



One Hundred Trail Crew Volunteers Build New Trail in 2 Days!

Blessed with unusually dry and warm weather during the last weekend of February, FBRP volunteers constructed 2.6 miles of new, sweet single track known and blazed as the REI Co-op Trail. Any successful event requires hours of planning and the Trail Crew Leaders: Jon Gaynor, Jay Jones, Joe Michiels, Don Morrison, and Rich Taylor brought all the pieces together in one glorious weekend of sweaty, dirty, happy work resulting in our first truly new trail. Again, a shout out to our REI partners for their helping in bringing out many of their staff and members to join in the fun.



Photos Above: Trail Crew Volunteers

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Borton's Road Trailhead and Access

During the Restoration Project weekend in April, FBRP partnered with Evesham Township Public Works and the Clean Communities Program organizing over fifty volunteers to remove eleven dump truck loads of concrete and trash from Borton's Road. This location (closest to the paved section of Borton's Road) has been an eyesore for over a decade in addition to being an unwanted entry point for vehicles. In an effort to protect the BRP from illegal vehicle entry and abuse, FBRP Trail Crew installed over 300 feet of bollards and cables in the same area. One can now access the Blue Trail (soon to be labeled the Peaceful Partners Trail), the Yellow Trail, and the new REI Co-op Trail from Borton's Road Trailhead. For our visitors' convenience, FBRP has placed a portable bathroom at this location. A new kiosk and benches will soon follow. Enjoy!



Photo Above: REI Co-op Trailhead

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

- CleanUp Day at Black Run, Sunday, September 17 from 11:00am to 3:00pm—Volunteers needed!
- BRP General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 7:00pm at REI Marlton
- Save the Date! Friday, October 13, 2017 is FBRP Volunteer Appreciation Night!

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

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

September 2017

Dear Friends,

Seeing BRP trailheads overflowing with vehicles, meeting smiling people on the trails who are grateful for BRP's peaceful beauty, hearing joy in visitor's voices; these are the sights and sounds we've worked to achieve. As the popularity of the Black Run Preserve continually grows, awareness of the Friends of the Black Run Preserve and our mission needs to catch up. So many visitors have no idea about the countless volunteer hours our members donate in order to make this special place accessible, enjoyable, and welcoming.

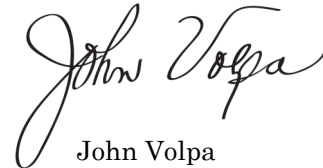
Hopefully, our first cohort of adult Ambassadors will help change that lack of awareness. Conducting outreach, distributing maps, offering route suggestions, leading walks and sharing their knowledge of the BRP's unique Pine Barrens characteristics, its flora and fauna; our Ambassadors will further educate visitors and inspire them to become members, get involved, and support our mission.

Come out to the next General Membership meeting on September 26th to learn about upcoming projects and plans to expand and improve our trail network. Mark your calendar to help us celebrate our volunteers on October 13th at the Links Golf Club.

If you're not already a member, please join us. In so doing, you demonstrate your support of our efforts promoting environmental education, life-long recreation, and establishing a culture of peace.

Enjoy the trails. Be safe. Have fun

Sincerely,



John Volpa
FBRP Founder and Chair

Ambassadors Program

FBRP is pleased to introduce our first cohort of adult Ambassadors. Eleven dedicated volunteers attended thirty hours of classes devoted to a variety of Pine Barrens topics: ecology, history, geology, botany, hydrology, herpetology, and focusing upon issues pertinent to the Black Run Preserve. Our Ambassadors will be scheduling guided walks along with providing maps and outreach information about the BRP and our efforts to be good stewards of the land. Visit www.blackrun.org/ambassadors/ to read a biography of each Ambassador and to find information about their upcoming fall schedule.



Déjà vu! REI Co-op Awards FBRP Another \$10,000 for the Peace Bridge

Yes, that's right, our most ardent supporter, REI Co-op and the Marlton Store staff, have awarded FBRP ten thousand more dollars for a six-foot wide pedestrian bridge. The "REI Peace Bridge" will span the breach in the west side bogs. This breach was created during the Thousand-Year Flood of 2004, causing visitors to utilize a downstream structure know as the "shaky bridge". Last winter, the local beaver clan claimed the shaky bridge by building a five-foot high dam over it. Their new dam has flooded a wide area, which will follow the course of nature and drown many pines and swamp maples creating new roosting spots for the native birds we encourage to call the BRP home.



Eagle Scouts at Work!

Many thanks to our Eagle Scout Candidates for their efforts in providing standardized kiosks in the BRP. The most recent addition by David Jackson is on the west side of Kettle Run Road. The next will be placed at the Borton's Road Trailhead. A fourth is planned for the start of the Peaceful Partners Trail on Tomlinson Mill Road.

Calling for Graphic Designers/Media Artists

FBRP needs help designing and presenting messaging for our kiosks. If you have skills in visual design and outreach messaging, we can put your talents to use. FBRP is forming a committee of volunteers to help us. If you're interested in volunteering your skills to help design and update our messaging on these kiosks, please contact FBRP Chair, John Volpa, at johnv@blackrun.org Thank you!

Donate a Bench in the BRP

In an effort to meet the requests from many of our visitors, FBRP has partnered with a local business, Woodloft Furniture, to provide benches in the BRP. These five-foot long, backless benches made by Breezesta can be donated for \$500. A ground screw will be attached along with a 3x5 plaque engraved with your choice of one of the following recognitions: "Donated by ..." "In Honor of ..." "In Memory of ..." If you would like to donate a bench to be placed in the BRP by our Trail Crew please go to: www.blackrun.org/bench/ and click the "Donate a Bench" button to get started.

Annual 5K Run at BRP

Special thank you to Evans Elementary School Principal Nick DiBlasi, Beth Cribben, and the Rotary Club of Marlton for your hard work, time and energy to make the annual Evans 5K Run in the Black Run Preserve a success. Congratulations to the first place female runner, Pam Gess, finishing in 22:38 and the first place male runner, David Thomson, finishing in 19:01. We look forward to next year's race!

Black Run Preserve Photography/Artwork Show May 2018!

We are happy to announce a Black Run Preserve Photography and Artwork Show at Evesham Township's Center for the Arts in May of 2018. Submission of works of art or photography depicting Black Run Preserve will be accepted on-line in March of 2018. Any individual over the age of 18 may submit a jpeg of up to three images. Because this is a fundraiser, a small submission fee will be charged. Seventy of the best photographs and art work will be selected to be displayed at Center for the Arts from May 7-May 29, 2018. An artist's reception will be held on Friday evening, May 18, 2018, and prizes will be awarded. More details to follow including photography field trips to Black Run Preserve. Start working on your artwork now so we can display the beauty of all 4 seasons at Black Run Preserve!

Trail Crew Updates!

The Trail Crew Leadership Team: Joe Michiels, Rich Taylor, Jay Jones, Don Morrison, and Jon Gaynor are ready to roll out the BRP trail consolidation plan, which includes the Peaceful Partners Trail.

New signage, blazes, and maps will make it easier to navigate the growing amount of trails. In addition, we'll be asking for volunteers to adopt a section of trail and help maintain it. Come out to the General Membership meeting on September 26th to learn how you can be part of the Trail Crew. In addition, our trail work plans and schedule for this winter season will be on the agenda.

Restoration Project

Nonnative Phragmites (common reed) is a legacy of the decommissioned Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) effluent basins. FBRP's effort to eradicate them and replace them with native grasses and shrubs has been a two yearlong effort. For the past two springs and falls, DeMasi Middle School students and Cherokee Seniors cut and removed the seed heads of these plants as part of service learning projects. MUA has been mowing the Phragmites repeatedly over that time in an effort to force the plants to expend their nutrient reserves. In May of 2016 FBRP DeMasi Ambassadors conducted a census of the

Phragmites population, under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Rebozo, Pinelands Preservation Alliance's Director of Conservation. The south basin contains 60,000 plants and the north basin 11,500 plants. Last April forty Cherokee High School Seniors planted one thousand native Pine Barrens grass plugs in the south basin. Afterward, 250 pounds of native grass seed was spread throughout the area. In an effort to monitor our progress, FBRP volunteer, Don Morrison has taken aerial photographs of the basins using a homemade drone and is linking the information into a GIS smart map. This fall, a professional will apply herbicide individu-

ally to each Phragmites plant. The native Pine Barrens grasses, plus 550 native trees and shrubs, were purchased through a New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) "Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grant". At the end of April, over sixty volunteers planted wetland shrubs in the north basin and planted upland shrubs and trees in old sugar sand roadways, returning them to a natural state. The Red Trail has been rerouted out of the roadway. "Thank you" to NJCF and all the volunteers who helped make this Restoration Project a success!






NestWatch Project

Chickadees, Bluebirds and Swallows abound! Early August wraps up the third year for Black Run Preserve's NestWatch Project. It is turning out to be a banner year with more nesting attempts and successful nests than ever before. Since 2015, nest boxes were strategically placed around the preserve to increase nesting and introduce a citizen science monitoring program. Specially trained volunteers visit nest boxes to collect data on nests and their progress. The data is submitted to University of Cornell's NestWatch Program for scientific use. So far Black Run's project has contributed valuable data, such as 2016's sole Tufted Titmouse nest was the only NestWatch monitored nest in all of New Jersey!



Although there were no Tufted Titmouse nests this year, a few firsts and high nest numbers make this season interesting. One nest was occupied by two species, Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds. The parents fought over a single nest box. This usually occurs when there are more birds than nesting opportunities. Eventually the swallows won and the bluebirds moved to another box.

There are still some active nests and potential future nesting, but most species of birds have completed nesting for the year. Here are the results so far:

Eastern Bluebird	Carolina Chickadee	Tree Swallow
		
Nest Attempts: 5 Total Eggs: 21 Total Nestlings: 21	Nest Attempts: 5 Total Eggs: 36 Total Nestlings: 35	Nest Attempts: 6 Total Eggs: 26 Total Nestlings: 25

	Total Nests	Total Eggs	Total Nestlings
2015	10	52	39
2016	8	35	27
2017	16	83	81

Aside from breeding birds, Black Run Preserve has reached 153 observed bird species on eBird. This solidifies our standing as one of Burlington County's most species rich birding hotspots. Notable sightings include a Pileated Woodpecker and a rare, vagrant Swallow-tailed Kite. Fall migration is right around the corner and is a spectacular time to bird Black Run. Have your binoculars ready for guided bird walks starting in September!

To learn more about Project NestWatch or to volunteer, please contact Project Coordinator:

Darlene Emers – darleneemers@gmail.com – (856)-206-2779

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
Jim Rosenthal, Secretary
Keara Giannotti
Amy Golden
Joanne Maxwell
Rich Taylor
Thomas Whelihan
Michael Isham, Board Member Emeritus

email us at admin@blackrun.org

Website: www.blackrun.org



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.

Volunteer Spotlight: Don Morrison

Three years ago FBRP needed a mapmaker: then Don Morrison called to volunteer. Don was starting a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) class at BCC, found out about us and offered his services. Over the years, Don's passion for GIS helped improve his skill set (and our maps) leading him to enroll in Rowan University's GIS Program. He has steadily taken on more mapmaking initiatives. In addition to creating our maps and bar codes to access the maps, he has mapped the MUA basins Restoration Project and added a layer of photographs taken with his homemade drone. Our clean-up events utilize Don's maps identifying the dump sites. Don has taught lessons with Evesham middle school students and supports our Citizen Science Projects. He is a valued member of the Trail Crew Leadership Team. Thanks for all you do, Don!

Congratulations Don!

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.