, is a Griggstown resident who has lived there since 1969. He left RCA Sarnoff in 1985 to become a test maker at ETS. He serves on the Board of the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, and is already proving to be a valued addition to our organization.

Would you prefer to receive The Green Way via Email? If so, please send us an email telling us so to: tari@kingstongreenways.org. You’ll be helping us to save paper, ink, and postage--and the photos featured in our newsletter will look dramatically better!

Sincerely,

Tari Pantaleo

President, Kingston Greenways Association