

I N S I D E T H E PINELANDS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

A Report by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3

PINELANDS COMMISSION APPROVES POLLUTION TRADING



Photo: PPA

Richland Village, Buena Vista Township

by Rich Bizub

Over the objections of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other environmentalists, the Pinelands Commission approved a controversial municipal water quality pollution-trading program at its January 2008 meeting. Pinelands regulations require that houses and businesses using septic systems have enough land on site to dilute the septic effluent (that is, wastewater) down to 2 parts per million of nitrate nitrogen in ground water flowing away from the parcel.

PPA sees the 2 ppm limit for each parcel as a fundamental bulwark against excessive contamination of Pinelands aquifers, streams and wet-

lands. Even this limit, however, has not succeeded in protecting water quality in many parts of the Pinelands. The water quality rules should be made stronger, not waived and weakened as is happening in this case.

The new pollution-trading program will allow up to nineteen businesses in the Richland Village part of Buena Vista Township to expand on parcels that are already too small to meet the 2 ppm limit. This new ordinance waives the normal pollution limit for septic systems so that businesses operating on small lots can discharge even more septic effluent into the groundwater.

The local ordinance — which could

not go into effect without Pinelands Commission approval — was advanced by the township in order to assist existing and proposed businesses that want to expand in the “redevelopment zone” of Richland Village. If these businesses expand beyond what Pinelands septic rules normally permit, the township will restrict future development on a 52-acre piece of publicly-owned land as a kind of compensation for excessive contamination of the land beneath the expanding businesses. The township, then, is essentially donating development rights on public land to private businesses, so the businesses can violate the normal Pinelands water quality rules on their land.

On rare occasions, the Commission can give a waiver of strict compliance to allow up to 5 parts per million of nitrate nitrogen at a parcel boundary. But the regulations expressly forbid going above 5 ppm. The new Richland Village ordinance will now permit up to 10 ppm, the absolute maximum allowable under general state and federal law. As one Pinelands Commissioner noted, that standard was based on preventing “blue baby” disease (methemoglobinemia) in infants. We do not think the Commission should even consider allowing water quality to be degraded to this level knowing that it is used by many people in the area for drinking water.

continued on page three




Despite high property taxes and the state's fiscal issues, New Jersey voters continue to support funding for open space preservation.

On November 6th, the "Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007" passed with 54% approval. Ballot question #3 was necessary as a one-year stop gap measure to keep the Garden State Preservation Trust funded. The voters' approval speaks volumes about the consistent public support for long-term funding of land preservation. The voter approval is especially striking given that the public voted down two other funding measures — for stem cell research and property tax relief — in the same election.

Passage of ballot question #3 was necessary to continue the great work of the state, county and local governments, and the private land trusts, but a truly stable source of funding is still needed if we are to protect enough land in the race against development. As New Jersey gets closer and closer to being built out — when there will be no more forests and fields to clear for sub-

divisions — the surviving, unprotected open spaces, farmland, historic sites and flood prone areas will be under ever more intense pressure to succumb to development.

PPA is an active member of the *New Jersey — Keep It Green Campaign*, which includes over 90 statewide, local and regional organizations ranging from sportsmen's groups and environmental organizations to affordable housing and urban park advocates. In the last election campaign, PPA organized successful press conferences to help local officials and activists highlight the need for new open space funding.

PPA will continue to work with others across the state to secure stable long-term funding for the acquisition, capital improvement, operation, maintenance, and stewardship of state and local natural areas, parks and historic sites in New Jersey.

All members and friends of the Pinelands should lend their voice to this effort as we begin to gear up for another campaign. In the meantime, we can all enjoy this victory!

19TH ANNUAL PINELANDS SHORT COURSE

Saturday, March 1
Burlington County College

New topics include: Orchids and Wildflowers, The Lost Village of Rome, Working the Cycle, Pinelands Basketry and Snakes Alive.

To register for this program see www.state.nj.us/pinelands, or call ext. 1382 at (609)-894-9311 or (856) 222-9311. Registration fees: \$30 per adult. The Pinelands Short Course is brought to you by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College.

NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30pm

Bishop Farmstead

Delaware Valley College students in *The Built Environment* class will present residential and commercial landscape designs using Pinelands native plants.

PINELANDS COMMISSION MEETINGS

Friday, February 8, 9:30am

Friday, March 14, 9:30am

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CALL (609) 894-7300 FOR DETAILS

INSIDE THE PINELANDS

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continued from cover page

The Commission argued that the ordinance could actually improve water quality in the Richland Village area because the township would be voluntarily passing up the opportunity to build on its 52-acre parcel. We think this argument is mistaken. First, the aquifer below the expanding businesses will still be allowed to get worse, up to 10 ppm, even if other land is kept cleaner; that's bad for people drawing water close to the affected land. Second, it is speculative whether the net effect of the ordinance will be less development or more than would occur without it; that's not a good basis for waiving one of the Pinelands' most fundamental water quality rules. Third, this ordinance could end up being the beginning of a slippery slope in which the Commission gives more areas special exemptions from its normal septic rules; in the long run, that could fatally undermine the concept of protecting water quality on every parcel in favor of a malleable, unenforceable process of diluting wastewater from septic tanks on a regional scale.

This is the first time to our knowledge that the Commission has knowingly allowed groundwater to be degraded more than its rules permit in an area that is currently used by residents and the public for drinking water. The Commission considered similar proposals during the late 1990's and had the good sense not to advance any of them. PPA opposed those proposals then, just as we did this one. We view this as another case of helping applicants find ways around the Pinelands regulations, rather than improving and enforcing environmental protections.



Photo: PPA

Snow on the Pines

**“PINELANDS:
A VISUAL JOURNEY”**

Sunday, May 4

1 - 5 pm

at the Bishop Farmstead

Art exhibit featuring fine art landscape photography by Albert Horner. A portion of the proceeds will benefit PPA.

Check out:

www.alberthorner.com

for more on Al's work.

**NEW PPA ONLINE STORE
LAUNCHED**

Visit our new online store where you can browse over 100 books about the Pine Barrens and South Jersey, plus t-shirts, hats, films, and artwork; take a PPA membership or make a donation; or register for a Pinelands Adventure or teacher training program. All proceeds from online sales go towards furthering our mission of preserving and protecting the New Jersey Pinelands.

www.pinelandsalliance.org



Many companies appreciate the Pinelands for its unique contribution to the quality of life in New Jersey. The following companies made charitable donations to support the work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance in 2007:

- American Honda Motor Co.**
- Campmor**
- Environmental Resolutions, Inc.**
- Herpetological Associates**
- J.M. Huber Corporation**
- Johnson & Johnson**
- LL Bean**
- Plexus Publishing**
- PSE&G**
- Recreational Equipment Inc.
(R.E.I.)**
- TAH Industries**

We appreciate the support these businesses provide for our cause, and I hope our members will thank these companies if you have a chance to let them know you also appreciate their concern for the Pinelands.

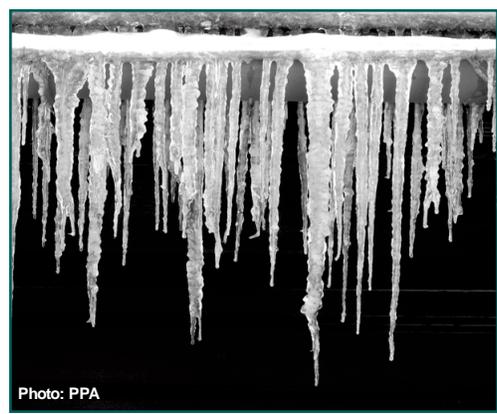
If your company or employer might be interested in supporting our work, please contact Carleton Montgomery, PPA's Executive Director, at (609) 859-8860 x19 or carleton@pinelandsalliance.org.

In addition to receiving financial support, PPA can provide volunteer opportunities and put together outdoor team-building programs for compa-

nies and organizations. An adventure in nature, outside the office routine, builds camaraderie and introduces people to the Pine Barrens.

Another way many companies support charitable causes like ours is through matching the gifts their employees make to charities. PPA receives a significant number of such matching donations. If you donate to PPA or any other charity, check to see whether your company does matching gifts. It's an easy way to double the impact of your own contributions!

Winter Scenes at the Bishop Farmstead



PINELANDS TO TIDELANDS: SEMINAR ON WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

February 27, 2008

**Ocean County Library, Toms River
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.**

This free seminar is sponsored by the Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation. Come and learn about the intimate connection between the water resources of the New Jersey Pinelands and the Barnegat Bay Estuary.

Nicholas A. Procopio
**Research Scientist, Pinelands
Commission**

The findings of the Commission's recent report on water quality and wetland resources, within the Pinelands of the Barnegat Bay Watershed will be presented.

Richard G. Bizub
**Director for Water Programs,
Pinelands Preservation Alliance**

Groundwater withdrawals from wells, and the effects on streamflow will be highlighted.

Stan Hales, Jr.
**Program Director, Barnegat Bay
National Estuary Program**

Current and future challenges to the Barnegat Bay ecosystem, along with recent research, will be discussed.



Off-road vehicles (ORVs) have been damaging natural land, farmland and private property since this new form of motorized recreation began over twenty years ago. The damage caused by these vehicles has made national and state headlines, and a newly published book *Thrillcraft: The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation* is devoted to stopping this form of recreation on public lands.

The solution to illegal and damaging ORV riding is well-crafted and enforceable legislation that provides funds for patrolling of sites and removing illegal trails, and requires registration and identification of these vehicles. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has been a key player in working toward this solution, working with responsible ORV riders who want to find legal places to ride, for nearly eight years.

Illegal riding of ORVs harms ecological communities, destroys farmers' properties, negatively impacts the recreation of hunters, fishermen, eco-tourists, and birdwatchers, and increases the liability on municipalities. The ecological impacts from illegal off-road vehicle use include soil compaction and erosion, habitat degradation and/or wildlife harassment, loss of vegetation, noise and air pollution. According to a 2002 report of the New Jersey Comparative Risk Project, "impacts appear to be more severe on sensitive ecosystems including wetlands and streams...".

In 2002, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released some statistics on the damage caused by ORVs in New Jersey. DEP estimated at that time that 340,000 acres of public land had been negatively

impacted by ORVs and that the agency spends \$900,000 a year on enforcement and restoration work tied to ORV use.

A recent editorial (12/28/2007) by *The Press of Atlantic City* states that tough rules are needed for off-road vehicles. According to the *The Press*, "Why should the rest of us subsidize this rampant destruction of public lands, where it has long been illegal to operate dirt bikes and ATVs?"

New Jersey is not alone in the disruption caused by ORVs. State fish and wildlife managers throughout the United States were surveyed by the Izaak Walton League of America during the summer of 2007 to determine the extent of the negative impacts on hunting and fishing from various types of ORVs. The overall sentiment in the report, "Collision Course: Off-Road Vehicle Impacts on Hunting and Fishing," strongly indicates that more enforcement of regulations is needed to protect hunting and fishing from these impacts.

Federal law enforcement rangers in a first-ever survey by Rangers for Responsible Recreation (12/11/2007) state that reckless off-road vehicle abuse of public lands is spinning out of control. One Bureau of Land Management ranger wrote, "User attitudes are atrocious. They are the single biggest destruction on public lands these days, far worse than grazing or energy development."

In response to this damage, the New Jersey State Legislature has finally crafted an ORV bill which is supported by the League of Municipalities, 70 mayors throughout the State, and sportsmen and conservation groups, including PPA, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, NY/NJ Trail Conference,

the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, New Jersey United Bowhunters Association, and New Jersey Federation of Sportsmens Clubs.

Assembly Bill 4172 and Senate Bill 3024 were submitted at the end of the 2007 legislative session, and were sponsored by Assemblymen Reed Gusciora, Michael Panter, Paul Moriarty, and John Wisniewski and Senator Bob Smith, respectively.

These bills would increase fines and penalties for illegal riding, allow for enforcement officials to confiscate vehicles and to suspend drivers licenses, and would require mandatory registration and tagging of off-road vehicles (including dirt bikes). Money from the fines, penalties and confiscations would go towards enforcement and natural resource damages.

These bills did not make it to a final floor vote at the end of the 2007 legislative session because time ran out. Both primary sponsors, Assemblyman Gusciora and Senator Smith, are poised to resubmit the bills immediately.

These bills represent a monumental effort on behalf of the conservation groups, mayors, and League of Municipalities. Buena Vista Mayor Chuck Chiarello, Chair of the Pinelands Municipal Council and executive member of the League of Municipalities, has been a key player in this effort, especially since DEP is trying to locate an ORV park next to Buena Vista Township in Monroe.

The joint cooperation among the elected officials and conservation groups for the past two years has pushed the ORV community to create a non-profit organization, per our collective recommendation,

continued on page six



PPA: How long have you been a member of PPA?

Nancy Buchanan: My husband Don and I have been members since the very beginning of PPA. *[Editor's note: that's 18 years!]*

PPA: What prompted you to become a member?

NB: Our deep love and respect for the Pinelands and our desire to do all we can to maintain and protect it.



Photo: PPA

Nancy's favorite: Pink lady slipper

PPA: What PPA programs or events have you attended?

NB: The Hall of Fame Awards, the nature courses and the walks.

PPA: What specific PPA activity or policy has really impressed you?

NB: I am so pleased that PPA has invested itself so heavily in the "watchdog" aspect. We very desperately need a non-political organization to oversee the changes that can occur which may adversely affect the delicate balance between the human impact and Mother Nature. I think we must always be vigilant in guarding this pristine, precious resource that is threatened every single day.

PPA: What has PPA done for you or your family?

NB: PPA has given me more peace of mind. Our numbers help to make our voices heard.

PPA: Why would you urge others to join PPA?

NB: PPA has so much to offer its members. There is a place for everyone. Families, kids, singles, young and not so young. We all owe many thanks to nature for all the joys that come our way. Membership in PPA, whether it be active or passive, is one way we can help to protect this fragile wilderness in our beautiful South Jersey area.

ORV UPDATE

Continued from page 5

that has access to state motorized recreation money for creating an ORV facility. Recently, this ORV non-profit group was awarded over \$1 million dollars to purchase land for a facility in South Jersey. The ORV riders have the opportunity to receive \$300,000 yearly for trail creation and maintenance. Unfortunately, the ORV community keeps pushing for more money and expects funds to come from the ORV bill, which is not the intent of the legislation.

PPA continues its efforts and with your support will hopefully have a new law in 2008 to reduce the ORV damages on our public and private lands and in our communities.

Please feel free to contact Jaclyn Rhoads at (609)859-8860 extension 18 or jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org to find out how you can help.

EARTH SHARE CELEBRATES NJ!

Saturday, April 12

Dancer Farm B&B Inn, New Egypt

\$40/person advanced ticket

Enjoy wine, organic lite fare, art exhibit and silent auction.

Proceeds benefit Earth Share. Earth Share raises money for environmental organizations like PPA through workplace contribution programs.

For tickets call 609-989-1160.

EARTH DAY

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, April 20

Trees, shrubs and wildflowers that are native to the Pinelands will be for sale.

Also: Gardening Lecture, Compost Bin Raffle and Tours of the Historic House and Barn

Pinelands Visitor Center Open

Plants supplied by Pinelands Nursery

Questions? Call Becky at

(609) 859-8860 x21

NEW PPA BOARD MEMBERS

PPA is pleased to welcome Anne Heasley, Don Kirchoffer, Jessica Sanchez and Richard Turner, to our Board of Trustees.

PPA also wishes to thank Dr. Kevin Browngoehl and Sam Huber for their service to the PPA Board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Former Governor,
State of New Jersey*

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Pine Barrens Coalition

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Carleton K. Montgomery
Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

PINELANDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February & March 2008

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 Rt. 532, Waretown, (609) 971-1593

NJ Audubon Society Rancocas Nature Center (NJA), 794 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly, NJ, 609-261-2495, www.nj Audubon.org (NJA)

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. 10% discount on Pinelands Adventures programs to PPA members. Pre-registration required for all PPA programs.

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

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

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

Sunday, February 10
28th Ocean County Bluegrass Festival
Noon - 5pm, Doors open: 11:00am, Adults: \$8, Children: \$1. **AMH**.

Pakim Pond to Apple Pie Hill Hike - 7.1 miles. Meet: Parking Lot, "Tip" Seaman County Park, Waretown. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$6.00 per person. 9 years - Adult. **WMCP**.

Saturday, February 16
Apple Pie Hill to Carranza Jaunt
4 miles. Meet: Parking Lot, "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton. Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Fee: \$6.00 per person. Age: 9 years - Adult. **WMCP**.

Moonlight Walk (Wolf Moon)
Walk around the village and bogs, a great opportunity to learn about Whitesbog Village and discover the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. 5 p.m. Led by experienced guides. Reservations required. \$5 per person. **W**.

Birding Field Trip to Barnegat Light
9:00 a.m. to midafternoon. Haven't seen Harlequin Ducks yet? Treat yourself to this beautiful sight - join associate naturalist John Courtney to search this reliable spot. Other likely species include Purple Sandpipers, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and other winter birds. **NJA**.

Winter Waterfowl & Tundra Swans
10:00am - 2:00pm. With bogs, ponds, marshes and our ocean being at their coldest... what can live amongst such harsh habitats? Well, winter waterfowl of course! The ducks, geese, and Tundra Swans seek refuge and thrive within NJ's waterways. Caravan tour from barrens to beaches in search of those winter waterfowl hotspots. Option of packing or purchasing a lunch. Meet in the parking lot at Whitesbog Village. Cost: \$20 members, \$30 nonmembers. The Nature Conservancy, call (609)861-0600 for directions, more information or to register.

Saturday, February 23
Carranza to Lower Forge Hike
5.3 miles. Meet: Parking Lot, "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton. 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Fee: \$6.00/person. Age: 9 years - Adult. **WMCP**.

Saturday, March 1
Railroad History of South Jersey
Although extinct for 50 years, much still remains of the numerous South Jersey Railroads. We will trace the routes of the Tuckerton, Central of New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Railroads. Pack a lunch and be prepared for short walks. Traveling to Ocean and Burlington Counties. Meet: Parking Lot, Wells Mills County Park, Waretown. Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Fee: \$14.00 per person. Age: 9 years - Adult. **WMCP**.

Whitesbog Village Tour
1 p.m. Meet at the General Store. \$5/person. **W**.

Saturday, March 8
12th Annual Land Conservation Rally
Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick. Workshops and exhibitors. Sponsored by the NJ Conservation Foundation. Contact megan@njconservation.org or 888-526-3728.

Friday, March 14
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. \$15. **PPA**.

Saturday, March 15
Carranza Hidden Loop to No-Man's Land
Hike 7 miles to absolute end of the Pines. 10:30am. Meet at Carranza Memorial Parking area. Call Tom Neigel, (609) 206-3389. **OCSJ**.

The Domestication of the Wild Blueberry: Cloning is Nothing New
With presenter Richard Prickett, Whitesbog educator. 2 p.m. \$5/members; \$7/non-members. RSVP by March 14. Call 609-893-4646. **W**.

Saturday, March 22
Moonlight Walk (Crow Moon)
7 p.m. Meet at the General Store. \$5/person. **W**.

Friday, March 28
Jersey Devil Hunt - see March 14. **PPA**.

Winter Birding at the Meadows in Cape May
6:00pm to Dusk - Join Karl and Judy Lukens at The Nature Conservancy's Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge parking area on Sunset Boulevard to enjoy this magic season at a magic time, when local birders have come to expect woodcock displaying, snipe on the move, Virginia Rails calling, and other signs of spring. Contact (609) 884-2736. **NJA**.

Sunday, March 30
Deep Run Bogs Hike
7-9 miles. Old trails, fire cuts, and abandoned cranberry bogs. Bring lunch. Meet at 10am in field on east side of Rt. 206 at Atsion. Leader: Joe Trujillio, (856) 468-4849.

Sunday, March 30
Evans Bridge to Coal Road Hike
8.7 miles. Meet: Parking Lot, "Tip" Seaman County Park, Tuckerton. Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Fee: \$6.00 per person. Age: 9 years - Adult. **WMCP**.

Saturday, April 5
NJ Environmental Federation's 23rd Annual Conference
Features grassroots environmental awards, workshops, keynote speaker, urban panel, breakfast, lunch and reception. 8 am - 6 pm. Rutgers Newark Law Center. Cost: \$30 per person, \$25 for groups of 5 or more, \$15 for students. Contact: jvickers@clean-water.org or (732) 280-8988.

Ongoing

March 29 to April 20
Tuckerton Seaport 2008 Art Show "Come See, Come Sea"
Exhibit Hours: 10am-5pm daily. **TS**.

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: March 4, 2008.

THE PINELANDS NEEDS YOUR HELP...AND SO DO WE!
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MISSION & BECOME A MEMBER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

E-Mail: _____ Referred by: _____

Check enclosed payable to PPA

Mastercard

Visa

Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Membership Categories

- Basic \$35
- Family \$60
- Sponsor \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Chairman's Circle \$1,000
- Other _____

All members receive:

- A PPA membership card
- A year's subscription to *Inside the Pinelands*
- A Free *Pinelands Adventure* (new members)
- A PPA window sticker
- Discounts on PPA merchandise and events

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR WATER FACTS
& WEB RESOURCES**

- 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



PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE
BISHOP FARMSTEAD
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INSIDE:

COMPANIES SUPPORT PINELANDS PRESERVATION - P. 4

ORV LEGISLATION UPDATE - P. 5

PPA MEMBERANDUM - P. 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - P. 7



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER! WHEN FINISHED GIVE IT TO A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO LEARN ABOUT PPA'S MISSION AND PROGRAMS.