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## Newsletter

### *Preserving and Protecting the Historic Princeton Nursery Lands*

**Arbor Day Event Postponed:** As you probably realize by now, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands (FPNL) will not be able to hold its annual Arbor Day event this spring. It was scheduled for April 18, 2020, but all state parks were officially closed this on April 7th due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Our planned speaker, Mike Aucott, a member of the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission and a very active member of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) was to speak on the American Chestnut, but we have postponed that talk until a later date. In the meantime, Mike has planted a young American Chestnut at the Mapleton Preserve, to give it a good start during the cool spring weather. We cannot think of a more life affirming thing to do in this difficult time.



Photo by Tari Pantaleo

**Mapleton Preserve is temporarily closed:** Governor Murphy closed all state and parks and trails as of Tuesday April 7 to further reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus, based on evidence that people were not sufficiently distancing themselves in these locations. This means that the Mapleton Preserve and the D&R Canal State Park are closed to public access. Municipalities were given the choice to decide whether local parks would be closed. Fortunately, some preserves and trails do remain open in central NJ, where local officials support keeping open space open for residents. If you are in good health, we encourage you to get out for a walk, as this a beautiful time of year for a stroll, and exercise has proven benefits for our mental and physical well-being. Please, however, practice social distancing on the trails to protect yourselves and others.



**Spring at Mapleton Preserve:** We captured the following images from the Mapleton Preserve. We hope you enjoy this breath of Spring from your computer screen!



Princeton Snow Cloud Sargent cherry trees  
Tari Pantaleo



Mapleton Preserve path  
Kirsten Orht



Saucer Magnolia [*Magnolia X soulangeana*]  
Photo by Tari Pantaleo



**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service:** On January 18, 2020, several of our most dedicated volunteers completed the task of removing autumn olive from the base of the ginkgo row at Mapleton Preserve. There are 37 ginkgos in the row, so it was a very big job. Thanks all for your hard work. Much gratitude also to those who picked up litter on the day of the event!



Clearing the ginkgo row. Photo by Jason Rand



Callery Pear [*Pyrus calleryana*]. Photo by Kirsten Ohrt



This year, our work session honored our friend Daniel Harris, who passed away peacefully on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Daniel was a loyal and active member of Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands. He participated in many events over the years, picking up trash, cutting back invasives in the Mapleton Preserve, serving as registrar, and giving an environment-themed reading of his poetry for us. He was a passionate advocate for the environment and for sustainability, and a committed crusader for social justice. It is especially fitting to pay tribute to him on this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

### What's Local

At the edge of perhaps  
the second largest crop  
of this year's skunk cabbage  
in central New Jersey  
we stared on the burgeon---  
exorbitance of leaves  
unfurled out of finials  
that poked in spring through mud  
like emerald tips of spears.

We regarded ourselves,  
arrested while strolling:  
non-native---invasives.

Daniel Harris - <http://www.danielharrispoet.com/>



Karen Linder

Eastern Skunk Cabbage  
[*Symplocarpus foetidus*]

Please stay in touch with Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands on our webpage  
[\[www.fpnj.org\]](http://www.fpnj.org) or Find Us on Facebook @fpnlNJ