

## We Need A Hundred

In May 2012, *thirty* people attended the first meeting forming the Friends of the Black Run Preserve. In October 2013, *sixty* people attended the Visioning Event helping to create our Concept Plan for the Black Run Preserve.

In October 2014, *eighty* people attended the presentation of the Concept Plan at the Municipal Building. A direct outcome of that show of support was an invitation to submit our top priority items to the Township for consideration in the 2015 municipal budget.



Photo: 2014 Presentation of Concept Plan at Municipal Bldg.

Now, we need a *hundred* people to demonstrate their care and concern for the future of the Black Run Preserve by supporting our Fall Fundraiser. In order to bring our Concept Plan priorities to fruition, the Friends of the Black Run Preserve need to demonstrate the willingness of its constituency to support this fundraiser, which will help raise the \$24,000 in matching funds needed for an anticipated Recreational Trails Program grant.

Join us on October 23, 2015 in celebration of our successes, recognize our volunteers, and honor a Best Friend of the Black Run Preserve, Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director of Pinelands Preservation Alliance, our parent organization. It was Carleton's vision that laid the foundation for the Friends of the Black Run Preserve. Please help us continue building upon that foundation.

**Fall Fundraiser Celebration Dinner**  
**Friday, Oct. 23 from 6:30pm-10:30pm**

**Buy tickets now:**

<http://blackrun.org/fall-fundraiser/>

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## 2015-16 Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We're hosting our 2nd Photo Contest starting October 20th!

We're looking for the best photographs of Black Run Preserve.

The top 3 winners will win prizes!

Learn more about it by visiting:

<http://blackrun.org/photo-contest/>

or check it out on Facebook starting October 20th.

## Thanks To Our Volunteers



L to R: Mike, Daniel, Linda, Ann, Amy, and Brian

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

- Birding Tours led by Dartene Emers
- Hikes led by John Volpa
- Photography outing led by Trustee Amy Golden
- Mountain Bike hikes led by John Volpa
- Amphibian Tours led by Mark Murphy (Spring 2016)
- 5K/Fun Run in Spring 2016

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

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

October 2015

Dear Friends,

We are on the precipice of success in reaching our long-sought priority goal. With the support of another REI Community Grant, FBRP is working with Evesham Township officials to close off illegal vehicular access to the Preserve by installing gates, bollards, and cables. This REI grant will also allow FBRP to continue following our Concept Plan's outline for trail system expansion, improving signage, and bridge replacements.

Additional good news is Evesham Township will conduct a wetlands delineation of the Preserve. This is a required first step toward much needed trailheads/parking lots. The wetlands delineation will determine where the trailheads can be located. Hopefully, a basic trailhead (no bathroom) can be

located along Borton's Road to help visitors to access the trails planned for that area (Zone Three of the Concept Plan).

With the help of a donor, FBRP hired a part-time Administrator, Ms. Kelly Kirk, owner of *Back of the Napkin Marketing*. In addition to revamping our webpage, Kelly has streamlined processes for those willing to volunteer, sign-up for a tour, and joining the FBRP. Her expertise has made outreach for the fall fundraiser possible.

Our fundraiser goal is to raise the \$24,000 in matching funds we will need for an anticipated Recreational Trails Program grant. With that money we hope to create a new trailhead.

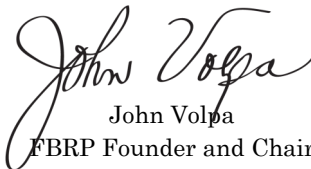
We are very excited about our Citizen Science Projects and hope to add two more this spring: a survey of amphibians and restoration of the decommissioned MUA

retention basins with native plants. All our projects seek to expand scientific knowledge about this special Pine Barrens island and support the native plants and animals making their homes in the Black Run Preserve.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have staffed our table for outreach events, the fall fundraiser committee, our citizen scientists, and our hard-working trail crewmembers. Please become a member and follow our events, tours, and meetings on our webpage: [www.blackrun.org](http://www.blackrun.org).

Enjoy the trails. Be safe. Have fun.

Sincerely,



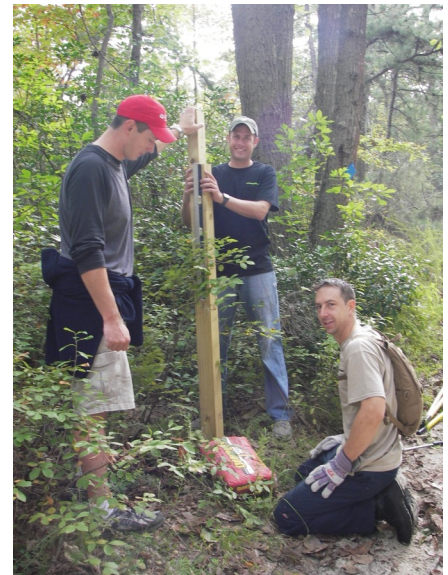
John Volpa  
FBRP Founder and Chair

## A Big "Thank You!" to Our Trail Crew Volunteers

Over the past few months, the trail crew volunteers have been hard at work. New signage, new trails and new trail extensions, particularly on the west side of the BRP, have created more access to the beauty of the Black Run Preserve. Some of the work has created Nature Trail spurs that lead to bogs for quiet contemplation and observation of native species like heron, beaver, and frogs; while others such as the 5K trail crew have provided a more active recreation component to the BRP.

Upcoming, our Trail Crew will focus upon the construction of new trails in the upland area north of Borton's Road this winter/spring. This will provide more exciting trails for trail runners and mountain bikers looking for a longer more aerobic experience.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our trail crew, who have done a great job at clean up events, trail signage, and trail maintenance. Thank you all for your efforts.



## Citizen Scientist Projects

All around the United States, everyday citizens participate in a wide variety of data collection that is passed onto universities and government agencies. Scientific protocols are followed in order to insure the quality of the data sets collected. In keeping with our mission "to promote environmental awareness and education" the FBRP have started citizen science projects for interested members.



"Thank You!"



for another  
Community Grant!

## Nest Box Monitoring Project

During late winter 2015, 23 nest boxes (those built by DeMasi Middle School students) were strategically relocated in the Black Run Preserve to attract native nesting birds of the Pine Barrens. Each was outfitted with a predator baffle: stovepipe or conical. During the spring and summer, six volunteers contributed over 200 hours checking bird boxes on their condition and progress. Valuable and enlightening data was collected to help perfect and build this project for the future.

Three species of native bird used nine nest boxes: Carolina Chickadee, Tree Swallow, and Eastern Bluebird.



The results are as follows:

- Carolina Chickadee: 4 nests, 23 eggs, 19 nestlings, 18 fledglings
- Tree Swallow: 3 nests, 14 eggs, 11 nestlings, 11 fledglings
- Eastern Bluebird: 2 nests, 10 eggs, 10 nestlings, 10 fledglings

Thirty-nine fledglings know the Black Run Preserve as “Home”!

Based upon the data, at least eight of the unused bird boxes will be relocated to preferable habitat to maximize the percentage of boxes occupied during the 2016 nesting season.

Twenty new bird boxes will be installed before December 2015 to attract Wood Duck, American Kestrel, Prothonotary Warbler, and other native songbirds.

A hearty “Thank You!” to this year’s dedicated Citizen Science volunteers: Darlene Emers, Jonathan Gaynor, Paul Lang, Steve McGeady, Mark Peterken, Doug & Betty Wallner.

This winter, a feeding station is proposed to support wintering birds for beginning birders to them see up close. Visit our webpage for scheduled birding tours lead by Project Team Leader, Darlene Emers.



## Stream Monitoring Project

Team leader, Jody Carara, a Project Director with the Alliance of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and FBRP volunteers will utilize a William Penn Foundation grant to test the Black Run Preserve streams and two other nearby streams in the southwest branch of the Rancocas Creek for E. coli contamination. These sites were chosen to ascertain the efficacy of septic management in the watershed area. The data collected will be sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences Drexel University/NJDEP to be entered in their computer data bank. Our volunteers will conduct the monitoring and assessments quarterly.

## Boy Scouts Continue To Support The Black Run Preserve

You may have noticed the new kiosk on the Green Trail courtesy of Nate Hengy, Eagle Scout Candidate from Troop 252. Troop 49 will be working on a project in the BRP. Steven Emers is building 20 new nest boxes for our Nest Box Project. Thanks, Nate and Steven!



### Special Thanks!

A shout out to twenty American Water Volunteers for helping complete a major clean-up and spruce up of our trails for the fall. Special Thanks to team leaders: Andrew Clarkson and Mike Dexter.

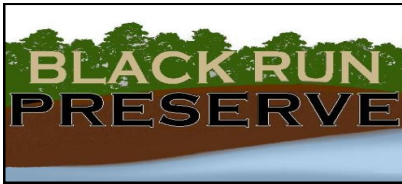
## Friends of the Black Run Preserve

### Trustees of FBRP

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

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

Website: [www.blackrun.org](http://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 2016, 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: Maureen Heenan

After completing Pinelands Preservation Alliance's Summer Teacher Institute in 2007, DeMasi Middle School Teacher, Maureen Heenan, has been an enthusiastic Friend of the Black Run Preserve.

Maureen has been the inspiration for the following accomplishments: eighth grade students removed over 400 tires dumped in the BRP, enabled students to build 34 bird nest boxes for the BRP, conducted Summer Programs with students participating in community services projects in the BRP and conducting the Voices From the Land Program with students in the BRP.

Building upon the continuing support from Evesham Township Schools' Administration and staff, Mrs. Heenan has helped create an *Ambassadors of the Friends of the Black Run Preserve Program*. The goal is to enable middle school student to become competent in Pine Barrens ecology and confident enough to lead public hikes in the BRP starting on National Trails Day, June 4, 2016. Thank you, Maureen, for your continued dedication to education and the BRP!

**"Thank You" Whole Foods for  
including us in a 5% Day!**



## 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.