

January  
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# The Green Way

No. 5

## KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

[www.kingstongreenways.org](http://www.kingstongreenways.org)

### Kingston Greenways Association Upcoming Event

#### Thursday, February 9th: Winter talk - the ice age in New Jersey!

**Talk on old frozen dirt!** The KGA will be hosting a talk entitled *Subarctic New Jersey: An Antithesis to Global Warming* on Thursday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m. Our speaker, who promises to be very entertaining, will be Mark Demitroff. The talk will be held at the Laurel Avenue School [corner of Laurel Ave and Union St. in Kingston]. Its free, and all are welcome. For more information, call Karen at 609-514-2416 (d) or 609-683-0483 (evenings)

Climate change is a topic of great interest of late. Glaciers are retreating, sea level is rising, and permafrost thaws around the world, portending grave consequences. Yet for much of the last 200,000 years, New Jersey was a cold, dry and windy subpolar semidesert. Our speaker, Mark Demitroff explores southern New Jersey for evidence of relict Pleistocene phenomena that are well preserved in the sandy-gravelly terrain of his native Pine Barrens.

The unusual landforms of the Pine Barrens, locally called "spungs," "cripples," "blue holes" and "savannahs" inspired a rich folklore. Tales of bottomless pits and darksome pools inhabited by the Jersey Devil are in fact geologic features inherited from recent cold-climate dynamics. By trade a certified tree expert, Demitroff continues his pursuit at the University of Delaware. For the past six years, he has cooperated with Dr. Hugh French, an eminent authority on Polar studies from the University of Ottawa. Together, they have published several papers which have raised serious questions about some older interpretations as to Pleistocene conditions in our region. Please join us for an educational and entertaining evening!

**Upcoming activities for the KGA....** We are planning KGA activities for the upcoming year. Mark your calendar for the following dates [but note: some dates are tentative, especially those with a "?", so for up-to-date news, check our website for last minute details!]

Feb. 9	Winter talk – Laurel Ave School [7:30]
April 22	Kingston Clean-up (Earth Day)
April 29 (tentative)	D&R Canal State Park's Arbor Day Celebration at Mapleton Preserve
May 11 (?)	KGA Annual meeting
June 3	National trails day event
September 9	Town Picnic
October 22	Fall Foliage Walk
December 17	Christmas Bird Count

**Bird Count Results.....** It's hard to believe that we have been helping with the Audubon Christmas Count for 8 years! After several years with lousy weather, we finally had a really nice day for the count, which was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We had 5 new species for the Kingston Count this year – including a Bald Eagle that was spotted flying over the Kingston Cemetery, 4 purple finches (relatively rare compared to house finches), a brown thrasher (the only one in the entire Princeton area to be observed during the count) and a cowbird (in Gwen Southgate's yard). Thanks to our 10 counters this year [Anne Zeman, Mark Peel, Ellen Foos, Marianne Constable, Ludmilla Wightman, Karl Eisenmann, Karen Linder, Gwen Southgate, Ed Metcalfe and Mike Brill. The count results are attached on the next page, along with results from previous years. In all, we recorded 46 species and a total of 4044 birds (our second highest count to date).

Of note was the high number of cedar waxwings (beautiful black-masked olive-colored birds with yellow-tipped tails] - a flock of 50 spotted on the Franklin side and 19 in perfect light near the Princeton Nurseries Headquarters feeding in their magnificent yellow-berried holly and crab apple trees. Canada geese hit an all time high (2085) because each of the Princeton Nursery fields had at least 150 birds, with a huge number of "fly-bys" as well. Gulls were also quite high this year [520]. Also of note was a red fox with black tipped ears - who was walking on one of the paths on the Mapleton Nurseries seedbeds and who stopped and took as good a look at us as we did of him/her. If you want to join us this year, the count will be held on 12/17 – call Karen for more information (609-683-0483). It is a great way to hone your skills and to get into the great outdoors.

**Art event!** Inspired by the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh, the 23-member Princeton Artists Alliance (PAA) has created a body of new work, on view in the show, "Marsh Meditations," at the Gallery at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Lawrenceville Campus, Route 206, Lawrenceville. Each artist used a medium that best reflects a personal view or idea of the Marsh. The installation, which includes photography, pen and ink, sculpture, mixed media, water-color and even video is on view through Sunday, March 26. 609-252-6275. Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends, 1 to 5 p.m. Closed Monday, February 20. Whether you have visited the Marsh yet or not, this show is not to be missed!

**Princeton Nurseries Property News....** South Brunswick Township is preparing a management plan for the Mapleton Preserve, to help chart plans for the its preservation, maintenance, restoration and for the development of its cultural and natural resources that the future. A public hearing will be held to provide citizen input into the draft. We don't know when the draft management plan will be ready (or when the hearing will be), but when it is, we will post a link to it on our website, and let you know where and when the hearing is.

As you may know, the D & R Canal State Park has relocated its main office to the old Princeton Nurseries Headquarters building at Kingston. They are still getting established, but hope to have a public open house, complete with refreshments and programs, once they are fully settled. The tentative date for this is Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> (Arbor Day). We think you will all agree it is a very appropriate day to launch this new chapter for the Park in the former home of Princeton Nurseries. They are looking for help from Friends Organizations such as KGA to help organize, so if you would like to get involved in this, let us know (609-683-0483)!

**Wanna get really involved?....** In addition to our public meetings, the trustees of the Kingston Greenways Association meet monthly to strategize ways to protect our greenbelt and to plan KGA activities. If you would like to be "in the know" and take a more active role in KGA activities, we urge you to come to one of our trustees meetings and get more involved.

Don't forget to visit our updated website! [www.kingstongreenways.org](http://www.kingstongreenways.org)

Charlie Dieterich, President, Kingston Greenways Association

Kingston Greenways Association  
 Audubon Christmas Bird Count  
 Results

Previous year counts

Species	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
	12/18/05	12/19/04	12/14/03	12/16/02	12/16/01	12/17/00	12/20/99	12/20/98
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	1							
Great Blue Heron	1	1			3		2	3
Black Vulture				3	1			1
Turkey Vulture	4	4	1	12	25		7	8
Snow Goose				1300	5			
Canada Goose	2085	1097	351	1671	349	264	109	600
Wood duck					20			
Am. Black Duck					3			6
Mallard	14	23	26	2	10		4	22
Ring-necked Duck					2			
Ruddy Duck							1	1
Bufflehead		1						
Common merganser	7							
Osprey								1
Northern Harrier		2		1		1	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	1	4				
Cooper's Hawk	3			1				1
Red-tailed Hawk	6	6		10	5	5	7	6
Rough-legged Hawk					1			
Am. Kestrel					1			2
Wild turkey		9			12			
Killdeer					5			
Woodcock			1		1			
Ring-billed gull	5			142	27	30		
Herring Gull	2			112	121	68	37	20
Gull (sp.)	520	127	30	62	30			
Great black backed gull				1				
Rock dove (pigeon)	36		2	4	1			
Mourning Dove	46	78	13	85	27	30	36	350
Great Horned Owl	1				2	1	1	0
Belted Kingfisher		1				1	2	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	10	5	3	10	5	12	7
Downy Woodpecker	14	3		9	15	3	3	7
Hairy Woodpecker	4			1	1	1		1
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	2					1		
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>	1							
N. Flicker	14	4	5	9	11	5	3	16
Blue Jay	75	3	25	43	62	8	49	15
Am. Crow	25	10	6	281	48	11	38	43
Fish Crow				1				2
Carolina Chickadee				13	3			
Black-capped chickadee				4	65			
Chickadee (sp)	86	44	15	25	30	11	45	43
Tufted Titmouse	34	21	14	20	40	13	24	23
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	3	1	13	6		3	6
Rose-breasted Nuthatch	4		5					
Brown Creeper					1			1

Kingston Greenways Association  
 Audubon Christmas Bird Count  
 Results (continued)

Previous year counts

Species	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
	12/18/05	12/19/04	12/14/03	12/16/02	12/16/01	12/17/00	12/20/99	12/20/98
Carolina Wren	11	14	4	11	8	4	4	10
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	1		5				2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								1
Eastern bluebird				3	15			
Hermit Thrush	1			1		1	1	1
Am. Robin	161	288	124	136	288	57	197	35
Gray catbird	3	1			1			
N. Mockingbird	23	12	6	28	19	6	10	17
Eur. Starling	130	343	250	125	213	56	426	70
Cowbird	1							
Cedar Waxwing	86		1	16	4		16	12
Yellow-rumped Warbler	14		3	4	34	27	6	57
Eastern Towhee					2			
Am. Tree Sparrow	3	10	10	63	4	1	32	23
Chipping sparrow			2				8	0
Vesper sparrow				1				
Field Sparrow	2	1	6	9			2	1
Savannah sparrow				1			9	0
Fox sparrow					2			
Song Sparrow	11	8	3	9	6	3	44	20
Swamp sparrow				2				
White-throated Sparrow	240	83	45	68	66	24	43	123
White crowned sparrow	2	8		3	5	2	2	
Dark-eyed Junco	220	178	46	105	163	30	175	103
N. Cardinal	58	24	12	15	27	9	15	24
House Finch	21	23	26	3	27	13	1	1
Purple Finch	4							
Am. Goldfinch	15	13	5	3	26	9	25	24
House Sparrow			5		3			20
wren (sp)	1							1
accipiter (sp)		1		1				1
Sparrow (sp)	4			45				
Duck (sp)	22			30				
mute swan							3	
<b>Total counted</b>	<b>4044</b>	<b>2457</b>	<b>1049</b>	<b>4519</b>	<b>1856</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1403</b>	<b>1732</b>
<b>Number of species</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>