

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

October 2009 No. 14

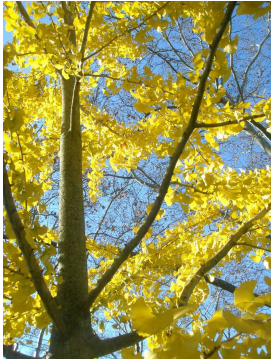
WHAT COSTS LESS THAN A DOLLAR A MONTH?
SEE "VOTE YES" ON PAGE TWO!

COMING EVENTS

FALL FOLIAGE WALK

Saturday, October 17, 1 PM

The leader for our walk this year is Vicki Chirco, D&R Canal State Park historian. She will focus on the history of the D&R Canal, in honor of its 175th anniversary. The history and trees of the Princeton Nurseries Kingston site where the D&R Canal State Park is now headquartered will also be shared.



The leisurely 2-mile round stroll will take about 2 hours. It will start at the Main Office for the Mapleton Preserve/D & R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston.

The group will proceed from the headquarters through a portion of Mapleton Preserve toward the canal towpath and the Kingston Locktender's House before turning back. With any luck, the fall foliage will be in full display. There will be plenty of time to chat, bird watch, botanize, and appreciate the autumn weather. If desired, bring binoculars or tree identification books. Don't forget to wear sensible shoes, and dress for the weather (whatever it is).

The event is free; all are welcome. For more information, please call the Park at 924-5705, or send an email to tari@kingstongreenways.org

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, which was opened on June 25, 1834. For almost 100 years, the Canal provided an efficient and safe route for transporting freight through central NJ, and was one of America's busiest navigation canals. The Pennsylvania Railroad leased the canal for 999 years in 1871; its interest was the railroad, not the canal. The canal had ceased to be profitable by 1892, and was abandoned after the 1932 season. After the D&R Canal closed, the State of New Jersey took it over and rehabilitated it to serve as a water supply system. In 1974, over 60 miles of the canal and a narrow strip of land on both banks were designated as a State Park—a purpose it still serves today.

VOTE YES on Tuesday, November 3

Public Question #--Referendum on the Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland Preservation Act

On the November 3 statewide ballot, voters will be asked to decide whether to continue the state's efforts to preserve clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, working farms, historic places, and forests. If approved, the \$400 million bond act will continue the pace of preservation efforts that voters approved in 2007. The investment will cost households \$10 annually, less than \$1 per month, and enable the protection of over 70,000 acres of land.

Assemblyman John F. McKeon, Chairman of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, said:

"We are in a race against time to protect and preserve our natural resources. The loss of land is permanent and irreversible and there are a finite number of undeveloped acres in our state... Citizens of New Jersey will have the choice to save billions of dollars in water filtration costs by preserving thousands of additional acres in the Highlands. They will have the choice to save hundreds of millions in property damage by preserving flood-prone areas and to limit sprawl by preserving valuable tracts of farmland that have been lost to development at the rate of 10,000 acres a year."

Tom Gilbert of the Trust for Public Land had this to say: "Our recent analysis shows that the economic benefits of clean water and natural land preservation will exceed the costs by a factor of 10 to 1. **Given that land prices are lower than they've been in years, we now have an extraordinary opportunity to continue investing in open space.**"

The public question provides for full public disclosure of all spending, and citizen oversight would be ensured through the Garden State Preservation Trust, which must approve all projects.

For more information, please visit www.NJKeepItGreen.org.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 20, 7:30 AM

More than 50,000 observers participate in the Annual Christmas Bird Count each year. The results of these efforts are compiled into the longest-running database in ornithology, representing over a century of data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas.

Please meet at the Locktender's House in Kingston. Dress warmly, and bring binoculars if you have them. Participants need not be experienced birders. CBC participants are organized into groups (field parties) by the organizer or Compiler of each Count, so that inexperienced observers are always out with seasoned CBC veterans. Please call 609-683-0483 to pre-register.

RECENT EVENTS

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

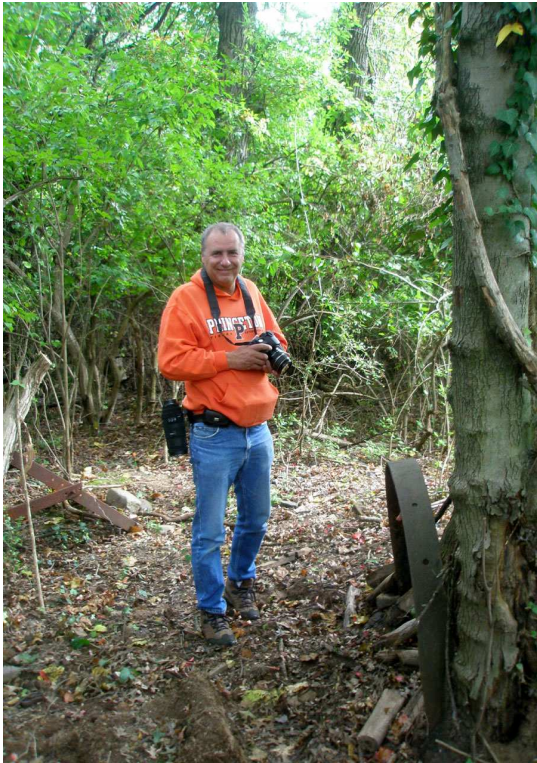


Photo by Tari Pantaleo

On September 26th, a total of 21 volunteers (including two children, who pitched in energetically!) came for this work session, jointly sponsored by KGA, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands, and the D&R Canal State Park. Six new trees were planted, watered, and had their trunks wrapped to protect them from deer depredation. Brush, vines, and invasive trees were removed from the Arboretum, and from the majestic row of ginkgo trees. A trio of trash troupers collected litter near trails. Photographer Jonathan Michalik documented the scenery in the Princeton Nursery Lands, and our efforts to maintain and beautify it for the enjoyment of all.



All other photos by Jonathan Michalik



It was a breezy, beautiful day to be reminded of the treasure that public land represents, and that we can all find a way to participate in its stewardship!



The Ginkgo Squad liberates trees from brush, vines, and invasive trees

Dave Reed and his crew from Mapleton Nurseries did a masterful job of digging the holes, and planting and mulching six Flemer cultivars in the nascent Flemer Arboretum.

We are also grateful to Obal Garden Market for supplying work gloves at a discount, and to Woodwinds for injecting liquid organic fertilizer (Worm Tea) into the root balls of the newly planted trees at a special non-profit rate.

For a **full gallery** of photos, please go to National Public Lands Day under **RECENT EVENTS** on the KGA home page: <http://kingstongreenways.org/>

INSECT SONGS (Cooperatively offered by KGA and D&R Greenway Land Trust) August 7

Wil Hershberger, photographer, recordist and co-author of *The Songs of Insects*, gave a fascinating audio-visual excursion into the world of crickets, grasshoppers, katydids, and cicadas. The one-hour program was followed by an insect walk in the D&R Greenway Meadows.



*Photos by Carole Haines
(right, lower)*

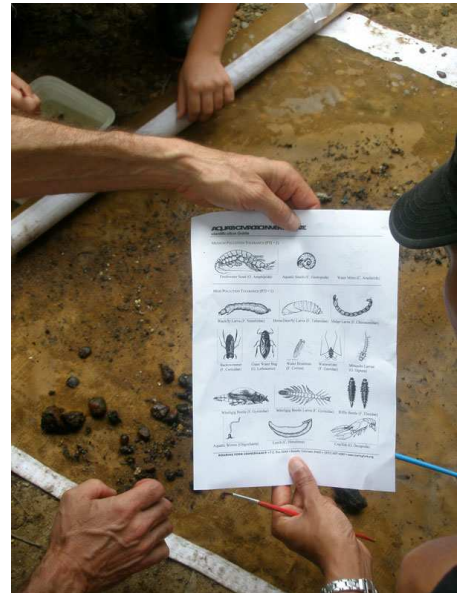
To learn more about these singers, please explore
<http://www.musicofnature.com/songsofinsects/index.html>
Try your ear at recognizing some of our local musicians!

STREAM STOMP



Exploring Aquatic Life in the Millstone

On July 11th, with nets, magnifying lenses, and aquatic macroinvertebrate charts, D&R Canal State Park Naturalist Stephanie Fox introduced an enthusiastic crew to a teeming, fascinating world of water critters, and taught us how they can be indicators of water quality.



TRAILS DAY AND BOARDWALK UPDATE

June 7 to late July

On Trails Day, repairs were made to damaged sections of the boardwalk in the Cook Natural Area by three KGA trustees. The boardwalk had become seriously overgrown; parts of it were virtually impassable.

In July, Rutgers EnviroSteward Ron Chen (pictured on next page) volunteered his skills and energy to tackle it. He teamed up with Tari Pantaleo, and after three two-hour sessions and a healthy assist from Rick Lear of the Middlesex County Parks Department, the deed was done from end to end!



Thanks are also due Doug Kiovsy who made and installed the new sign at the entrance to the Boardwalk to Heathcote Meadows.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

A bang-up job by our trash crew was done on April 19 for Earth Day! Thanks to all who helped!

