

# 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

# 2022

*Protecting and Preserving the Black Run for future generations*

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all the Friends of the Black Run Preserve for your membership, donations, volunteered time, and support; all are incredibly important to our efforts and greatly appreciated. In reading this newsletter, I hope you recognize the breadth and depth of the work done by our committees and the extensive interconnections to educational institutions and community organizations that support FBRP's vision and mission. You have all helped FBRP move BRP projects forward throughout the pandemic. Much of that progress is highlighted in this newsletter.

As the FBRP prepares to celebrate our first 10 ten years as a non-profit organization, we are also looking to the future. Obtaining and utilizing \$100K of grant monies through Green Acres Funds, our partners at Evesham Township are using the recently completed Master Map to apply for Pinelands Commission approvals for infrastructural improvements and permits. (See Volunteer of the Year, page 10).

FBRP is working with Township officials to explore the construction of a 30-car parking lot and permanent bathrooms adjacent to the new MUA basins on Kettle Run Road as well as enhanced parking at the other trailheads. Township officials are committed to improving access at all township parks for those with limited mobility. Working together we've identified a BRP trail location that would provide greater accessibility to one of the most beautiful places in the BRP. Completion of the Master Map also helps move installation of the Peace Bridge a step closer.

Importantly, the Evesham Township Open Space Recreation Management Program (OSRP) is currently being updated. This presents an opportunity to refocus on the importance of the Headwaters of the BRP. This land holds the ecological key to the future of the BRP's still pristine Pine Barrens nature. Within the next year, I will invite all our Friends to provide input into a Stewardship Plan (See page 11).

Thinking ahead, the Board of Trustees has undertaken the tasks of reorganization and planning for FBRP's future. Look for an important update – including additional ways to become a more actively involved member – early next year.



We look to our friends and members to help meet our annual operating budget. Your support is key to the future of the FBRP. In addition, we continue to reach out through grant applications and donations to fund our wish list of projects that will further enhance the BRP and its accessibility to the public. We believe the BRP's future looks bright because so many people truly care about this special corner of the Pine Barrens. We believe in our future because we believe in you.

Sincerely,

John Volpa, FBRP Founder and Chair

1,300 acres of Pinelands Paradise

101+ bird species sighted

20 miles of multi-use trails

## Your Membership Questions Answered

Members are the life blood of our organization. Your support helps us fulfill our mission and achieve our goals.

Our dedicated membership co-chairs, **Jane Dean, Rosemary Bernardi, and Amy Pross**, strive to engage with our community and answer the questions you may have. Here are some that we frequently hear.

Got some that remain unanswered? Reach out to us any time and we'll get the information you need right to you.

### Do I have to be a member to go into the Black Run Preserve?

Not at all. The Black Run Preserve is township-owned open space for all to enjoy. Volunteers (Friends of the Black Run Preserve...FBRP) are stewards of the land and your membership fees help us in our endeavors to maintain the trails, install educational signage, host events and pay for administrative costs.

### What do I get with a membership?

You will get free bi-monthly Ambassador led tours (weather permitting). You will also get a discount on special events, such as our Poker Run, specialized guided hikes and members' socials. You will also receive a car magnet in the mail as a token of our gratitude.

### Do I have to attend meetings or join a committee?

Nope. But, we do have general membership meetings twice a year, where you can hear all the latest updates and voice any concerns you may have. We always welcome more volunteers for our five committees, but it is not a requirement with your membership.

### I recently attempted to renew my membership but encountered errors on your website.

This is a known error that has been resolved. If you have been unable to renew please try again. We apologize for the inconvenience and frustration and thank you for your ongoing support.

### How much is a yearly membership?

We have several different levels:

Senior and Student	\$20,
Individual	\$30,
Family	\$50,
Supporter	\$100,
Sponsor	\$500

To become a member or to renew your membership, [visit our website.](#)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Those who enjoy the BRP have surely come across the work of our resident beavers. But did you know that beaver dams can be enormous? The largest on record was discovered via satellite in Northern Alberta, Canada and measures more than 850 meters (just over half a mile) in length. Now that's DAM big!



## A Fond Farewell

Last summer, Ambassador and DeMasi Middle School teacher, Maureen Heenan, left the home that she loved and love to share with others for a new start in Florida. She was sent off with a farewell dinner befitting her thirteen years of dedication leading trips for students, families, and the general public in the BRP. We wish her a long, happy and sunny retirement!



## For Our Feathered Friends and Those Who Love Them

Eagle Scout, Shail Leszkowicz constructed a bird blind near Kettle Run Road West trailhead. FBRP member and volunteer, Ted Faulkner, has been filling the bird feeders during the season. Thank you to Linda and Hank for the seed from the Wild Bird Oasis store in Medford!



## Get to Know the Black Run Preserve Ambassador Led Tours Educate and Delight our Visitors

Some of the most publicly visible FBRP volunteers are our Ambassadors. These friendly, knowledgeable BRP guides have participated in an extensive training program and attend special refresher classes. Led by Committee Chair, Dan English, Ambassadors lead tours twice monthly; second Saturday and fourth Sunday.

A list of current offerings and registration is always available on our website. Many thanks to these dedicated individuals who for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the BRP and the Pine Barrens. The following is an overview of some tour offerings:

- **Forest Bathing:** breathe in the pine air then take the time to immerse all of your senses in the Pine Barrens
- **Aerohaven Tour:** explore the site of the May 1st fire to witness the wonder of regrowth and regeneration of fire adapted species
- **Introductory Tour:** a great first overview of Pine Barrens beauty, ecology, and history.
- **Restoration and Aquatics:** learn how fish, frogs, and insects tell us if the water is still indicative of Pine Barrens quality and why water is the life blood of the pines
- **West Side Tour:** see where the beaver clan first demonstrated their eco-engineering skills and its impacts on the BRP
- **Full Moon Tour:** our edge of the Pinelands National Reserve still offers captivating dark skies

Founder and Chair, John Volpa, hopes to conduct an Ambassador training program in the spring/summer of 2023. If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity, email him @ johnv@blackrun.org. The funding for this program is on FBRP's Development Committee's Wish List.

## Development Committee Developments


FBRP's Development Committee is pleased to announce that two major corporate donors have responded favorably to our Qualification Package and its Wish List. Early this year, **Lanxess Chemical Corporation** stepped in to sponsor our first Poker Run. Recently, FBRP received a generous donation of \$2500 from **Laurel Oak Wealth Management Group**. After the partners took a walk in the BRP, they were inspired to sponsor our initiative to restore the upland area which had been clear cut in 1990 to install MUA irrigation lines which were later removed in 2010. Our restoration initiative has been sent to our Township partners including the Evesham Environmental Commission for their input before going to the Pinelands Commission for final approval. We hope to be planting this spring!


Another wish list item is training a third cohort of a dozen new Ambassadors in 2023 to ensure the continued viability of this vital program. If you are interested in understanding what volunteering your time as an Ambassador entails and would like to learn about Pine Barrens ecology, history, geology, and much more, contact Ambassador Chair, Dan English, at dane@blackrun.org. If your business is interested in sponsoring the cost of training, please contact John Volpa at johnv@blackrun.org.



**Laurel Oak Wealth Management Group sponsored a trail clean up at the BRP**


The Friends of the Black Run Preserve (FBRP) has as one of our missions the stewardship of the multi-use (hiking / biking / skiing) trails throughout the area. The Black Run Preserve property is owned by Evesham Township and designated as a township park. The FBRP have a Memorandum of Cooperation with Evesham Township to be the stewards of the BRP. Preserving the quality of the outdoor experience, while providing a minimal level of soil and vegetation disturbance are some of the goals of our trail work. During the 2022 spring and summer months we have worked on the following projects:


 The section of the BRP south of Bortons Road is known as AeroHaven. In the 1950s the commercial AeroHaven Airport was first built, and the field consisted of a single north/south clearing cut from the surrounding woods. In the 1960s AeroHaven Airport was expanded with a single northeast-southwest 2,900 foot asphalt runway (# 4/22, L2780) and a paved taxiway with hangars and parking for a dozen aircraft. In the 1980s the owners renamed the airport "Camden Burlington County Airport". Due to financial issues, the airport closed during the early 1980s. Around 1994 the Owens Corning Company with the NJDEP closed and remediated the site. The result is the open space that we have today, with many legacy trails throughout. We have marked these trails and created a map of this area. The BRP now has a total of 25 marked trails and 19 miles of marked trail distance.


 On Sunday May 1, a fire was reported in the AeroHaven section of the BRP and the trail crew worked to mitigate and repair the damage caused. (See next page for more on the fire.)


 In cooperation with the Township, The FBRP has been upgrading and improving signage around the preserve. Marker posts have been installed in various locations, for example in the AeroHaven section along Kettle Run Road, with "NO ATV" and other illegal motorized vehicle signage. Township ordinance does not allow recreational motorized vehicles on Township owned park property. The Evesham Police Department and Township officials also confirmed per NJ State

Law that E-bikes are not allowed on the Black Run Preserve trails. In addition, Evesham Township has recently installed new signage along the perimeter of the preserve stating "No Unauthorized Motor Vehicles".

 We have conducted 3 Clean Communities Events in cooperation with Evesham Township to remove trash from the Preserve this year and thank the many volunteers who have participated.

 As our trail network has become more developed, we have established a team of volunteers as trail maintainers for effective trail care. Our trail section maintainers are the "eyes" and "ears" of their trail sections, as well as important advocates and protectors. In this role, they have become familiar with the techniques to perform the simple, recurring maintenance and repairs necessary to keep the trails in good useable and safe condition. Trail maintenance is an important task and without vigilant attention, the trails would soon disappear.

 We thank our current 12 maintainers for their volunteer service. If you are interested in volunteering as a trail maintainer, we have trail sections available for maintenance. Please contact us, and we will provide you with the necessary training and assign to you a trail section.

 On our web site you can find the most updated maps of the [BRP North section trails \(east and west of Kettle Run Road\)](#), the [BRP AeroHaven section trails](#), and the [BRP 5K route trail map](#). We hope that these will help you safely explore the Preserve.



**May 1, 2022:** A dry April created the perfect conditions for a blaze that consumed an upland forest triangle of 65 acres south of Bortons Road. Luckily, mountain bikers enjoying a Sunday morning ride in the Aerohaven Section saw the smoke and alerted the Evesham Fire Department. Joined by the NJ Forest Fire Service, commanded by Fire Warden Tom Gerber, and Evesham Township Police, these three professional groups evacuated all BRP visitors as they positioned equipment on all three sides of the area quickly getting the fire under control. "That area hadn't burned since 1957," Mr. Gerber said, "So, once we had it under control, we were able to back burn it from Kettle Run Road and allow the wind to burn off the duff and shrub layer."

Evesham PD were unable to determine if the cause was accidental or intentional, but the result was a reminder that the Pine Barrens is a fire prone ecosystem.

It doesn't take long before the landscape bounces back, demonstrating life's resiliency. Of course, the REI Yellow Trail blazes and brown whip signs were melted beyond recognition, but thanks to Pinelands Preservation Alliance donating more whip signs and Marlton REI Co-op donating more trail blazes, FBRP Trail Crew Leader, Rich Taylor, replaced them quickly. Visitors can follow the newly marked trails and observe how effectively Mother Nature does her work or sign up for an Ambassadors "Aerohaven Tour" for a more immersive experience.



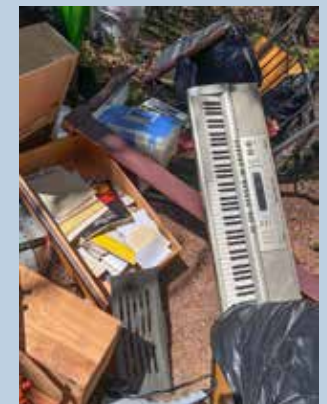
**FBRP Watch Dogs: Preserving the Land and a Veteran's Dignity**

It's always disheartening to see another pile of junk dumped along Bortons Road, whose remoteness and easy access has always made it the number one choice for such thoughtless acts. Although it had the usual furniture, household detritus, and black trash bags, this pile was different. Local FBRP member, Tony Butch always keeps an eye on this neck of the woods so he discovered it first, reported it to Evesham PD and alerted key FBRP members, who also investigated.

Often the perpetrators of these crimes will unknowingly leave incriminating evidence such as documents with name and address so Tony investigated further and discovered not only a name and address, but a U.S. Marine uniform, medals & citations. FBRP Trustee, Amy Golden found a Desert Storm Yearbook in a different pile. Clearly, this was not trash. Tony was able to track down the family and learn the story of Gunnery Sergeant Vincent Bartsche, USMC, a 20 plus year veteran who died at age 52 on May 15, 2022. Mr. Bartsche was living alone

in an apartment when he passed. The building supervisor hired an exterminator to clean out Mr. Bartsche's apartment and conduct insect extermination. The exterminator removed all of Mr. Bartsche's furniture and personal effects then dumped them in the BRP.

Tony reached out to the family who had no idea what had become of "Gunny's" belongings. Thanks to Tony and Amy, Gunny's personal effects were returned to his grateful family who live at the Jersey Shore. Gunny was committed to Arlington National Cemetery. Many thanks to our watchdogs for helping a family retain the dignity of an American veteran.



# Black Run Preserve NestWatch Project

## 2021-22 Update

Jeff Jackson, NestWatch Co-Chair  
Doug Wallner, NestWatch Co-Chair



Breaking out of an egg is exhausting work!

The Black Run Preserve is host to many bird species, and FBRP has been monitoring the nesting success of cavity nesting birds since 2015. Volunteers in the Black Run Preserve's NestWatch Project monitor our box nests throughout the spring and summer, recording the number of eggs laid, nestlings hatched, and successful fledges. This data is submitted to the Cornell University'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. Our program was the first chapter in New Jersey to be recognized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology,

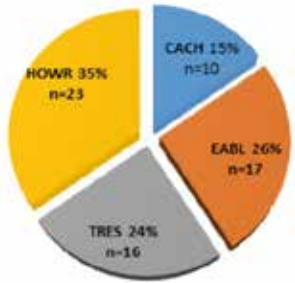
By the end of March, 2021, we already had a complete nest in box A-11 in the north basin. This was the earliest we have seen an Eastern Bluebird nest. By April 3rd the nest was already active!

Unlike 2020, when we saw no House Wrens, they were the most prevalent species in our boxes in 2021. House Wrens can be extremely territorial and aggressive to other cavity nesting birds. They are known to destroy other the eggs of other birds and build nests on top of the previous occupants. The males also build "dummy" nests filled with sticks that prevent the use by other species. This appeared to significantly reduce the success of other species in 2021 such as Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

The following is the 2021 breakdown of eggs laid and chicks fledged by species in this season's 37 nest boxes: have "disappeared" it's impossible to know the exact cause, but predation or competition (from another cavity nester such as a house sparrow) is assumed. Over this coming winter, our task will be to identify how we can improve nest success for Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds (such as changing baffle type and/or relocating boxes to offer more protection from predators).

House Wrens (HOWR) led in the number of eggs laid, laying 35% of the 66 eggs we counted this season, followed by Eastern Bluebirds (EABL), Tree Swallows (TRES), and Carolina Chickadees (CACH). Unlike last year we found no Carolina Wrens (CAWR) nests.

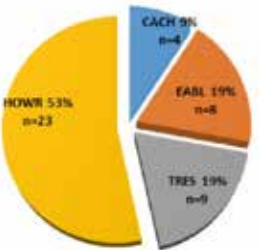
Eggs Laid by Species



In terms of survival, House Wrens represented 53% of the total chicks that fledged in our program this season. Eastern bluebirds (EABL) and Tree Swallows (TRES) represented 19% each of the total number of chicks fledged, followed by Carolina Chickadees (CACH) at 9% of the total.

In 2022 there were a total of 17 nesting attempts in our 37 nest sites. Unlike 2021, Eastern Bluebirds were the most successful species and House Wrens were the least successful. Out of the 36 fledglings, 19 (53%) were Eastern Bluebirds, 7 (19%) were Carolina Chickadees, 5 (14%) were Tree Swallows, and 5 (14%) were Carolina Wrens. Although there were 3 nesting attempts by made by House Wrens, none successfully produced fledglings.

Successful Fledges by Species



In both years, we had several incidents where Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird broods were subject to some kind of predation which occurred at some point during the nesting cycle. Most of the time when we find that eggs or chicks have "disappeared", it's impossible to know the exact cause, but predation or competition from another cavity nester such as a House Wren is suspected.

A special shout out to Steve McGeedy, Justen and Stephanie Morriss for their

steadfast support in the field! Additional thanks to Amy Golden, Liz Poole, Marge & Rich Taylor, Doug & Betty Wallner, Ron Pugh, and Keara Giannotti for all their hard work monitoring our nest boxes in 2021 and 2022. Jeff Jackson assisted with fieldwork, technical advice and the tedious task of data entry into the Cornell site.

If you love the Black Run Preserve and have ever wanted to get more involved, there's no time like the present. Participating in the NestWatch project 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 winter, or sign up for training to monitor nests next spring, please email [admin@blackrun.org](mailto:admin@blackrun.org) for more information. But volunteering isn't the only way you can help. Becoming a member of the Friends of the Black Run Preserve is easy and helps support this program in addition to all of the work we do to keep the Black Run Preserve pristine, protected, and educational. Visit our website [www.blackrun.org](http://www.blackrun.org) to support our efforts today.



Eastern Bluebirds

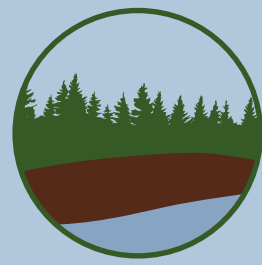


A tree swallow stands guard



# FBRP in the Community

FBRP events held in the Black Run Preserve are always fun and educational, but it's also a great joy for us to go out into the community and educate local people about our little oasis in the middle of the suburbs. We have participated in several community events this year and we are looking forward to many more in the future.



Here are some places you may have seen us this year:

**June 18: Juneteenth Celebration**  
Sponsored by Evesham Township, the Human Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) and the Diversity & Equal Opportunity Network (DEON). Evesham, including the Black Run Preserve, has direct connections to the start of the Abolitionist Movement and the Underground Railroad. FBRP's middle school art contest is an illustration of those connections. This was a great opportunity to share that information with a diverse audience.

**July 17: Marlton Day**  
Sponsored by the Marlton Business Association. This event allowed us to make stronger connections with Marlton and surrounding area businesses. It also gave us an opportunity to meet so many great people in the community. FBRP is working to expand our connections to the local Health and Wellness businesses in order to develop deeper relationships that support our efforts to promote healthy outdoor life styles.

**August 7: Boat and Float**  
Sturbridge Lakes community event. This was a special treat for us. Not only did we get to educate so many on the BRP, which is literally in some of the community's back yards, but we also got a great view of one of the lakes and were treated with warm hospitality. If you live in a community surrounding the BRP, we would love to attend a HOA meeting and give a short presentation, arrange a more private meeting, or set up a table at one of your events.

**August 13: First Annual Moth Night**  
Held at the Links Golf Course. What an exciting night this was! First we had burgers, hot dogs and drinks and then we chased moths around with our cameras. Well, we attracted moths to 3 different screens using 3 different kinds of lighting and photographed them. It was fantastic having moth and insect experts there to educate us and answer our questions. A huge thank you to our partner, the Links Golf Club and their staff. Many thanks to the FBRP volunteers who organized this fun event, especially Moth experts Ann Marie Woods and John Maxwell.

**September 24: Evesham Harvest Fest**  
Organized by the Evesham Celebrations Foundation. We are grateful to be included in this great annual community event.

**October 8: Evesham's Annual Cultural Day**  
Sponsored by DEON, HRAC and Evesham Township. FBRP is pleased to be part of the second annual event to celebrate the diverse cultures in our community.

**October 16: Holistic Health & Healing Expo at the Westin Hotel.**  
FBRP has been promoting the positive health connections of exercising in natural since our inception. At this event, we focused on connecting those local businesses who recognize the value of integrating the outdoors into a healthy life style.



First Annual Moth Night



Marlton Day



Juneteenth Celebration

**Friends are Everywhere**



Sturbridge Lakes Boat and Float

## First Annual Poker Run

Last April, more than 125 runners, walkers, and mountain bikers participated in FBRP's first annual Poker Run, sponsored by **Lanxess Corporation**. Staged at Rice Elementary School in King's Grant, two routes led into the BRP. Thanks to our long-time partner, the Links Golf Club, the eight-mile mountain bike route entered and exited through the tenth tee trailhead. Runners and walkers followed a four-mile route via the dog park entry.

FBRP volunteers staffed five checkpoints on each route, where participants randomly choose one playing card at each one, thus building a poker hand. Upon returning to the Rice staging area the hands were ranked, and more than 60 participants picked a gift from the prize board.

Many thanks to the dozens of local businesses who donated a wide variety of prizes. FBRP is grateful to Lanxess Corporation for their sponsorship which enabled this fundraiser to be a success. A very special shout-out to Evesham Township's professional staff, Evesham Police Department, EMTs, and the Evesham Township School District for their help and support! An event of this type could not happen without such outstanding support. The Events & Outreach Committee has begun planning for the **Second Annual Poker Run** to be held next Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2023.



Sponsors Lanxess Corporation at our First Annual Poker Run



## Happy Birthday FBRP!

### Celebrating 10 Years of Advocacy, Awareness and Education



### Volunteer of the Year



Former FBRP Board Member and civil engineer, Charlie Chelotti, got busy in 2019 when he volunteered to conduct the mapping needed for the Peace Bridge's permit on the west side of the BRP. In February 2020, our Pinelands Commission representative requested a Master Map of the BRP's east side, which would also be needed for Evesham Township to apply for parking lot permits and future infrastructure. Charlie got even busier when he volunteered to add the east side's acreage (the former King's Grant Phase II) to the project.

Needless to say, COVID-19 arrived making everything more challenging.

Despite changing engineering firms, contracting COVID-19, and working alone on his own time, Charlie persevered and got the job done. Of course, nothing is easy. Glitches sending huge GIS (geographic information system) dataset files plagued the transfer process for months. It's been a very long road, but the files are now in Evesham Township hands and being utilized by the Township's engineers. FBRP is so very grateful to Charlie for the hundreds of volunteer hours of services worth tens of thousands of dollars that he has given. Major BRP projects such as real parking lots, the Peace Bridge, expanding the trail system and infrastructure, all require Pinelands Commission permits. Those projects can now move forward thanks to a dedicated, talented volunteer. Thank you, Charlie!



Volunteer of the Year, Charlie Chelotti

### Doug Wallner Appointed to the Pinelands Commission

Former FBRP Trustee Doug Wallner was sworn in on September 9, 2022 as the Burlington County representative to the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. He has lived in Evesham Township within the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve since 1990.

He studied Biology with an Ecological Emphasis at University of California at Berkeley with graduate studies in Environmental Biology at California State University, East Bay. He retired from the National Park Service in 2012, having served for 34 years in a variety of natural resource and fire management positions. He worked in both small and large parks before ending his career in the regional office in Philadelphia as the Regional Fire Management Officer. As such, he provided leadership for agency fire programs in the 13 northeastern states. He worked closely with state fire programs and departments of environmental protection, including the New Jersey State Fire Warden and others.



Post retirement, Doug has been active in the FBRP NestWatch Program at the Black Run Preserve from its inception in 2015, and continues to serve as its Co-Chair.

Doug Wallner swearing in, September 9, 2022



### People of the Pines. People of Peace.

A middle school art contest conducted last year was a new partnership project between FBRP, Evesham Township School District, and Evesham Township's newly formed Human Rights Advisory Council (HRAC). The People of the Pines. People of Peace. art contest highlighted Evesham's unique cultural heritage. The four top place winners' artwork depicts key elements of our history; one based upon a culture of peace and mutual respect established between the Lenni Lenape and the 1677 English Quaker newcomers. By 1787, Evesham Quakers recognized universal human rights, freed their slaves and began working stridently towards abolition. Thomas Evans, an ancestor of the family who owned the Black Run Preserve's cranberry bogs until 1965, was an Underground Railroad station agent. The contest's first prize winner, 8th grader Maya Krijt, depicts William Still, known as the Father of the Underground Railroad, who was born in Evesham Township. Contest artwork is on permanent display in the Evesham Township Municipal Building first floor display case.



William Still, by Maya Krijt

Recently the HRAC's Evesham Past, Present, & Future Committee announced the existence of an abandoned African-American cemetery in Evesham Township. In partnership with Township officials, work is moving forward to protect and preserve the remote site before its location is revealed. Its discovery is proof that an Evesham African-American community existed and is believed to have once contained approximately 40 homes, a school and church, in addition to the cemetery.



### A Stewardship Plan for FBRP's Second Decade

Ten years ago, the development of a long-range Concept Plan for the Black Run Preserve was a primary goal of the newly founded FBRP. With input from the community, a professionally produced plan was produced in 2014 and has guided BRP's trail system infrastructure. BRP's needs have evolved. Serendipity has brought assistance to address those future needs.

Last January, University of Pennsylvania graduate student, **Laura Baehr**, reached out to FBRP and Evesham Township to utilize the BRP for her capstone research project towards completion of a master's degree in Environmental Studies. Laura's concentration is Resource Management and over the next two years she will create a Stewardship Plan for the BRP. The first step is conducting a natural resource inventory of our Pine Barrens gem. Once that step is completed, the FBRP, Evesham Environmental Commission, and community members will be invited to provide input concerning conservation priorities and stewardship goals. The plan will include appropriate strategies to ensure that the land is stewarded using best practices and in accordance with Township and FBRP goals. We are grateful for this timely gift to help us plan for the BRP's next ten years.

### Celebrating the Beauty of the Black Run Preserve

### 2021 Juried Photography and Art Exhibition

More than 120 remarkable works of art were entered into our juried exhibition last year. And what an exhibition it was! If you missed it, or simply want to relive it, you can still enjoy the beauty of the Black Run Preserve as seen through the eyes of local artists and photographers by viewing the video gallery.

Sit back, relax, and say, "ahhhh."



Basin Sky, by Marge Taylor

[View the Exhibition](#)

# Announcing a New Bench Program



One of the simple pleasures anyone can enjoy in the BRP is just sitting and observing the surrounding natural beauty and tranquility. These moments of pure joy can be had through the thoughtfulness of donors who provided benches for our visitors' enjoyment. Those 14 benches, donated and dedicated during our first bench program, can be found at [these locations](#).

As our trail system has expanded to almost twenty miles of blazed trails, so has the need for comfortable locations to relax. FBRP is pleased to provide another opportunity for community members to donate additional benches to further enhance the BRP experience. Our new Rustic Benches feature a sturdy natural base of red oak trunk legs and a smoothed edge top. Trail Crew Maintainers have recommended ten ideal locations for the installation of these benches.

You can help provide a permanent gift to visitors for years to come. Each bench costs \$500, which includes a dedication or memorial plaque. [Visit our website](#) to learn more and place a bench order.

Enjoy the benches and please remember to Leave No Trace of your visit.