



# Evesham's Gateway to the Pinelands

Hike, bike, trail run, walk your dog, fish, birdwatch, and so much more...

Black Run is a great place for the community to enjoy

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## FRIENDS OF THE



November  
2019

*Protecting and Preserving the Black Run for future generations*

## FBRP Needs You to Join Us in our Mission

Dear Friends,

FBRP needs you. The Black Run Preserve exists because so many people care about our unique piece of Pine Barrens, enjoy accessing its beauty for recreation, and want more trails and events. FBRP is poised to work toward expansion of the trail system and the BRP itself, but first we must grow as an organization. If those goals are to be reached then we must turn 2000 email addresses into 1000 members. Utilizing a grant, we've purchased membership management system software and we're working to develop a fifth committee: Events and Outreach (see inside).

Over the past seven years FBRP volunteer members have accomplished so much to make the BRP what it is today: a recreational oasis of peace and beauty. FBRP volunteers have been constructing, mapping, and maintaining a twelve-mile trail system, installed benches paired with educational and directional signage, and bollards with cables to stop illegal motorized vehicles from destroying the fragile humus layer of the forest. In this issue we highlight how our

local and regional partnerships continue to grow. We must grow too. We hope you'll become a member and support our efforts. Please enjoy the variety of outings our Ambassadors lead and come out to our in-house Visioning Event at the REI store on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 6:30pm. Visit [www.blackrun.org](http://www.blackrun.org) in January for more details.



Sincerely,  
*John Volpa*  
John Volpa

FBRP Founder and Chair

1,300 acres of Pinelands Paradise

101+ bird species sighted

12 miles of multi-use trails

# Events/Outreach Committee Now Forming



Are you one of the many people enjoying hiking, biking, birding, or photography in the BRP? If so, the FBRP needs you! A new committee, **Events and Outreach**, is in the works and we are looking for people who enjoy planning and promoting events such as: seasonal socials, 5K runs, photography & art contest, student art showcase. Event possibilities are limited only by our imagination. This committee will be meeting in January 2020.

Email [johnv@blackrun.org](mailto:johnv@blackrun.org) to sign on

## New Kiosk on the King's Grant Entrance Road

If you're a King's Grant resident and enter from the dog park on Crown Royal you'll see our newest and fourth kiosk made by Girl Scout, Waverly Pross, as part of her Gold Star Project.

The Vision and Voice Committee developed the information on the posters which were designed by volunteer graphic designer, Alan Brooks, then installed on all four kiosks. The updated draft map displayed on each kiosk was made by volunteer GIS mapper, Gerry Aiken. Thanks, Alan and Gerry for your talent and time!



Waverly Pross constructs our new kiosk

## Happy Trails

The Pine Barrens ecosystem is fire prone, therefore most of the flora is fire adapted except for the oak trees. If it wasn't for fire, this ecosystem would be the "oak barrens". It had been over 50 years since the last wildfire in the BRP area, allowing a heavy fuel load of flammable "duff" to accumulate on the forest floor. Combined with the threat of illegal camp fires being made in various parts of the preserve, it's been FBRP's long held concern that a wildfire started accidentally would threaten our neighbors in King's Grant and along Hopewell Road.



Partnering with Evesham Township officials, Evesham Fire Department, Public Works, and the NJ Forest Fire Service, a "prescribed burn" was conducted to reduce the fuel load and the risk of wildfire. **Trail Crew** volunteers helped prep the area for a more efficient burn, which was carried out during perfect weather conditions in mid March. Following the burn, Trail Crew members then installed trail signage, five benches, six new educational signs, and signs identifying all of our bogs. In addition, our Trail Crew volunteers maintain our trails all year long and conduct multiple cleanups in coordination with Evesham Township's Clean Communities Program.



## New 5K Route

If you've been a long-time BRP visitor, then you know the local beaver clan has made a major impact upon our trails adjacent to the bogs. In particular, their handiwork has flooded our original 5K route which began and finished at the Kettle Run Road East Trailhead. Therefore, that route has been closed and a new 5K route established in the uplands area starting and ending at the Borton's Road Trailhead. This new route provides a dry path for trail runners. Look for registration info this spring for our annual 5k Race on Sunday, April 26, 2020.



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### Black Run Photowalk

Join accomplished Pinelands photographers Rich Lewis and Amy Golden on a photowalk of the beautiful Black Run Preserve. You'll discover some wonderful shooting locations that you can visit throughout the seasons.

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### 4th Sunday Guided Nature Hike

With the Fall season in full swing cooler temps start to prevail. You can now hike your favorite trail without having to contend with the heat or the bugs! And if you're not a fan of freezing temps, then fall is your last chance to get in all the outdoor activity you can before winter's icy grip takes hold.



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### "Forest Bathing" Guided Nature Hike

Ever heard of Shinrin Yoku? It's the Japanese term also known as Forest Bathing which simply means "taking in the forest atmosphere". C'mon out on a quiet weekday and join our Trail Ambassadors for a mindful walk in the woods.

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### Black Run #OptOutside

Skip Black Friday and Take a Hike #optoutside and join our Black Run Ambassadors this "Black Friday" as we walk off the Feast, breathe the Good Air, and visit the Bogs, Uplands, Beaver Dams and Lodges.

## Busy as an Ambassador

This been a busy year for our Ambassadors program. Since the program began in 2017 with the introduction of the first cohort of Ambassadors, our team has led over 350 hikers on a variety of tours that includes Nature, Bird Watching, Photography, Yoga, Folklore, Forest Bathing and more.

Our summertime **Hikes for Tykes** educational tours for little ones were a tremendous success. The Hikes for Tykes program is a novel creation of Ambassador and veteran Evesham teacher, Maureen Heenan. It's geared toward introducing youngsters to the Pinelands with a twist on the Arts and Sciences. Look for it next summer!

This year we welcomed the second cohort of Ambassadors to our team. With these

additions, we will be able to offer an even wider variety of tours, hikes, and events.

The committee is already planning for the 2020 season. Here are just a few things to look for next year:

We'll be adding Second Saturdays to our schedule as well as introducing new tours such as History of BRP and the Pinelands, Bugs, and the Seven Wonders of BRP.

However, 2019 isn't over yet. We still have several ambassador led events scheduled, including this month's tours highlighted above. Please be sure to check our web and Facebook pages for more information on upcoming events. Remember that FBRP members enjoy all Ambassador tours, free! Join today.



A group of hikers enjoy one of our Ambassador led events.

Learn about our free guided tours at [www.blackrun.org](http://www.blackrun.org)

Join the Fun!

## Giving the Peace Bridge a Chance

FBRP is delighted to announce a generous donation of services by civil engineering firm, Gilmore and Associates, Inc., that brings us tangibly close to our fund raising goal.

With an enormous expenditure removed from our budget, we are now only \$4000\* away from the realization of the Peace Bridge project. If you've been waiting for the right time to donate, that time is now. Spread the word among your friends and family. Post it to social media. Ask your employer about the availability of matching grants.

\*One month ago this number was \$5000. Thank you to the generous donors who moved us closer to our goal.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/peacebridge>



# Partnerships

## Evesham Police Department

Working with Evesham PD, an Emergency Locator System consisting of orange triangles with numbers on signage posts and kiosks, is now in place throughout the BRP. If you have an emergency and call 911, provide the number on the nearest orange triangle to the dispatcher and emergency services will know where you are. Thanks Evesham PD!

## Evesham Schools

Thanks to an anonymous donation for educational outreach made in honor of Lynne Pugh, wife of a very active member, Ron Pugh, FBRP is pleased to announce a new partnership project with Evesham Schools, offering a unique art contest for middle school students titled, "People of the Pines. People of Peace." Education is one of FBRP's mission objectives, so this donation made our next project possible. BRP visitors will learn about Evesham's Quaker heritage and its cultural influence upon the region and America. Winning artwork will be on permanent display in the BRP starting June 6, 2020. Look for details this spring!

# BRP is for the Birds!

The Black Run is host to many bird species, and FBRP has been monitoring the nesting success of some of them since 2015. In fact, you may have noticed nest boxes placed strategically around the preserve (please don't approach them!), which are intended to provide increased nesting habitat. Volunteers in the Black Run Preserve's **NestWatch Project** monitor these nests throughout the spring and summer, recording the number of eggs laid, nestlings hatched, and fledglings that have flown the nest. This data is then submitted to the University of Cornell's NestWatch Program, a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including changes over time as a result of pressures from invasive species, climate change, and habitat loss. Natural nests can be monitored by citizen scientists too, but in the Black Run we report strictly on the birds that use our boxes. This year in our 34 nest sites, we recorded 14 nest attempts by 3 species of birds, 66 eggs laid, 58 young hatched, and 52 total fledglings. Tree swallows led the way with the most eggs laid and babies successfully fledged (20), followed by chickadees (14), and bluebirds (9). These birds are all species that

would normally nest in dead trees where competition for nesting cavities is fierce, so this is a great example of how providing habitat increases productivity. Build it and they will come!

Special thanks to Project NestWatch co-chairs Jeff Jackson and Doug Wallner, and volunteer Steve McGeady, for all their hard work monitoring our nest boxes this past season. If you love the Black Run Preserve and have ever wanted to get more involved, there's no time like the present. We have big plans coming up for re-locating some of our nest boxes to attract more bird species and improve the preserve's nesting results. We are also in need of citizen scientists to help monitor nests. Participating in Project NestWatch is fun, educational, and easy – just about anyone can do it. Volunteers visit nest boxes every 4-5 days and record their observations. If you would like to volunteer to either help relocate nest boxes this fall and winter, or sign up for training to monitor nests next spring, please email ([admin@blackrun.org](mailto:admin@blackrun.org)) for more information. Always be birding!

-Keara R. Giannotti, Project NestWatch Co-Chair



## Save the Dates

- December 12 Full Moon Hike
- December 15 Sunday Ambassadors Hike
- January 1 New Year's Day Hike
- January 26 In-house Visioning Event



2019 hatchlings



# BLACK RUN PRESERVE 2020 JURIED PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ART EXHIBITION

The Friends of Black Run Preserve (FBRP) are pleased to announce the Black Run Preserve 2020 Juried Photographic and Art Exhibition. Artwork and photography taken within the boundaries of Black Run Preserve, depicting its landscape, flora, wildlife, and visitors will be accepted. The art exhibit will hang from May 4-21, 2020 at the Center for the Arts Gallery, 123 S. Elmwood Road, Marlton, NJ. Prizes will be awarded. **Meet the Artists Reception and Awards Presentation: May 15, 2020**

Full prospectus including entry and prize details to come. Meanwhile, the Preserve inspires artists with its unique beauty through all four seasons of the year. Don't miss an opportunity to capture and express

your vision of the ever-changing flora and fauna that will emerge this fall and winter and help us dazzle the public with a gallery filled with spectacular, diverse imagery of our beloved Black Run.



Morning Fog at Black Run © Brian Collins  
First Place, Photography - 2018

# A Look Back Vision and Voice

Have you seen the new signage in the preserve identifying our bogs? The **Vision and Voice Committee** worked with the Evans and Wills families to uncover and illuminate the history of these hundred year old cranberry bogs once owned by these two families whose ancestors arrived in Evesham on the first ship bringing Quakers from England in 1677. We are thrilled to be able to share these stories with the visitors who walk these grounds today.

In addition, the committee updated, redesigned, and standardized the signage on our four trail-head kiosks.

2020 brings exciting new projects and opportunities. Stay tuned!

