



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

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Number 2

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Upcoming PPA Events

Sunday, December 5
Green Trading Post
1:00 - 5:00pm
Bishop Farmstead,
Pinelands
Preservation Alliance

17 PEMBERTON ROAD
SOUTHAMPTON, NJ 08068
T - 609.859.8860
F - 609.859.8804
WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG

INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Credit: Richard Stockton College of NJ

*Solar carport above parking lot at The Richard Stockton College of NJ.
This is an example of a feasible alternative option for the Stafford Landfill project.*

Diversion Without Compensation: DEP and Pinelands Commission Approve Solar Facility on Preserved Parkland

by Carleton Montgomery & Theresa Lettman

Solar power is a good thing, since it is infinitely renewable and solar panels generate no direct carbon or other harmful emissions. But industrial solar arrays should not be built everywhere. Specifically, they should not be built on land that has been preserved for natural habitat. But that is what the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Pinelands Commission have just endorsed. In mid-November, they approved Stafford Township's plan to lease the top of the closed Stafford landfill, which has been designated as preserved open space and maintained as grassland habitat since 2006, to a private developer to construct a large solar energy facility. Critically, the agencies are not requiring Stafford to provide any compensatory conservation of other land -

and Stafford isn't volunteering any. The State House Commission, a committee of legislators and executive branch officials, has to give its final approval, which it may have done by the time this goes to press.

In 2006, the Stafford Township Landfill was officially closed, and the Pinelands Commission approved construction of a shopping mall and houses on threatened and endangered species habitats at what is now called Stafford Park, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). As partial mitigation for the loss of T&E habitat, which is supposed to be protected by the Pinelands rules, the Township agreed to protect the landfill portion of the site as open space "unmolested" and "in perpetuity." The land used to be a landfill; then it was capped; and now it is

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Introducing the Rancocas Creek Watershed Ambassador



My name is Caroline DiGiovanni. I am the 2010-2011 AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador for the Rancocas Creek Watershed Management Area. AmeriCorps is a national service program started in 1993 under the Clinton administration. It is sometimes referred to as the domestic Peace Corps. The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program has been hosted in the state by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection since 2000. Through this program an ambassador is stationed at a host agency in each of New Jersey's 20 watershed management areas. The objective of each ambassador is to engage the local communities and educate them about water and watershed-related issues. The result is better educated citizens able to make more informed decisions that will help to protect our waterways.

The Rancocas Creek area is 360 square miles and includes all or part of 33 different municipalities. The majority of the area falls within the western half of Burlington County, with small parts in Camden and Ocean Counties. The major waterways in the area are the North Branch, South Branch and the Mainstem of the Rancocas Creek, which drains to the Delaware River. Other smaller tributaries to the Rancocas Creek include Greenwood Branch, McDonald's Branch, Haynes Creek and Friendship Creek. My host agencies in the area are the Rancocas Conservancy and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

I graduated from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in May of 2009 with a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science. My first year out of college I served in the NJ Watershed Ambassador Program as the Mullica River Watershed Management Area Ambassador. During my first year

as an Ambassador I was able to educate over 1,000 people about watersheds and related issues, train 130 volunteers in stream monitoring, perform 50 stream assessments, and organize and participate in cleanups and rain barrel building workshops. Through all these efforts I was able to recruit over 800 volunteer hours in the Mullica River Watershed Community.



Credit: Caroline DiGiovanni

Caroline DiGiovanni

I have high hopes and expectations for my second year of service in the NJ Watershed Ambassador Program. As an Ambassador, my mission is to educate the public about the waterways in our area and what they can do to protect this precious natural resource. Consider me a FREE resource to our community. I am available to do presentations for schools and community groups. I can also train volunteers to assess the health of our streams through visual and biological assessments, and am available to help out with various watershed-related activities and festivals. Through my efforts I hope to encourage everyone in our community to be a good steward of the environment and our watershed.

Feel free to contact me at this email address:

caroline@pinelandsalliance.org

or call (609) 859-8860 x56.

Russell Juelg Off to Manage Public Programs at Parker Preserve for NJ Conservation Foundation

Russell Juelg, our staff naturalist, botanical expert, and story-teller par excellence, is leaving PPA to take on a new challenge. Don't worry, he is not leaving the Pines!



Russell entertaining folks on an Overnight Canoe Trip in 2005

advocacy before the Pinelands Commission and other agencies know he is a persistent and forceful advocate for protecting the Pine Barrens' rare wildlife and flora. And those of us who have followed him into the woods at night, with no flashlights, looking for the Jersey Devil know Russell's talent for turning a scary tale – and bringing us all back to the campfire alive.

All of us working and volunteering at PPA are grateful for Russell's dedication and companionship over the last ten years. Thank goodness he is staying in the Pines, and we can all continue to learn about the beauties and mysteries of the Pine Barrens in his capable hands.

Russell will be designing and leading public programs for the Franklin Parker Preserve of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF). The Parker Preserve is the 9,600-acre nature preserve around the village of Chatsworth that used to be the DeMarco cranberry farm until the DeMarcos placed it in preservation through a conservation sale to NJCF.

All those thousands of children and adults who have explored the Pine Barrens with Russell know what a great impact he has had on Pinelands conservation since coming to this region more than a decade ago. Those who attended PPA's Special Pinelands Plants Course know the depth of knowledge Russell developed, and communicated, about the Pinelands' unique botanical heritage. Those who have been the object of his

ATTENTION BOY SCOUTS!

Starting in January 2011, PPA will be offering

Workshops for the following Merit Badges:

**Environmental Science,
Soil and Water
Conservation,
Geology and Weather.**

For more information contact
rich@pinelandsalliance.org

New at the
PPA Store

Posters: Fine Art Pinelands Scenes

Beautifully reproduced fine art Pinelands images by Albert Horner, on high quality poster paper ready to frame. Size: 20" x 30". Four images to choose from: Wading River Reflections, Martha Pond, Half Moon Bog, and Sunrise at Apple Pie Hill.

Price: \$29.95

Shop the online PPA store or stop by the Pinelands Visitor Center

Green Trading Post

December 5, 1-5 pm

at PPA's Bishop Farmstead

Shop for "green" gifts for the holidays!

Participating organizations will include:

Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Conserve Wild Foundation of NJ

NJ Audubon Society
Whitesbog Preservation Trust

Woodford Cedar Run
Wildlife Refuge

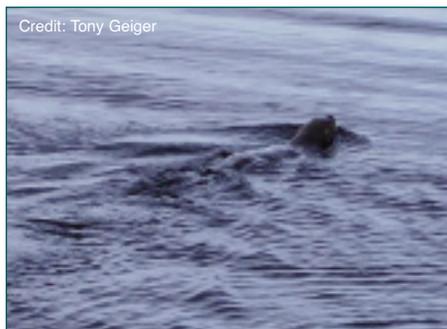
Profits help support the missions of the various conservation groups.

Winter Ecology in the Pine Barrens

by Tony Geiger, New Jersey Audubon Society

Kurt Vonnegut wrote that the seasons should be renamed – “summer, locking, lockdown, unlocking.” I sometimes think about the winter as “lockdown”. “Why would I want to go out and look for animals now?” I think. What I often forget is that, although we often remain indoors, nature is not locked down in the winter, especially not in the Pine Barrens.

Winter brings a different light to the “big woods” of Southern New Jersey and a changing of the guard in terms of which species to look for. There’s no need to pack up the binoculars and camera in December, January, February. Bring a warm coat, hat, gloves, possibly even foot and hand warmers. Lastly, bring two thoughts along in your pockets: birds and mammals. While the plant life has been reduced to evergreens, aquatic life has gone dormant, and the insects and herpetiles have become inactive – the birds and many mammals push on.



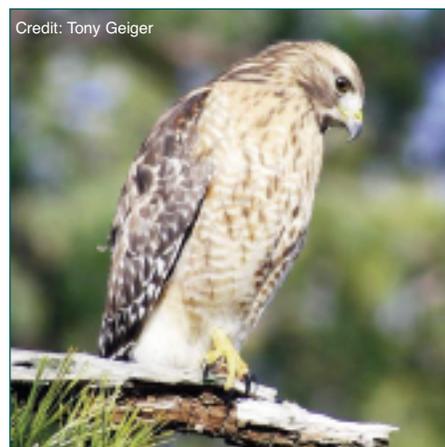
Otter, Bear Creek

Now is the time to become familiar with the birds that spend their winters in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Species are less diverse in winter, but those that remain are conspicuous. Aside from hanging a feeder, going into the woods is the best way to find birds. A Chickadee can only live 24 hours on its fat reserves – what does that mean for a Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, or other birds of similar weight? They must eat constantly to maintain their weight.

Consequently the best places to find birds are places that offer food – places with seeds, berries and hibernating insects. Running water or otherwise open water is another good cue. Finally, a place with shelter from the elements, which is pretty much any place in the Pine Barrens offers a good chance to spot birds.

Don’t ignore a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers or Tufted Titmice – in winter, less common species mix with common ones. Some birds to expect in the Pines in winter are Cedar Waxwing, Pine Siskin, Eastern Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher, Fox Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, and, with patience, Red-headed Woodpecker. Birds to hope for, and that have been present in the past, are crossbills, owls, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Common Raven, Northern Shrike, and with lots of luck, Pileated Woodpecker.

Now let’s talk mammals. Tracks are important when seeking mammals because they are more elusive than birds. Stream banks, mud, soft sand, and fresh snow are all good places to look for mammal tracks and the best time to glimpse mammals is dawn or dusk. An almost unavoidable mammal in the Pines in winter is the white-tailed deer.



Red-shoulder hawk, Weymouth

Remember not to become discouraged. Unless you frequent the woods, you simply won’t see many mammals. That being said, some interesting winter mammals to seek out in the pines are: red squirrel, flying squirrel, river otter, mink, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, and coyote. Black bear have been sighted in the Pines on occasion, but the odds of seeing one in winter are slim.



Snow tracks, Goshen Pond

You may ask “Where exactly can you go in the Pine Barrens to find the wildlife you’ve mentioned?” Anywhere! My destinations would be Batsto Village, Franklin Parker Preserve, Apple Pie Hill, Rancocas Nature Center, Lake Lenape Park, Makepeace Lake, Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, Estell Manor Park, and Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, to name a few. Information and directions to all of these wildlife-viewing sites is available at <http://www.njwildlifetrails.org>, or by contacting PPA. Don’t let yourself get locked down – visit the Pine Barrens in winter. If you don’t see any wildlife, the worst you can say is that you went for a walk in the woods and it was probably quite peaceful.

Tony Geiger works for New Jersey Audubon Society and was project manager for the NJ Birding & Wildlife Trails Pine Barrens & Beyond series. He is currently a teacher-naturalist at Rancocas Nature Center in Mount Holly, NJ, and a freelance graphic artist.

Stafford Open Space Diversion

continued from cover page

parkland containing important habitat, including habitat for rare and threatened species.

The Township seeks to develop this habitat by leasing the conserved area to the private developer for construction of a solar energy facility. The Commissioner of DEP says he will release the conservation deed restriction. Under pressure from the Christie Administration, the Pinelands Commission is amending the MOA. The state DEP Commissioner is recommending that the State House Commission approve the Green Acres diversion, with no compensatory purchase of other parkland. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance thinks the Stafford plan represents bad policy and a broken promise.

Prior to this case, citizens had good reason to believe State law protects open space which municipalities hold for conservation. The law says any municipality which receives state open space funding cannot develop any of its conserved land without going through a demanding legal process called "Green Acres diversion." The diversion rules were designed to restrict development of conserved land only to cases where it is truly necessary, a "last resort," for the municipality – not just something a town would like to do. The rules also require that when it does happen, the local government must provide more new conservation land than it diverts. For a development by a private company which will get the benefit of the development, the rules require 4 acres of new conservation land for each 1 acre of diverted land.

In its decision, DEP circumvents the strictures of these regulations by adopting an extremely lenient – and, we believe, clearly incorrect –

reading of the diversion rules in order to make it easy for municipalities to develop preserved land. Contrary to the express provisions of the regulations, DEP says the municipality can develop preserved land via a long-term lease if it merely puts the lease payments to its local recreation and open space efforts – with no requirement at all for compensatory land. Since such arrangements will operate in perpetuity and provide for the permanent alteration of parkland, this reading completely undermines the rules' stated protections: It removes the core requirement that the public be compensated for the loss of parkland with new parkland, and eliminates all financial disincentives from developing preserved parkland on any scale and for any purpose.

On the outcome of this issue hangs the credibility of the promises government makes to the public when it purports to protect land for conservation in perpetuity. For more information, including PPA's submissions to the various government agencies, and the DEP decision, please go to our web site at www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/work/currentissues.

**PINELANDS
COMMISSION
MEETINGS**
Friday, Dec. 10, 9:30am
January meeting: TBA
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CALL (609) 894-7300
FOR DETAILS

Pine Barrens Hall of Fame

Highlights from the
Nov. 6 awards ceremony



Credit: Steve Woods

Pine Barrens Hall of Fame inductee Richard Sullivan (front left) with his family



Credit: Steve Woods

Hall of Fame inductee Betty Wilson (left) receives her award (a pine barrens tree frog statue) from John Stokes, Executive Director of the NJ Pinelands Commission



Credit: Steve Woods

PPA's Theresa Lettman (left) receiving special recognition from Executive Director Carleton Montgomery for her 20 years of service with the organization

PPA MEMBERandum: Beth & Bill Byrnes

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

B & B: We have been PPA members since 1993.

PPA: What prompted you to become members?

Beth: I spent almost every year of my childhood camping at Parvin State Park, and I love being “in the woods”. PPA is dedicated to making sure generations to come can also be “in the woods”.

Bill: The outdoor adventures that PPA sponsors and all the great people involved in the organization.



Beth and Bill Byrnes

PPA: What PPA programs or events have you attended?

B & B: We have done nearly all the outdoor events – canoeing and hiking are two of our favorite activities. We also attend the Pinelands Discovery Festival—often volunteering out on the airfield parking cars, and we’ve also attended some of the presentations held at the Bishop Farmstead.

PPA: What specific PPA activity (outreach, policy, Adventures, etc.) has really impressed you?

Beth: I am impressed most of all by the passion that each person has for what they do. My first love will always be wandering around the woods, but I have become

more interested in the policy and outreach – because of seeing how much the folks at PPA care.

Bill: Russell’s outdoor adventures. I have done canoeing, hiking, cougar hunting and survival with him, and each one has been a great experience – other than his wish to make me cougar-bait!

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

B & B: PPA has given us the chance to explore areas of the Pinelands that we might not have seen on our own. It has also educated us, so we can better understand and enjoy the time spent there. We have brought family and friends out to events, and they have also had a chance to see and learn. We also enjoy volunteering, and PPA has given us that opportunity.

PPA: Why would you urge others to join PPA?

B & B: Every year, we give family and friends “gift” memberships to PPA....our way of encouraging them to belong to PPA. This organization not only keeps tabs on legislation that affects the Pinelands, but provides opportunities for folks to learn about the Pines and enjoy them. Belonging to PPA is a great way to help preserve our local environment.

Tour de Pines



2010 Tour de Pines riders on a sunny October Sunday afternoon in Brenden Byrne State Forest

22ND ANNUAL PINELANDS SHORT COURSE

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 26**

**BURLINGTON
COUNTY COLLEGE**

**PEMBERTON
TOWNSHIP**

For more information:

Ph: (609) 894-7300

Email:

info@njpines.state.nj

Fairs & Festivals

Saturday, February 5

**Cumberland County
Winter Eagle Festival**

*Mauricetown Firehall,
Noble Street,
Mauricetown*

8:00am - 4:00pm

**Stop by the PPA
exhibit and check
out our Pinelands
resources, informa-
tion and gear!**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Pine Barrens Coalition

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New Jersey Academy of Aquatic Sciences

Carleton K. Montgomery
Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Pinelands Calendar of Events

December 2010 & January 2011

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.

Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR) (609) 812-0649, www.jcnerr.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. 10% discount on Pinelands Adventures programs to PPA members. Pre-registration required for all PPA programs.

Ocean County Parks (OCP), 1-877-OCPARKS ext. 5940, lobry@co.ocean.nj.us

Whitesbog Preservation Trust (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, December 5th

The Wharton Homes of the Gilded Age

1:00pm, Basto Visitors Center. Speaker: Bill Schaal, BCCI Chairman. "The Wharton Homes of the Gilded Age": Wealthy industrialists of the late nineteenth century created opulent homes and estates to reflect their power and position. Joseph Wharton remodeled the big house at the village of Batsto into the mansion we know today. Lesser known are two other estates he created around the same time. Ontalauna was the family's "headquarters" in suburban Philadelphia while Marbella, in Jamestown, Rhode Island provided a summertime retreat. These impressive homes will be discussed utilizing historic and present day photographs, as well as recollections of the Wharton Family. Tours will follow. Cost: \$10. Reservations: mail check made out to: BCCI, PO Box 93, Elwood, NJ 08217.; please print: Name Phone Number Email Your cancelled check is your receipt.

Presentations: Batsto Auditorium. More Information: Linda, 609-561-1665.

Albert Music Hall - Holiday Show

7:30-11:30pm. Albert Music Hall, 131 Wells Mill Road (Rt. 532), Waretown, NJ. Program features a live stage concert of bluegrass, country and traditional music by regional bands from the tri-state area. \$5/adults, free admission children 11 years old and under. Light refreshments and gift items may be purchased. Sponsored by Pinelands Cultural Society. More Information: 609 971-1593.

Saturday, December 11

Belleplain Beginners Hike

8-9 miles. This is a great hike at a moderate pace with a rich variety of habitats: Atlantic white cedar and mixed hardwood swamps, oak-hickory forest, old fields, freshwater lakes. Meet at Belleplain Main Office. Off of Route 550, between Woodbine and Belleplain Bring lunch and water. OCSJ.

Sunday, December 12

Cattus Island County Park Hike

4 or 7 miles, moderate pace. 10:30am. This park is a jewel of the Jersey shore with great views of the bay and surrounding wetlands. Four-mile loop before lunch and three after. Directions: Rt. 37 East. Three miles east of Parkway, turn left onto Rt. 627 (Vaughn Avenue). Then right on Bay Avenue, left on Fischer Boulevard and right on Cattus Island Boulevard. Then turn left into park. Drive in 0.5 mile and park in third lot. Leader: Bruce Steidel, 609-915-0956 bsteidel@aol.com. OCSJ.

Tuesday, December 14

Atsion to Batsto Hike

12 miles, moderate pace. Follow the Yellow Trail from Atsion to Batsto. Meet in the parking lot at Batsto for reverse shuttle to Atsion. Get in the miles you need and keep the holiday pounds off. Leaders: Toni, 609-652-0112 and Jan, 609-404-4990. OCSJ.

Saturday, December 18

Almost Full Cold Moon Hike

7 miles, moderate pace. Meet

7:30pm at Atsion. Neither the longest night nor the longest hike. Look for Jupiter and Saturn to be in full brilliance. Leaders: Dave and Julie Hegelein, 856-235-8792. OCSJ.

Wednesday, December 29

Apple Pie Hill Hike

8-9 miles, moderate pace (3mph). 10am. Hike the Batona Trail from/ to Carranza. Bring Lunch. Meet at the Carranza Memorial. Because of the school holiday children are welcome if they can handle the distance but will require a responsible adult member to keep control. Leashed pets ok. Leaders: Joe Hummel, 856-235-8817 and Bill Poulson, 856-983-7609. OCSJ.

Saturday, January 1, 2011

New Years Day Hike

6-7 miles, 10am. Moderate pace. Start the year right with a hike. Work off those holiday meals and cookies. Bring lunch and beverage. Meet at Atsion, in field next to the office. Leaders: Christine Denneler, 856-461-5379, Pat Burton, 856-767-8064. OCSJ.

Wednesday, January 19

Terrapins on Great Bay

7 - 8:00 pm. Great Bay Boulevard or Seven Bridges Road in Little Egg Harbor extends approximately 5 miles into estuarine emergent wetlands and prime Northern diamondback terrapin nesting habitat. In 2009, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ began a project to help reduce road kills along Great Bay Blvd. Discover terrapins, their threats, CWF's work, and the many challenges associated with the project. Speaker: Ben Wurst Register Via Phone by calling Melanie at (609)812-0649 X206. JCNERR.

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 mikh@pinelandsalliance.org. Next deadline: December 15, 2010

Go to the Events Calendar on PPA's website for a comprehensive listing of events.



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Bishop Farmstead
17 Pemberton Road
Southampton, NJ 08088

Address Service Requested

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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: _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

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 PPA window sticker
Discounts on PPA merchandise and events

A Sponsor will receive an *Exploring the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* map
A Patron will receive a copy of *The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural* DVD
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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www.facebook.com/Pinelands

Please Recycle this newsletter! When finished give it to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to learn about PPA's mission and programs.