

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

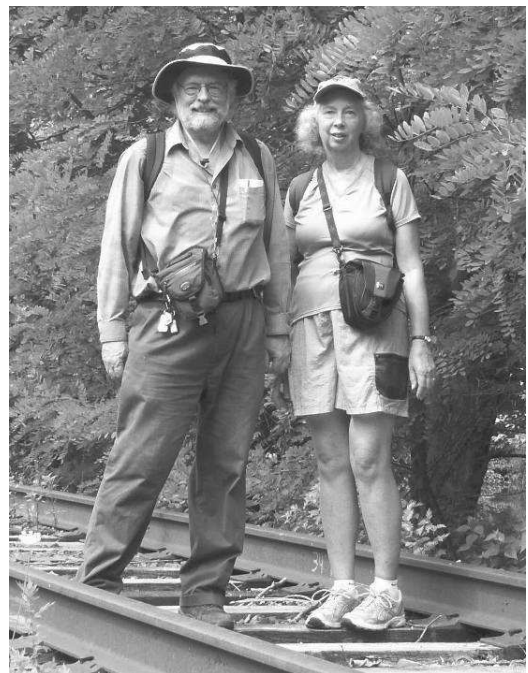
Fall 2011 No. 18

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL FALL FOLIAGE WALK **Saturday, October 15, 2 PM**

Naturalists Henry and Betty Horn will lead the walk. Both Betty and Henry are enthusiastic teachers and will share their expertise on a walk that focuses on trees (Henry), flowers (Betty) and whatever other discoveries are made during this leisurely hike.

Betty is an avid botanist with an intimate knowledge of our local wildflowers. She has served as Curator of the Biological Collections at the Princeton University Museum of Natural History since 1978. Henry, now Professor Emeritus, has taught in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton since 1966, and is well known for his professional enthusiasm and dedication. He has wide-ranging interests in natural history, a passion to understand our local environment and its context, and a deep fascination with tree ecology.



The Horns tread any paths where trees and wildflowers are to be found.

With any luck, the fall foliage will be in full display. If desired, bring binoculars or tree or wildflower identification books. Don't forget to wear sensible shoes, and dress for the weather. For more information, please contact Karen Linder at 609-683-0483 (evenings).

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT **Sunday December 18, 7:30 AM - 5 PM**

The Kingston segment of this year's Audubon Christmas Bird Count begins at 7:30 AM and goes until noon. After a break for lunch at Main Street Cafe, we will continue with the count in the afternoon. You can join us for morning, afternoon, or both. Experienced birders and novices are equally welcome to participate. If you are interested, give Karen Linder a call (609-683-0483) or an email (karen.e.linder@gmail.com) for more information and to register for this event.

SEVERE STORM DAMAGE IN THE D&R CANAL STATE PARK

Hurricane Irene and tropical storm Lee caused extensive damage to the D&R Canal State Park. The main canal towpath is closed for tree removal and towpath stabilization. The Park asks the public's patience as the storm damage is assessed by both Park and Water Supply Authority staff, and requests that the public refrain from accessing either the feeder or main canal path at this time. Contact the Park office at 609-924-5705 with any questions or concerns.

RICCIARDI TRACT PRESERVED!

After more than two years of community effort, fundraising and litigation, 14 wooded acres on the ecologically-sensitive Princeton Ridge have been permanently preserved by a partnership of public agencies and four nonprofits - New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Friends of Princeton Open Space, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, and Kingston Greenways Association (our first land preservation effort!). The partners purchased the Ricciardi property on August 25th, 2011.

The Ricciardi Tract is part of the evolving Princeton Ridge Preserve, which forms a continuous greenbelt that extends across the Millstone River. The D&R Canal State Park, Rockingham State Historic Site, and the Kingston Trap Rock Quarry are all underlain by the same formation that makes up the Ridge. While the designated Village and Environs of Kingston lie on the right bank of the Millstone in Franklin and South Brunswick Township, Kingston is an area that also includes part of Princeton Township--extending west of Harry's Brook and including Maybury Hill. Thus much of the "Princeton Ridge Preserve" is in the part of Princeton historically considered Kingston.

Two of KGA's organizational goals are to form "*connections of green*" and to "*work in partnership with other regional, state and national organizations in pursuit of open space preservation and awareness.*" Both goals have been well served by this effort!

KINGSTON TREE REGISTRY



Does a tree grow in Kingston that you would like to honor? Now you can nominate it to KGA's brand new Kingston Tree Registry. Trees notable for their size, age, beauty, rarity, silhouette, service, unusual seasonal displays, harboring of wildlife, or public or personal significance are all eligible.

Please be as specific as possible in describing the location of your nominee. Provide any information you can, including species, age, measurements, unusual features, historical significance, nests, or memories. Drawings or photographs are encouraged. KGA would eventually like to make these images available as e-cards via the web site.

HEATHCOTE BROOK

On page three of The Watershed's fall newsletter (<http://www.thewatershed.org/pdf/FINAL%20Wellspring%20Fall%202011.pdf>) is a short article about Stream Watch volunteers' monthly monitoring of Heathcote Brook, which has high bacteria concentrations. Once data collection has been completed and results analyzed, efforts will be made to identify contamination sources, and pursue measures to improve the brook's water quality.

PAST EVENTS

KINGSTON VILLAGE PICNIC

September 10, 2011

A rain shower ended just in time for a beautiful afternoon of community activities and interaction. We are grateful to the Kingston Volunteer Fire Company, the crack team of villagers who organized and orchestrated the festivities, and all of those who contributed their time, energy, goods and talents. Special thanks are due Gene Lennon and Doug Miller for putting together KGA's giant aerial map display of Kingston and environs.

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM: "THE D&R CANAL, GEM OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY" May 24, 2011

Canal author and historian Linda J. Barth spoke to a rapt crowd about the D&R Canal, illustrated by an array of vintage slides depicting the Canal from end to end.



Here Linda demonstrates the method for giving a locktender advance notice of a canal boat's arrival.

MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

April 2, 2011

Nancy Derrico, our volunteer from the Mercer County Wildlife Center, shared her extensive knowledge and experience with sixty participants. The four birds that accompanied her vividly illustrated the characteristics of their species, and the range of mishaps that can befall wildlife when our worlds intersect. For example, the red-tailed hawk pictured with Nancy is a perfectly healthy specimen of its species, but has been a long-time resident at the Wildlife Center because it became imprinted to human beings as a young bird.



We learned, too, about the best ways to help sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. For those who wish to support or get involved with the Mercer County Wildlife Center, many options are offered at <http://nj.gov/counties/mercerc/about/community/wildlife/help.html>

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEANUP

April 16 and 17, 2011

Twelve volunteers picked up about 20 bags of trash over two days from the Rockingham environs, Mapleton Road, Ridge Road, and part of the Cook Natural Area. If you have never walked these areas, it's hard to appreciate just how much garbage—blown and thrown—accumulates between cleanups. We are indebted to our Earth Day volunteers for taking on this dirty work, especially the Saturday crew under trustee John Butcher, which had the added challenge of working in the rain!

Karen Linder in high spirits on Earth Day



We hope you've enjoyed this issue of The Green Way. Please come along with us on our Fall Foliage Walk on October 15th, and get to know some new places, plants and people!

Tari Pantaleo
President, Kingston Greenways Association
<http://kingstongreenways.org/>