

KEEP CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Autumn 2012

Volume 6

Dear Friends and Supporters of Wildlife,

As we listen and hope against hope for good news on the environmental front, we are constantly bombarded by assaults upon our fragile and vulnerable natural world. But still we have good news from the Keep Conservation Foundation. We continue to be successful in our work to provide the habitats so many creatures need to breed, raise young, and survive. Our lands are alive with the activity and song that shows the health and vigor of our preserves. The grasses are full and loaded with wildflowers which pollinators use in summer, and which provide seeds for bird food in late autumn and winter. Nut and fruit trees are productive and actively used. Migratory birds stop and rest on their arduous migratory travels, and resident birds and animals go from active nesting and breeding to finding safe havens and food to help them get through the winter.



The preserves have provided magical walks and outdoor animal study classrooms for children and adults. Our picnic tables have been well used by nature lovers seeking to enjoy a walk in a beautiful natural place where lunch is often accompanied by surprise views of whatever creature shows up.

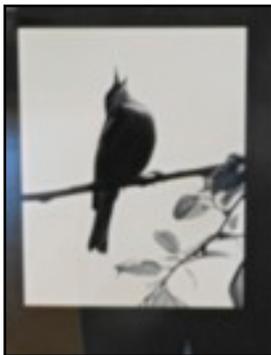


With the generous help and expertise of the Columbia Land Conservancy, we completed our work on the Germantown Preserve trails and trail maps this spring. We now have wonderful trail maps that are available in the small kiosk located in the parking lot at the Germantown preserve. In addition a large trail map is under plexiglass on the kiosk wall. Hikers and nature lovers have enjoyed using these maps so that they can feel comfortable in exploring the preserve's woodlands, fields and streams.

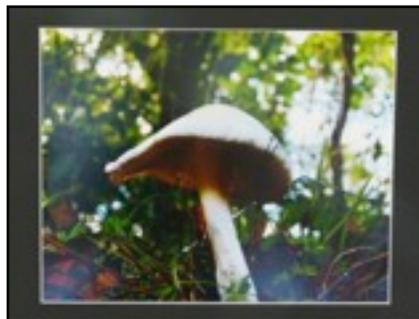
Our collaboration with the Germantown Library in holding a photo contest of works taken on the preserve in the spring and summer of 2012 and the exhibition of these photographs on Sept. 29, 2012, was our first step toward getting photographic views of the preserve through the eyes of those who enjoy using it. The photo show which was judged by Gail LeBoff, artist photographer, brought attention to many different visual perspectives of thriving life on the preserve from vernal pools, to bird, reptile and insect life, fungi and plant life, and fields and woods. We are in the process of holding another photo contest in collaboration with the Germantown library of photos taken from Oct. 1, 2012 to March 21, 2013 to show life on the preserve in fall and winter. In 2013, we hope to create a book, "Reflections of Life on the Germantown Preserve," which will show life on the preserve throughout a full year.



The winners of this contest are as follows: Adult Category: 1st place-Elisa Shaw, "Sing for Me," 2nd place, Kathy Overington, "Nature's Shelter," and 3rd place, Heather Gibbons, "Verdant Oasis," In the Youth Category, 1st place went to Emma Del Pozzo, "Crossing Over," 2nd place to Riley Gibbons, "Evidence," and 3rd place to Wyatt Gibbons, untitled photograph.



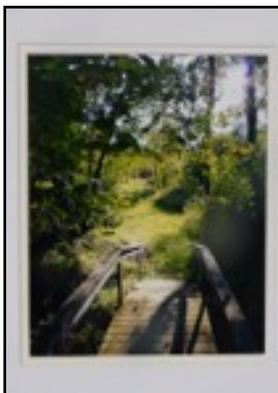
Elisa Shaw



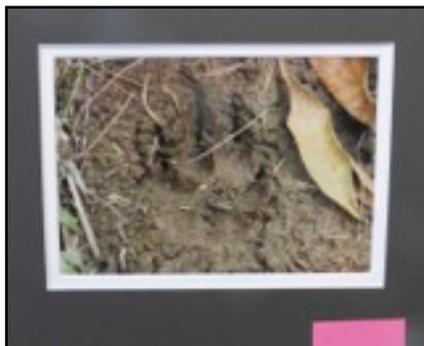
Kathy Overington



Heather Gibbons



Emma Del Pozzo



Riley Gibbons



Wyatt Gibbons

Our inclusion in the New Jersey Audubon Trails brochure has brought many new nature lovers to our Port Republic preserve. We have expanded our trail system there so that hikers and nature lovers can walk through the center of the preserve to get more quickly to the open salt marshes where hunting hawks, bald eagles and ospreys are nesting, feeding, and a diversity of shorebirds and egrets can readily be seen.



Our Pamela Kahn Bacca Preserve in Maricopa county, Arizona, continues to hold its own in protecting the desert flora and fauna from the rampant development that has spread out from Phoenix. Our lands provide refuge for the creatures that are dependent on fewer and fewer available spaces that have been left untouched by human activities. Jack Rabbits bound across the land hoping the hawks in the sky will not notice them as they dive into burrows in the ravines that run through the property.



Our goals remain strong and firm. We protect and enhance our lands for the creatures dependent upon them and we provide education to children and adults so that they will be able to fully value, have pleasure in, and become committed to protect the natural world around them.

Your interest and help is vital to our mission. Thank you.

Linda Atkins, President