

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Fall 2020 No. 35

It's Fall, and time for renewal! Please renew your membership now with the enclosed remittance envelope. You may also go directly to our web site to join or renew online: <https://www.kingstongreenways.org/forme.html>

COMING EVENTS

FALL FOLIAGE WALK—ANY TIME IN OCTOBER, 2020



Virginia creeper and porcelain berry

Because a guided walk would be a challenge to host under the current circumstances, this year we will offer a different opportunity. We invite you to take your *own* walk in the Kingston greenbelt during the month of October, then send us your photos, drawings, impressions, poems, short videos, even music—anything that the walk inspires--to be shared on our web site. Please submit to tari@kingstongreenways.org

ANNUAL MEETING—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020, 7:30 PM

As much as we enjoy our meetings in real space, we cannot delay any longer our annual meeting, normally held in May, so we will be holding a virtual one on Zoom. There will be a short business segment followed by a program on Deer-Resistant Native Plants, given by Rachel Mackow. However, you will have to provide your own refreshments!

Join our Zoom Meeting here

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9565760881?pwd=ri9QK0c2ckgyUEpzNlh0TXRnYk1MZz09>

Meeting ID: 956 576 0881

Passcode: 029105

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to tari@kingstongreenways.org

*Right: Photo by Rachel Mackow of *Monarda fistulosa* (bee balm)*



Rachel Mackow is dedicated to the restoration of native plant communities that sustain and engage both people and wildlife. On the farm, Rachel manages the nursery operation. She authors stewardship plans, lending her knowledge of restoration practices and invasive species management. She enjoys helping people reconnect to plants and self-reliance through teaching foraging skills, herbal practice, and traditional plant uses.

MOWING PROJECT TO CONTROL INVASIVES IN THE MAPLETON PRESERVE IS UNDERWAY

A proposal for mowing the overgrown fields in the Mapleton Preserve that KGA submitted in 2016 has been reworked and given the green light. The original proposal had been tabled due to uncertainty about the potential rehabilitation and development of the nursery warehouse buildings and environs. Once the winery proposal from Old York Cellars was withdrawn, the mowing project, with Jim Irish performing the clearing, was re-introduced.

The project covers approximately 15 acres, and targets mature woody invasive plants and trees like autumn olive and black locust, as well as aggressive plants like mugwort and Chinese bush clover that are decimating the diversity of flora in the Preserve, and at the same time depriving native wildlife of the native plants they need to survive. To get an idea of the work Jim does, what kind of equipment he uses, and view a gallery of some of New Jersey's most problematic and prolific invasives, visit <http://jamesirishinc.com/>



The mowing project has been fully approved by South Brunswick Township, the D&R Canal State Park, and the State Historic Preservation Office, and has the blessing of the Mapleton Preserve Commission. A permit has been issued, and our request for waiver of the permit fee granted. Kingston Greenways Association will assume the full cost of this project in the Preserve, which might well be considered the crown jewel of Kingston's greenbelt.

The work will be completed by the end of October. Passersby will see a rather messy aftermath of sheared weeds and shredded shrubs and small trees that will soften over winter. A second round of mowing next summer will further discourage re-growth. In the meantime, we can look ahead to seeding the cleared fields with native plants to attract pollinators, support local fauna, and create beauty.

RECENT EVENTS

EARTH DAY 2020

Regretfully, we had to cancel our Earth Day event that was scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, in accordance with the closures of state and county parks and historic sites, and our commitment to public safety during the pandemic.

However, we applaud the two Kingston families who took action as private citizens to clean up around Rockingham and along Laurel Avenue.



The Bronsard-Tobin family (above) and the Edwards family received a message of appreciation from Lisa Flick, Site Director, Rockingham Historic Site:

“When I see how many trash bags you filled, I am amazed at how some people see that area as a trash dump and have no respect for the area's history and beauty nor local residents' property. I am heartened to know that there are folks like all of you, who have pride in where you live and recreate and want to see it preserved and cared for! And that you did this in the midst of such a time in our history shows what caring, conscientious and extremely thoughtful neighbors you all are. Please know that what you did and do is greatly appreciated by us at Rockingham State Historic Site and the NJ State Park Service!”

We hope that we will be able to resume our traditional Earth Day cleanups in April, 2021.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Karen Linder ably led the count, once again. The three counters counted only until 12:30. There was a steady wind and bird numbers were low over all. Some common species were quite scarce on the count day - for example, we saw no cardinals or yellow-rumped warblers, and only one dark-eyed junco, two titmice, and three crows. We did have one new species not seen in previous CBC counts in Kingston, a red-shouldered hawk, spotted on Basin St. The number of black vultures (29) seen this year was almost double that of turkey vultures (15), most of them counted in a large, low mixed kettle of TVs and BVs over the center of Kingston*.

"Our" Kingston eagle pair were seen (and heard) crooning to one another in the top of a Norway Spruce near their nest off Mapleton Road. Canada goose numbers were at a new low, but we were thrilled to see 4 large flocks of snow geese totaling 1050 of these magnificent birds overhead from the "Seedbeds" of the former Princeton Nurseries property. Many thanks to our counters!

Greater White-fronted Goose		Eastern Bluebird	4
Snow Goose	1050	American Robin	43
Canada Goose	128	Northern Mockingbird	3
Ring-billed Gull	6	European Starling	135
Herring Gull	35	White-throated Sparrow	12
Mourning Dove	22	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	American Crow	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	Chickadee SP	8
Downy Woodpecker	2	Tufted Titmouse	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Northern Flicker	7	Carolina Wren	5
Blue Jay	14	House Finch	5
Black Vulture	29	American Goldfinch	5
Turkey Vulture	15	total number	1551
Bald Eagle (Ad. or Imm.?)	2	total species	30
Cooper's Hawk	2	The 2 eagles were in/around nest on Mapleton	
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Rd. Courting adults- "singing"!!]	~ 10 am
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Snow geese = 4 large flocks spotted ~8:30 am	

Please take a moment to join KGA or to renew your membership. We welcome you to share with us thoughts, suggestions, or news pertaining to our greenbelt.

With best wishes for a healthy and happy autumn season,

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