

Warren County Preservation Day aims to promote all of the important preservation efforts throughout Warren County.

By inviting numerous groups who have been working to protect open space, farmland, and historic sites across the County, we hope to build greater awareness and support of all organizations engaged in local preservation efforts.

Not only is this a great opportunity for the public to learn more about specific groups and projects in our community, but we can collectively promote all the various sites of interest that Warren County has to offer.

**Corey Tierney, Director
Warren County Department
of Land Preservation**

**The Department of Land Preservation
is Looking For Volunteers!**

- Individual & Group Opportunities
- Trail Building & Clearing
- Invasive Species Removal
- Construction & Maintenance
- Cleanup & Recycling
- Special Events and more!

Call (908) 453-2650 to get started!

WARREN COUNTY

Department of Land Preservation
500 Mount Pisgah Avenue
PO Box 179
Oxford, NJ 07863
Phone: 908-453-2650
Fax: 453-3150

WARREN COUNTY

**PRESERVATION DAY at
RAMSAYSBURG HOMESTEAD**



**DATE:
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016**

**TIME:
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**ADDRESS:
140 ROUTE 46 and
RAMSEYBURG ROAD
DELAWARE, NJ in
(KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP)**

**ANY QUESTIONS? CALL THE
WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF LAND PRESERVATION AT
(908) 453-2650
www.warrenparks.com**

The Ramsaysburg Homestead

is a historical park. These twelve wooded acres along the Delaware River, just south of the Delaware Water Gap, are leased by the Township of Knowlton from the State of New Jersey Green Acres program. The public may access the river here for fishing or to launch small watercraft such as canoes or kayaks. The property and the structures on it are the remains of a fifty-acre tract settled in 1795 by Irish immigrants James and Adam Ramsay in what was then New Jersey's northwestern frontier. An earlier tavern continued by the Ramsays, a store established by them and eventually a post office, a lumberyard, a sawmill, a storehouse, a blacksmith shop, tenant houses and other buildings, either built or acquired by the Ramsays, comprised the principal elements of the homestead and hamlet bearing the Ramsay name. The buildings that you see here—a tavern, barn, cottage, smokehouse and shed—were built from 1800 to 1870, and represent the activity that occurred at the homestead during its heyday.



Catering to both road and river traffic and commerce, the tavern and about 50 acres along the Delaware River in newly-formed Knowlton Township appealed to brothers James and Adam Ramsay in 1795. The prime location, complete with a tributary cascading from the mountains into the Delaware River, held unlimited potential. As James became a prominent political figure, serving as County Freeholder, as well as on the Knowlton Township Committee, the hamlet of Ramsaysburg, solely owned by James since 1801, prospered.

A Post Office was established in 1827, followed by the tavern, a store, an Episcopal Church and several homes by 1834. Census records show an extended Ramsay family living at the homestead site, along with several tenant families. A hotel was shown as operating at the site in 1852, and the "Ramsay and Swayze" lumberyard, complete with a sawmill, was advertised in local newspapers as early as 1850. A blacksmith shop was also located on the Ramsay property.

The Ramsay family heirs retained ownership of the entire property until 1885, when a portion was sold. The remainder was lost in a court-ordered sale in 1950. Both portions apparently became owned or managed Myron Gilbert, who successfully ran the Spring Brook Farm Hotel resort, begun by a previous owner in 1901, after the sale of the first portion of the Ramsaysburg property. Gilbert is said to have run the resort for many years. The hotel, along with some of its original property, was sold in 1987 to new owners, whose plans to open a bed-and-breakfast there were dashed when the building was destroyed by a 1997 fire.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00 – 10:45

Opening Remarks By:

Ms. Kathleen Sandt, National Park Service
Ms. Susan Predl, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife
Mr. Jason Sarnoski, Freeholder Director
Ms. Adele Starrs, Knowlton Township Mayor
Mr. Hal Bromm & Mr. Dennis Bertland

11:00 – 12:00

**Delaware River Sojourn
Intro to Kayaking Program**

11:30 – 12:30

Rizzo's Reptile Program

12:30 – 1:30

**Delaware River Sojourn
Intro to Kayaking Program**

12:30 – 1:30

**Wild Edibles & Medicinal Plants Hike:
Jared Rosenbaum, Wild Ridge Plants**

1:30 – 2:30

**Avian Wildlife Center, Raptor
Demonstration (inside the red barn)**

2:00 – 3:00

**Delaware River Sojourn
Intro to Kayaking Program**

***This event is rain or shine,
FREE, and open to everyone!***

- **Live music performances** all day by various artists!
- **See the river from a different perspective!** Visit the Delaware River Sojourn table to sign up for an hour-long “Intro to Kayaking” program! Participants will be fitted with a PFD, learn basic paddling strokes and river/paddling safety tips then head out on the river. If you plan to participate, dress in non-cotton, comfortable clothing and shoes you don't mind getting wet. Kayaking is weather permitting; time slots are listed on the left. Activities are free, but donations are welcome.
- **Humpty Juniors** will be at the event all day, serving breakfast, lunch, and drinks!
- **Cold Stone Creamery** ice cream truck from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **The Pirate Cupcake** Gourmet cupcakes, sweet treats, and more served from their vintage truck, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Allergy friendly, peanut/tree-nut free!
- **Smokehouse Bacon Demonstration** by Myron Baley. You'll even be able to take some home to cook!
- **NJ Frontier Guard** - French & Indian War Reenactors.
- **15th NJ Co. E.** - Civil War Reenactors.

MUSIC PERFORMERS

- **10:45** Maribyrd
- **11:15** Mike Aliche
- **11:45** Mingo Lodge
- **12:15** Kate and Paul
- **12:45** Maura Glynn
- **1:30 - 2:30** (Break)
- **2:30** Emily Barnes
- **3:00** Mike Herz

EXHIBITORS:

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- **15th NJ Co. E.**
- **Allamuchy Township/Open Space**
- **Appalachian Mountain Club**
- **Avian Wildlife Center**
- **Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee**
- **Delaware River Basin Commission**
- **Delaware River Family Campground**
- **Delaware River Sojourn**
- **Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area**
- **Explore Warren County Tourism Partnership**
- **Genesis Farms**
- **Harmony Township Historic Commission**
- **Harmony Township Historic Society**
- **Hope Historical Society**

EXHIBITORS (cont'd):

- **Knowlton Township Historic Commission**
- **The Land Conservancy of NJ**
- **Metrotrails**
- **Morris Canal Committee**
- **Musconetcong Watershed Assoc.**
- **National Park Service**
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife**
- **NJ Frontier Guard**
- **NJ Highlands Council**
- **NJ Youth Corps**
- **NY/NJ Trail Conference**
- **Paulinskill Valley Trail Committee**
- **Ramsaysburg Homestead**
- **Rizzo's Reptiles**
- **September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance**
- **Skylands Visitor Magazine**
- **Warren County Department of Land Preservation**
- **Warren County Library**
- **Warren County Planning Department**
- **Wild Ridge Plants, LLC - Growers and Stewards of Native Plants**