

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Celebrate Fall at Mapleton Preserve!....The Kingston Greenways Association wants to alert you to some fall events that should not be missed! They will all be held at the historic home of Princeton Nurseries, now known as Mapleton Preserve. This emerald jewel in the Kingston Greenbelt was finally acquired in January 2005, following more than five years of negotiation between Princeton University, William Flemer's Sons, Inc., the State of New Jersey and South Brunswick Township.

Princeton Nurseries (PN) was once the largest commercial nursery in the United States. It was established in 1913 by the Flemer family, in Kingston, New Jersey; remaining a family-run organization at this site for 82 years. At its peak, PN employed over 300 people and developed and introduced many important plant varieties. Their list of patented tree varieties reads like a "Who's Who" of the horticultural world, including 'October Glory' Maple, 'Snow Queen' Hydrangea, 'Princeton Sentry' Gingko, and the Dutch-elm-disease resistant 'Princeton' Elm.

Many specimens of Princeton Nurseries tree stock remain on the site. They should be at their fall color peak for our annual fall foliage walk.

Kingston Greenways Association Upcoming Event

Sunday, October 22, 2006 Fall Foliage Walk at Mapleton Preserve!

Annual Fall Foliage Walk! The KGA will be hosting their very popular annual fall foliage walk at Mapleton Preserve on Sunday October 22 at 2 p.m. (rain or shine). This year, we have two very special co-leaders for the walk – KGA Trustee and nurseryman Bill Flemer IV, and Jim Consolloy, the Grounds Manager for Princeton University. Bill is a member of the Flemer family, which founded Princeton Nurseries, so he has an intimate knowledge of the wholesale nursery business that once thrived at this site. Jim Consolloy is responsible for maintaining Princeton University's 2300 acres and over 400 species of trees. This is your chance to learn about the trees at the Princeton Nurseries Kingston site from two experts! Meet at the Main Office for the D & R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston. This leisurely walk will take about 2 hours. The event is free and refreshments will be provided. Call 609-683-0483 for more information.

Sunday, Sept. 24: Botany and birding with Charles and Mary Leck...On Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands will host a birding and botany walk in Kingston that focuses on fall wildflowers, grasses, and local and migrating birds. Please join us at Mapleton Preserve, D & R Canal State Park Headquarters, 145 Mapleton Road in the Kingston section of South Brunswick Township. Co-leading the walk will be naturalists Mary and Charles Leck.

A husband and wife team, Charles and Mary are seasoned field trip leaders, with a rich knowledge of wildflowers, grasses and birds between the two of them. Mary, who holds a Ph.D. in Botany, was a member of the faculty at Rider University until her recent retirement.. You may remember that she gave a superb talk for the KGA in 2003 about the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh.

Charles Leck, who holds a Ph.D. in Animal Behavior from Cornell, recently retired from Rutgers University where he had been a member of the faculty since 1970. He is interested in changes in bird populations and wildlife colonization of wetland mitigation areas. His botanical interests include grasses and sedges.

The walk holds the potential for fall migrants, so bring binoculars and bird books if you have them. The event is free and all are welcome. For more information, call Karen Linder (609) 514-2416 days or (609) 683-0483 evenings.

Saturday, October 21: Reptiles & Raptors & More ~ OH MY!.... Come celebrate the fall season at the D & R Canal State Park and the Mapleton Preserve in Kingston. The park staff and the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands are planning a day of exciting programming at the preserve that should be fun for the whole family!

First is a morning program by snake educator extraordinaire, **Gerry Wronski** who will provide an “up close and personal” experience with these misunderstood reptiles. With Mr. Wronski's extensive knowledge of these animals and his teaching background, there is no doubt that everyone will leave with a better understanding and respect for the reptilian world.

And then in the afternoon, licensed falconer **Jennifer Pena** will present an exciting program called *Flight of the Raptor*, which will focus on birds of prey such as hawks, owls and falcons. Ms. Pena will share her knowledge of - and experience working with - these magnificent birds including their nesting habits, hunting adaptations, and flight patterns. All of this will be accompanied by real raptors and some awe-inspiring flight demonstrations. **So mark your calendars now - you will not want to miss this one!**



Jennifer Pena with a Harris's Hawk

This event is still in the planning stages, so for up-to-date program details and times make sure to check the D&R Canal State Park website [www.dandrcanal.com] periodically or call the park office at 609-924-5705. **Registration IS NOT required.**

Fall transition... This summer, we bade farewell to Charlie Dieterich, with deep gratitude for his leadership, service, and vision. His are tremendous shoes to fill, and to carry on in his stead, I will need your help. Your voices, your ideas, and your news help steer our course. Your participation as environmental activists, trailblazers, photographers, web site contributors, explorers, grant writers, and stewards of our greenbelt is not only welcome but *essential* to our mission and to our future.

Tari Pantaleo
President, Kingston Greenways Association