

# The Green Way

## KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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

Spring 2019 No. 33

**Spring is a time of 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

### EARTH DAY CLEANUPS

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Celebrate Earth Day with us by tidying up our shared roadsides, neighborhoods, and public lands!

**Morning session:** 9 to 11 AM: Cleanup of Laurel Avenue and vicinity of Rockingham Historic Site, from just above the village of Kingston up to Route 518. Meet at the Rockingham parking lot, 84 Laurel Avenue.

**Afternoon session:** 2 to 4 PM: Trash collection in the Mapleton Preserve, Cook Natural Area, and in areas adjacent to Mapleton Road, Division Street, Heathcote Road, Ridge Road, Greenwood Avenue, and Railroad Avenue. Parking for the event is along Railroad Avenue off Ridge Road.



Grabbers, gloves, orange vests, and garbage bags will be provided. Wear sturdy boots and clothing. For more information, please call 609-750-1821.

## KGA ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM ON MUSHROOMS

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Kingston Firehouse, 8 Heathcote Road, Kingston



Following a brief business meeting, Jim Barg of the NJ Mycological Association will present “A Brief Introduction to Finding and Identifying Wild Mushrooms,” a look at what mushrooms are, how they grow, and how beginners can go about starting to identify the mushrooms they find.



*Amanita muscaria v. guessowii* (left) and *Honey mushrooms* (right).

*Photos by Jim Barg*

Jim is a semi-retired graphic designer who is currently employed as a freelance wild food and mushroom forager for several restaurants in the New Jersey/Pennsylvania area. He is a past President of the New Jersey Mycological Association and is one of their veteran mushroom identifiers. He also serves as art director for the Association’s bimonthly newsletter. In addition, Jim is a consultant to the New Jersey Poison Control Center, acting as one of several mushroom identifiers who are called in cases of suspected mushroom poisonings. Jim’s passion for wild fungi and their identification stretches over several decades.

## **STREAM STOMP**

**Saturday, July 20, 2019**

The Stream Stomp is a cool way to spend a summer day!



With the guidance of the D&R Canal State Park Naturalist, we will wade in Heathcote Brook, seining for macroinvertebrates that we will identify using picture charts, as shown in these scenes from our last Stream Stomp, ten years ago! The presence or absence of each creature has something to tell about the health of our waterways. Please check our web site closer to the date for time and details.

## ***RECENT EVENTS***

### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Sunday, December 16, 2018

It poured rain the day of the Christmas Bird Count. The weather was miserable and birds were scarce. But on the bright side, 18 bluebirds were counted, and a new bird was seen—a red-shouldered hawk.

## **FALL FOLIAGE WALK**

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Despite our best intentions, the new trail in Cook rebuilt by Eagle Scout Marc Gambino and his team was far too wet for an enjoyable walk, so we explored the Mapleton Preserve instead. As fall foliage color also did not cooperate with our plans, our focus turned to fungi! Our group's sharp eyes noticed many fantastically different types of mushrooms that walk leader Karen Linder helped identify. We learned about their structures, life cycles, reproduction methods, and toxicity.

## **COOK HILL IS PRESERVED BY MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

Our good friend Rick Lear, Director of Middlesex County Parks and Recreation, sent the wonderful news that the county finally closed on the Cook property commonly known as "The Sledding Hill." Just under eight acres, it preserves that section and view and adds to the overall acreage of the municipal, county, and state owned land. This is a long-awaited and welcome addition to Kingston's greenbelt. We are grateful to all the parties who made this preservation effort a reality.

## **KGA WEB SITE MAPS PAGE UPDATED**

Please take a look at <https://www.kingstongreenways.org/maps.html>

We have recently updated the links and added new ones for preserved open space and trails in all nearby townships. Most importantly, we have posted the latest draft of the Kingston Open Space Inventory map, accompanied by a legend with which to interpret it, and a list to help identify all of the properties on the map, including ones not yet preserved but slated to be. The map will continue to be revised and expanded as new open spaces are designated.

## **NEW LAW BANS SMOKING IN STATE PARKS AND FORESTS**

The law (N.J.S.A. 26:3D-58(a)) states: "Smoking is prohibited in an indoor public place or workplace or at a public park or beach, except as otherwise provided in this act." A "Public park or beach" means a State park or forest, a county or municipal park, or a State, county, or municipal beach, but does not include any parking lot that is adjacent to, but outside of, the public park or beach.

A "State park or forest" means any State owned or leased land, water or facility administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, including, but not limited to, a park, forest, recreational area, marina, historic site, burial site, or natural area, but not including a wildlife management area or reservoir land." The ban includes the use of electronic smoking devices as well as smoking tobacco products. The full text of the law is available at:

<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL18/64 .PDF>