



PINELANDS  
PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE

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### Pinelands Commission

*Policy & Implementation  
Meeting*

**Wednesday, August 28**  
**9:30 am**

Tell the Pinelands  
Commission to deny a  
request to put a natural  
gas pipeline through the  
Forest Management Area.

*See page 2 for more infor-  
mation.*

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# INSIDE THE PINELANDS



*The wild and beautiful Oswego River*

## New Jersey Must Continue its Legacy of Support for Open Space

*by Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director*

New Jersey has a strong record of support for open space protection. As the most densely populated state in the nation, we know that undeveloped land is at a premium and once lost it is gone forever. Since 1961 New Jersey voters have passed 13 out of 13 ballot measures supportive of funding for open space, farmland and historic preservation.

The last ballot measure was passed in 2009 and now all of the preservation dollars from that bond act have been fully allocated (or committed) to green acres, farmland preservation and historic preservation projects.

The Legislature introduced a measure to provide a sustainable source of funding for

these programs under SCR160/ACR205. This critical legislation proposes a constitutional amendment – to be approved by voter referendum – to dedicate \$200 million annually of sales tax revenue for preservation and stewardship of open space, farmland, waterways and historic sites.

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is a member of New Jersey Keep it Green, a coalition of 180 member organizations working together to seek passage of this critical legislation. NJ Keep it Green has led successful campaigns to pass ballot measures in 2006, 2007, and 2009 resulting in \$600 million for open space, farmland and historical preservation.

*continued on page 5*

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# No Pipeline in the Pinelands

*by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director*

South Jersey Gas is proposing to put a 22-mile natural gas pipeline through the Pinelands Forest Management Area in order to enable the B.L. England Plant at Beesley's Point, right on the Great Egg Harbor River, to be retrofitted and greatly expanded. This is a bad place for a power plant in the first place – and it's a bad place to give new life to a power plant that has barely operated for years.

The proposed pipeline violates the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), which only permits such infrastructure in the Forest Management Area if it is "intended to primarily serve the needs of the Pinelands." N.J.A.C. 7:50-5.23. To the extent it operates at all, the B.L. England plant primarily serves demand outside the Pinelands, where the great majority of residences and businesses in Atlantic and Cape May County are located. There is no exception for pipes run along or under roads.

This rule was put in the CMP for good reason. This kind of infrastructure can bring a variety of environmental harms and pressure for more development along its route. The Pinelands Commission is charged to defend the Pinelands CMP, yet it is in discussions with the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and South Jersey Gas to waive its restrictions for this project. That would be a bad mistake for several reasons.

**First**, if the Pinelands Commission doesn't stand by own its rules, no one else will. Certainly not BPU or South Jersey Gas. When the Commission gives special exceptions for powerful players, it undermines the whole Pinelands protection project and raises the question why anyone should respect its decisions.

**Second**, approving one pipeline project will invite more. The Pinelands was created in part as a response to plans to construct off-shore drilling platforms and run transportation

pipes across the Pinelands to refineries on the Delaware River. Off-shore drilling did not happen forty years ago, but it may happen in the future. Similarly, proposals for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals along the shore continue to be pressed, raising the possibility that pipes would be proposed across the Pinelands to transport LNG.

**Third**, there is no good public-interest reason to make an exception in this case. The proponents seek "green cover" by arguing that natural gas is cleaner than the coal and oil that have fired the plant in the past. The argument is seductive, but wrong. This plant has only operated for peak demand for years. Thus, the plant is not needed to operate on a full-time basis at all. If changed to natural gas and full operation, it will cause more air pollution than it does now – to say nothing of the environmental and health risks inherent in the production and transport of the gas to this isolated plant.

**Finally**, there are alternatives to the proposed pipeline route. There are power plants directly to the north in Atlantic County, so it should be possible to run a supply line outside the Pinelands Area where it will not impinge on the interior forests of the Pinelands.

**Attend the Pinelands Commission Policy and Implementation meeting Wednesday, August 28, at 9:30 a.m. and tell them they must respect their own rules and deny this request.**

For more information call the Pinelands Commission at 609-894-7300. The agenda will be available online at:  
[www.state.nj.us/pinelands/about/mtng](http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/about/mtng)

NJ Pinelands Commission  
15C Springfield Road  
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

You can also call PPA at 609-859-8860. **To stay involved with this and other action opportunities** join the Pinelands Watch by emailing [tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org).

# Governor Christie Should Sign the Healthy Forests Act

by Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director

In 2012, the *Forest Harvest Program on State Lands* bill (S1085) was introduced with the primary purpose to stimulate a timber market by harvesting large trees from our state forests in the name of stewardship, but the bill failed to look at the array of needs to steward the open spaces that we enjoy and seek to protect. The bill required no subsequent management of the inevitable invasive species encroachment and intense deer herbivory known to prevent regeneration of native forest plants. Additionally, the bill failed to direct the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create a holistic stewardship plan for state lands.

PPA, along with forty scientists and other conservation groups opposed this bill. Since that time PPA, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF), NJ Audubon Society, the NJ Highlands Coalition and others worked to dramatically transform the bill from a *Forest Harvest Program* to the *New Jersey Healthy Forests Act* (S1085). It is a testimony to how the environmental and scientific community can engage and transform the legislative process.

There are two key changes to the proposed legislation. First, it includes a provision that all forests have a forest stewardship plan, and second, it requires that all forestry on state land would be independently certified by a third party auditor to conform to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards and practices, both in planning and implementation. The FSC standards were carefully examined by PPA, NJCF, The Nature Conservancy and other forest restoration experts.

The Nature Conservancy is one of the leading international conservation groups serving on the FSC Board.

The bill's prime sponsor, Senator Bob Smith, indicated that including FSC certification was the "only way to lend credibility" to the concept of using our public lands for wood product extraction while also practicing habitat stewardship.

FSC is a global, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace are just two of many national environmental groups that are members of the FSC. According to the FSC website, forest management plans are certified after going through an assessment process which includes an in-depth review of the forest management systems. The FSC certification body sends a team of experts to assess economic, social, and environmental conditions in the forest being evaluated. Assuming all is in order, a Forest Management certificate is issued and valid for five years, subject to annual checks.

S1085/A2837 also requires the forest stewardship plans to conform to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management plan which includes specific forestry provisions. The bill recognizes the need to protect native species, waterways, ecological integrity, and recreational uses on state lands.

Forestry is currently happening on state lands without third party certification by FSC. PPA supports the forest stewardship bill because it requires DEP to detail a visible, public plan for state lands to protect natural

resources, restore natural disturbances and accommodate recreational uses, which is currently not required by the DEP. Forest stewardship plans are important because they provide an opportunity to identify and reduce invasive species, protect and enhance rare plant populations, increase prescribed ecological fire, and address many more needs that can increase the ecological function of our state lands.

PPA thanks Senator Bob Smith for taking the time to work with the environmental and scientific community on creating a bill that meets the needs of the forest.

The New Jersey State Legislature passed this bill and it is now awaiting Governor Christie's signature. He has until August 8th to sign the bill. Check our website to find out where this bill stands. *Editor's note: This newsletter went to print prior to August 8, 2013.*

## Pinelands Commission Meetings

**Wed., August 28, 9:30 am**

Attend this Policy & Implementation Meeting and speak out against the South Jersey Gas Pipeline proposal.

**Fri., Sept. 13, 9:30 am**

This regular monthly meeting is open to the public and they need to hear from you.

**NJ Pinelands Commission**  
15 Springfield Rd.  
New Lisbon, NJ 08064  
Phone: (609) 894-7300

# Got Water? Thank the Pinelands and the Highlands

by PPA Staff

The New Jersey Pinelands is not only a globally unique habitat with rare species and lots of opportunities for outdoor recreation; this ecosystem also provides a great service in storing and cleansing our water supply.

Approximately one million year-round residents and millions more visitors, along with the highly valued economies of the Jersey Shore and Atlantic City, rely on the water resources of the New Jersey Pinelands. In fact, the need to protect the immense water resources of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer – the name given to the 17 trillion gallon aquifer located within the Pinelands soils – was among the primary motivations for the creation of the 1979 Pinelands Protection Act.

The New Jersey Highlands encompasses 88 municipalities and includes portions of seven counties in the northwest part of the state – Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren. The Highlands provides more than half of New Jersey's population, 5.4 million people, with clean drinking water through its wetlands, wells, streams and reservoirs. A large sector of the State's industrial base also relies on abundant clean water from the Highlands. In 2008 the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act was passed to regulate growth in the region in order to protect this water supply, much like the Pinelands Protection Act.

These two special regions – the Highlands and the Pinelands of New Jersey – each have unique laws and regional growth management plans that aim to protect forests and water supplies from being destroyed by sprawling, uncontrolled development. These plans bar or limit development of hundreds of thousands of acres of forests, while

channeling growth into existing towns and designated growth areas.

At least 6.4 million New Jersey residents rely on water from the Highlands and Pinelands regions for their drinking water. Despite this fact, the water resources of the Pinelands and Highlands often go unmentioned, which is why Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the New Jersey Highlands Coalition began working together on a joint campaign to raise awareness about the importance of forest cover to water quality. We created a joint website [www.saveH2Onj.org](http://www.saveH2Onj.org) where you can find more information about both regions and what you can do to help.

We also kicked off a public education effort with the creation of a billboard outside to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Offices in Trenton with the headline *Got Water? Thank the Pinelands and the Highlands* featuring public officials who have been important to the protection of this essential natural resource.

We also just put the billboard up on Route 72 in Barnegat Township facing east featuring former Governor Brendan T. Byrne. Governor Byrne signed the Pinelands Protection Act in 1979 and considers the passage of the act his proudest accomplishment in public life. We are honored that he agreed to participate.

Watersheds that are largely forested are much more likely to provide good water quality than watersheds with greater proportions of developed lands. A forested watershed filters water, reduces flood and erosion risks, maintains stream flow, and protects ground-water recharge. The conversion of forest land to other land uses leads to reduced water quality through increased runoff, soil erosion, lack of

natural filtration, downstream flooding, and the transport of pollutants into waterways.

Clean water sourced from a forested watershed is immensely difficult and costly to substitute, yet its full economic value is rarely considered. As a watershed's forests are destroyed and replaced by more intensive land use, that water is more likely to require treatment technologies to make it drinkable.

Such technologies are expensive and can themselves result in negative environmental impacts such as carbon emissions and chemical waste. A study conducted by the Trust for Public Land and the American Water Works Association found that for every 10% increase in forest cover in a source area, water treatment costs decrease by about 20%, leveling off when forest cover is between 70-100%.

Water resource protection is one of the primary missions of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. It is absolutely critical that Pinelands protections remain in place and that forests remain intact to secure our sustainable supply of good quality water well into the future. As New Jersey leads the race in becoming the first state in the nation to reach build-out, it is more critical than ever that citizens place top priority on the preservation of remaining open space to ensure our clean and cost-effective water supply. A clean water supply is, undeniably, the very foundation of our livelihood.

Learn more about the water resources of the Pinelands and the Highlands at:

[www.saveH2Onj.org](http://www.saveH2Onj.org)

# New Jersey Must Continue its Legacy of Support for Open Space

*continued from cover*

SCR160/ACR205 is a fiscally responsible approach that won't increase taxes or state debt. The dedication would not begin until fiscal year 2015, so there would be no impact on next year's budget. \$200 million represents less than one percent of the state budget, and is the average annual amount the state has been investing in preservation programs since 1998. The funds would come from the projected growth of more than \$400 million annually in sales taxes revenues leaving hundreds of millions of dollars available to fund other programs above and beyond today's levels.

**What happened?** In June 2013 the Senate passed legislation similar to SCR160 that would provide a sustainable source of funding for open space protection with overwhelming bipartisan support (by a vote of 36 to 2). The Assembly did not act, forcing the Senate to bring it up for a second vote on July 29th. The Senate passed it again by a vote of 22-8, two votes shy of the super majority needed for referral to the ballot in November 2013. There will be another opportunity to get this legislation on the November 2014 ballot if the Assembly takes action this year, and then both chambers pass it again in 2014.

The importance of open space preservation cannot be understated. Every dollar invested in state land preservation efforts returns \$10 in economic value through nature's goods and services like flood control and water filtration. Agriculture is the state's third largest industry with the more than 10,000 farms generating at least a billion dollars

annually. Experts say that an additional 350,000 acres of farmland needs to be preserved in order to maintain a viable agricultural industry so New Jersey can still be the Garden State.

In the Pinelands, 568,000 acres have been preserved in the Pinelands National Reserve, but there is more land in need of protection. For example, in 2008 the state Pinelands Commission completed an assessment that evaluated the current ecological status of the entire Pinelands Protection Area and found that there are 64,947 acres in need of greater protection.

Voter surveys indicate overwhelming bipartisan support for a dedicated sales tax to fund open space protection. NJ Keep It Green commissioned a survey of 600 registered likely voters. The survey found that 69% of voters support dedicating \$200 million annually from state sales tax revenues to fund open space, farmland and historic preservation programs.

Fifteen counties - Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Union and Warren - have all passed resolutions this year supporting sustainable open space funding as have the NJ Highlands Council and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

It is clear that there is significant support in New Jersey for continuing its legacy of open space protection. The New Jersey Legislature must let the voters decide how to protect our

land and historic resources. Waiting can destroy decades of work and can mean the loss of hundreds of acres of land to development. This fiscally responsible measure can secure the future of New Jersey as it gets closer and closer to build-out. We would like to thank everyone who made calls to their legislators - our work is not done here so stay tuned!

For more information visit, [www.njkeepitgreen.org](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org).

## State of the Pinelands Report 2013

will be mailed to PPA members in place of your next newsletter.

### FAIRS & FESTIVALS

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**HAMMONTON GREEN DAY FESTIVAL**  
*Hammonton, NJ*

**OCTOBER 6**

**CATTUS ISLAND NATURE FESTIVAL**  
*Toms River, NJ*

**OCTOBER 12**

**PINE BARRENS JAMBOREE**  
*Waretown, NJ*

**OCTOBER 19 & 20**

**CHATSWORTH CRANBERRY FESTIVAL**  
*Chatsworth, NJ*

**OCTOBER 19 & 20**

**BATSTO COUNTRY LIVING FAIR**  
*Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest*

**Stop by PPA's table!**

# Open Space is Essential for Environmental Education

by Amy Karpati, Ph.D., Director for Conservation Science

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the Bonazzi Foundation for the Promotion of Science Education were pleased to present the 7th Annual Life Science Field Training Institute the last week of June. The goal of this multi-day field science experience was to strengthen current and future educators' field-based investigations in their teaching to ultimately improve student performance in science and math. The Institute was attended by 15 educators, mostly high school and middle school science teachers from seven counties.

Ron Smith, biology and environmental science teacher at Haddonfield High School, has been the facilitator of the Institute since its inception. Throughout the week, Ron guided the participants through outdoor field studies and topic areas including natural resource management, community ecology, biodiversity, biostatistics, and citizen science. "Instead of textbook descriptions and mock data sets, we collect real environmental data using the methods and practices of field science," explained Ron. Participants spent much time outdoors conducting vegetation analyses, sampling invertebrates across different habitat types, learning species identification, canoeing a Pine Barrens river, exploring fish communities, and more.

"The way the concepts and activities were presented made it easy to think of ways to use the hands-on field study methods in my biology classes," said high school biology teacher Caroline Krisciunas. Fellow teacher Nicole Lum added, "The enthusiasm

of Ron and PPA staff made the Institute a fun experience throughout the week."

Open space plays a primary role in the programs organized by PPA and other environmental organizations that incorporate educational components into their advocacy work. Serving as a living outdoor classroom, open space with its woodlands, wetlands, streams, and meadows provides education



Teachers used a seine net to collect and identify macroinvertebrates.

opportunities not available within the walls of a school building. During the Institute, teachers explored local ecosystems such as the Batsto River and Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. "Access to the Pine Barrens and other open space locations throughout the region allows us to investigate nature in a way that reveals species and ecological processes. These are the very reasons we study the environment to begin with," said Ron.

If we are to instill in future generations a love for the natural world and a conservation ethic, it is essential to preserve open space and bring our school children to these natural areas. This is especially

important in New Jersey – the most densely populated state in the nation and the front-runner in the race to reach complete build-out – where many young students know only pavement, buildings, and carefully managed landscapes instead of forests, streams, and soils.

"One of the most important aspects of the Life Science Training Institute is the combination of science and math – especially statistical analysis," said Bob Bonazzi, creator of the Bonazzi Foundation for the Promotion of Science Education. "This allows teachers the opportunity to provide young students with a sense of how critical it is to interpret what they are seeing statistically or risk inferring the wrong conclusions. It provides a basis not only for interpreting the science but also for interpreting the validity of what is read in the newspapers, seen on TV or on the internet. Since science is a driving force in our society, understanding how scientists come to conclusions about our world is critical to their education in science and beyond."

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance holds the Life Science Field Training Institute annually thanks to the generous funding provided by the Bonazzi Foundation for the Promotion of Science Education. For more about the Foundation visit [www.bonazzifoundation.org](http://www.bonazzifoundation.org).

**If you would like information about next summer's Institute, please email Amy at [amy@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:amy@pinelandsalliance.org).**

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**Carleton K. Montgomery**

*Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance*

# Pinelands Preservation Alliance

## Programs and Field Trips

August to October 2013

We temporarily replaced the Pinelands Calendar of Events with a listing of all PPA events and field trips this summer.

**Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is located at** 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton NJ.

**Pre-registration is required for all programs. PPA members get a 10% discount.**

Visit [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org) and click on **Exploration** and **PPA Programs** for a complete listing of PPA programs and trips.

**To register contact Tom at 609-859-8860 x 14 or email [tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org)**

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### Insects, Fungi, Disturbance and the Pine Barrens Gentian

*Thurs., Aug. 15, 7pm at PPA Headquarters, Southampton*

Ryan Rebozo, Ph.D. Candidate in Biology, Drexel University will present on his research. This research aims to identify how pollinators, mycorrhizal fungi, and disturbance influence the sites and plant community in which *Gentiana autumnalis* is found. Cost is \$10/person.

### Tour Warren Grove Air National Guard Range

*Sun., Aug. 18, 7pm – 9am*

Warren Grove Air National Guard Range is a 9,416-acre federal facility in Burlington County. 9,000 acres at the Range remain in their natural state. Dr. Walter Bien, Director of the Office of Pinelands Research at Drexel University will lead us on a tour of the Range. Visit the globally rare dwarf pine plains, wetland communities and learn about the research, fire management and reptile and amphibian surveys happening here. Public access to the Range is restricted – this is a rare opportunity to explore an amazing site!

Will require strenuous walking. Cost is \$15/person.

### Movie Under the Stars @ PPA

*Fri, Aug 23rd at PPA Headquarters, Southampton*

Enjoy a fun family night as we show a film under the stars. We will show the movie **RENEWAL** - a feature-length documentary to tell the stories of America's grass-roots religious-environmental movement. This movie captures the efforts of men, women and children who draw on their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim traditions, to become better caretakers of the Earth. This is a free program. Donations are welcome. **Registration required.**

### Red Trail Hike

*Sat., Sept. 7, 10am*

The 6-mile Red Trail at the Franklin Parker Preserve is primarily a footpath through the woods, but portions of it coincide with dike and service roads, which allows hikers to see the many and diverse features of the Preserve. It provides access to Cedar Swamps and Hardwood Swamps, and traverses Pitch Pine Lowlands and Pine/Scrub Oak Forests. The pace will be leisurely, with plenty of stops along the way. Pack a lunch and plenty of water. A joint program between the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the NJ Conservation Foundation. Cost is \$15/person.

### Reptiles & Amphibians of the Pines

*Tues., Sept. 24, 7pm, at PPA Headquarters, Southampton*

Join Bob Ferguson, President of the Northeast chapter of the North American Field Herping Association, for a presentation about the reptiles and amphibians (collectively known as herptiles) of the Pine Barrens. Each herp will be described, with special attention paid to the more intriguing species. In addition to natural history, the various herping techniques used to locate many of these Pine Barrens denizens will be revealed. Cost is \$10/person.

### Double Trouble Historic District Walking Tour

*Sat., Sept. 28th, 10am*

The Double Trouble Historic District at Double Trouble State Park in Ocean County illustrates two Pinelands industries: lumber-

ing and cranberry harvesting. The village with the unique name was first settled during the Colonial era. As swamps were cleared of the timber used for cedar shingles, laths and ship building, they were planted with cranberry vines. Highlights of the field trip include tours of the restored sawmill and cranberry sorting and packing house as static exhibits, and a visit to the cranberry bogs. There will be some walking on sand roads. Andrew Anderson, Historic Resource Specialist for Double Trouble State Park, will share stories of this village's past while guiding the group through the historic district. Cost is \$10/person.

### Geology of the Pine Barrens

*Thurs. Oct. 24, 7pm, at PPA Headquarters, Southampton*

Come learn about the geology of the Pine Barrens and beyond. Join geologist and PPA staff member, Rich Bizub as he discusses approximately 150 million years of geologic history that shaped the area as we know it today. Topics will include the various geologic units, fossils, marine life, sea level changes, the Ice Age and glaciers. Cost is \$10/person.

## 9th Annual Tour de Pines

*Bicycle the length and breadth of the Pinelands National Reserve over 5 days!*

The 2013 Tour de Pines will begin on **Wednesday, October 9th** at PPA's Bishop Farmstead in Southampton Township and culminate at Batsto Village on **Sunday, October 13th**.

Each day's tour ranges from 40-55 miles per day, with average speeds of 11-13 mph.

The Tour de Pines is a voluntary, non-competitive, unsupported ride. Participants are required to provide their own transportation, food and lodging (recommendations will be provided with cue sheets).

Participants may ride one, two or all days of the Tour. \$15 for PPA members and \$35 for non-members. For more information or to register visit [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org) click on Exploration, Things to Do, Bicycling,



*Pinelands Preservation Alliance*

Bishop Farmstead  
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**ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:**  
A PPA membership card  
A year's subscription to Inside the Pinelands  
A PPA window sticker  
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Sponsors receive a copy of *The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural* DVD  
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Chairman's Circle members receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

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