

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Spring 2016 No. 27

Spring is a time of renewal! Please renew your membership now with the enclosed remittance envelope. You may also go directly to our web site to join or renew online: <http://www.kingstongreenways.org/forme.html>

You are invited to join us at these coming events:

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Saturday, April 23, 9 to 11 AM and 2 to 4 PM

Put on your work boots and sturdy gloves, and celebrate Earth Day with us!

9 to 11 AM: Cleanup of the road in front of Rockingham, from just above the village of Kingston up to Route 518. Meet at the Rockingham parking lot.

2 to 4 PM: We'll tidy up the areas adjacent to Railroad and Greenwood Avenues, Division Street, Mapleton Road and Ridge Road in Kingston. In addition to the inevitable tossed and blown litter, we will be removing some larger trash that is not only unsightly, but could also pose hazards to wildlife.



Parking for the afternoon event is along Railroad Avenue off Ridge Road (marked in **red**). Grabbers and bags will be provided.

For more information, please call 609-683-0483.

FRIENDS OF PRINCETON NURSERY LANDS ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 2 to 4 PM
Mapleton Preserve/D&R Canal State Park Headquarters
145 Mapleton Road, Kingston



Arborist Bob Wells

Following the planting of a tree in honor and memory of Dave Reed of Mapleton Nurseries, Bob Wells of Wells Tree & Landscape will lead an hour-long walk beginning in the heart of the Mapleton Preserve and looping through the canal side of Mapleton Road. He will offer basic ID techniques, and explore the importance of trees to the environment and to our well being, and threats posed by the changing climate to trees and their co-dependent insects. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 609-683-0483, or visit <http://fpnl.org>

ANNUAL MEETING AND TALK— SNOWY OWLS OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

Tuesday, May 24, 7:30 PM
Kingston Firehouse, 6 Heathcote Road, Kingston

Jean-François Therrien Ph.D, a Senior Research Biologist at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Orwigsburg, PA (<http://www.hawkmountain.org/>), has been studying snowy owls in the Arctic for more than a decade with a team of scientists from Laval Université, Québec. He will share the results of his research on these magnificent birds in a slide presentation at our annual meeting. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.



Jean-François Therrien with snowy owl—photo by A. Robillard, taken moments before releasing her with a newly attached satellite transmitter

Snowy owls are a top predator in the Arctic. They have a wingspan of 4-5 feet and are one of the few owls that hunt during the day. Lemmings make up a major part of their diet, especially during the breeding season. Some years, some of these large owls move south, a phenomenon known as an irruption. In recent winters, snowy owls have been observed across New Jersey in fields, marshes and beaches devoid of trees, landscapes that resemble the Arctic tundra to which they are accustomed.

JF Therrien's long term ecological monitoring on the remote Bylot Island in Nunavut, Canada has helped to unlock the relationship between snowy owl and lemming populations, and shed light on their movements throughout the Arctic and beyond via satellite telemetry. He will provide a glimpse of what it is like to do research with these nomads of the north. He has also studied the nesting behavior of cliff-nesting raptors such as peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons and rough-legged hawks. He has 28 scientific publications, many of them focused on Arctic birds.

He holds a PhD in Biology from the Department of Biology of Laval Université in Québec, Canada. In 2011, he joined the staff at Hawk Mountain as Senior Research Biologist, where he had previously completed an academic internship in 2002. In this role, he leads Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's research projects in the Arctic. He is also involved in several studies including the

movement ecology of New World Vultures and Peregrine Falcons across the Americas. When he's not monitoring the long-term American kestrel nest-box program or helping with the migration counts from the Sanctuary's lookout, he can be found teaching statistics to interns or enjoying life with his wife and two young children.

SAVE THE DATE: TRAILS DAY SESSION

Saturday, June 4, 2016

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UPDATE ON ALLOCATION OF OPEN SPACE FUNDING

The report below was drawn from a piece by Tom Johnson in NJ Spotlight.

On April 7, 2016, the Legislature gave final approval to a bill that would allocate more than \$140 million to fund long-stalled open-space and farmland preservation projects, setting up a possible confrontation with Governor Chris Christie, who pocket vetoed an identical open-space measure this past January at the end of the lame-duck session.

The bill (S-969) easily passed without debate in the Assembly, but it differs in one key aspect from the governor's plans for spending the money from a 2014 ballot initiative that authorized using a portion of corporate business taxes (CBT) for land-preservation programs. Christie wants to appropriate about \$20 million out of the program to pay for salaries and maintenance at state parks, an allocation not included in the bill approved by lawmakers. In the past, these costs have been paid out of the general fund. An opinion from the Office of Legislative Services said lawmakers did not authorize the appropriation when they approved the budget last June.

Some lawmakers oppose the diversion, saying it was not what voters approved when they passed the constitutional amendment dedicating a portion of CBT for open-space purposes. Many conservationists and the New Jersey Farm Bureau share that view.

Other than the diversion of \$20 million for salaries and maintenance at state parks, the bill would mark the first allocation from the new fund since it was passed a year-and-a-half ago. The bill, approved in a 53-16-3 vote, would lay out a spending program allocating about \$80 million in next year's budget and another \$66 million in yet-to-be allocated money from the previous year. The bulk of the money would go to the state's Green Acres program (61 percent), which funds open-space acquisition and park development. Thirty-one percent would be used for farmland preservation and 5 percent for historic preservation.

PARTICIPATION

We welcome participation from our members and friends, whether it be building trails, picking up litter, attending walks and programs, keeping us informed, or sharing suggestions. Please feel free to get in touch with me at tari@kingstongreenways.org.

Tari Pantaleo
President, Kingston Greenways Association