

May 2007

The Green Way

No. 9

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

**It's time to renew your membership
in the Kingston Greenways Association.**

UPCOMING EVENT

Trail improvements in the Cook Preserve, Kingston – June 2nd at 1 pm: The Kingston Greenways Association will be making improvements on the Cook Preserve Trail in Kingston on Saturday, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at the Cook Natural Area Parking Lot (at the junction of Heathcote Road and Ridge Road in Kingston) for an hour or two of trail maintenance, in observance of National Trails Day. For further details contact David Southgate at 609-924-3399 or Karen Linder at 609-514-2416, or visit our website at www.kingstongreenways.org

PAST EVENTS

Larry Niles highlights Eagle Recovery! Our local eagles received a lot of press recently, as a result of coverage given to this year's KGA annual meeting, which was held on May 10th. The speaker for this program, Larry Niles, Ph.D., worked for the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program for over 20 years, including 14 years as its Chief. Therefore, he is intimately familiar with the Herculean efforts mounted to bring back these majestic birds.

In 1973, only one nesting pair of bald eagles was known in our entire state. However, by 1982, that single nest had failed for eight successive years. A group of scientists in the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) of the New Jersey Fish, Game and Wildlife department determined to do something about this tragic situation. Through dedication, enlistment of novel surrogate parents, and the relocation of young birds from other areas, the ENSP (with the help of many dedicated volunteers) successfully re-introduced bald eagles into New Jersey. Now we have a productive American bald eagle nest in Princeton, and these magnificent birds are well on their way to recovery in the state. During the January 2006 Midwinter Eagle Survey, 55 active nests and 192 bald eagles were observed statewide.

Dr. Niles, who is now the Chief Biologist for Conserve Wildlife Foundation, showed data from nest surveys, mid-winter eagle counts, radiotelemetry studies, and contaminant research (e.g., analysis of compounds such as the pesticide DDT in eggshells), along with a memorable collection of eagle photos. He also noted the relationship between habitat protection and the protection of endangered species, and highlighted upcoming changes in legislation that will affect protection of these magnificent birds.

A portrait of our local eagles is shown below, along with some baby pictures of their most recent offspring – it's a boy!! The eaglet hatched 3/26/07. This is the fifth eaglet from this nest in three years.



The proud parents- photo by Matt Hafenmeier



Our new eaglet – it's a boy! Photo by Curt Emmich



**Eagle banding – look out for those feet!
Photo by Curt Emmich**



Those who attended Karen Linder's fascinating talk on the Galapagos Islands in March will know that this is NOT our local eagle, but a blue-footed booby, showing off its feet to a mate.

In Memoriam - Farewell To William Flemer III: William Flemer III, world famous plantsman, and member of the Flemer family that founded Princeton Nurseries, died on April 22, 2007. He was a wonderful human being and a profoundly dedicated and accomplished nurseryman. To him we owe much of the arboreal beauty of the village of Kingston and of the Kingston greenbelt. We extend our sympathy to his family and especially to his son, William Flemer IV, a trustee of Kingston Greenways and our good friend.

The Year in Review.... First of all, let me welcome Michael Kaplan, who agreed at our annual meeting to serve as a KGA trustee, along with Doug Kiofsky, who will serve another term. Those who did not join us at this event missed an outstanding talk by Larry Niles, who highlighted the recovery of eagles in New Jersey, a true success story.

On behalf of Kingston Greenways Association, I'm pleased to summarize our activities for the past year. As many of you know, last May Charlie Dieterich resigned as president of our organization, and I have taken his place—inasmuch as anyone can try to fill his shoes!

In partnership with the D&R Canal State Park, we sponsored a stream evaluation workshop run by the Park's Naturalist, Stephanie Fox. It was (literally) a cool way to spend a hot summer day. With nets and magnifying lenses we discovered a teeming, fascinating world of macroinvertebrates, and learned how they can be indicators of water quality.

We have written a *lot* of letters. One encouraged the state to include open space groups in the study of upgrades to, and funding of, existing open space. Another urged the convening of a statewide committee to evaluate and develop strategies to protect New Jersey's ecological communities in light of declining biodiversity and the increasing threat of invasive plant species. We prepared a lengthy letter in response to the Army Corps' Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Route 92, and we thank all of you who did the same.

Individually or in groups, we have attended a variety of events: a NJ Future program on property tax reform, a Garden State Preservation Trust information session on new conservation tax incentives, a D&R Greenway lecture on global warming, and one on invasive species, a Mercer County Green Forum, a walk in the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh, and many more. The need to educate ourselves and to network with other open space groups and government bodies is critical to our mission of protecting and enhancing our greenbelt.

Our Fall Foliage Walk through the heart of the Mapleton Preserve led by Bill Flemer IV and Jim Consolloy, Head Grounds Manager and Arborist for Princeton University, was our best ever. We also had a great day for the annual Christmas Bird Count. There was a new species high of 51, 10 high counts for species, and 6 new species spotted. In all, over 3700 birds were counted.

In January, we did our best to publicize the need to write to NJDOT regarding the designation of Route 27 as a large truck route through Kingston via our newsletter and our web site, where we posted information, sample letters, and email links to government officials. We have been working with Middlesex County open space on creating a trail through the 85 acres of the Heathcote Park Extension, and it is just now coming to fruition.

Much time and energy has gone into supporting the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands as they pursue ideas, grants, funds, and volunteers to help realize the full potential of the property. The Friends have offered many fine programs in the past year, including wildflower and bird walks, winter tree study, a raptor demonstration, animal tracking, and most recently, an Arbor Day gathering of former and current Princeton Nurseries employees who shared their memories with each other and a rapt crowd.

Our winter talk and slide show introduced us to Birds of the Galapagos, a fabulous virtual cruise with Karen Linder to this haven of rare species. Our Earth Day cleanup on April 21 resulted in a record haul of 26 bags of trash collected along Ridge, Division, and Mapleton Roads. Many thanks to the intrepid garbage pickers who risked brambles, poison ivy, and dangerous litter to beautify that portion of Kingston.

Our website is better than ever –check out www.kingstongreenways.org, where you will find upcoming events, photos, history, maps, and a wealth of other information.

I hope that you will continue to support Kingston Greenways Association by renewing your membership today! We need your help to remain strong advocates for our local greenbelt and the quality of life in Kingston.

Sincerely,

Tari Pantaleo

President, Kingston Greenways Association

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
Membership Renewal

Kingston Greenways Association aims to establish a permanent green belt around the village of Kingston consisting of natural environments, recreational park land, agricultural and horticultural land, wetlands, streams and ponds, and sites of historical interest; and to preserve and create connections of green among and beyond these for walking, jogging, bicycling and horseback riding.

The Association also aims to promote understanding of our local region through study and education, and to provide oversight and advocacy for open space in the Kingston area. We work in partnership with other regional, state and national groups in pursuit of open space preservation and awareness.

We invite persons who share our goals to fill out the coupon below to renew their memberships or to become a new member of Kingston Greenways Association.

2007 Officers:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|
| President: | Tari Pantaleo | Secretary: | Karen Linder |
| Vice Presidents | David Southgate Robert von Zumbusch | Treasurer: | Paul Murray |
| Trustees: | Steve Cochran, William Flemer IV, Rick Goeke, Doug Kioovsky, Gene Lennon, Karen Linder, Paul Murray, Tari Pantaleo, David Southgate, Robert von Zumbusch, Duke Wisner, Michael Kaplan | | |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YES! Please enroll me/ my family/ for membership in the KGA for the year 2007

- Individual \$10 • Family \$15 • Company \$15 • Senior \$5
- Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Township (if different from mailing address): _____

E-Mail Address (this will not be distributed): _____

Areas of interest:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Creating Paths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping Run Events |

Other interests: _____

Mail membership form to Kingston Greenways Association, PO Box 391, Kingston NJ 08528-0391.
Make checks payable to Kingston Greenways Association.

Kingston Greenways Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation