



## AMBASSADORS PROGRAM LAUNCHED ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Our DeMasi Middle School Ambassadors culminated their year-long program by leading guided hikes in the Preserve for over 30 people. The day began with a musical presentation by the DeMasi Chorus. Then the Ambassadors provided a general overview about the Pine Barrens before leading small groups to some of BRP’s special habitats and explaining its unique ecology.



*L to R: Lead Teacher, Maureen Heenan, Vice-Principal, Patrick Bree, and teacher, Mary Corradino*



*Photo Above: National Trails Day—John Volpa and Black Run Preserve Ambassadors.*



*Photo Above: DeMasi Middle School Chorus*

### In this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Ambassadors Program</i>                              | 1 |
| <i>New Access Point &amp; Parking</i>                   | 1 |
| <i>Letter from the Chair</i>                            | 2 |
| <i>FBRP 5K</i>  | 2 |
| <i>Restoration Project &amp; Water Quality Research</i> | 2 |
| <i>REI Awards \$10K for New Bridge</i>                  | 2 |
| <i>NestWatch Program with Cornell University</i>        | 3 |
| <i>Trail Crew Updates</i>                               | 3 |
| <i>More Grants</i>                                      | 4 |
| <i>Volunteer Appreciation Night</i>                     | 4 |
| <i>Evesham Township News</i>                            | 4 |
| <i>Black Run Photo Contest</i>                          | 5 |
| <i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>                              | 6 |

## New Access Point & Parking at Links Golf Club

FBRP is partnering with King’s Grant Links Golf Club owner, David Quinn. Black Run Preserve visitors may now use the Link’s parking lot to access the Preserve, simply follow the signs from Club’s parking lot and the yellow blazes with an “L.” This trail leads to the Blue Trail and also connects with the newer section of the White Trail. Visitors are welcome to obtain a free of charge Links “social membership” to obtain food and beverage. Visit [www.thelinksgc.com](http://www.thelinksgc.com) to learn more about The Links Golf Club.



*The Links Golf Club [www.thelinksgc.com](http://www.thelinksgc.com)*

### Visit our website for the following events happening in Black Run Preserve:

- Save the Date! October 14, 2016 is FBRP Volunteer Appreciation Night!
- New Sign!
- 5K and thanks to Marlton Rotary!

Go to: <http://blackrun.org/events/>

# Letter from John Volpa, Chair of Friends of the Black Run Preserve

October 2016

Dear Friends,

Which came first, the beauty of the Black Run Preserve or the beauty of the people who choose to care for it? Does nature's beauty truly inspire us to find an inner peace that we project through the things we create? Rhetorical questions about beauty and peace are easily pondered in the BRP because both surround every visitor. Bring a family member or friend and one completes a triumvirate with love.

This is the place and state of mind we are creating together. Our newsletter highlights many positive endeavors supported through diverse sources of financial generosity but more importantly, the

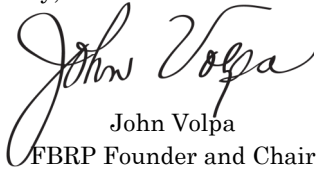
generosity of spirit displayed by a multitude of volunteers. During his inaugural address President George H. Bush asked America to volunteer in their communities and become "a thousand points of light." I believe America has answered President Bush's call ten-fold through a number of organizations dedicated to bringing about positive change locally and globally.

Some of those organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and companies are recognized throughout this newsletter. With the help of our first and most generous supporter, REI, we are working with our next-door neighbor, the Rancocas Conservancy, to connect and create the beginning of a nine-mile Peaceful Partners Trail designed to highlight the highest ideals of humanity.

I hope you enjoy reading about our many successes and will join us on October 14th to celebrate our numerous volunteers who have helped make the Black Run Preserve a haven for the native population who believe in a culture of peace.

Enjoy the trails. Be safe. Have fun.

Sincerely,



John Volpa  
FBRP Founder and Chair

## Restoration Project & Water Quality Research

Get a QR Code Reader App! DeMasi Middle School students are making QR codes to enhance education and sense of a peaceful place. Listen to quotes from JFK, MLK, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Our proposed Peaceful Partners Trail will be marked with QR code links to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## Friends of the Black Run 5k!

Thanks to the Marlton Rotary for supporting, and Evan's Elementary School Principal Nick DeBlasi for organizing the second 5K Trail Run in the Black Run Preserve. The runners enjoyed good weather for an April run. Congratulations to the first place woman, Caitlin O'Malley and first place man, Keith Jackson. Finishing in 22:19 and 19:45 respectively.

## REI Has Awarded Friends of the Black Run Preserve \$10,000 for a new bridge!

Due to industrious beavers, portions of the west side Black Trail are now inaccessible. But, thanks to REI for another Community Grant of \$10,000. We are working with Evesham Township to reconnect the west side with a new pedestrian bridge, to be known as the REI Peace Bridge. This bridge will be part of the proposed nine-mile Peaceful Partners Trail starting on the Rancocas Conservancy's Cold Springs Property and ending at Woodford Cedar Run

Wildlife Refuge. "Thank You, REI," for your support of our vision to promote peace by building bridges.





# NestWatch Program Now Part of Cornell University Lab of Ornithology

We are proud to announce that Black Run Preserve is a NestWatch chapter of the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. Coordinated by Darlene Emers, the chapter is the first New Jersey Chapter. Darlene and Black Run Preserve are ambitious and jumping right into NestWatch. Here is a quick look at our program:



At Black Run Preserve we have over 47 nest boxes (songbird, kestrel, bluebird, & wood duck). Since 2015, volunteers have been trained, following NestWatch standards, to maintain and collect data during the breeding season. We have a vision to build Black Run Preserve as a regional ecological/educational hotspot. Black Run



is a 1,300 acre parcel of pristine New Jersey pineland habitat located mere miles from major commerce and housing developments.

The nest monitoring project is new and growing fast. Dozens of "ordinary" members of the community are given the exciting chance to contribute to real science. We only wish to build on this opportunity and get more of the public involved. Conservation is nothing without awareness and firsthand experience.

This puts us on the map for tens of thousands of people to access now and in the future. As if being an eBird hotspot wasn't cool enough! So far, we have five active nests (3 species) and several eggs. We have our first Tufted Titmouse nest, a HUGE milestone as they rarely nest in boxes. **Black Run has over 78 species of birds reported so far in 2016!**

## Re-Youth

Since 2010, we've been working to remove the decades old "legacy trash," unfortunately, every year newly dumped debris: tires, pallets, and landscaping trash seems to pop up in the BRP. Thank you, Re-Youth, for helping keep the BRP free of dumped trash. Learn more about Re-Youth by going to: <http://ReYouth.org>.

## Trail Crew Updates!

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped improve and maintain our trail network. Some special volunteers: Joe Michiels, Rich Taylor, Jay Jones, Don Morrison, Jon Gaynor, and Sean Toohey have stepped forward to help develop a more coherent trail system plan.

Following our Concept Plan and its sustainability principles, the current marked and unmarked trail sections will be incorporated into a concise system of hiking, biking, trail running, and nature trails. Pending Pinelands Commission approval, a new trail on the north side of Borton's Road will be incorporated into the system.

Once established, the revamped trail system will enable volunteers to adopt a trail section for regular maintenance, thus making it easier to keep all of our trails in great shape for the ever-growing number of visitors.

Now, those visitors can park in the Black Trail parking area, which was improved by Trail Crew volunteers on July 31st. A new informal lot is planned for Borton's Road, which will help spread out the use of BRP.

## More Grants!

Over the next two years, a NJDEP's *Recreational Trails Program* grant of \$24k will enable us to make many infrastructural and trail improvements outlined in our Concept Plan. Thanks to our members' financial support, we can meet the reimbursement requirements of this grant.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation awarded FBRP with a \$5k *Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grant*. The grant will enable us to expand our restoration project in the decommissioned MUA basins by planting Pine Barrens natives in the basins.

Plus, following our Concept Plan's *Road to Trail* conversion concepts, the current road section between the two basins will be narrowed into trails by planting upland trees and shrubs. Mark your calendar for April 28, 29, and 30th to help us plant over 1,500 native plants.

## Volunteer Appreciation Night—Mark Your Calendar!

Come out and join us on Friday, October 14th, at the Links Golf Club for sandwiches, salads, and camaraderie to celebrate the long-list of volunteers who, over the past four years have helped make the BRP and FBRP what they are today, a beautifully accessible outdoor haven and an organization devoted to its protection amid a learned and peaceful atmosphere.

6:30pm—9:00 pm Cash Bar. \$10.

**You Can Still Register at: <http://evite.me/b8T3nzPqap>**

## Thank you, Evesham Township!

Last winter the little pink ribbons one may have seen in the Black Run Preserve were part of a wetlands delineation paid for by Evesham Township. It has enabled FBRP to accurately plan trail expansions in order to meet the Pinelands Commission's sustainability requirements.

Also Public Works recently installed bollards and chains at three key access points. The Black Run Preserve is now more protected from illegal vehicle entry and dumping.





## Black Run Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the Black Run Photo Contest Winners! We received a lot of photo submissions and the winners are: 1st Place: Panoramic from a Beaver Dam by Dan Leeder ; 2nd Place: Fall Splendor on the White Trail by Tim Gerrish; 3rd Place: Beautiful Fall Day by Eric Houser. Thank you to everyone who participated. You can view the photos online at: [www.blackrun.org/photo-contest/](http://www.blackrun.org/photo-contest/)



1st place—Panoramic from a Beaver Dam by Dan Leeder



2nd place— Fall Splendor by Tim Gerrish



3rd place— Beautiful Fall Day by Eric Houser

## THANK YOU!

Thankyou to large group volunteer efforts by: Cherokee Track Team, American Water AmerICAN volunteers, Cherokee Senior Day of Service, Boy Scouts of America Troops 49 and Troop54.

## FRIENDS OF THE BLACK RUN PRESERVE

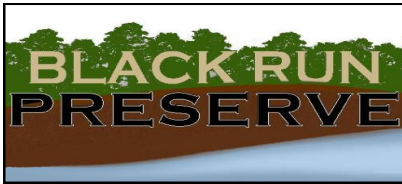
### Trustees of FBRP

John Volpa, Founder and Chair  
Jill Giulianelli, Vice Chair  
Rosemarie Lambe, Treasurer  
James Rosenthal, Secretary  
Keara Giannotti  
Amy Golden  
Joanne Maxwell  
Thomas Whelihan  
Michael Isham, Board Member Emeritus

email us at [admin@blackrun.org](mailto:admin@blackrun.org)

Website: [www.blackrun.org](http://www.blackrun.org)

 Find us on Facebook Friends of the Black Run Preserve



### Become a Member of FBRP

Help support the Black Run Preserve, a unique natural area in Evesham Township. FBRP is a volunteer organization formed in 2012. Our mission is to preserve and protect the natural beauty and Pine Barrens ecology of the Black Run Preserve for the benefit of all citizens. We strive to maintain the pristine quality of its natural resources while promoting healthy outdoor activities, environmental awareness and education.

To become a member, go to: <http://blackrun.org/become-a-member/> to pay online using a credit card or PayPal account. Thank you!

### Volunteer with our Trail Crew

The FBRP Trail Crew, led by Joe Michiels, started the year with clean-up days along the trails of the Black Run Preserve. Last spring, the Trail Crew constructed wooden trail marker signs that provide the name of the trail, its distance and direction, and the direction to the trail head. Another great job by our volunteers!

In 2017, the Trail Crew plans to improve the current trails, build new trails and add more trail markers. It will be an exciting and active year for the Trail Crew! If you would like to participate in Trail Crew activities, please email your name and contact information to [admin@blackrun.org](mailto:admin@blackrun.org).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Darlene Emers

Darlene Emers has been selected for our Volunteer Spotlight! She is a Citizen Science Leader, enthusiastically conducting our Black Run Preserve NestWatch program and leading numerous birding tours throughout the year. In 2014, following NestWatch protocols, Darlene created our bird nest box study with 23 nest boxes. The following year, with the help of her brother, Eagle Scout Steven Emers, twenty more nest boxes were constructed and placed in the Preserve. Working with a dozen dedicated volunteers whom Darlene trained and supervised, they conducted weekly nest surveys which enhances long-range regional scientific data collection. Due to her efforts in building a great birding community documenting over 100 bird species, Darlene has won recognition and listing of the Black Run Preserve as an eBird hotspot in addition to its admission into Cornell University's Nest-Watch Program.

**Congratulations Darlene!**

### The Black Run Preserve: Evesham's Gateway to the Pinelands

The Black Run Preserve is 1,300 acres of permanently preserved open space in Evesham Township. Located in the northwest corner of the Pinelands National Reserve, it is an ecological wonder of pristine Pine Barrens forest, wetlands, streams and old cranberry bogs, and hosts a variety of threatened and endangered plant and animal species.