

Oct
2010



Vol. 5
No. 2

Preserving and Protecting the Historic Princeton Nursery Lands

www.fpnl.org

NURSERY and FPNL NEWS

Restoration of the Propagation House: The architectural firm "*Watson & Henry Associates*" has completed preparation of draft plans for stabilization of the Propagation House, the historic heart of Princeton Nurseries, and for restoration of one of the greenhouses. The work is being funded using a \$290,000 grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to South Brunswick Township's Historic Preservation Commission.

Flemer Arboretum: March through August 2010 was the sixth driest 5-month period on record in New Jersey, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center.

To keep the newly planted trees in the Flemer Arboretum from suffering the effects of the severe drought, FPNL trustees kept them watered all summer, after purchasing 300 feet of hose to assist in the watering process. All Flemer cultivars made it through this difficult summer in good shape because of these efforts.



Crabapples in Flemer Arboretum - Photo by Jonathan Michalik

FPNL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is time to renew your Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands (FPNL) membership for 2011! All renewals now occur in the Fall, as it proved to be a time-consuming effort to do it twice a year. If you get this newsletter by email, look for the renewal form in the mail. Alternatively, you can print a membership form or donate on-line via PayPal from our website, at www.fpnl.org

FPNL is dedicated to the preservation of the Historic Princeton Nursery Lands, for the enjoyment of present and future generations. We need your support to help us in our ongoing efforts to protect and restore this scenic historical landscape.

Since we now only solicit renewals and donations once a year, we urge you to join or renew your membership in Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands TODAY.

Your contributions will be used to fund restoration, landscape/trail development and educational programs at the Historic Princeton Nurseries Kingston site. FPNL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Check out the new look of the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands website at www.fpnl.org

We are very grateful to Flannery and Doug Miller and to Tari Pantaleo for helping to drive this challenging effort. We also thank Gene Lennon, who has managed the website for us for several years. The new site is still under construction, and more content will be added over the coming months. If you have thoughts on what you would like to see on the site, please let us know at karenlinder@fpnl.org !

ACTION ALERT

LETTERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT D&R CANAL COMMISSION: Governor Christie and NJ DEP Commissioner Martin propose to abolish the D & R Canal Commission (DRCC), which provides critical citizen oversight not only of the D & R Canal State Park, but also of public and private projects in the larger historic, natural and scenic corridor through which the canal passes. This protection is essential to the preservation of the canal's character.

Eliminating the Canal Commission will not save New Jersey taxpayers any money, as its funding is revenue neutral and is provided by fees charged for the review of projects. Since DRCC was established by statute, it cannot be eliminated without a vote of the legislature. Please write your state legislators and those in jurisdictions through which the canal flows and let them know how you feel! See our web site for further information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Strong volunteers needed to help us install a composting toilet at the Mapleton Preserve. As you may remember, FPNL received a grant to get a Clivus Multrum installed at the Mapleton Preserve. We just got our first look at the unit, and it is BIG (as it will be handicapped accessible, once installed). We could really use 6-8 burly helpers (and maybe a backhoe) for the installation. **Can you help?**

PAST EVENTS

National Public Lands Day: The Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands are deeply grateful for the outpouring of energy and enthusiasm shown at our National Public Lands Day work session in the Mapleton Preserve on Saturday, September 25th. Twenty-two volunteers came to plant, mulch, and water trees, clear bamboo, weed the butterfly garden, and collect litter. FPNL trustees Gwen Southgate, Tari Pantaleo and Judy Kennerk did a fabulous job of organizing the event.

Two new trees were planted, a 'Snowcloud' amelanchier and a 'Green Mountain' sugar maple. Both of these varieties were developed by Princeton Nurseries, the wholesale tree nursery that once had its headquarters at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston. They were donated to FPNL by Princeton Nurseries before they ceased operations last year. Until planting, these specimens had been kindly stored by Dave Reed of Mapleton Nurseries, who also prepared the planting holes with his awesome auger.

A tree expert (Steve Estok) from Woodwinds (a Kingston 40 year-old family business with extensive experience in caring for trees and shrubs) answered questions relating to tree care. He injected the most recent additions to the Preserve's Flemer Arboretum with Worm Tea, an organic soil amendment "brewed" with worm castings, to give them a good start in their new home. Woodwinds also provided free samples of Worm Tea and tote bags to the volunteers.

FPNL appreciates the presence of photographer Jonathan Michalik, who documented the day's efforts. Finally, many thanks to the D&R Canal State Park personnel, who conscientiously and cheerfully facilitate our endeavors in the Mapleton Preserve and elsewhere on the site of the former Princeton Nursery Lands.

Below are some photos from the National Public Lands Day event

Photos by Jonathan Michalik



We were delighted to have the assistance of Selena Threet and Cub Scouts from Pack 195 at the National Public Lands Day event. They came to our Arbor Day tree planting event this spring, and the troop had such a good time that their leader wrote to us asking if they could help us out again this fall. We were happy to say YES!

There were also scouts from Troop 107, people who joined us from our Meetup group (www.meetup.org), and even a volunteer who had worked at the Princeton Nurseries Kingston site before it moved to Allentown. Thanks to everyone that helped to make the National Public Lands Day event so productive!!



Save the date!

**Please join us for our next clean-up on the Martin Luther King Day of Service,
Monday Jan 17 from Noon-3 pm**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Nov. 13th: Explore Your Roots: Kids, bring your parents and be prepared to explore your heritage by creating a family tree with the D&R Canal State Park historian. Soon families will be gathering for this year's Thanksgiving meal so this is the perfect time to dig up your roots, get your questions ready and prepare to explore your own history. Together we will learn about family trees and begin the process of growing our own! **This 10 am program will be held at the D & R Canal State Park's Kingston Office located at 145 Mapleton Road. Space is limited so register early! Suitable for children 8 - 12 years old.** Call the Park Office at 609-924-5705 (*Kingston Office*) to register.

Sat. Nov. 13th: Kingston Loop Trail: Join the naturalist of Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park in a loop walk that leads through the historic D&R Canal State Park, Mapleton Preserve (former site of Princeton Nurseries), Cook Natural Area and the Heathcote Meadow Preserve. This hike is approximately 3.5 miles along mostly flat, dirt/gravel pathways. The program will start at 10:00 am. Participants will meet at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park's Kingston Office located at 145 Mapleton Road. All ages are welcome. **INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELS.**



Sun. Dec. 19th, 7:30 AM - 5 PM. Audubon Christmas Bird Count. *Birders take note!* The Kingston segment of this year's Audubon Christmas Bird Count begins at 7:30 AM, takes a break for lunch at Main Street Cafe, and then continues with the count in the afternoon. You can join us for morning, afternoon, or both. It is a great way to hone your birding skills and get to know the Princeton Nurseries Property better! If you are interested, give Karen Linder a call (609-683-0483) for more info.

Sat. Jan. 29th, 2:00 PM. Advocating for trees - Rachel Roat speaks on Tree Law. One of our active FPNL members, Rachel Roat, will give a fascinating slide presentation on trees and tree law. The talk will be held in the Education Building at the Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Road, Kingston. After the talk, the group will go out for a winter walk in the Mapleton Preserve (weather permitting) and reflect upon the beauty of winter trees. The event is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call 609-683-0483.



Rachel Roat is uniquely qualified to give this talk as she is an attorney with the unusual practice of Tree, Neighbor and Garden Law. Her "growing" legal practice in Kingston (908-334-3590) deals with the sticky issues that can occur when trees catalyze disputes.

For example, if a tree has grown across the boundary between two properties, and now resides in two yards, it can give rise to many questions, including "Whose tree is it?" or "Who can cut it down or trim the branches?" "Who has to rake the leaves?" or "If it falls on my roof, who pays?" Ms. Roat, who bills herself as a "tree hugger," helps neighbors to work out the tricky questions that arise when trees grow out of bounds, present hazards, block views, or are more loved by one party than by another (who might even be seeking to commit "arboricide"). Roat hates to see issues like this go to court. Her brochures list her services as advice, negotiation, mediation, and then litigation, as a last resort.