

May  
2011



Vol. 6  
No. 1

*Preserving and Protecting the Historic Princeton Nursery Lands*

[www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org)

## FPNL Annual Meeting features Heidi Flemer Hesselein Wednesday, June 15

Heidi Flemer Hesselein, co-founder of Pleasant Run Nursery in Allentown, NJ and daughter of world-famous plantsman William Flemer III will be the featured speaker at the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands Annual Meeting. **She will be speaking on "New, Rare and Unusual Woody Plants for the New Jersey Landscape."** The talk will be preceded by a brief business meeting and election of FPNL trustees.

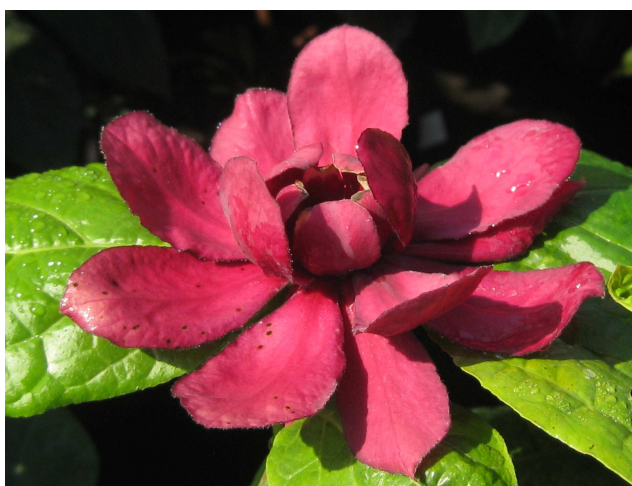


**Please join us on Wednesday June 15th, from 7:30 - 9 pm. The presentation is free and all are welcome.** The program will be held in the Education Building at the Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Rd, Kingston. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 609-683-0483 or see [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org)

The photos below show a few of the stunning specimens that Heidi and her husband grow at Pleasant Run Nursery, which features a diverse range of perennials, grasses, tropicals and woody ornamentals.



New leaves on 'The Rising Sun' Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) are apricot in color, maturing through chartreuse to a final deep green. Since all three color phases are present at once, the effect is spectacular. Photo by Lisa Strovinsky.



The stunning flowers of *Calycanthus raulstonii* 'Hartlage Wine', a unique new shrub. Also known as Raulston allspice, it is the first successful cross between our native Carolina allspice and its unusual Chinese counterpart. Photo by Lisa Strovinsky.

## NURSERY NEWS

**Princeton Nurseries property in Allentown, NJ preserved:** In mid-April, DEP Commissioner Bob Martin and Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher announced agreements to preserve the 1,900 acres that made up the extensive holdings of Princeton Nurseries in Allentown, NJ. After years of negotiation, a contract with members of the Flemer family has been signed.

More than 1,000 acres will be preserved as open space through the creation of a 512-acre State Wildlife Management Area and nearly 500 acres of additions to the Monmouth County Park System's Crosswicks Creek Greenway and the Mercer County Park Commission's Crosswicks Creek Greenway corridor.

Another 900 acres will be preserved through acquisitions of development rights on farmland. When landowners sell development rights, or a farmland easement, they continue to own the land but agree to deed restrictions that keep the land permanently available for agriculture uses. Some nursery roads will be developed into a trail system for hiking, bicycle riding and horseback riding.

The agreements, made possible primarily by the DEP's Green Acres Program and the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), come during the 50th anniversary year of the first Green Acres bond referendum. Final closing is expected to take place by early next year. Funding for the purchase was obtained from the DEP Green Acres Program, Monmouth, Upper Freehold, Burlington, and Mercer Counties, Monmouth Conservation Foundation and SADC.

Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands thanks the Flemer family and all of the partners involved in this enormous preservation effort, as it assures that the scenic landscape that was once defined by Princeton Nurseries will keep its natural beauty and its agricultural character forever.



**Members of the Flemer family and preservation partners at April 18 press conference announcing the preservation of Princeton Nurseries Allentown.**

## PAST EVENTS

**Princeton Girl Scouts hold "Roots & Shoots" event at Mapleton Preserve:** Princeton Girl Scouts of all ages convened at Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park in Kingston, NJ on April 9, 2011 for an early celebration of Earth Day. The day's "Roots & Shoots" program was jointly





developed by Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands, D&R Canal State Park staff, and the Princeton Girl Scout Service unit, with the assistance of the NJDEP Watershed Ambassadors.

During months of planning, the Scout teams built leadership skills by organizing all aspects of the program management for this event.



The program events included talks on natural history, water ecology and cultural history, as well as service awards for trash clean up, invasive weed and vine clearing on the site of the former Princeton Nurseries. While the girls rotated through these stations, adults toured the property with FPNL Vice President Robert von Zumbusch, who led a walk focusing on the history of the Preserve and its acquisition.

FPNL gratefully thanks D&R Canal State Park Historian Vicki Chirco and Naturalist Stephanie Fox, and NJ watershed ambassador Meghan Keffer for leading programs, Karen Linder for giving the invasive species lecture and walk, and the Girl Scouts for partnering with us for this "Roots and Shoots" event. Jane Goodall, who created the "Roots and Shoots" program, would have been proud to see the achievements of the Princeton area Girl Scouts throughout this program.

**Arbor Day:** It was a rainy, chilly day, but a group of 19 high-spirited participants enjoyed a “behind the scenes” walking tour of Mapleton Nurseries, led by owner David Reed. This wholesale operation was established by Bill Flemer and Dave Reed on the former Princeton Nurseries seed beds that border Mapleton Road. Bill has now retired from involvement in the nursery, but still serves as its horticultural advisor. David, his wife Dolores, and their staff have continued to nurture the 12-acre property since 1998.

Mapleton Nurseries is a wholesale operation that specializes in container-grown plants. It also offers a full assortment of the most popular and useful groundcovers, shade trees, and flowering and evergreen shrubs and trees. Its stock includes many native plants and deer-resistant specimens, an important property in this part of New Jersey. The Mapleton Nurseries tour highlights included magnolias, camellias and fruit trees in full bloom, and a peek inside each of the greenhouses.



**Dave Reed holds a bundle of bare root trees that are ready for planting.**

After the walk, a beautiful redbud from Mapleton Nurseries was planted in the Flemer Arboretum. This tree was donated by Tari Pantaleo and Doug Miller in honor of their daughter Flannery Miller, who turned 21 this spring. The redbud is a particular favorite of Tari's family, as its pea-like flowers are both lovely and edible!



*Close-up of redbud flowers. Photo by Ken Moore, courtesy of The Carrboro Citizen. [carrborocitizen.com/flora](http://carrborocitizen.com/flora)*



*Doug Miller, Tari Pantaleo and Karen Linder planting redbud in the Mapleton Preserve*

## **Thanks to CA Technologies volunteers!**

For the second year in a row, CA Technologies of Ewing, NJ sponsored a workday in the Mapleton Preserve. Ten volunteers, assisted by FPNL trustees Tom Jacoby, Judy Kennerk and Gwen Southgate, took on the task of clearing the pond edge. The weeds in the ravine were cut down, raked and removed from the area, and trees and vines that had made the pond area nearly invisible were cleared, and the butterfly garden weeded. The event was planned and coordinated by Tom Jacoby, and the crew did a fantastic job.



**Save the date! National Public Lands Day—Saturday, September 24, 2011**