

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Spring 2021 No. 36



Former KGA trustee John Butcher died last month of leukemia at the age of 87. He was an energetic participant in our outdoor activities, especially Earth Day, and took over leadership of the Rockingham/Laurel Avenue cleanup for several years beginning in 2010.

John's intelligence, work ethic, absolute reliability, and sense of humor were an asset and an inspiration. We are grateful for his service to our organization, and for his friendship.

COMING EVENTS

SPRING BIRDING

Sunday May 23, 2021 at 7:30 AM

Join Karen Linder and Kingston Greenways Association for a spring bird walk along the D&R Canal, in the section between Kingston and Rocky Hill. Meet in the parking lot of the John W. Flemer Preserve on Route 27 southbound in Kingston (just south of Rider Furniture, and across the highway from Eno Terra). We will be getting an early start, as this can be an active time for parents with a nest full of baby birds. Please bring binoculars if you have them. (Some loaners available). *Photo of Black Vulture by Karen Linder*



Limited to 12 participants. Pre-register with karen.e.linder@gmail.com or 609-683-0483. It is free, and beginners are welcome. Masks and social distancing required.

FRIENDS OF PRINCETON NURSERY LANDS TALK: “WE’RE BACK!” THE EMERGENCE OF THE BROOD X PERIODICAL CICADAS

Thursday May 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM on ZOOM



Professor George Hamilton, Chair, Department of Entomology and Director of the Rutgers Graduate Program in Entomology, will speak to us about the highly anticipated emergence of the 17-year cicadas in a fascinating illustrated slide talk.

In the coming weeks, billions of cicadas will emerge in a dozen eastern U.S. states, including hot spots in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This group of cicadas, known as Brood X, has been living underground, feeding on tree sap since 1987. It is not known exactly when they will come out, and it varies by location, but they usually emerge when the soil temperature reaches 64 degrees. For this region, that usually happens by the third week in May.

Male 17-year periodical cicada Magicicada septendecula. Image from wikimedia commons

The cicadas will only live a few weeks above ground, during which time they molt, mate, and die, but only after males have wooed the females with ear-splitting calls, and the females have laid their eggs under the bark of tree twigs to start the cycle anew. Dr. Hamilton will describe the life cycle and natural history of the 17-year periodical cicada, their singing and eating habits, survival strategies and how they might affect your trees. **Don’t forget to pre-register. Receive a link to attend this talk by contacting karenlinder@fpnl.org or by calling 609-683-0483.** It is free and all are welcome.

RECENT EVENTS

EARTH DAY 2021

Our Earth Day turnout was smaller than usual despite perfect weather—but much was accomplished. Jennifer Tobin and her crew had an energetic morning session on the Franklin side of Route 27, cleaning up around Rockingham and along Laurel Avenue, while volunteers on the South Brunswick side concentrated on Ridge Road, the nursery lands, and a segment of Sassman Lane—or, as Charlie Dieterich dubbed it, the Great Beer Swamp. An apt name, given the hundred or more beer bottles and cans collected there! Trustee Ksenia Bobylak had the most unusual find. Can anyone identify the mammal this belonged to?



ANNUAL MEETING--OCTOBER 20, 2020

Our first ever Zoom annual meeting on featured an excellent and well-attended program on deer-resistant native plants, given by Rachel Mackow. Notes on her presentation are available here:

[Deer Resistant Native Plants](#)



Rachel Mackow is dedicated to the restoration of native plant communities that sustain and engage both people and wildlife. She authors stewardship plans, lending her knowledge of restoration practices and invasive species management. She enjoys helping people reconnect to plants and self-reliance through teaching foraging skills, herbal practice, and traditional plant uses.

CURRENT CONCERN

KGA is concerned about five forestry bills currently in the Assembly and Senate that would promote clear cutting, logging and prescribed burns in our forests. They would mandate every town create a forest stewardship plan for each piece of forested public property over 25 acres – including those of private non-profit groups that were funded through the "Green Acres Program." This would cost towns tens of thousands of dollars, if not more. These are unfounded mandates, with no flexibility.

The logging bill applies to one million acres of open space in the state, including state forests, state parks, Wildlife Management Areas, county parks, municipal parks and more. Logging will impact stormwater runoff, cause siltation, increase the cost of purifying water, increase deer population, reduce people's property values, deepen the impact of droughts, destroy trails, increase greenhouse gas emissions and impact air quality.

Although there is stiff opposition from most NJ environmental groups, NJ Audubon is supporting it. Why? NJ Audubon claims it is to create habitat diversity; however, NJ Audubon also provides, at a cost, forest plans; this is a conflict of interest.

KGA hopes to have a virtual program on the subject and place additional information on our website in the near future: <https://www.kingstongreenways.org/>

Tari Pantaleo
President, Kingston Greenways Association