

The Green Way

No. 11

March 2008

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Don't forget – it is time to renew your membership in the Kingston Greenways Association, if you have not done so already.

Thanks so much for your support!

Help us save paper and ink! To receive The Green Way electronically, please send an email to tari@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 check our website (www.kingstongreenways.org) for up-to-the-minute details.

March 25	Winter talk – Desert Dreams: a quest through the American Southwest Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
April 12	Animal Ambassadors – Saturday 2:00 p.m.
April 20	Kingston Clean-up (Earth Day) – Sunday – 10:00 am
May 15	KGA Annual Meeting: "Know The Bear Facts." Thursday , 7:30 p.m.
June 7	National trails day event – Saturday (time to be determined)
October 19	Fall Foliage Walk – Sunday 2:00 p.m.
December 14	Christmas Bird Count – Sunday 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. - Desert Dreams:

Many picture the desert as a barren and inhospitable place. Jeffrey Hall's presentation, *Desert Dreams, a quest through the American Southwest* will show the richness of this scenic landscape. His slides reveal the ancient homes of the Anasazi, and the present habitat of a surprising variety of plant and animal life.

Big Bend, Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly, the Huachuca Mountains and the Salton Sea are home to roadrunners and cactus, but also host surprises like nesting shorebirds and gulls. The talk will be held at the **Laurel Avenue School** (corner of Laurel Avenue and Union Street in Kingston, NJ). It's free, and all are welcome.



An avid birder and talented photographer and speaker who teaches biology at the Pennington School in Pennington, NJ, Jeffrey Hall's articles and photographs have appeared in *Living Bird*, *Underwater Naturalist*,

New Jersey Audubon, and many other publications. Currently the program director of Washington Crossing Audubon Society, he served two terms as its president. In addition to presentations to nature and conservation groups, he is an experienced lecturer on these topics with Elderhostel. For more information, call 609-514-2416.

Saturday, April 12, 2 p.m. - Animal Ambassadors: Come meet the animal ambassadors from the Mercer County Wildlife Center! The Center is a state and federally licensed facility that cares for injured, ill, and displaced native wildlife. They provide these animals with medical treatment and a temporary refuge before releasing them back into an appropriate wild habitat.



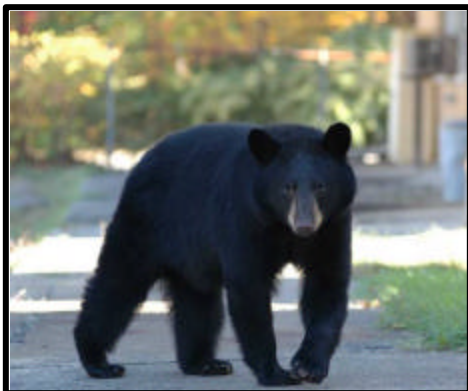
This demonstration, given by Nancy Derrico, will be held at the **D&R Canal State Park Headquarters, 145 Mapleton Road, Kingston**. It will feature four animals that for various reasons are not releasable back into the wild. These animals travel to schools and community events throughout the year, acting as ambassadors for their wild counterparts. The event is free and open to the public, and is appropriate for all ages. **For more information, call 609-514-2416.** To learn more about the Mercer County Wildlife Center, visit their informative website

<http://nj.gov/counties/mercerc/community/wildlife/>

Sunday, April 20th – Help clean up Kingston! Each year, in conjunction with Earth Day, the KGA holds a roadside cleanup. This year we will be cleaning up along Ridge Road, Division Street and Mapleton Road. If we have enough people, a group will also clean up near Rockingham. Gather at the **Cook Natural Area Parking Lot** (at the junction of Heathcote Brook Road and Ridge Road) at **10:00 a.m. Sunday, April 20**. South Brunswick Township supplies the bags and gloves. Boots, hats and long pants are suggested attire. **For more information, call 609-924-3399.**

Saturday, April 26, 2-4 p.m. – Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands Arbor Day Celebration: William Flemer, IV will present a demonstration on the grafting techniques that were used at Princeton Nurseries when they occupied this site. Alumni who worked at the Nursery will be on hand, and a tree donated by Princeton Nurseries will be planted. This event will be held at **Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Road, Kingston**. All guests will receive a seedling tree to bring home and plant. Free and open to the public. (See www.fpnl.org for more details.) **For more information, call 609-514-2416.**

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. -- KGA ANNUAL MEETING: "Know The Bear Facts." Mark your calendars and come to the **Kingston Fire House on Heathcote Road, Kingston** for our annual meeting and elections.



Following a brief business meeting, Michelle Ruggiero from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife will present "Know the Bear Facts." Black bears have now been confirmed in all 21 of New Jersey's counties, so this program is designed to help residents to become better educated about this important component of the state's natural heritage.

The talk covers the natural history and biology of bears in the Garden State and the results of past and current black bear research. It also includes practical information on coexisting with black bears, such as steps one should follow in order to ensure that bears do not become a nuisance animal in the neighborhood. Our presenter,

Michelle Ruggiero, is an Assistant Biologist with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife, where she has worked full-time since 2004, having started her career within the Division of Watershed Management.

PAST EVENTS

Audubon Christmas Bird Count... It was a rough day for the Christmas Bird Count—the weather was raw and windy and it rained till 3 PM. We had four soggy counters—Mark Peel, Anne Zeman, Ed Metcalfe, and Karen Linder—plus two feeder watchers, Gwen Southgate and Edith Neimark, who wisely chose to avoid the nasty weather and count from the comfort of their homes. Due to the poor weather and fewer eyes, the number of birds seen was lower than usual, but we still found 44 species and 1302 birds, including 11 turkeys, a flock of soaking wet bluebirds, 4 great blue herons and 2 kingfishers. Firsts for this year's count were red-winged blackbirds, and near Rockingham, a flock of American pipits in the grass. An exciting non-bird sighting (near the shrine across from St. Joseph's Seminary) was a red fox on a ledge, perched near a dirt mound that could indicate a den.

If you want to join us for the 2008 count (expected to be on Dec. 14th) call Karen for more information at 609-683-0483. It is a great way to hone your skills and to get into the great outdoors! Many thanks, as always, to Princeton Forrester Associates and to Mapleton Nurseries for allowing us to bird on their sections of the Princeton Nurseries lands.

October 22, 2007: KGA Fall Foliage Walk... Over forty people turned out for our leisurely fall foliage walk, which began in the parking lot of the John Flemer Preserve on the southbound side of Route 27, and wound through the woods and up to Rockingham, Washington's Revolutionary War Headquarters in Kingston.

Our walk leaders were George Luck Jr. and Sam deTuro. George Luck, who has lived in Kingston all of his life, is a passionate history buff, and well-known for his historical talks and ghost walks in the Kingston area. Sam deTuro, the arborist who founded Woodwinds (a Kingston-based tree service that celebrated its 40th anniversary this year) shared his knowledge of trees and shrubs we saw along the way. In addition to viewing the fall foliage, we also saw evidence of beaver activity along the D&R Canal!



KGA is looking for individuals who would like to serve as trustees. If you'd like to join us, or just want more information, please send us an email! New terms begin in May. tari@kingstongreenways.org

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 our web site <http://www.kingstongreenways.org/> 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 - 2007

Previous year counts

Species	2007 12/16	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
Snow Goose						1300	5			
Canada Goose	5	20	20	10	351	1671	349	264	109	600
Mute Swan (12/15)									3	
Wood Duck							20			
Gadwall										
American Black Duck							3			6
Mallard					26	2	10		4	22
Duck (sp)						30				
Green-winged Teal										
Ring-necked Duck							2			
Bufflehead										
Hooded Merganser										
Common Merganser										
Ruddy Duck									1	1
Wild Turkey							12			
Great Blue Heron							3		2	3
Black Vulture						3	1			1
Turkey Vulture (12/17)					1	12	25		7	8
Osprey										1
Bald Eagle										
Northern Harrier						1		1	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1	4				
Cooper's Hawk						1				1
Accipiter (sp)						1				1
Red-tailed Hawk						10	5	5	7	6
buteo sp										
Rough-legged Hawk							1			
American Kestrel							1			2
American Coot										
Killdeer							5			
American Woodcock					1		1			
Ring-billed Gull						142	27	30		
Herring Gull (2/13/07)						112	121	68	37	20
Gull (sp)			5	1	30	62	30			
Great Black-backed Gull						1				
Rock Pigeon					2	4	1			
Mourning Dove					13	85	27	30	36	350
Eastern Screech Owl										
Great Horned Owl							2	1	1	0
Belted Kingfisher								1	2	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker					5	3	10	5	12	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1		
Downy Woodpecker						9	15	3	3	7
Hairy Woodpecker						1	1	1		1
Northern Flicker					5	9	11	5	3	16

Blue Jay					25	43	62	8	49	15
American Crow					6	281	48	11	38	43
Fish Crow						1				2
Carolina Chickadee						13	3			
Black-capped Chickadee						4	65			
Chickadee sp					15	25	30	11	45	43
Tufted Titmouse					14	20	40	13	24	23
Red-breasted Nuthatch					5					
White-breasted Nuthatch					1	13	6		3	6
Brown Creeper							1			1
Carolina Wren					4	11	8	4	4	10
Wren (sp)										1
Golden-crowned Kinglet						5				2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet										1
Eastern Bluebird						3	15			
Hermit Thrush						1		1	1	1
American Robin		3	1	2	124	136	288	57	197	35
Gray Catbird							1			
Northern Mockingbird					6	28	19	6	10	17
Brown Thrasher										
European Starling		2	1	3	250	125	213	56	426	70
American Pipit										
Cedar Waxwing					1	16	4		16	12
Yellow-rumped Warbler					3	4	34	27	6	57
Eastern Towhee							2			
American Tree Sparrow					10	63	4	1	32	23
Chipping Sparrow					2				8	0
Field Sparrow					6	9			2	1
Vesper Sparrow						1				
Savannah Sparrow						1			9	0
Fox Sparrow							2			
Song Sparrow					3	9	6	3	44	20
Sparrow SP						45				
Swamp Sparrow						2				
White-throated Sparrow	1	1	2		45	68	66	24	43	123
White-crowned Sparrow						3	5	2	2	
Dark-eyed Junco			2	1	46	105	163	30	175	103
Northern Cardinal					12	15	27	9	15	24
Red-wing blackbird										
Common Grackle										
Cowbird (12/13)										
Purple Finch										
House Finch					26	3	27	13	1	1
American Goldfinch					5	3	26	9	25	24
House Sparrow					5		3			20
Total counted	13	36	46	24	650	4516	1856	700	1403	1732
Number of species					32	47	50	30	38	43