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The Green Way

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KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Van Clef Talk: New Jersey's Least Wanted List

Michael Van Clef, botanist with the Nature Conservancy, is a man on a mission! This January at a joint KGA and Kingston Garden Club meeting, Dr. Van Clef presented an overview of New Jersey's most problematic invasive plant species, including his top five: multiflora rose, garlic mustard, Japanese stiltgrass, purple loosestrife, and barberry. He explained why each was a threat to our preserved open space and went on to suggest control measures and non-invasive alternatives.

He also spoke about overgrazing of undergrowth and the importance of deer control, a measure made necessary by the disappearance of woodlands due to New Jersey's overdevelopment. There was a lively discussion: a good omen, since it is important that we in the KGA understand these topics so that we can have informed opinions on the Green Belt land management.

Mike also distributed a variety of native plants for members to try in their gardens. For more information on the subject of his talk, visit the Nature Conservancy's website at nature.org.



Upcoming Events:

Sunday, April 17th: Let's Clean up Kingston!



Each year, in conjunction with Earth Day, the KGA holds a roadside cleanup. This year we will be cleaning up after commuters on Ridge Road, Division Street and Mapleton Road. Gather at the Cook Natural Area Parking Lot (at the junction of Heathcote Brook Road and Ridge Road) at **10:30 AM, Sunday, April 17**. South Brunswick Township supplies the bags and gloves. Boots, hats and long pants are suggested attire.

Thursday, April 28th: Annual Meeting, with Talk on Princeton Nurseries

Mark your calendars and come to the **Laurel Avenue School** for our annual meeting and elections at **7:30 PM, Thursday, April 28th**. The program will feature a talk by William Flemer IV. Bill, who is a life-long nurseryman and co-owner of Mapleton Nurseries, will speak on "Nursery Production at Princeton Nurseries," a window into the world of horticulture, plant propagation and development at one of America's most innovative nurseries. Refreshments will be served.

A few years ago, Bill, with his father and co-owner of Princeton Nurseries, William Flemer III, gave us a tour of Kingston trees. We are excited to have Bill back again, and encourage you to invite your friends to this special evening.

Get Involved – Opportunities Aplenty!

At the annual meeting we will be electing trustees for three-year terms. Our Nominating Committee, Tari Pantaleo and Doug Kiovsky, are still preparing a slate of candidates. But there are other ways to get involved in the Kingston Greenways Association. We have just redesigned, expanded, and improved our website. We encourage you to visit www.kingstongreenways.org, and welcome your comments and contributions -- especially photo essays and articles about Kingston open space.

In addition, the KGA is applying for a grant to study the environments of the newly acquired Princeton Nurseries property. To help with this we need photographers and data organizers. We are sure that this small team can make a big difference in the planning for the nursery lands development.

Renew Your Membership – Stay Connected

The Kingston Greenways Association still has plenty of work to do! Trails around Kingston need planning and development. The greenbelt is still incomplete in both Franklin and South Brunswick Townships, and we continue to work on land acquisition projects. It is not something that happens fast! Also, paths connecting Kingston to adjacent communities need to be created. And finally, the wonderful open space surrounding our village provides an open-air classroom for nature study, which we make use of in our seasonal walks.

The Association's strength is in our numbers. We keep our membership fee low because we keep our expenses low. But we need you to be part of our network of open space advocates. That's a good reason to give us an e-mail address. We don't share our members' addresses, and only send out e-mail notices a few times per year. If you don't want to be notified by email, leave the space blank; you will still get *The Green Way* newsletter. Won't you send in your membership form today?

Princeton Nurseries Property News

In the last issue of *The Green Way*, we reported on the transfer of part of the Princeton Nurseries land from Princeton University to South Brunswick Township. On January 19th, the second ceremony was held, this one for the completion of transfer from Princeton Nurseries, Inc. and Princeton University to the State of New Jersey and South Brunswick Township. South Brunswick mayor Frank Gambatese and NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Energy Commissioner Bradley Campbell presided over the ceremony. They are shown here with Robert Durkee and David Knights of Princeton University and William Flemer III of Princeton Nurseries (with aide).

The division of the lands and structures between South Brunswick and the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park is very complicated, and the plan for developing recreational opportunities has not been worked out yet.



The Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands will pursue the goal of providing citizen input and financial support to the park preserve, much as the Rockingham Association supports programs at Rockingham State Historic Site. The KGA is assisting the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands as they develop a mission and officers, and apply for non-profit status. For details on FPNL (and more information about the Nursery lands), click on the PNL link on our web site (www.kingstongreenways.org), or address inquiries and/or contributions to FPNL, P. O. Box 113, Kingston NJ 08528-0113. While the FPNL is getting organized, our trustees have agreed to hold the money for charitable use by them. Tax deductible checks for the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands may be made out to Kingston Greenways Association, write "FPNL" in the memo field.

We hope to see you at our spring activities, and don't forget to visit our updated website!

Charlie Dieterich,
President, Kingston Greenways Association