

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Spring 2011 No. 19

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: <http://www.kingstongreenways.org/forme.html>

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 23, 2012 – 7:30 PM at the Kingston Firehouse.

After a brief business meeting including election of trustees, Cynthia Bloom-Cronin will give an illustrated presentation on Scenic Byways – both in general and also on the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway. The Millstone Valley Byway, which passes through Kingston, is a loop that includes both the canal road and the river road between Route 27 in Kingston and Route 514 in Millstone/East Millstone. The byway corridor links numerous historic communities, farmland and open space areas. A landscape designer, Ms. Bloom-Cronin is the coordinator of the NJ DOT Scenic Byway program.

KGA TRAILS DAY SESSION

Saturday, June 2, 2012

Our Trails Day efforts will focus on the boardwalk in the Cook Natural Area. In March, a crew built a mockup section of boardwalk to test its endurance against water and weeds.



On Trails Day, we will stack the boardwalk sections that washed away during last year's floods, and pry up the ones that are embedded, in preparation for next actions to be determined based on the endurance of the test section.



RECENT EVENTS

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEANUP April 14, 2012

Three cheers for our Earth Day cleanup volunteers, who picked up trash with energy, efficiency, and a fine esprit de corps!

The **Rockingham (morning)** crew collected twelve bags of trash around Rockingham and along both sides of Laurel Avenue in Franklin Township.



Photo by Sameer Trivedi

The Cook (afternoon) crew concentrated on the Cook Natural Area and parts of our greenbelt that adjoin Heathcote, Ridge, and Mapleton Roads in South Brunswick Township.



LESSONS FROM HURRICANE IRENE

March 14, 2012

Jim Waltman, Executive Director of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, spoke about what we can do to reduce flooding and flood damage in future storms through changes in mindset, behaviors, and policies. **Kingston Volunteer Fire Company Chief Lloyd Mathis** was on hand to share the harrowing perspective of the village's volunteer firefighters, who answered a staggering 91 calls the weekend Irene struck.

Unfortunately, flooding *will* continue. We've built too much in floodplains. Annual precipitation is predicted to increase in the future. Increasing amounts of impervious surface exacerbate flooding, while reducing aquifer recharge. In other words, we're seeing more water above, but our aquifers are drying out below. Water quality is impacted.

Current regulations control permitted runoff from a site. It must not be greater after development than before. Some of the things we CAN do in addition to this are:

1) Stricter stormwater rules and better regulation are needed at the local level.

New Jersey stormwater regulations are quite strict, but municipalities are free to adopt even more stringent rules as to how many feet from a stream both building and vegetation clearing are permitted. Tighter forest protection ordinances are also important, as tree clearing encourages flooding.

2) Use Blue Acres funds to get people out of harm's way.

Towns can now use open space/farmland funds to buy Blue Acres to get people out of at-risk structures, and prevent new construction in flood-prone areas.

3) Fix our mistakes.

Channeled detention basins can be naturalized, so that their function changes from diverting water to holding and absorbing it. Native grasses can be planted in place of turf grass. Their roots help break up the soil for improved percolation of water downward. In contrast, turf grass forms a tight mat, has shallow roots, and due to constant mowing, causes the earth to compact like cement. Culvert enlargement is also a good way to prevent or mitigate flooding.

4) Build and retrofit smarter.

Green roofs, porous paving, rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, and other initiatives can be part of new building or redevelopment projects. Planting more trees aids percolation and also increases transpiration.

These measures do not come cheap--but the costs of flood-related damage, power outages, utilities infrastructure repair, emergency services, and reduced water quality are very costly, and the loss of life (Hurricane Irene resulted in the death of one EMT in Princeton, one nurseryman in Lawrenceville) is not a price we ever want to pay.



Please visit <http://kingstongreenways.org/> for a slideshow of Hurricane Irene images that appeared on Patch.com or were submitted by members and friends. This photo of the Lockettender's House in August 2011 was taken by Doug Kiovsky.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday December 18, 2011

The final tallies for the Kingston segment of last year's Audubon Christmas Bird Count include 1625 birds and 41 species. Thank you to all of our counters for 2011! The highlight this year had to be our two Kingston eagles, sitting in the trees near their nest. There were a lot of water birds on the Trap Rock quarry pond, including hooded mergansers, coots, and ruddy ducks. Kingston was full of yellow-rumped warblers on both sides of Route 27--we saw a total of 43 of them! Like last year, black vultures outnumbered turkey vultures. We are grateful to all who have helped to protect the Kingston open space that hosts these marvelous creatures.

And on the subject of birds...

Our Kingston eagles have a new young chick. We urge those who know where the nest is to be sensitive to the fact that young birds can be easily alarmed. When startled by humans, chicks have been known to fall out of the nest before they can fly. Please obey the postings and leave the new family (as well as the landowners) in peace.

Tari Pantaleo
President, Kingston Greenways Association
<http://kingstongreenways.org/>