

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org-

Spring 2013 No. 21

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 & MOVIE

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 – 7:30 PM at the Kingston Firehouse

For the first time, KGA will be showing a movie! The PBS documentary “Crash: A Tale of Two Species” explores a fascinating, endangered relationship. This episode of "Nature" studies



Red knot and horseshoe crabs

Courtesy of Conserve Wildlife

the red knot, a South American shorebird which flies each year to the Arctic to mate. Along the way it stops at the Delaware Bay, where it feeds on the eggs of the ancient horseshoe crab -- a meal crucial to completing its journey. But now that humans have started using the horseshoe crab for fishing bait, the red knot finds itself imperiled. Because Hurricane Sandy altered or destroyed nearly half of the red knots' Delaware Bay spawning habitat, and because of mounting pressure to lift the state's horseshoe crab harvest moratorium, the relationship has become increasingly endangered.

Following a brief business meeting, Maria Grace of Conserve Wildlife will introduce the film, which runs about 55 minutes, leaving time for discussion and Q&A with Maria afterward.



Maria Grace is the Education and Outreach Manager for Conserve Wildlife (<http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/>). Since 2004, she has been sharing wildlife stories with people of all ages. Maria manages education programs like the [Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest](#) and Conserve Wildlife's Partnership with Parks Program. When not working, Maria loves to play outside with her sons, Cooper & Elden, and husband Sean. Cooper and Elden are her favorite teachers. They help to open her eyes to the little wonders of the natural world.

The program is free and open to all, and refreshments will be provided.

KGA TRAILS DAY SESSION Saturday, June 1, 2013

We are considering several possible projects. Check our web site in the near future for details (<http://kingstongreenways.org/>), or call David at 609-924-3399 for more information.

RECENT EVENTS

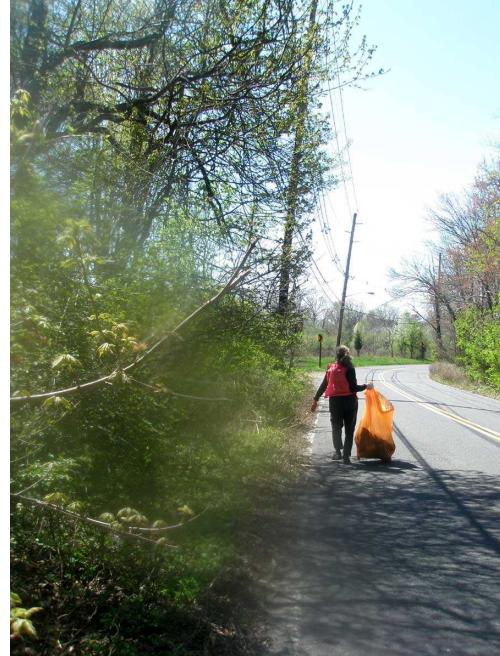
KINGSTON GREENWAYS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CLEANUP April 20 and 21, 2013

The **Rockingham (Saturday) crew** collected ten bags of trash around Rockingham and along both sides of Laurel Avenue in Franklin Township. Three cheers for John, Pat, Dana, Francois, Jennifer and Stephane!

The **Cook (Sunday) crew** concentrated on the Cook Natural Area and parts of our greenbelt that adjoin Heathcote, Ridge, and Mapleton Roads in South Brunswick Township, gathering seventeen bags of litter and assorted car parts. Our thanks go to Karen, Zoya, Celeste, Emily, Tari, Doug, and Mike for their efforts.



Earth Day Cleanup, Cook Natural Area



Earth Day Cleanup, Ridge Road

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Sunday December 18, 2012

Trustee and Count leader Karen Linder reports that all told, the Kingston segment recorded 43 species and 2624 birds. Our thanks go to her, Anne Zeman and Mark Peel for braving the elements, and to Cymie Payne for hearing the great horned owl that figured in the count. Highlights of the day were:

- **Two large flocks of snow geese flying over the seedbeds*
- **Three sightings of a single eagle (might be the same one or different birds--likely our local pair), including watching him/her bring a leafy stick to the new nest that is being built to replace the nest and tree lost to Sandy*
- **Two brown creepers*
- **Some very cooperative golden-crowned kinglets that showed themselves nicely*

Missing were large numbers of yellow-rumped warblers (we saw only TWO!), and no cedar waxwings or bluebirds for this count. Robins were reduced in number relative to some years - Kingston contributed 77 of the 197 robins total found in the Princeton Count circle. Also missing were the black vultures we have seen in previous years. It was not a good day to be aloft, so perhaps they "slept in!"

LONG TERM, DEDICATED FUNDING FOR PRESERVATION

As a member of the NJ Keep It Green Coalition, KGA supports legislation that would ask voters to approve dedicating \$200 million annually in sales-tax revenues for the next 30 years to fund the Green Acres, Blue Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation programs. Sales-tax revenues have

increased by an average of \$206 million annually over the past two years, and are projected to continue growing by more than \$200 million a year. The dedication would not begin until 2015; therefore, the 2014 fiscal year budget will not be affected.

KGA and Keep It Green also support amending the legislation to allocate 10 to 20 percent of the annual funds for stewardship of preserved lands and parks.

We invite our members to voice their support of this proposed legislation, which does not create a new tax, and eliminates the need for recurring bonding. You can do so by simply providing your name, email address, and zip code at this link: <http://njkeepitgreen.org/supportform.htm>, or by returning the enclosed form along with your membership renewal. Numbers DO count! Monetary support for this initiative is also welcomed. Contributions may be sent to The Conservation Campaign, 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, San Francisco CA 94104.

BOARDWALK DISAPPOINTMENT

Three years ago, we reported plans to rehabilitate and raise the boardwalk in the Cook Natural Area, funded by a grant from the NJDEP under the Recreational Trails Program. Sadly, we now find we cannot proceed with these plans. The main reason is the intensive growth of vegetation, mainly very large grasses, which occurs each year not only along the length of but also at the further approach to the boardwalk. This growth, which has completely obscured the existing construction, has turned out to be far greater than that envisaged when the project was first designed in 2009. Without extensive long-term maintenance, which is deemed unlikely, a reconstructed walk would not be readily usable.

A second problem, though not in itself a reason for cancellation, is the extremely onerous and escalating work involved in the yet uncompleted process of applying for permits. Again, this is much greater than originally envisaged.

Consequently, the Trustees of KGA have very reluctantly decided that the project will not be undertaken. The boardwalk will be abandoned. During drier periods, the adjacent mown path over the Township easement, or an alternate path through the meadow area, will give adequate access to the trail to Heathcote Meadows and we hope you will enjoy using these paths. We will continue to monitor the demand for the trail and if this becomes substantially higher than now, we will consider an enhanced boardwalk improvement that will overcome the difficulties we have met.

COOK HILL PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

KGA has been represented at meetings held by the architect. While we regret that it may not be possible to preserve this land, we expressed the need for full screening by trees to minimize the buildings' intrusion on the bucolic landscape of the area we call the "sledding hill" and the Cook Natural Area.

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