



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

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Number 3

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Wed., February 23

Dinosaurs
in the Pines

7:00 - 8:30pm

Bishop Farmstead,
Pinelands
Preservation Alliance



Credit: PPA

A view of Barnegat Bay from Sedge Island, just off Island Beach State Park

New Protections for Barnegat Bay — Important for the Pinelands and Beyond

by Jaclyn Rhoads, Dir. for Conservation Policy

Barnegat Bay is well known for its shellfish industry and appeal to tourists, but what hasn't been well publicized until recently is the significant decline of shellfish populations and other fish communities which are directly related to a decline in water quality. After years of effort on the part of the conservation community and Barnegat Bay scientists, the Governor and New Jersey Legislature have recognized Barnegat Bay's problems and unveiled an array of new protections that, if properly crafted and implemented, can reverse the trend of degradation in the Bay and also improve water quality statewide.

Water quality degradation is a common trend where development occurs. Barnegat Bay (part of the Barnegat Bay-Little Egg Harbor Watershed) is suffering from eutrophication due to excess nitrogen. A study by the U.S. Geological Survey (2005) reports that the total amount of

nitrogen entering the estuary is increasingly due to nitrogen loads in surface and groundwater from the most heavily developed municipalities in the watershed.

About 33% of the Barnegat Bay-Little Egg Harbor watershed is subject to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The rest, where most of the development has occurred, is within the coastal management zone and is subject to the CAFRA rules or has no special controls on development at all. With this mix of overlapping jurisdictions and water quality problems, Barnegat Bay represents a great opportunity for a coherent watershed plan and management that could be replicated elsewhere.

Governor Christie's *10 Point Plan to Clean Up the Bay* is a good first step towards restoring the Bay by recognizing the Bay and its watershed as an integral whole, committing to funding the repair and

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John Stokes Retires from the Pinelands Commission



John Stokes has retired from the Pinelands Commission as of January 1, bringing an end to an era of Pinelands protection. Having worked for the Pinelands Commission for its entire existence, first as the head of planning and since 2003 as executive director of the agency, John played a central role in creating and implementing the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) during its first thirty years.

In thinking about what John and his colleagues accomplished, we have to recall that when the Pinelands Protection Act was signed by then-governor Brendan Byrne in 1979, there was no precedent in the United States to guide the creation of a large-scale growth management Plan that would meet the Act's environmental mandate. The challenges were enormous – ranging from the sheer size and complexity of the working landscape that makes up the Pinelands, to vigorous and widespread opposition to the whole Pinelands project among many politicians and landowners.

The success of their creation is extraordinary. The Plan has survived and in many ways grown stronger. More important, it has worked surprisingly well. The passage of time, the accumulation of more scientific knowledge, and the buffeting it has taken from some politicians and developers have exposed weaknesses in the CMP. But the big picture the Plan aimed at preserving is largely intact: hundreds of thousands of acres of forest in America's most crowded state, populations of rare wildlife and plants secure in their Pine Barrens havens, a highly successful agricultural industry, and communities that are economically healthier than their non-Pinelands neighbors.

During his tenure as executive director, John has faced major obstacles. Most prominent among these are repeated

budget cuts, which have reduced the Commission staff to a bare bones crew; the failure of governors to nominate and obtain confirmation of a complete slate of strong Commissioners to serve the Pinelands; and resistance from governors and some municipal officials to bold reforms that are needed to ensure the long-term success of the Pinelands Plan.

PPA has had plenty of run-ins and disagreements with John Stokes over the years – such as our opposition to the series of Stafford Business Park deals – but John has always respected our views and worked with us on many projects for the good of the Pines. And nothing can take away the fundamental achievement in which John has been a critical player. We congratulate John Stokes on a truly remarkable career of public service.

We really are seeing a gradual change in leadership at the Pinelands Commission. The original Pinelands Commission team included remarkable people like Terry Moore (the Commission's first executive director), Bill Harrison (another original who headed up the permitting side of the agency and was acting executive director for a time), and Robert Zampella (chief scientist at the Commission until 2009), as well as key Commissioners like Frank Parker (the first chair of the Commission) and Candace Ashmun. Of these, only Candy Ashmun is still serving after all these years, now as acting chair of the Commission.

The Commission's new executive director is Nancy Wittenberg. We will tell you more about her in a coming newsletter. Ms. Wittenberg now faces the same budget, appointments, and political challenges that John Stokes has seen in recent years. PPA is optimistic that – with the help of the conservation public and PPA – she will find great success in protecting our region's unique natural heritage in the years to come.

New PPA Staff Member: Amy Karpati



I am very excited to begin working with PPA as the new Director for Conservation Science. When I first began studying ecology as an undergraduate student at Rutgers University, the Pinelands was always one of my favorite places to visit to learn about its ecology. It is difficult not to be impressed by the Pinelands plants and wildlife as perfect examples of natural history shaping the biological community. The carnivorous plants in the Atlantic white cedar bogs, the Pine Barrens tree frog, the fire-adapted pygmy pine plains – all of these offer unique and interesting ecological stories.

Having recently completed the doctoral program in Ecology & Evolution at Rutgers University, my research interests have spanned plant ecology, fungal ecology, restoration ecology, urban ecology, and invasive species ecology. My independent research explored how mycorrhizal fungi – a particular group of fungi which form symbiotic relationships with

90% of terrestrial plants – are impacted by land disturbance and urbanization. Having studied both natural and urban areas, I've seen how failure to consider the continued functioning of natural systems during urban development results in negative biological impacts within these systems. Given the rapid expansion of urban and suburban land use at the expense of forests, wetlands and grasslands, preservation of proper ecosystem structure and function must be addressed.

The value of the Pinelands is exceptional and its conservation is critical. Through working with PPA, I hope to learn the ecology of the Pinelands inside-out, teach others about its interesting species and their stories, encourage collaboration among others in the local scientific community, and contribute to the advocacy that is so important in conserving our area's biological integrity. Preserving our landbase through conservation and carefully planned land use is of top priority if we are to regain balance with the natural world. I look forward to the many opportunities ahead!

Earth Day Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30
11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

*****Special Member's Only
Preview Sale*****

Friday, April 29, 3 - 6pm

**Must be a current member
(or become a member
that day) to attend!**

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

**Gardening Lectures and Tours of
the Historic House and Barn**

Proceeds of the native plant sale
go towards furthering PPA's
mission to protect and preserve
the Pinelands.

Dinosaurs in the Pines

February 23, 7:00pm
at PPA's
Bishop Farmstead

Dr. William B. Gallagher, author of *When Dinosaurs Roamed New Jersey*, will present a program about dinosaurs in the Pine Barrens from 7:00 - 8:30pm.

Dr. Gallagher will also be available from 6:15 pm to discuss and sign copies of his book, which will be for sale.

The event is FREE,
but registration is required.

To register, contact Tom
at (609) 859-8860 x14 or
tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org

Pinelands Commission Silences Public

by Theresa Lettman, Director for Monitoring Programs

For the past thirty years, when public development projects or waiver applications came before the Pinelands Commissioners at a meeting, PPA, citizens, scientists and non-profit organizations routinely presented information for the Commissioners to consider before they voted. In April 2010, the Pinelands Commission suddenly reversed 30 years of practice and re-interpreted its rules to bar public comment on public development projects at Commission meetings. This new approach is the latest in a string of actions that have limited public participation in the Commission's work.



Public comment at Pinelands Commission meeting

The Commissioners initially pushed back and requested that rules and practices be changed to ensure that the public can review and comment effectively on development projects before they vote. They have had seven months to take action – yet nothing has happened.

Public comment is a bedrock principle of any government process, and is something that PPA takes very seriously. As it stands now, if you wish to provide testimony to the Pinelands Commissioners directly in sup-

port of, or against, a public development project pending before the Pinelands Commission, you will not be allowed to do so!

The only means the Commission is now allowing for public comment on these developments is in writing to the Commission staff within ten (10) days (not business days, just days) of the applicant providing notice in the papers of its complete application. Not only is this incredibly restricted schedule unworkable in practice, it also does not permit the public to comment directly to the people taking the vote – the Pinelands Commissioners themselves.

This reversal of 30 years of practice represents an aggressive re-interpretation of the rules in order to stifle public comment. The Pinelands National Reserve was created because the public demanded it. The public must have a voice when debating how it is protected or developed.

PPA is pushing the Commission to fix this situation and restore public comment at Pinelands Commission meetings on these development applications. Readers can support this effort by contacting the Pinelands Commission and letting them know you want public comment restored. For more information on how to contact the Commission, please call PPA, contact Theresa by email at theresa@pinelandsalliance.org, or go to our web site at www.pinelandsalliance.org and select "Contact the Pinelands Commission – Let Your Voice Be Heard."

EARTH SHARE CELEBRATES NEW JERSEY

Friday, April 1

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Laurita Winery, New Egypt

Enjoy wine tasting, delicious food, jazz music and the gorgeous setting of Laurita Winery.

Earth Share raises money for organizations like PPA through workplace giving programs.

For more information about this local winery, visit www.lauritawinery.com

Tickets are \$45/person in advance and \$55/person at the door. Purchase tickets by contacting Earth Share New Jersey at (609) 989-1160 or visit their website at www.earthsharenj.org

6TH ANNUAL LINES ON THE PINES

Sunday, March 13, 1 - 4 pm

Frog Rock Golf & Country Club, Hammonton

Annual gathering of Pine Barrens authors, artists, photographers, historians and archeologists, craftsmen, musicians, historical and environmental groups. FREE.

Contact: linesonthepines@comcast.net or (609) 561-1665

New Protections for Barnegat Bay

continued from cover page

retrofit of failing stormwater systems, and committing to funding land acquisition and planning work. But the plan still leaves critical questions unanswered.

Some of PPA's concerns with Gov. Christie's plan include: 1) not directly addressing the need to stop developing natural areas in the watershed; 2) not specifying the features of a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) that DEP is supposed to create for the watershed; 3) not committing to the creation of a numerical standard for total maximum daily load (TMDL) of nutrients; 4) not requiring the installation of cooling towers at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station before the closure in 2019; 5) not referencing Low Impact Development (LID) techniques as a tool to design developments; and 6) encouraging more research without identifying funding. All of these issues will have to be addressed if the Plan is to succeed.

Additional protections are already in motion through the passage of a number of bills through the Legislature. The major advocates for these bills, Senator Smith and Assemblyman McKeon, crafted a package of bills to address many of the problems facing Barnegat Bay.

The three bills below have been signed by Governor Christie:

- S2554/A2990 – Establishes standards for certain fertilizer applications, requires certification of professional fertilizer applicators, and regulates labeling and sale of certain fertilizers. This statewide fertilizer legislation is the first in the United States. It essentially limits times of fertilizer application by homeowners and professionals, requires certification of professional fertilizer applicators, and requires 20% slow release nitrogen in all fertilizers sold by retailers, which will limit the amount that enters waterways from runoff.

- S1410/A2501 – Requires the State Soil Conservation

Committee to adopt standards for soil restoration. The intent of this legislation is to restore soils that have become compacted during development activities, since these soils do not allow much water to be absorbed and increases the amount of surface runoff.

- S2275/A3606 – Requires DOT to study stormwater basins in Barnegat Bay watershed; requires DOT and NJ Turnpike Authority to include repairs of stormwater basins in capital project plans. Many stormwater basins are simply not working. These basins are essential to capturing stormwater and infiltrating that water back into the ground. The repair of these basins is another piece to the puzzle in solving Barnegat Bay's problems.

A fourth bill has been passed by the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature:

- S2341/A3415 – Requires, after study, DEP to adopt total maximum daily loads (TMDL) for Barnegat Bay ecosystem, and requires DEP to adopt nutrient standards for NJ marine waters. This law is critical to the Bay for two reasons: 1) it directs DEP to use existing mechanisms and best management practices during the study and development of the TMDL, and 2) the TMDL will include an implementation plan describing demonstrable reduction measures and a schedule with annual benchmarks to ensure implementation.

Governor Christie's strategy for restoring the Bay and legislation passed by the New Jersey Legislature will hopefully have implications elsewhere with respect to preventing and reversing the effects of excessive nutrient inputs on other interior and coastal areas of the Pinelands, Cape May Peninsula and Delaware Bayshore.

PPA will continue to work with the conservation community to ensure the proposed protections become real forces in restoring and protecting the Bay. More information can be found at PPA's website under **Barnegat Bay**.

The Lure of the Land Photography Exhibit Opening

Sunday, February 13,
1:00 - 3:00pm

Join us at PPA for the exhibit opening of **The Lure of the Land: A photographic journey through the Pine Barrens**, New Jersey's diverse wilderness of culture and ecology. The work of photographer Chase Schiefer can be viewed here:

<http://www.fluidr.com/photos/bachmansivory>

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Mr. Schiefer's work will be donated to PPA.



Musical entertainment for the afternoon will be courtesy of the "old-timey" band **Piney Hollow Drifters**, who will also be selling copies of their latest CD.

And we'll also be collecting any **PPA Wish List** items that you might wish to donate in the new year (see list on PPA's website under "Support PPA: Other Ways to Support" or call Mike at (609) 859-8860 x11 with any questions before bringing an item)

REI and the Watershed Institute Help Protect the Black Run Preserve

by Becky Free, Director of Philanthropy

PPA has been working with local teachers, students and residents in Evesham Township to engage the community in the preservation and enjoyment of the municipally-owned Black Run Preserve. A growing suburban town, Evesham covers 30 square miles, has a population of about 42,000, and has seen the creation of extensive commercial and office development, mostly in the northern half of the municipality. Like many towns in this region, Evesham is partially within, and partially outside, the boundary of the Pinelands National Reserve. The southern third of the town is characterized by Pine Barrens ecosystem.

The Black Run Preserve is 1,300 acres and is named after the stream running through it. It has a wonderful array of characteristic Pine Barrens plant and animal populations, sand roads and trails, and a variety of wetlands and upland habitats. The Preserve has suffered abuse by irresponsible off-road vehicle activities and dumping, and has many areas in need of restoration. Additionally, the headwaters of the stream system are located on privately owned land that could be developed. This would degrade the stream's water quality and lead to the introduction of non-native plant and animal species.

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) provided a grant to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance in 2009 that allowed us to initiate a teacher training program and work with Evesham students to bring residents into the Preserve and to get them involved in stewardship of

this extraordinary resource. The staff at the REI Store in Marlton were essential to making this project happen.

In 2010 PPA was able to grow our efforts in Evesham Township thanks to renewed and increased support from REI and a grant from The Watershed Institute. The Watershed Institute provides New Jersey's watershed groups with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to be strong and sustainable organizations protecting their local environments, and to foster a unified watershed movement to ensure clean water and healthy habitats throughout the state. The Watershed Institute is a program of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association.

For more information about PPA's work in Evesham Township please contact Mike Hunninghake at mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org or by calling (609) 859-8860 x24. If you are at the REI store in Marlton please thank them for helping support protection of the Black Run Preserve!

PINELANDS COMMISSION MEETINGS

Thurs., Feb. 10, 9:30am

Friday, March 11, 9:30am

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**CALL (609) 894-7300
FOR DETAILS**

22ND ANNUAL PINELANDS SHORT COURSE

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

**BURLINGTON
COUNTY COLLEGE,
PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP**

Courses, field trips,
exhibits, music
and more!

For more information:
Ph: (609) 894-7300

Email:
info@njpines.state.nj.us

Forked River Mountain Cleanup

Sunday, April 17

The Forked River Mountain coalition, in cooperation with the Ocean County Parks Department and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, will conduct a cleanup of the Forked River Mountain area for Earth Day, Sunday April 17, 2011. For more information or to pre-register call (609) 971-1635 or visit www.frmc.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Pine Barrens Coalition

Angela Wenger
New Jersey Academy of Aquatic Sciences

Carleton K. Montgomery
Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Pinelands Calendar of Events

February & March 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

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.

Saturday, February 5

Whitesbog Village Winter Hike

10am. 4-5 miles. Easy pace. Whitesbog is a NJ historic site and was a village built to house workers in the local cranberry bogs. Every year the bogs and ponds in the region near Whitesbog are home to a wintering population of Tundra swans and perhaps we will see them as we hike around the bogs. Directions www.whitesbog.org Bring beverage and lunch. Sponsored by the Sierra Club - West Jersey Group. More Information: Leona, 609-259-3734

Sunday, February 6

Albert Music Hall - 34th Ocean County Bluegrass Festival

Noon - 5:00pm. Albert Music Hall, 131 Wells Mill Road (Rt. 532), Waretown. Program features a live stage concert of bluegrass music. Be prepared to be entertained Pinelands style while listening to eight leading regional bluegrass bands from the tri-state area. \$8/adults, \$1/children 11 years old and under. Light refreshments and gift items may be purchased. No alcoholic beverages permitted. 609-971-1593. Sponsored by the Pinelands Cultural Society.

Thursday, February 10

Ask Not What a Bee Can Do for You; Ask What You Can Do for a Bee!

2pm. Jennifer Bulava, Park Naturalist for the Burlington County Park System, will talk about the important roles of honey bees and other beneficial insects in our yards and garden Medford Leas, One Medford Leas Way, Medford. Contact 609-654-3045 for info.

Saturday, February 19

Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River

9am. We're paddling 9 miles from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Meet at Georgie's Grill, Rt 54, Hammonton. Arrive early for breakfast!! Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Sponsored by the Sierra Club - West Jersey Chapter. More information: Leona, 609-259-3734

Wednesday, February 23

Hike at Jakes Branch County Park

10am. 4 miles, easy pace. Jakes Branch is the newest addition to the Ocean County Parks System. There is a nature center with interesting displays and an observation deck that offers breathtaking views of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble RD, Beechwood. Leona 609-259-3734

Saturday, March 5

Franklin Parker Preserve Field Trip

9am. Visit Franklin Parker Preserve for a day in the Pinelands with Lloyd Shaw and search for Tundra Swans, passerines, and a touch of botany. This is a joint trip with SHBO. Cost: Members \$15; Nonmembers \$20. Bring binoculars and/or scopes, lunch (if desired), and dress appropriately for the weather. Call to reserve space. 609.261-2495. Sponsored by the NJ Audubon Society.

Sunday, March 6

Canoe/Kayak the Oswego River

10am. A 7-mile paddle on the "Jewel of the Pinelands". Meet at Lake Oswego. Experienced winter Pines paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participa-

tion. Sponsored by the Sierra Club - West Jersey Group More Information: Leona, 609-259-3734

Saturday, March 12

Rain Barrel Building Workshop

10am - 2pm. PPA, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton. Learn how to build your own rain barrel. More Information: Caroline | 609 859-8860 x56

Sunday, March 13

6th Annual Lines on the Pines

Frog Rock Golf & Country Club, Hammonton.. 1-4pm. Annual event of Pinelands authors and artists. More Information: Contact Linda Stanton 609-561-1665, linesonthepines@comcast.net

Saturday, March 19

NJ Land Conservation Rally

8:00am - 5:00pm. Brookdale Community College Lincroft, Monmouth County. The annual Rally is one of the nation's largest statewide conservation training events. The Rally is a daylong educational event offering more than 30 workshops, plenary sessions, and networking. Information: 908-234-1225. NJ Conservation Foundation.

Monday, March 28

Constable Bridge Hike

10am. 5 miles, moderate pace. Meet at Batsto parking lot. Rain and bad weather cancels. Leader, Rose Barranger, 856-589-6807.

Upcoming Event:

Sunday, April 17

Forked River Mountain Cleanup

The Forked River Mountain coalition, in cooperation with the Ocean County Parks Department and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, will conduct a cleanup of the Forked River Mountain area for Earth Day. For more information or to register contact 609 971-1635.

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 miked@pinelandsalliance.org. Next deadline: February 15, 2011

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit #12
Vincentown, NJ 08088

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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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