



## Newsletter

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

**What a difference a year makes** – Last year Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands held most events via Zoom. This year we held many outdoor events and hope to be able to do more in 2022. In 2020, we had to cancel Arbor Day because of COVID, but our planned speaker, Mike Aucott, planted a young American Chestnut at the Mapleton Preserve in the spring of 2020 to give it a good start before the weather got too hot. We are happy to announce that this year, the young tree is doing very well, having weathered the onslaught of the emerging 17-year cicadas without undue harm. The tree and Mike were featured in the Town Topics this summer. Check out <http://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/2021/08/11/re-establishing-the-chestnut-tree-in-new-jersey-one-sapling-at-a-time/>



**Mapleton Preserve's American Chestnut - August 2021**

**Membership Renewal Appeal:** 2021 is drawing to a close. That means that it is again time to renew your membership with the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands for 2022 (or join us for the first time). If you were waiting for someone to ask you to join, please consider this your invitation. Since we solicit renewals and donations only once a year, we urge you to join or renew your membership in the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands TODAY.

For those who are new to FPNL, our programs are generally free and open to the public. Your donations will be used for speaker and program fees, tree- and trail upkeep, as well as the newsletter.

If you are a member, a renewal form will be sent to you in the mail and via email. If not, please **visit our website at [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org) to join, or renew using either PayPal or by downloading a membership form at [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org)** Please give as generously as you can.



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Would you like to help create an art or nature-themed event in 2022? What would that look like to you? Call Karen at 609-683-0483 to chat.



## FPNL's year in review:

### January: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE WORK

**SESSION.** We had a great turnout and a very productive afternoon with path clearing, litter cleanup, and vine chopping (wisteria is now running rampant in the fields). We are particularly honored that Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, who lives in Kingston, attended the event.

A lot of wood and vines had collected from the brush hogging work that was done last fall to keep the fields from becoming overgrown, and from the clearing that was done on MLK Day. Families made it more fun by turning the debris into outdoor art! Our thanks to all who pitched in to work on our public lands and enjoy the fresh air, and to BreeAnne Lemmerling, Kirstin Ohrt, and Charlie Dieterich for their photos.



FPNL Trustees Anne Zeman and Karen Linder with Representative Andrew Zwicker at FPNL's MLK Jr. Day of Service event 1/18/21



A giant wisteria nest made from cleared vines



Teepees made from cleared wood

**April:** Scout Troops 10 and 102 and other volunteers teamed up to do a Spring Cleanup of the trails and to clear brush and vines from trees surrounding a vernal pond at Mapleton Preserve.

It is hard to believe how much was accomplished in just a few hours by these cheerful and energetic workers! And they look forward to doing more to improve and enhance the Princeton Nursery Lands. Our heartfelt thanks to all!



Heart-felt thanks to the Scouts from Troops 10 and 102, who, along with other volunteers, helped clear around the pond near the Flemer Arboretum this spring.



**Program on Plainsboro Preserve.** Also in May, FPNL and friends spent a virtual evening with Anne Price, Manager and Naturalist at the Plainsboro Preserve, a natural haven that is managed cooperatively by NJ Audubon, the Township of Plainsboro, and Middlesex County. Anne discussed the history of the Plainsboro Preserve and NJ Audubon's role there, its trail system, and some of the exciting flora and fauna to be found on the property.

**FPNL Annual Meeting May, 2021 "WE'RE BACK!" EMERGENCE OF THE BROOD X PERIODICAL CICADAS:** Professor George Hamilton, Chair, Department of Entomology and Director of the Rutgers Graduate Program in Entomology, spoke to us about the highly anticipated emergence of the 17-year cicadas in a fascinating illustrated slide talk. The preserve hosted a very large number of these insects during this amazing natural spectacle. Below are a pair of emerging adults (left), two adults (middle photo) and the empty exoskeletons from which the adults emerged, which could be found still clinging to leaves for most of the summer (right).



17-year periodic cicadas at the Mapleton Preserve.



**August: Scavenger Hunt.** On a lovely day this summer, FPNL hosted a nature-oriented scavenger hunt. It was so nice to be able to spend time outdoors searching for bones, scat (animal poop), flowers and bugs. Extra points were given to any team that could catch (and kill) a spotted lanternfly. Unfortunately, there were many sightings of this invasive new insect.

**September: For National Public Lands Day,** the Flemer Arboretum got a nice facelift: Teams each adopted the trees developed by Princeton Nurseries in the Flemer Arboretum. All of the cultivars were weeded, and participants learned some tree identification techniques as well as proper ways to fertilize and mulch. The trees of the Flemer Arboretum in Mapleton Preserve received a large dose of tender loving care, and the arboretum looks better than it has in years!



**Stay up to date.** As always, you can find information about FPNL and the Mapleton Preserve at our website. [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org) but here is a newsflash.

**Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands now has a Facebook page too!** 'Like' us to stay current on all the happenings around the Mapleton Preserve and events hosted by FPNL! Our new page is a source of information, maps, current and historical photos, and a place to ask questions and post your own photos and videos of your experiences at the Preserve! **Find us online at @FPNLnj**

## Coming up

### Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 10 - 11:30 am: Thanksgiving Day Walk

Join FPNL President Karen Linder for our annual Thanksgiving morning walk, as we look for natural things to be grateful for and search for signs of what our local wildlife is having for Thanksgiving dinner. This 10 am program will begin at the Main Office for the D&R Canal State Park, 145 Mapleton Road, Kingston. Suitable for all ages. **Open to all, but preregistration IS requested. Call 609-683-0483 to reserve a spot.**



### Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 2 - 4 pm: Decorating for the birds!

Learn to make some cute seasonal crafts that are perfect for fattening up your feathered friends when the winter descends.

We will make ornaments to decorate an outdoor holiday tree for the birds and make some ornaments to take home too.

Suitable for both kids and adults, we will be creating Pinecone & Peanut Butter birdseed rollups, Cheerio Christmas Trees, popcorn/cranberry garlands and other tasty treats.



### Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 7:30 am - ?: Audubon Christmas Bird Count (BIRDERS TAKE NOTE!)

The Kingston segment of this year's Audubon Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Kingston Greenways Association, begins at 7:30 AM to catch the "early birds". We will bird until noon, when we take a break for lunch at the Palace of Asia on Rt 27 in Kingston Center. The group then continues with the count in the afternoon. You can join us for morning, afternoon, or both. If interested, give Karen Linder a call (609-683-0483) for more info. **We would particularly appreciate the help of experienced birders for this event, but novices are also welcome.** It is a great way to build your skills and get to know the Nursery Lands better.

Saturday, January 1st, 2022 Noon - 2 pm. First Day Hike: Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands invites everyone to a First Day Hike in the Mapleton Preserve on Saturday, January 1, 2022, at noon. **Exercise your New Year's resolution to walk more or make new friends on this easy 1.5-mile loop hike through the Mapleton Preserve.** We know you will want to sleep in a little, so the walk does not start until noon. It will begin and end at the Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park Headquarters at 145 Mapleton Road in Kingston. Dress for the weather, whatever it is. The walk is free and all are welcome. Socialize after the walk over cocoa. For more information, visit [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org) as we get closer to the New Year.

Monday, January 17th, 2022 Noon to 3 pm. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service work session in the Mapleton Preserve: We will be clearing small trees, brush, vines, and trash. Come spend a winter afternoon outdoors with us and discover the special joys of stewardship! Bring saws, clippers, loppers and rakes. Work gloves, sturdy shoes, warm clothes, and hats are a must. All are welcome. Call 609-683-0483 for more information, or if you would like to involve a group to help.

Wednesday, Feb 2nd, 2022 1 - 3 pm. Groundhog Day Celebration: Winter walk, with a search of a groundhog's den and animal tracks. Learn about hibernation, who stays active all winter and who sleeps in. The walk is free and all are welcome. Warm up with cocoa after the walk. For more information, visit [www.fpnl.org](http://www.fpnl.org) or find us on facebook @FPNLNJ as we get closer to the New Year.