



## Newsletter

*Preserving and Protecting the Historic Princeton Nursery Lands*

### Coming up – FPNL events!

#### Thursday, November 23rd, 2023 10 - 11:30 am: Thanksgiving Day Walk:



Join FPNL President Karen Linder for our annual Thanksgiving morning walk. This year, the walk will focus on the nuts, fruits, and seeds that turkeys might eat in the Mapleton Preserve. [Yes, they are found here.]

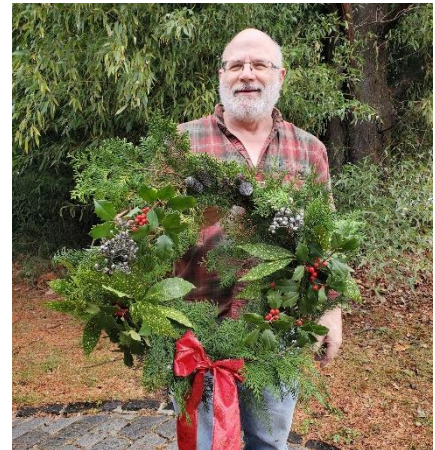
This easy family-friendly 10 am event will begin at the Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park headquarters, 145 Mapleton Road, Kingston.

Suitable for all ages. **FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

#### Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 1 - 3 pm: Wreaths and Garlands!

Make a seasonal wreath or garland to decorate your door for the holidays. Sue Maser will show us how to transform wisteria vines into wreath forms. Some greens and supplies will be provided. If you have them, you are invited to bring greens, pinecones or dried materials to share with the group.

If you have them, please bring clippers, and any special ribbons or ornaments you wish to incorporate into your design. Cookies, cocoa and holiday music will round out the event. Come get into the holiday spirit! **Preregister at 609-608-6455. Space is limited to 20. Save your spot now!** A donation of \$25 to cover the cost of supplies is requested.



#### Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:30 am - dusk: Audubon Christmas Bird Count



The Kingston segment of this year's Audubon Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by Kingston Greenways Association, begins at 7:30 AM to catch the "early birds". We meet at the Lock-Tenders house and bird until noon, then 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 the morning, lunch, afternoon, or all of them. If interested, call Karen Linder (609-683-0483) for more info. **We would particularly appreciate help from experienced birders for this event, but novices are welcome.** It is a great way to build your skills and get to know the Nursery Lands better.

**Our Annual Membership Appeal is happening now. Please Renew/ Join: see page 4**

## Coming up – FPNL events! Save the Date.

**Monday, January 1st, 2024 Noon - 2 pm. First Day Hike:** Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands invites everyone to a First Day Hike in the Mapleton Preserve on Sunday, January 1, 2024 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 12. It begins and ends 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 15th, 2024 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.

## FPNL's year 2023 in review:

**Jan 1 2023: FIRST DAY HIKE and Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.**



*Panoramic photo by D. Brooks*

A record number of participants turned out for FPNL's one and a half-mile **FIRST DAY HIKE** in the Mapleton Preserve on New Year's Day—120 people!

We had a hard-working crew turn out for our Jan 16, **MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE**. This year, we focused on removing autumn olive and other invasive plants from around the ginkgo trees lining the signature nursery row. Thanks to all who energetically applied themselves to the task!

**FPNL's Feb walk, focused on TREES IN WINTER**, also had excellent attendance (42 people). Boel Denne-Hinnov and Karen Linder provided many interesting tips on identification using buds, bark and tree form.

**March featured a TWILIGHT WALK** to look and listen for signs of spring. Last year, we were fortunate to witness the woodcocks' spectacular mating ritual and hear spring peepers calling. This year, we were a little late for the woodcocks, but signs of coyote were everywhere.



*Clearing the ginkgo row. Photo by Kirstin Ohrt*



**July: STREAM STOMP:** Stephen Holman II, an AmeriCorps Source Water Protection Ambassador, taught us how to search for the critters that call Heathcote Brook their home. Using nets, collecting jars and magnifying glasses, the group found crayfish, diving beetles, water striders, freshwater clams and mussels. It was the coolest place to be on a hot day in Kingston!



**September: NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY.** Members of Scout Troop 102 put the finishing touches on Mapleton Preserve's butterfly garden this fall. The plot now hosts a variety of native plants that were selected to support native butterflies and their larvae and be attractive to other pollinators as well.



The garden also features colorful butterfly ornaments, a pair of butterfly houses and an observation bench. Michaela S, shown here, installed this garden as her Eagle Scout Project, where it can serve as an educational resource for the park. We are very grateful for her efforts and those of all the scouts and volunteers whose work helped make this garden a reality. We are interested in continuing to increase the diversity of the Preserve with native plantings and invasives control.



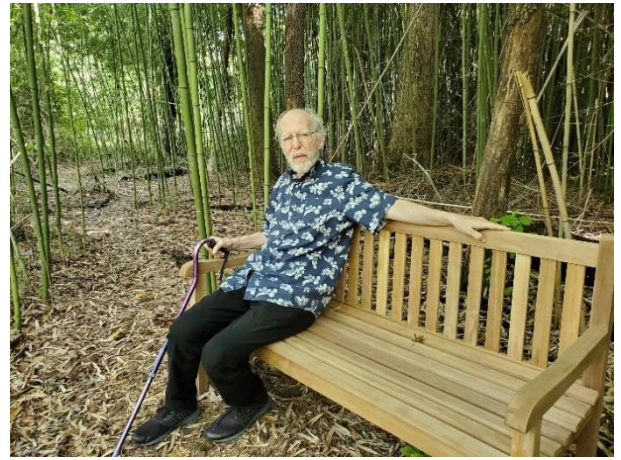
*A monarch butterfly caterpillar munching on common milkweed.*



*Eagle Scout candidate Michaela S. puts the finishing touches on one of her creations.*

**BENCHES** This year, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands installed 5 benches at the Mapleton Preserve. They are located strategically around the park, including the entrance to the Bamboo Trail, along Heathcote Brook, in the Flemer Arboretum and at two shady spots in the nursery fields.

Many thanks are due to the installation team of Anne Zeman (who spearheaded the effort), Anthony (Tony) Polizzotti [who provided invaluable guidance and heavy lifting] and Karen Linder. Thanks also to those of you who are members, as your donations made these new benches possible.



**Hello and farewell:** FPNL bids a fond farewell to former D&R Canal State Park Supt. Patricia Kallessen, who served the Park with dedication for 16 years. She was a true friend to FPNL and we wish her well in her new role. A warm welcome to her replacement, Supt. Lauren Rojewski. We look forward to working with you!

## Join us to preserve, protect and promote the former Princeton Nursery Lands.

**Membership Renewal Appeal:** 2023 is ending. That means that it is again time to renew your membership with the Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands for 2024 (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/or 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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – would you like to be more involved?

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Help plant more native plants at the Preserve and clear invasive species
- Volunteer to staff a welcome table or sign-in sheet
- Photographs from our events are always welcome

**Whatever your special skill, we need it! Please email us at [fpnl.org](mailto:fpnl.org) to help.**



**Stay up to date.** You can always 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 has a Facebook and an Instagram page too!** These pages are 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! “Like us” **us online at Facebook @FPNLnj or find us at Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofprincetonnurserylands/>**