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NURSERY and FPNL NEWS

Two FPNL grant applications funded! Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands is pleased to announce that we have received funding for TWO grant applications that FPNL submitted in late 2008 and 2009.

The first, a grant from the **Federal Recreational Trails Grant Program**, will fund the installation of a **Clivus Multrum composting toilet, the design and installation of a trailhead map, and improvements to the parking areas** at the D&R Canal State Park Headquarters/Mapleton Preserve. As many of you know, there are no toilets at the Preserve except a single toilet that is only available when the park office is open, is not handicapped-accessible, and is insufficient to handle visitation at the park. Installation of the Clivus Multrum will truly fill a "pressing" need for the site. *If you want to help with its installation, please contact Karen at 609-683-0483.*

The **planned trailhead map will highlight the many trails and trail connections present at the Preserve**, including two trails to the nearby D&R Canal, and two trails to the Cook Preserve and Rail Trail. FPNL has already prepared a trail map for the Mapleton Preserve and installed a map box, but we often find the box empty due to the growing popularity of the site. A permanent map will overcome this problem.

The second funded grant is for the design, fabrication and installation of interpretive signs for the Preserve. This project was funded by the **New Jersey Historical Commission**. FPNL has already started working with the Mapleton Preserve Commission and the D&R Canal State Park staff to develop these outdoor interpretive displays, which will help to interpret the rich history of Princeton Nurseries for park visitors.

We are very grateful to both agencies for funding our grant applications, and look forward to the start of both projects later this spring.

Restoration of the Propagation House: In the last newsletter, we reported that South Brunswick Township's Historic Preservation Commission had been granted \$290,000 from the New Jersey Historic Trust to begin plans for restoration work on the Propagation House, the historic heart of Princeton Nurseries. The architectural firm of Watson & Henry Associates has submitted a proposal (currently under review) for stabilization of the Propagation House and restoration of one of the greenhouses. Watson and Henry Associates also recently completed a Preservation Plan for the entire Propagation House Complex; South Brunswick Township obtained funding for the plan from Middlesex County.

FPNL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Those of you who are due to renew your membership this Spring are going to get a break this year! We have decided to move all renewals to the Fall, as it is a time-consuming effort to do twice a year. Your renewal will now be postponed until our Fall mailing.

RECENT EVENTS

Martin Luther King Day Work Session: Thank you so much! Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands (FPNL) extends its heart-felt gratitude to all who helped at our Mapleton Preserve Cleanup on Martin Luther King Day, Jan 18, 2010. It was fabulous to see such an outpouring of energy and spirit!

Over 40 volunteers from all walks of life responded to our call to help with the cleanup, and they made an AWESOME contribution to the Preserve. It is amazing what a group of dedicated volunteers can get done in just 3 hours! Some cleared trees and brush around the propagation house and greenhouses--the historic complex that will be restored as an interpretive center. Wielding saws and loppers, we got the entire building circumference cleared. What a fabulous effort!

Others explored the 50(+) acres of Mapleton Preserve and picked up trash. This group collected at least 26 bags of

nonrecyclables, 4 bags of recyclables, 6 tires, contractor trash and a neat deer skeleton.

We particularly wish to thank Dave Wells (Robert Wells Tree & Landscape), Tari Pantaleo and John Keating (South Brunswick Post), who helped document our efforts with

photographs, and Don Swaysland (who once

worked at Princeton Nurseries), Dave Wells and Jim Consolloy (retired Princeton University groundskeeper) for their horticultural advice during the clearing.



photo by David Wells

A few of the participants - 2010 Martin Luther King Cleanup

Special thanks to Stephanie and to Dave (the tire king) for their “above and beyond” trash collecting efforts, and to Jim for dealing with some nasty illegally dumped construction debris. Thanks as well as to our grade school and high school helpers (Sophie, Fabrielle, Natalie and Sarah, Lindsey and Megan) – it was gratifying to see you getting involved with stewardship at such a young age. Kudos is due the D&R Canal State Park staff for helping us to coordinate and publicize the event. The South Brunswick Post and Princeton Packet printed nice pictures of the event, so we got excellent press coverage as well!

It was rewarding to see so many volunteers from past FPNL and Kingston Greenways Association events, and even more gratifying to see so many new volunteers. The D&R Canal State Park staff has now whisked away the collected trash, and has continued the clearing efforts by taking down the trees that had sprung up around one of the warehouses. To see more photos of the event, check out our photo album on our new Meetup website at <http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-Princeton-Nursery-Lands/>

Brian Dixon receives Eagle Scout Award – Flemer Arboretum Restoration: Last year, Brian Dixon, of Boy Scout Troop 90 (Kendall Park, NJ) took on the **task of helping to restore the Flemer arboretum as an Eagle Scout project.** With the help of troop members and their parents, along with FPNL volunteers, Brian held three work sessions in May and June, logging close to 200 hours of work. For his efforts and leadership, he was made an Eagle Scout on March 14. Congratulations to Brian on this well-deserved honor. Many thanks to him and his hard-working crew for their restoration efforts!

EVENTS AT THE PRINCETON NURSERY LANDS THIS SPRING

FPNL Annual Arbor Day Celebration: Saturday April 17th, 10-11:30 and 1-4 pm.
(rain date April 18th)

Our Arbor Day celebration welcomes all to the Mapleton Preserve, the former home of Princeton Nurseries. Join Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands and the D & R Canal State Park for a fun-filled day in celebration of Spring!

The day's events begin at 10 a.m. with a **history-oriented walk** led by the D&R Canal State Park's historian, **Vicki Chirco**. This 2-mile round trip between the Mapleton Preserve and the canal towpath will start at the D&R Canal State Park Headquarters at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston. The history of the canal and the Princeton Nurseries will be highlighted. **Pre-registration for this walk is requested** (609-924-5705 or <http://www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html>).

At 1:00 p.m., **Jim Consolloy**, former Head Grounds Manager for Princeton University, will lead a **tree walk** that focuses on spring-flowering trees and the unique tree varieties that grow at the Mapleton Preserve. Jim was for many years responsible for maintaining Princeton University's 2300 acres and over 400 species of trees. He will share tips on tree identification and care.

Following the walk, **learn the proper way to plant a tree**, as the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands (FPNL) and participants install the newest specimens in the **Flemer Arboretum**. This continues FPNL's tradition of planting trees donated by Princeton Nurseries, which once operated a wholesale tree nursery on the site. The Arboretum is named for the **Flemer family** which owned and operated Princeton Nurseries, in particular William Flemer Jr. and his sons, legendary plantsman William Flemer III and Dr. John Flemer. William Flemer III developed some of the best-loved plants in American horticulture, including the Princeton Sentry Ginkgo, 'Snow Queen' Hydrangea, and the October Glory Maple.



Duncan Beesley digs in—
Arbor Day 2009

The tree planting will be followed at 3:00 pm by traditional seasonal different dance groups:

Princeton Country Dancers (<http://www.princetoncountrydancers.org/>), will demonstrate Maypole dancing. This is a form of folk dance from Western Europe that is traditionally performed in the spring (for May Day) or midsummer (in the Scandinavian countries). Dancers weave around a tall pole bedecked with streamers, causing the ribbons to intertwine in decorative patterns.

Handsome Molly (<http://www.HandsomeMolly.com>) will perform traditional "Mollie" dances. In the East Anglia region of England, it was customary on Plough Monday for field hands (who called themselves "Mollies") to dress in women's clothing, decorate a farmer's plow and drag it along from house to house or pub to pub, singing and dancing and demanding food, money and drink. If the owner didn't produce, the revelers would plow up the yard in retribution. Handsome Molly has adapted these dances to the American style.

Griggstown Lock Rapper Sword Team

(<http://www.princetoncountrydancers.org/pcdggroups/griggstown/griggstown.html>) performs "rapper dancing" from the coal mining villages of Northumbria. The dances are done to fast jig-time music played by a fiddler, and are performed by five dancers equipped with short, flexible two-handle swords called rappers. The team weaves intricate figures in which the dancers and swords become

tangled and untangled in traditional patterns with occasional arrangement into a "lock" in the shape of a star. The team is named after the Griggstown Lock on the Delaware and Raritan Canal.



Handsome Molly



Griggstown Lock Rapper Sword Team

Millstone River Morris will be performing "Morris" dances from the village of "*Princeton-Under-Construction*". They dance in groups of six or eight, wearing white shirts and trousers, braided baldrics in orange, green, and yellow, and bells on their legs. You can also catch them every dawn on May Day at the Mercer Oak, Princeton Battlefield!

Everyone will receive a baby flowering or evergreen tree to take home. The event, co-sponsored by the **Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands and the D&R Canal State Park**, will begin at the **D&R Canal Park Office, 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston.** It is free and open to all. For more information, call Karen Linder at 609-683-0483 or visit www.fpnl.org.

Native Plants: FPNL Annual Meeting (Wed. June 2, 7:30 pm)

Save the date! Our featured speaker will be **Jared Rosenbaum**, the driving force behind the **Native Plant Nursery at the D&R Greenway Land Trust**. Jared joined the Land Trust staff in 2007 after serving as a volunteer land steward for D&R Greenway for several years. This organization has preserved over 14,000 acres of open space in New Jersey. Their new Native Plant Nursery is dedicated to restoring a rich diversity of native flora to the local landscape. The native plants of New Jersey are beautiful, graceful and intricate. Learn how they are fundamental to pure water, clean air, and healthy wildlife populations.



Jared Rosenbaum will speak on native plants at the FPNL Annual Meeting

Check their website: (<http://www.drgreenway.org/nativeplants.html>) for beautiful photos and information about the native plants that they are growing.

The program will be held in the Education Building at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park's Kingston Office located at 145 Mapleton Road. The program is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.