

I N S I D E T H E PINELANDS

DEC. 2004 / JANUARY 2005

A Report by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2

INAUGURAL PINE BARRENS HALL OF FAME EVENT HONORS HOWARD BOYD AND BERYL ROBICHAUD COLLINS



Howard Boyd addressing attendees at the Pine Barrens Hall of Fame event

On October 30, PPA held its first annual Pine Barrens Hall of Fame awards dinner to celebrate the seminal contributions of Howard Boyd, author of The Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, A Pine Barrens Odyssey, and Wildflowers of the Pine Barrens, and Beryl Robichaud Collins, an architect of the Pinelands protection program and co-author of Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands and Plant Communities of New Jersey, among other works. The following are the remarks delivered by Carleton Montgomery, PPA's executive director, at the event:

As a new-comer to the Pinelands six years ago, I was lucky enough to have Howard and Beryl as mentors and

fonts of wisdom. Since then, I go nowhere without my *Pine Barrens Field Guide*, and I keep *Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands* close at hand in my office. Without these references, I would be lost in the natural and political landscape of the Pinelands.

Howard and Beryl are two among many individuals and organizations to whom we owe the continuing survival of the Pine Barrens. In coming years, we at PPA aim to honor and celebrate many more of the men and women who worked against tremendous odds to save so much of the Pinelands.

Just as only we humans can destroy or degrade the Pine Barrens, so also only we can protect and cherish it. Tonight

we celebrate Howard and Beryl—and the influence they have had on events and on each of us. But, even more important, we are here to rededicate ourselves to the cause of protecting the Pinelands far, far into the future.

We know that what our society does to the landscape today is, for all intents and purposes, forever. Barring some catastrophic social disaster, places where we build houses, roads and malls today will never return to nature.

The New Jersey Pine Barrens is a place unique on earth. The plant and animal communities we can still find in the Pine Barrens are unique. An increasing number of species are found, or will soon be found, only in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, because they are losing their habitats elsewhere to human encroachment and destruction. The Pine Barrens is truly a Noah's Ark for biodiversity. If we lose the Pine Barrens, we will lose a natural community that we will not find again on earth.

And the Pine Barrens is vulnerable. Humanity is threatening the Pine Barrens, through sprawling development, through nonpoint source pollution, through habitat fragmentation, and other means. We damage, even destroy, the special plant and animal communities native to the Pine Barrens when we change the natural chemistry and hydrology of their habitats. And we are changing that natural chemistry and hydrology by covering

continued on page three

by Michael Gallaway and Carleton Montgomery



Remember the "Sanctuary" development in Evesham, Burlington County, which turned out to be home to one of the state's few surviving Timber Rattlesnake populations? The Pinelands regulations are supposed to protect the habitats of threatened and endangered species. But a few years ago, after endangered Timber Rattlesnakes were found living on the Sanctuary development tract, the Pinelands Commission used a settlement of the developer's lawsuit to allow construction all around the rattlesnakes' hibernation dens and all over most of the rattlesnakes' remaining habitat. PPA, New Jersey Audubon Society and the Natural Resources Defense Council challenged the settlement, but the courts accepted the Commission's argument that the use of snake-proof fences and culverts for roads would protect the rattlesnakes by forcing them into a narrow protected wildlife corridor. This naïve position has since been proven wildly wrong by tracking studies that showed the rattlesnakes, being creatures of habit, have continued to follow their accustomed paths into what is now, or soon will be, developed land, often with deadly consequences for the snakes.

Soon after the rattlesnake deal was cut, government biologists happened upon a dead Pine Snake run over by a car on one of the new roads, and then a nest with a female and a clutch of eggs on land that was slated for development. As a threatened species, Pine Snakes are also supposed to have their habitats protected by the Pinelands Commission. But once again the Commission has announced and quickly accepted a settlement with the developer, again allowing him to proceed with building all over the Pine Snakes' upland

habitats in exchange for leaving two (2) lots undeveloped where the nest was found. Like the last time, the Commission settled with the developer (a) without having conducted a scientific study of the Pine Snake population or its needs, (b) without protecting the critical foraging area of the pine snake population, (c) knowing full well that the Pine Snakes will continue trying to use their established foraging habitats even as people and their cars take it over, (d) without any scientists finding that the settlement will protect the Pine Snakes, and (e) by a litigation settlement, so the Commission can do an end-run around its own legal and procedural regulations for normal development reviews.

PPA expects to challenge this settlement, too. Contact PPA, if you would like more information or would like to help out on this issue.



Myrtle Pine Snake

PPA PRESENTATIONS

Upcoming One Book NJ/*The Pine Barrens* film and discussion programs include:

January 10 (7pm) - Levittown (PA) Regional Library

January 20 (7:30pm) - Englewood Public Library

January 27 (7pm) - Secaucus Public Library

March 10 (4pm) - Meadow Lakes-Hightstown

Please contact PPA at 609 859-8860 for more information or to schedule a presentation in your community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We would like to hear from you! Please send your comments about articles found in this issue of *Inside the Pinelands* to:

Inside the Pinelands, PPA, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088

or

mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org

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INSIDE THE PINELANDS

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land with our structures, roads and parking lots, adding fertilizers and other chemicals to the soil, and taking water out of the ground for our own use.

It is very easy for us to lose what makes the Pine Barrens that refuge, that Noah's Ark for so many species adapted to its natural conditions—to sink our Noah's Ark by removing one bolt at a time, or failing to repair each plank as it shows weakness.

The Pine Barrens is worthy of our care, that it may not perish because of our works. Yet, as the philosopher Abraham Joshua Heschel has said, "Our age is one in which usefulness is thought to be the chief merit of nature; in which the attainment of power, the utilization of its resources is taken to be the chief purpose of man in God's creation." This utilitarian philosophy almost completely subsumes our politics—and what we expect of our politicians at all levels of government. Our system of economy is a driving force behind this political culture. It is obvious that an economic system and culture built on ever growing consumption of products tends to cause ever growing consumption of natural resources—be they resources of land, forests, minerals, air or water.

Never mind that our utilitarian approach to nature often proves self-defeating—and could ultimately doom our American way of life—as we consume or contaminate the very resources we need to live and support that way of life. In practice the dominant political and economic pressure of our society is to consume, degrade and destroy natural places and natural resources.

To save places like the Pine Barrens, we have to become truly conservative. We have to draw a line around these places and say "Here, we will keep things as they are." We have to identify clean air and water as assets of the highest value. In sum, we have to stop the tide of change, the tide of destruction, washing over these resources.

That is, we have to make a difficult, concerted push against the dominant urges of our political and economic culture. To succeed, we need to reinvigorate political discourse on the environment, especially at the national level. One need only read Beryl's *Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands* to be reminded that the Pinelands was not saved through local or even state efforts alone—but required the combined efforts of government and citizens at the national, state and local levels.

Consider that as our society hastens global warming through our massive use of fossil fuels, we may easily lose the Pine Barrens literally forever. Only the national gov-

ernment can lead any really effective campaign to slow global warming, and a failure at the national level may easily doom all our efforts to save the Pine Barrens—and similar efforts of states and communities around the country and the world.

In these and many other ways, we need decision makers at all levels of government working together if we are to save the Pinelands and the thousands of other surviving natural areas in this country alone.

And yet, in four debates during this year's presidential election, only one question was asked of the candidates regarding the environment—and that one question was asked by a citizen in the second, town-hall style presidential debate. The three highly regarded journalists who framed the questions for the other debates did not think the environment even worth bringing up at this juncture in the nation's history. I think that is appalling.

Indeed, talking about the environment these days feels like whistling in the maelstrom—our attention is so focused on terrorism and war. But I submit that only a little reflection will demonstrate that what we are doing on or to the environment today, for good or ill, will have far more lasting and profound effects on our nation, society and descendants than the war in Iraq or even the terrorism the world faces today.

All of us here value the Pine Barrens—not just because it is fun to canoe, or it provides us clean water to drink—but also as an end in itself, a place of inherent value embodied in the wildflowers, the wildlife, the forests and swamps.

As Beryl observed in the preface to *Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands*, "the bold measures taken to protect the Pinelands did not occur fortuitously or overnight." Many here tonight know first-hand what a struggle that was. The continuing preservation of the Pinelands also will not occur fortuitously or overnight. It will be a never-ending struggle in which every success is provisional—and every defeat is forever.

As Howard Boyd has observed, "In the final analysis, it is the citizens who will decide the ultimate fate of the pine barrens. It is our responsibility to pass this wilderness heritage on, in its natural state, to our heirs." These words are as true today as they were when Howard wrote them in the first edition of the *Pine Barrens Field Guide*.

We at PPA hope that in celebrating the work of Howard and Beryl, we not only get to express our gratitude to them, but also to take another step in the continual process of renewing and expanding public dedication to saving one of the most wonderful places a person can find on this planet.

by Traci Connaughton



PPA realized many years ago that the key to saving the Pinelands was to educate citizens young and old about the region's unique beauty, resources and challenges. Among our many education efforts is the Pinelands Summer Institute for Teachers, a week-long seminar introducing science and social studies educators to the Pinelands as a wonderful resource for their teaching. PPA is also creating a new curriculum for high school titled *Barrens To Beaches*, which will provide teachers detailed lesson plans and field programs set in the Pinelands and Barnegat Bay regions.

We could not do any of this without significant financial support from our members and special grants from foundations and corporations which support innovative environmental education. We want to thank our members and recognize the foundations and companies that support this work, including:

Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant Fund

Gannett Foundation

J.M. Huber Corporation

PSE&G

In addition, the Educational Foundation of America has just awarded PPA a two-year grant to support the *Barrens To Beaches* program and develop a long-term funding plan for our education programs.

Finally, special thanks go to Kevin Mattingly, the Lawrenceville School, and the Aldo Leopold Fund. While on PPA's board of trustees, Kevin created the Pinelands Summer Institute for Teachers, and his dedication to the project has been supported by the Lawrenceville School and the Aldo Leopold Fund. Not only has Kevin provided his expertise, but the school and foundation have provided financial support and in-kind services. Our success has been in large part due to their great generosity.

PPA COMPLETES FIRST SPECIAL PINELANDS PLANTS COURSE

by Russell Juelg



In anticipation of new CMP rules to expand protection for rare plants, PPA created the Special Pinelands Plants Course, which consisted of 12 sessions between April and October 2004. The course gave regulators, consultants, and conservation lands managers an opportunity to learn more about rare plants and their habitats in the Pinelands.

Ted Gordon, former Pinelands Commissioner and well-known authority on vegetation and history of the area, was our class instructor and guide in the field. Rutgers Ph.D. candidate Matt Palmer provided invaluable

assistance by bringing herbarium specimens. We had over twenty registrations for the course, but the total number of participants swelled to nearly forty!

Wells Mills County Park graciously provided meeting space for our lecture sessions and workshops. Most of the time, though, we were walking trails or wading in swamps, savannas, and intermittent ponds to witness some of the most beautiful and fascinating communities in the world.

PPA is arranging another class to be held on Saturdays in 2005, with instructors Bill Olson and Wayne Ferren. Call us if you'd like to attend.

**PINELANDS MONTH
THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS-
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Photo: Elaine Leighton

Ted Gordon leads Special Pinelands Plant Course



Here are a sample of projects PPA is currently working on around the Pinelands. If you want to get involved in any of these issues, please call us!

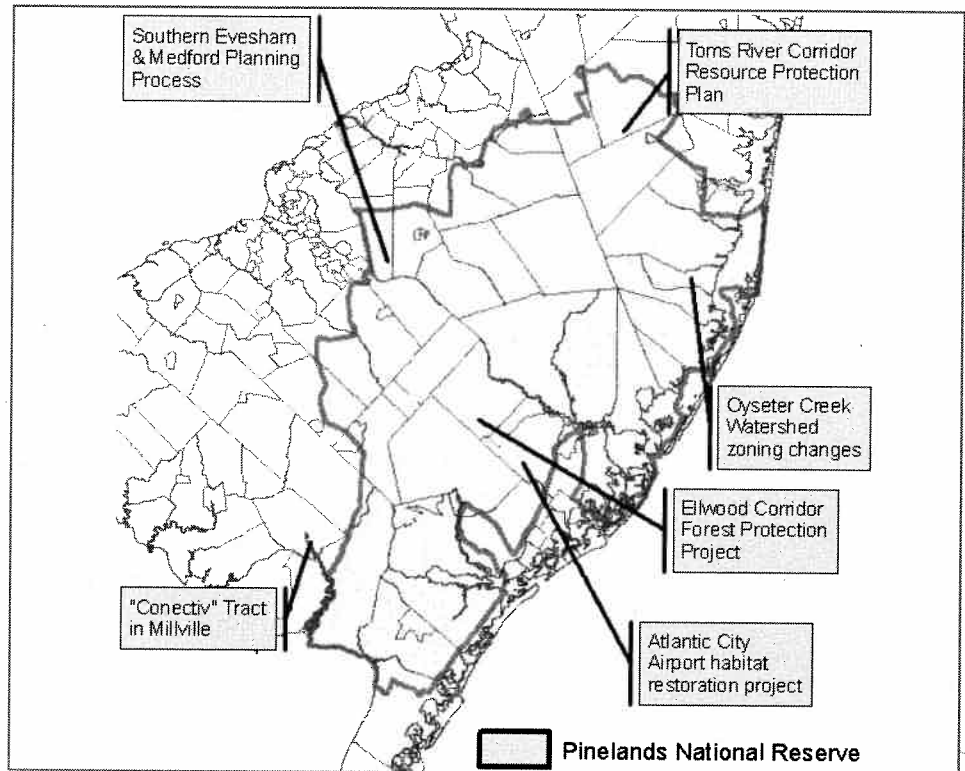
Southern Evesham & Medford Planning Process:

Aiming to avoid the kind of conflicts between development and threatened and endangered species happening at the "Sanctuary," the Pinelands Commission and municipal governments have begun a planning process that may revise the CMP and local zoning in the southern parts of Evesham and Medford to better protect natural resources. Much of this area is designated "Rural Development," which allows development on 1-acre lots. Since the CMP was written, however, this area has turned out to have tremendous Pine Barrens resources that would have justified a far more restrictive designation. PPA staff are participating as members of the Technical Support Group and the Project Advisory Committee set up as part of the process.

Toms River Corridor Resource Protection Plan:

Several months ago, a task force set up by the Pinelands Commission, in which PPA participated, recommended zoning and land use changes to better protect threatened and endangered species and water resources along the Toms River in Jackson and Manchester Townships. The proposed changes have been adopted by the Pinelands Commission and Jackson Planning Board, but have yet to be adopted by the Jackson Council. PPA is working with residents to press these important changes to adoption.

Oyster Creek watershed: The Pinelands Commission has proposed changing about 4,100 acres of forests and wetlands from "Rural Development" to "Forest Area" because various scientific studies have shown the area has the intact natural



resources and "essential character" of the Pinelands. This change will give the area much stronger protection from intensive development. Public comments on the proposed amendment to the CMP are due December 3, 2004 to the Pinelands Commission. PPA is supporting this important change to the CMP.

Ellwood Corridor: For many years, PPA, the Pinelands Commission and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) have been concerned that the Atlantic City Expressway and development along its route cut the Pinelands in half, making it difficult for birds, other animals, and even plants to move across this bottleneck. The "Ellwood Corridor" from Mullica Township to Mays Landing is a mostly undeveloped connection between north and south Pinelands. Now the Pinelands Commission is working with municipalities to protect that corridor. PPA and NJCF support this project and have submitted proposals to strength-

en land use protection in the corridor.

Atlantic City Airport: The Pinelands Commission and the South Jersey Transportation Authority devised a plan to allow expansion of the airport while trying to protect some of the rare bird species using grasslands around the runways. One part of the plan is to eradicate Chinese lespedeza, an invasive shrub, to improve bird habitat, but the Authority proposed doing this with herbicides. PPA, as a member of the Grassland Advisory Committee for the airport project, is pressing the Authority to use other, non-chemical, means. The CMP generally forbids use of herbicides, a policy PPA strongly defends.

"Conectiv" Tract: Environmental groups are fighting hard to save this extraordinary piece of Pine Barrens (which lies outside the Pinelands boundary) from development. Millville is fighting hard to develop it. The State will have the last say. PPA is providing expert testimony on water resources for the struggle.



Recently the lost and found section of South Jersey's largest newspaper read, "Lost: non-Pinelanders residents interested in protecting the Pinelands."

Found: Community leaders from Newark discover the Pinelands for the first time." The message is true, but the newspaper article is fictitious.

On a crisp and clear October morning a bus pulled into Double Trouble State Park with approximately 20 community and business leaders. They had departed from Newark, New Jersey earlier in the morning to canoe Cedar Creek with PPA staff. We didn't realize it until later in the afternoon, but as they stepped off of the bus, we were actually watching them take their first steps onto Pinelands soil. For some, their first impression of the Pinelands prior to this canoe trip was from an episode of *The Sopranos* (which was not even filmed in the Pinelands.)

The group was Leadership Newark, an organization whose mission it is to enhance leadership skills of individuals committed to the City of Newark. It was a perfect day to be on a Pinelands river for the first time, and for some, their first experience of flipping a canoe and being immersed in the Pine Barrens. We all had a great time and learned from each other. They learned about the Pinelands and we were once again reminded of how important it is that non-Pinelands residents be made aware of this special place and become involved in its protection. We were challenged with questions such as, "Why is it important for inner city residents to worry about the Pinelands?" and "How can people living in North Jersey enjoy the Pine Barrens when there isn't any public transportation to get to it?" and "If the area is controlled by a

regional plan (Comprehensive Management Plan), isn't it already protected?" This was just a sampling of questions, from people that view the Pinelands from a very different perspective, from the outside looking in.

The questions made us realize once again how vulnerable the Pinelands really is, and that we need to keep reaching out to all residents of the State to maintain the integrity of the Pinelands Protection Act and the CMP. It was only nine years ago that Senator John Scott of Bergen County sponsored legislation to repeal the Pinelands Protection Act. This was during the same time that a Rutgers University poll found that 79% of New Jersey residents supported environmental protection over economic development in the Pinelands. The results were the same for residents of South and North Jersey. The repeal legislation never gained momentum, but it certainly was a scare for all Pinelands advocates.



Leadership Newark members canoeing Cedar Creek

Had the Rutgers poll shown that North Jersey residents were ambivalent to the Pinelands, the outcome could have been very different. The newspaper article referenced above could have read, "Lost: The New Jersey Pinelands, Found: Thousands of acres open for new development." The only difference is that this time the article would not have been fictitious.

FAST TRACK UPDATE

On Friday, November 5, 2004, Governor McGreevey issued an Executive Order that essentially halted all rule-making and submission of permits under the fast-track permit law for seven months. The Executive Order calls for more public debate and broadening the range of environmental programs that may be omitted from the early deadlines in the law. The public will have 90 days to make comments on the pre-proposal. The agencies will then have 120 days to review and digest these comments, and then produce a final proposal. Public comments will be open again on the final proposal.

The Executive Order does not allow applications to be submitted before rules are adopted, requires NJDEP to conform with federal laws, and effectively acts as a temporary moratorium on granting fast-track permits. With this Executive Order, the Governor has done all he could do within the legal avenues to set up the next administration for repeal of fast-track.

PPA will be drafting a document within these ninety days to send to the administration as public comment. Anyone interested in this information can call our offices at 609-859-8860 ext. 18 or email Jaclyn Rhoads at jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org.

What you can do:

1 For more information about the Executive Order go to press releases on www.nj.gov, and please share your comments with the governor through the link on the website.

1 Read your local newspapers as well as go to www.savenj.net for additional information.

1 Town hall meetings may also be organized in your area within the next coming weeks, so please stay tuned for these announcements for your participation in the process.

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PINELANDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**December 2004 & January 2005**

NOTE: Names, addresses, and phone numbers are provided here for frequently mentioned event sponsors. Please contact the sponsor of the event for full information and details of the event.

Albert Music Hall (AMH), 131 Wells Mills Road, Waretown. www.alberthall.org.

Outdoor Club of South Jersey (OCSJ). Call leaders to confirm trip. www.ocsj.org

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA), 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton. 609-859-8860. www.pinelandsalliance.org. Offers a 10% discount on Pinelands Adventures programs to PPA members.

Tuckerton Seaport (TS), 120 West Main Street, Tuckerton. 609-296-8868. www.tuckertonseaport.org

Wells Mills County Park (WMCP), 905 Wells Mills Road, Waretown. 609-971-3085.

Whitesbog (W). All events meet at the Whitesbog General Store, Historic Whitesbog, mile marker 13 on Rt. 530 in Pemberton Township. 609-893-4646, www.whitesbog.org.

Saturday, December 4

Navigating the Pinelands - Practicing both orienteering and dead reckoning, we will traipse through some distinctive Pine Barrens habitats: upland pine/oak forests, intriguing lowlands, mysterious bogs, and magnificent old cedar swamps. After completing this course, you'll be capable of navigating cross-country anywhere in the Pine Barrens. Nature lore along the way makes the event memorable. Meet at Batona Camp. 8am - 4:30pm. \$35. PPA.

Holiday Crafts - Make crafts using gifts from Mother Nature. Led by Davc Orleans, Pinelands Naturalist and Storyteller. \$5 per person. All materials provided. Reservations. Meet at the Whitesbog General Store. W.

Thursday, December 9

Holiday House Tour - Self-guided driving tour leads you through historic Tuckerton and Little Egg Harbor. Enjoy the hospitality of local homeowners as they welcome you into their beautifully holiday-decorated homes. Only \$15 includes light refreshments. 11am - 4pm. Start at the Tuckerton Seaport. 609 296-8868. TS.

Saturday, December 11

Jersey Devil Hunt - We start with an old-fashioned campfire (bring your hot dogs & marshmallows!) We calm our nerves with some good, old-time music. Then, with a little ghostly

light from the moon, we search the woods, cautiously, for that most infamous denizen of the Pine Barrens. Meet at Batona Camp. 7 - 10pm. \$10. PPA.

Harrisville Nature & History Walk - Join park naturalists in an exploration of this popular lost town site and see how nature has reclaimed this once thriving village. Van transportation provided. Meet at "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton. 9am - 12:30pm. \$4.00 per person. WMCP.

Saturday, December 11 - Sunday, December 12

General Store Open House - Pick up that something special that says "I got you this great gift and helped preserve history at the same time!" 10am - 4pm. W.

Tuesday, December 21

Winter Solstice

And the dead leaves lie huddled and still.

No longer blown hither and thither;

The last lone aster is gone;

The flowers of the witch-hazel wither...

Robert Frost (1874-1963)

2005

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day on the Oswego - Meet at Oswego Lake and paddle on one of the most beautiful Pinelands River. Life vests must be worn. No rentals. Call to confirm trip. Leaders George & Leona F., 609 259-3734 or lcona@pincypaddlers.com. OCSJ.

Sunday, January 2

Social Hike Apple Pie Hill - Hike the highest point in South Jersey for a great panoramic view of the Pines. Bring picnic lunch. Meet at Carranza Memorial parking lot at 9:30am. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, 856 786-0048. OCSJ.

Saturday, January 8

Basic Wilderness Survival - In a single day, we'll cover the practical skills needed in a survival situation. The hands-on nature of the course makes it both fun and memorable. By the end of the day, you'll be able to acquire shelter, water, fire, and food. You'll also have a grasp on land navigation with the compass and USGS topo map. Meet at Batona Camp. 8am - 5pm. \$35. PPA.

Sunday, January 9

Double Trouble Perimeter Hike - 6 miles, flat, some sand. Meet at parking lot, Double Trouble State Park, Berkeley. 8:30am - 2pm. Adults: \$6.00/kids 9-14 years: \$2.00. WMCP.

Friday, January 14

Jersey Devil Hunt - see December 11. PPA.

Saturday, January 15

Owls, Gulls and Swans - First stop at Whitesbog to view the wintering Tundra Swans, then on to Medford WMA in search of owls, then on to Palmyra Cove Nature Center to see NJ's tiniest owl, the Saw-whet Owl; and finally to Florence to see thousands of gulls along the Delaware. Meet at Wells Mills County Park. 7am - 3pm. \$14 per person. WMCP.

Saturday, January 22

Navigating the Pinelands - see December 4. PPA.

Moonlight Jaunt - First moon hike of 2005. Come and enjoy the Wolf moon. Meet in field off Rt. 206, Atsion, just beyond Recreation Area sign. 7 - 8miles. Leaders: Davc and Julie Hegelin, 856 235-8792. OCSJ.

Batsto Nature and History Walk - Visit this popular historic village and discuss its natural and historic significance. Meet at "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton. 9am - 1pm. \$4.00 per person. WMCP.

Friday, January 28

Jersey Devil Hunt - see December 11. PPA.

Upcoming...

Sunday, February 6

Basic Wilderness Survival - see January 8. PPA.

22nd Annual Ocean County Bluegrass Festival - Be prepared to be entertained Pinelands-style while listening to leading bluegrass bands from the tri-state area. Noon - 5pm. \$8 adults/\$1 children under 12. AMH.

Friday, February 11

Jersey Devil Hunt - see December 11. PPA.

Sunday, February 13

Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River - Enjoy an early Valentine's Day paddle with homemade brownies to sweeten the trip. Meet at 10am at Oswego Lake in Penn State Forest. No rentals. Call to confirm. George & Leona F., 609 259-3734. OCSJ.

Friday, February 25

Jersey Devil Hunt - see December 11. PPA.

If your organization is having an activity you would like to see listed contact *Inside the Pinelands*, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088; ph: 609-859-8860; e-mail mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org. Next deadline: January 5, 2005.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG

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All members receive:
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**SEE PAGE 6 FOR A
FAST TRACK UPDATE**

A Sponsor will receive an *Exploring the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* map
A Patron will receive a copy of *Exploring the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* book
A Benefactor will receive a Pinelands Botanical Print by Robin Jess
A member of the Chairman's Circle will receive a personalized tour of the Pinelands



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