

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

FALL 2010 No. 16

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL FALL FOLIAGE WALK

Saturday, October 23rd, 1:30 to 3 PM

After this hot, dry, summer, we don't know what kind of fall color to expect, but we *can* promise



you a pleasant walk with a knowledgeable and engaging leader—Rick Lear, of the Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation.

We will meet at the Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park Headquarters (145 Mapleton Road), walk through part of the Preserve, take the rail trail, and return through Heathcote Meadows. The walk will be leisurely, and on mostly level ground. Boots and long pants are recommended. Please bring binoculars, cameras, and guidebooks, if you wish. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the walk.

Rick Lear and KGA Trustee Robert von Zumbusch in Heathcote Meadows

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday December 19th, 7:30 AM - 5 PM

The Kingston segment of this year's Audubon Christmas Bird Count begins at 7:30 AM and goes until noon. After a break for lunch at Main Street Cafe, the KGA group will continue with the count in the afternoon. You can join us for morning, afternoon, or both. It is a great way to hone your birding skills! If you are interested, give Karen Linder a call (609-683-0483) for more info.

ACTION ALERT!

LETTERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT D&R CANAL COMMISSION

Governor Christie and NJ DEP Commissioner Martin want to abolish the D & R Canal Commission (DRCC). Other commissions and programs and agencies within NJDEP--such as the Natural Areas Program (which has oversight over the Park's Bulls Island and Cook Natural Areas)--are also threatened. **KGA urges you to oppose the abolishment of the DRCC, as it**

provides critical citizen oversight of public and private projects that impact the Park. Eliminating the Canal Commission will not save New Jersey taxpayers any money, as the Commission's funding is revenue neutral and is provided by fees charged for the review of projects. However, its elimination will lead to a degradation of central New Jersey's most used and greatly loved Park by removing oversight of the natural and historic areas adjacent to the often very narrow park.

Since DRCC was established by statute, it cannot be eliminated without a vote of the legislature. **Write your state legislators and those in jurisdictions through which the canal flows and let them know how you feel!** A list of Legislators appears on the last page of this newsletter. For more information and talking points, please visit <http://kingstongreenways.org/>.

KGA -- 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COOK PRESERVE BOARDWALK GRANT APPLICATION FUNDED!

KGA just received notification from the National Recreational Trails Program and the NJDEP Office of Natural and Historic Resources that its December 2009 proposal for funding to repair the Cook Preserve Boardwalk has been awarded, in the amount of \$8940.

Originally a Boy Scout project, the boardwalk has been maintained by KGA for several years. It passes through marshy wetlands and becomes flooded in heavy rains. To address this problem, KGA seeks to raise the height of the boardwalk by about 9 inches by lining its bed with gravel.

The contractor for the project is Mapleton Nurseries. They will move the existing boardwalk sections to one side, remove anchors (bent rebar), arrange for crushed stone to be delivered, and transport it from the delivery point to the boardwalk.



Once the stone is in place, we will be recruiting volunteers to re-lay the boards, reinsert the staples that anchor the boardwalk sections, and dig channels beneath every other segment to allow water flow and prevent sections from washing away during flooding. It will now be necessary to obtain approval from the Natural Areas Program, and possibly a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection; so it may be some time before work can actually start.

Would you like to help us in this important trail maintenance project? If so, call David Southgate (609- 924-3399) to get involved!

RICCIARDI TRACT GREEN ACRES APPLICATION FILED

In support of a key KGA goal to ***work in pursuit of open space preservation in the Kingston area***, KGA has submitted an application requesting Green Acres funding to assist in the purchase of the Ricciardi Tract in Princeton. This is our first Green Acres funding application.

Conservation partners, including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Friends of Princeton Open Space, Open Space Institute, Princeton Township, and Mercer County are collaborating to try and create a "Princeton Ridge Preserve." Kingston Greenways Association seeks to join these preservation partners in the protection of the Ricciardi Tract, which is a critical piece of property needed to link other open space parcels together. This tract, along with other open space areas that are part of the proposed preserve, could help to form a continuous greenbelt that extends into Kingston, connecting with the D&R Canal State Park, Rockingham State Historic Site, and the Kingston Trap Rock Quarry. These are all underlain by the same diabase formation that makes up the "Princeton" ridge, locally known as the Kingston/Rocky Hill Ridge.



The Princeton Ridge seen from Van Horne Park in Rocky Hill

DELOITTE TOUCHE HELPS NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EFFORT

Trustee David Southgate and six members of a volunteer group from Deloitte Touche reassembled the far end of the boardwalk in the Cook Natural Area this year for National Trails Day. Segments had washed away during spring flooding. All vegetative growth was cleared away to make the boardwalk passable. Both of these feats were accomplished in an hour and a half's time. **A round of applause is due David and these hard-working and efficient volunteers!**

KGA SUPPORTS LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND

KGA has signed a letter in support of the LWCF (Land & Water Conservation Fund). S.2747 would make \$900 million available each year from revenues generated from existing oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf. These funds would support critical land acquisition projects in the Highlands, the Pinelands, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Morristown National Historic Park, and New Jersey's five national wildlife refuges. A fully funded LWCF would also provide significant matching funds for the Green Acres Program each year.

GREAT TURNOUT FOR WALK IN MARQUAND PARK

Weather was favorable for our tour of Marquand Park on May 2nd, led by KGA member Roland Machold, and assisted by his wife, Pamela. Located at the junction of Stockton Street (Rt. 206) and Lovers' Lane, it serves as a public park, arboretum and recreational area.



Photo by Doug Miller

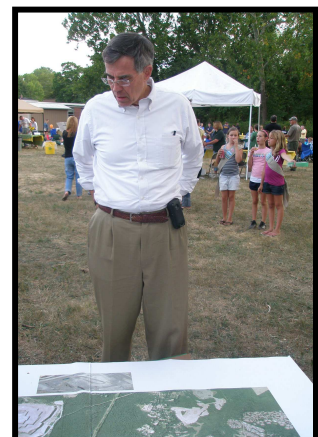
A wonderful Time Off article by Adam Grybowski, “**Every Tree Tells A Story,**” helped draw sixty people to the event. For many of us, it was our first visit to the park, and it was a privilege to have such a guide for the experience. For those who missed the walk, a guide to the park is available at Bainbridge House (at 158 Nassau Street, Princeton). It lists the 173 varieties of trees and shrubs in the park, including spruces, firs, cedars, oaks, magnolias, tulips, ash and maples, and rarities such as the dove tree and the franklinia. “**Every Tree Tells A Story**” can be read at http://www.centraljersey.com/articles/2010/04/29/time_off/entertainment_news/doc4bd898b92fd00457901091.txt

KINGSTON VILLAGE PICNIC

Many thanks to Gene Lennon and Doug Miller for putting together a fabulous aerial map display of Kingston and environs for the Kingston Village Picnic on September 11th. Congressman Rush Holt can be seen viewing the map in the picture to the right.

KGA ANNUAL MEETING

At our Annual Meeting in May, John Butcher was elected a new trustee, and Michael Kaplan was re-elected, both to three-year terms.



Welcome, John, and than you, John and Michael, for offering your time, experience, and energy to The KGA Board of Trustees!

KGA ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEANUP

This year, KGA helped with not one, but TWO cleanups for Earth Day. For Cleanup #1, eight volunteers picked up eight bags of trash near Rockingham and along Laurel Avenue in Franklin Township on Earth Day, April 22nd. On May 1st, a second crew of six focused on Mapleton Road, and collected five bags of garbage.

We are grateful to all of these workers! Thanks also go to South Brunswick Township for supplying bags, gloves and safety vests, and for collecting the haul from the South Brunswick side of Route 27.



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* leadership positions