

# The Green Way

## KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

[www.kingstongreenways.org](http://www.kingstongreenways.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is our tentative calendar of KGA events for the year.

Event dates and times (especially those later in the year) are subject to change, so don't forget to check our website ([www.kingstongreenways.org](http://www.kingstongreenways.org)) for up to the minute details.

March 15	Winter talk – A photographic journey to the Galapagos Islands
April 21	Kingston Clean-up (Earth Day) – Saturday
May 10	KGA Annual meeting (2nd Thursday)
June 2	National trails day event – Saturday
October 21	Fall Foliage Walk – Sunday 2:00 pm
December 16	Christmas Bird Count – Sunday 7:30 am

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>:** **A photographic journey to the Galapagos Islands...** Take an evening's cruise to a warm and exotic place where animals and birds have no fear of humans. See blue-footed boobies, magnificent frigate birds and sea iguanas from the Galapagos Islands, a fabled hotspot of diversity. On Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., Kingston Greenways Association trustee Karen Linder will present a slide talk on her trip to this magical group of islands off the coast of Ecuador— a protected place known for its rich endemic population of strange birds, giant tortoises, and plants and animals not found any place else on earth. Please join us at the Laurel Avenue School (corner of Laurel Avenue and Union Street in Kingston). The event is free and all are welcome. For more information, call Karen Linder (609) 514-2416 days or (609) 683-0483 evenings.

### OVERSIZED TRUCK ALERT

#### **KGA MEMBERS ARE URGED TO SEND A LETTER OPPOSING THE DESIGNATION OF ROUTE 27 AS A LARGE TRUCK ROUTE THROUGH KINGSTON.**

This designation will make Route 27 a "New Jersey Access Network" thoroughfare for oversized trucks--double-trailer combinations and 102-inch wide trucks, the biggest "standard" trucks now on the road (around 70 feet long).

This will erode the quality of life in our village and adversely affect local residences and businesses on Route 27. Route 27 was built for local traffic, not heavy truck traffic. Large tractor trailer trucks are major contributors to gridlock and cause more road surface and infrastructure damage than smaller vehicles do. This designation, if passed, will result in more truck traffic, unsafe road conditions for

pedestrians, bicyclists and local drivers, increased noise and air pollution, and will discourage visitors to the historic village of Kingston, the D&R Canal State Park, and the Kingston Lock area.

Please consider writing a letter to your local paper, as well as one to NJDOT. NUMBERS DO COUNT. The New Jersey Department of Transportation has said that the number of people who send comments will affect whether they exclude a given stretch of road.

NJDOT is receiving comments on the new parking rules until **February 16, 2007**. Please address your comments to: Mr. Kris Kolluri, Commissioner NJ Department of Transportation, PO Box 601, 1035 Parkway Avenue Trenton, NJ 08625-0601. You need only ask that Route 27 in Kingston be removed from the New Jersey Access Network under the proposed statewide truck routing regulations (N.J.A.C. 16:32, Truck Access). Sign your name and give your address, and on the envelope mark your letter 'Re: N.J.A.C. 16:32 Truck Access' to expedite delivery to the appropriate office. **Send it to Miriam Crum, Administrative Practice Officer, NJDOT Bureau of Administrative Practice and Public Law Implementation, PO Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625-0600.**

For more information and sample letters, visit our website at [www.kingstongreenways.org](http://www.kingstongreenways.org).

## PAST EVENTS

**Audubon Christmas Bird Count...** The Christmas Bird Count is an early-winter bird census, where volunteers count every bird they see or hear all day in a specified area. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the counting area that day. More than 50,000 observers participate each year. The results of their 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.

Count results from the Kingston segment of the 2006 Christmas Bird Count (see attached) indicate that we had an excellent year! - 51 species (a new high), 6 new species, high counts for 11 of the species that we had on our cumulative list, and a respectable 3720 total of birds! If you want to join us for the 2007 count, it will be held on 12/16 – call Karen for more information (609-683-0483). It is a great way to hone your skills and to get into the great outdoors.

Many thanks to our 2006 counters: Karen Linder, Anne Zeman, Mark Peel, Ellen Foos, Carolyn Edelmann, Gwen Southgate, Robin French, Edith Neimark, Ed Metcalfe, Tari Pantaleo, Doug Miller and Joanna Rose. Your participation is appreciated and we hope that you will join us for future counts! Many thanks, as always, to Princeton Forrestal Associates and to Mapleton Nurseries for allowing us to bird on their sections of the Princeton Nurseries lands.

**October 22: KGA Fall Foliage Walk...** The 2006 fall foliage walk, our first on the Princeton Nurseries Lands, was the best we ever had. Two very special co-leaders--KGA Trustee and nurseryman Bill Flemer IV, and Jim Consolloy, the Head Grounds Manager for Princeton University--shared their enthusiasm and expertise. Bill is a member of the Flemer family, which founded Princeton Nurseries, so he has an intimate knowledge of the wholesale nursery business that once thrived at this site. Jim Consolloy is responsible for maintaining Princeton University's 2300 acres and over 400 species of trees.

The 50 people who attended the walk were treated to a wealth of Princeton Nurseries History, and tips on tree identification, highlighting not only native trees, but also specimens of Princeton Nurseries'

unique cultivars, such as the 'Princeton Sentry' Ginkgo, and 'Bonfire' and 'Goldspire' sugar maples, aflame in their glorious fall colors.



50 Participants and 1 dog



Ginkgos and walkers

The previous day, many KGA members attended the Reptiles & Raptors & More ~ OH MY! event at Mapleton Preserve, hosted by the D&R Canal State Park and Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. They were treated to a “hands on” program by snake educator Gerry Wronski who provided an “up close and personal” experience with his cooperative reptiles. Then in the afternoon, licensed falconer Jennifer Pena presented a program that focused on the four birds of prey she brought with her – two hawks, a falcon and an owl. Ms. Pena shared her experience working with these magnificent birds including their nesting habits, hunting adaptations, and flight patterns. All of this was accompanied by some awe-inspiring flight demonstrations – one of the birds even flew off and took a bath, and returned soaking wet.



Falconer Jennifer Pena with an Eagle Owl

Photos by Gerry Jurrens. For more of his pictures, see <http://www.gjurrens.com/oragallery/Raptors/>



Jennifer Pena with a Harris's hawk

We are always interested in open space opportunities, and receptive to new projects and ideas for events. Please share with us your information, suggestions, and questions. You can reach us through the web site or by mail: KGA, PO Box 391, Kingston NJ 08528-0391. Thank you for partnering with us to make the most of our greenbelt!

Tari Pantaleo, President, Kingston Greenways Association

Kingston Greenways Association  
 Audubon Christmas Bird Count Results

Previous year counts

Species	2006 12/17	2005 12/18	2004 12/19	2003 12/14	2002 12/16	2001 12/16	2000 12/17	1999 12/20	1998 12/20
Bald Eagle (adult 12/16)	1	1							
Great Blue Heron	2	1	1			3		2	3
Black Vulture	12				3	1			1
Turkey Vulture	24	4	4	1	12	25		7	8
Snow Goose					1300	5			
Canada Goose	2011	2085	1097	351	1671	349	264	109	600
Green winged teal	2								
Wood duck						20			
Am. Black Duck	7					3			6
Mallard	33	14	23	26	2	10		4	22
Ring-necked Duck	9					2			
American Coot	8								
Gadwall	5								
Ruddy Duck	3							1	1
Bufflehead			1						
Common merganser		7							
Hooded merganser	6								
Osprey									1
Northern Harrier			2		1		1	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	2	1	4				
Cooper's Hawk	1	3			1				1
Red-tailed Hawk	5	6	6		10	5	5	7	6
Rough-legged Hawk						1			
Am. Kestrel						1			2
Wild turkey			9			12			
Killdeer						5			
Woodcock				1		1			
Ring-billed gull	6	5			142	27	30		
Herring Gull	44	2			112	121	68	37	20
Gull (sp.)	17	520	127	30	62	30			
Great black backed gull					1				
Rock dove (pigeon)		36		2	4	1			
Mourning Dove	24	46	78	13	85	27	30	36	350
Great Horned Owl	1	1				2	1	1	0
Screech owl	1								
Belted Kingfisher	2		1				1	2	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	20	7	10	5	3	10	5	12	7
Downy Woodpecker	16	14	3		9	15	3	3	7
Hairy Woodpecker	2	4			1	1	1		1
Yellow-bellied sapsucker		2					1		
Brown Thrasher		1							
N. Flicker	20	14	4	5	9	11	5	3	16
Blue Jay	86	75	3	25	43	62	8	49	15
Am. Crow	23	25	10	6	281	48	11	38	43
Fish Crow					1				2
Carolina Chickadee					13	3			
Black-capped chickadee					4	65			

Species	2006 12/17	2005 12/18	2004 12/19	2003 12/14	2002 12/16	2001 12/16	2000 12/17	1999 12/20	1998 12/20
Chickadee (sp)	62	86	44	15	25	30	11	45	43
Tufted Titmouse	86	34	21	14	20	40	13	24	23
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	11	3	1	13	6		3	6
Rose-breasted Nuthatch		4		5					
Brown Creeper						1			1
Carolina Wren	19	11	14	4	11	8	4	4	10
Golden-crowned Kinglet		2	1		5				2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet									1
Eastern bluebird					3	15			
Hermit Thrush (12/16)	1	1			1		1	1	1
Am. Robin	320	161	288	124	136	288	57	197	35
Gray catbird	1	3	1			1			
N. Mockingbird	19	23	12	6	28	19	6	10	17
Eur. Starling	267	130	343	250	125	213	56	426	70
Grackle	28								
Cowbird		1							
Cedar Waxwing	62	86		1	16	4		16	12
Yellow-rumped Warbler	19	14		3	4	34	27	6	57
Eastern Towhee	2					2			
Am. Tree Sparrow	14	3	10	10	63	4	1	32	23
Chipping sparrow	1			2				8	0
Vesper sparrow					1				
Field Sparrow		2	1	6	9			2	1
Savannah sparrow	10				1			9	0
Fox sparrow						2			
Song Sparrow	16	11	8	3	9	6	3	44	20
Swamp sparrow					2				
White-throated Sparrow	196	240	83	45	68	66	24	43	123
White crowned sparrow		2	8		3	5	2	2	
Dark-eyed Junco	84	220	178	46	105	163	30	175	103
N. Cardinal	65	58	24	12	15	27	9	15	24
House Finch	11	21	23	26	3	27	13	1	1
Purple Finch	4	4							
Am. Goldfinch	10	15	13	5	3	26	9	25	24
House Sparrow	1			5		3			20
wren (sp)		1							1
buteo (sp)	1								
accipiter (sp)			1		1				1
Sparrow (sp)	14	4			45				
Duck (sp)		22			30				
Thrush (sp)	1								
mute swan							3		

Total counted                    3720    4044    2457    1049    4519    1856    700    1403    1732

Number of species                51       46       35       32       47       50       30       38       43