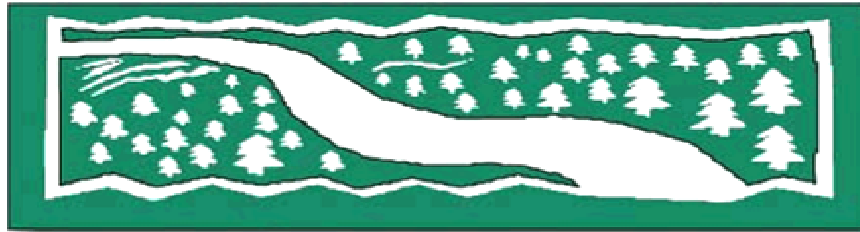


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Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands

Thanks for your enthusiastic response! The response to our first newsletter has been most gratifying! To date, 22% of you have responded by either joining the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands or by renewing your memberships. Special thanks to those of you who enclosed extra contributions towards our restoration and educational goals! For those of you who didn't yet send in your renewals, a membership form is enclosed. If you have already joined or renewed, please consider passing it on to a friend or neighbor that you think might be interested.

Our website is up and running! Our Webmaster, Gene Lennon, has been working hard on our new website, which can be found at www.fpnl.org. The website contains some very useful features including:

- an up-to-the minute calendar of Princeton Nursery Lands-related events.
- Directions on how to get to Mapleton Preserve/D & R Canal State Park Headquarters
- Princeton Nurseries History
- Photos [including aerial photos and pictures from the Arbor Day event – taken by Nat Clymer].
- Archive of local press coverage of Mapleton Preserve and Princeton Nurseries
- Local links to other open space organizations

As part of our goal of promoting public awareness of this wonderful place, we will be listing not only events sponsored by the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands, but also those relevant events run by the D & R Canal State Park, Kingston Greenways Association and any others that we become aware of.

In addition, information about the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands events can also be found at the website of Kingston Greenways Association (www.kingstongreenways.org). The website of Princeton Nurseries (now located in Allentown, NJ) also has some wonderful historic photos of the Nursery operations.

Princeton Nursery Lands protection in the news: There was a gratifying amount of press coverage about the Princeton Nurseries Kingston site, following the April 29th Arbor Day event. Media releases included a nice article in the D&R Canal State Park's newsletter, The Milepost, written by Jeanette Muser, a front page article in the South Brunswick Post on the Arbor Day event, and a Princeton Packet article in the June 1st Time Off Section by Carolyn Edelmann, highlighting the role of local open space

organizations such as the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands in the preservation effort. All of these articles can be accessed from our website, www.fpnl.org.

Princeton Nurseries History: As a result of Carolyn Edelman's article, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands was contacted by Juanita Haines Dustin, who grew up on the Princeton Nurseries. She has sent a number of photos of Princeton Nurseries buildings and dwellings that were taken in 1984. Her dad [John Haines] was the night watchman, and was also in charge of irrigation of the property; her mother [Millie] cleaned the offices and took over the watchman role after John died in 1969. Part of their home, unfortunately now razed, had originally been a railroad station, and it stood near the tracks that once ran down to the Canal. We will feature these pictures in upcoming newsletters and get them up on our website soon. Hopefully they can also be incorporated into an exhibit for Mapleton Preserve in the future. Thanks Juanita!!

PAST EVENTS

May 25: *Tree Tenders:* On May 25th, Steve Cochran, Doug Kiovisky and Karen Linder spent a few hours after work clearing brush and Virginia creeper off the marvelous row of ginkgos near the Headquarters Building. There is still plenty of work to be done - if you would like to help us in this effort, give Karen Linder a call at 609-683-0483.

June 11th walk....We had an excellent turn-out at our June 11th walk through Mapleton Preserve- twenty two people joined Karen Linder on a 1.5 mile walk/talk, focusing on the trees of the property, some of its rich history, and the effort involved in preserving it. Many early summer wildflowers were in bloom, including the stout-leaved blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*) a member of the iris family [the photo to the right is courtesy of the Connecticut Botanical Society] and a diminutive morning glory relative, field bind-weed. Iridescent blue-backed tree swallows were busy swooping through the back fields in search of insects for their young.

July 15th birdwalk.... Nineteen beginner birders (young and old) turned out to learn the basics of bird identification. Among the species observed were baby robins, goldfinches, a peewee, a young red-tailed hawk and a rose breasted grosbeak.

July 29th Stream evaluation.... On a blistering hot Saturday in July, 7 people joined D & R Canal State Park Naturalist, Stephanie Fox, to look for aquatic insects in the stream that runs through Mapleton Preserve. It was the coolest place in town to be, as we waded in the water looking for fascinating critters under the rocks, including riffle beetles, crane fly larva, fresh water clams, water pennies and scuds.



!!COMING UP!!

September 16th: *History and Nature Walk to Kingston:* Enjoy a round-trip walk with the D & R's Historian and Naturalist. Participants will **meet at the D&R Canal State Park's new Kingston office located at 145 Mapleton Road at 10:00 am for a leisurely 2.5-mile round trip walk.** The group will proceed from the headquarters through a portion of the Mapleton Preserve towards the canal towpath, the Kingston Canal House and Carnegie Lake before turning back. Come enjoy a morning outdoors while learning a bit about the natural and historic resources of the D & R Canal State Park! Pre-registration IS required; call 732-873-3050 for more information. Weather permitting.

September 24th: *Botany and birding.* Join **naturalists Mary and Charlie Leck** for a bird and botany walk through Mapleton Preserve on Sunday at **2:00**. The walk, sponsored by the **Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands** holds the potential for fall migrants and autumn wildflowers. Meet at the Main Office for the D&R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston. Registration is not required. Call 609-683-0483 or check www.fpnl.org for more information.

September 30th: *Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshop:* Come take part in a PLT workshop at the former headquarters for Princeton Nurseries, which now houses the office of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park (145 Mapleton Road in Kingston). During its heyday, Princeton Nurseries was one of the largest tree nurseries in the United States, cultivating countless varieties of tree specimens, many of which remain on the property. This unique area provides an ideal place to inspire new learning experiences. **This workshop is geared toward formal and non-formal educators** including scout leaders, teachers, naturalists and all environmental educators. Teachers will receive 5 CEU's upon completion of the workshop. All participants will go home with a workbook that includes over 90 different lesson plans. This full day program will be held from **9:30 am - 3:30 pm**. Pre-registration IS required. Please contact Stephanie Fox at 609-924-5705 to register and/or receive further information.

October 18th: *FPNL public meeting:* **The Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands** will be holding a **public meeting at 7:30 p.m. for members and friends** to fill you in on what has been going on behind the scenes. We have been working on attaining non-profit status, getting incorporated, applying for grants and planning programs. We invite you to join us, meet our new trustees, hear about upcoming programs, and find out how you can get more involved! The venue for the meeting has not yet been finalized, so call 609-683-0483 or check our website www.fpnl.org for last minute details.

October 21st: *Reptiles & Raptors & More ~OH MY!:* The **D&R Canal State Park** and the **Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands** are planning a day of exciting programming at Mapleton Preserve that should be fun for the whole family! In the morning, **the "Snake Guy" Gerry Wronski** will provide an "up close and personal" experience with these misunderstood reptiles and give us better understanding and respect for the reptilian world. And then in the afternoon, **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, their nesting habits, hunting adaptations, and flight patterns. All of this is accompanied

by real raptors and some awe-inspiring flight demonstrations. This event is still in the planning stages, so for up-to-date program details and times for the events, call 609-924-5705 or check the schedule at <http://www.dandrcanal.com/programs.html>

October 22nd: *Fall foliage walk:* Join the **Kingston Greenways Association** for their **annual fall foliage walk**, which will be held at Mapleton Preserve on Sunday at **2:00** (rain or shine). Co-leading the event will be KGA Trustee **William Flemer IV** (of Princeton Nurseries fame) and **Jim Consolloy, the Grounds Manager for Princeton University**, who is responsible for maintaining the 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. The walk will take about 2 hours and registration is not required. Call 609-683-0483 for more information or check www.kingstongreenways.org.

Tree stories: *'Princeton' American Elm [Ulmus americana].* Many people these days don't know what an elm looks like, but they ruled supreme as the shade tree of choice in the United States prior to World War II. These large, graceful specimens with their upright, vase-shaped habit once shaded so many American streets that "Elm Street" became one of the most common street names in the US. Unfortunately, in the early 1930s, a fungal infection called Dutch Elm Disease wiped out tens of millions of American elms. The fungal spores, when introduced into wounds in the tree caused by two species of *Scolytus* elm-bark beetles, would germinate in the vascular system of the tree. This blocked the flow of water and nutrients from roots to leaves, ultimately killing over 95% of these trees in America.

Fortunately, the 'Princeton' elm, a variety that was selected in 1922 at Princeton Nurseries by William Flemer, Jr. for its straight trunk, uniform vase shape and very vigorous growth rate proved to have strong resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. This magnificent and very adaptable tree can reach a mature height of 60' to 70' with a spread of 30' to 40'. The photo below, graciously provided by The Botany Shop, shows a row of mature 'Princeton' American elms in fall color.



Specimens of the 'Princeton' Elm line Washington Road in Princeton, and this cultivar was also been chosen to replace elms killed by disease along Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.