



PINELANDS  
PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE

June/July 2012

Volume 19

Number 5

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### PPA's Summer Field Ecology Experience for High School Students

July 23-27, 2012

Explore ecology and  
conservation science  
with emphasis placed on  
citizen science projects,  
Pine Barrens ecology,  
and scientific analysis of  
field data.

See page 6 for details

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# INSIDE THE PINELANDS

Credit: Tom Dunn



*Tidal marsh near Cattus Island, Barnegat Bay*

## Declare Barnegat Bay as Impaired

by *William deCamp Jr., president of Save Barnegat Bay*

*Reprinted courtesy of the Asbury Park Press*

*Most of Barnegat Bay and its watershed are within the Pinelands National Reserve. PPA has been working with other advocates to press the governor and state agencies to address the steep decline in the Bay's ecology due to the impacts of over-development of the Bay's watershed. In this article, Willie DeCamp, President of Save Barnegat Bay and a long-time ally, explains why the state needs to designate the Bay as "impaired" due to excess nutrients flowing from developed land in the watershed.*

The fate of Barnegat Bay may be swayed by a concept that is obvious to New Jersey's citizens but opaque to its leaders: Barnegat Bay, formerly a natural resource teeming with life, is today "impaired."

To the swimmer, the fisherman, the boater and the homeowner, impairment is a simple concept readily perceived. Children come running out of the water crying from contact with stinging sea nettles. Fishermen are told at bait shops that they must travel far to find good fishing.

Boaters see the ubiquitous jellyfish that are replacing the finfish that were formerly abundant. Lagoon homeowners see masses of algae floating next to what they had thought was their dream home.

Empty seine nets leave waders with a wistful longing for the cornucopia of days gone by.

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# PPA Programs in July: History, Film and Adventures

## Saturday, July 7 *A Visit to Chatsworth* (Pinelands Heritage Series)

**Time:** 9 am - 12:30 pm

**Location:** Chatsworth

**Description:** Noted historian Ted Gordon will conduct a walking and car caravan tour of Chatsworth and environs to focus on the late 1800s/early 1900s when nobility in the form of Prince Mario Ruspoli of Italy "reigned" in these parts of the Pines. We will visit the White Horse Inn, the Methodist Episcopal Church and see the exterior of the old railroad station. We'll make a brief stop at the site of the Chatsworth Inn and the Prince's Cottage, and then head to Apple Pie Hill fire tower for a magnificent view of the surrounding forest and learn its fascinating history.

**Cost:** \$15

## Friday, July 13 *Movies Under the Stars at PPA*

**Time:** TBA

**Description:** Come join PPA for fun family nights as we show a select environmental/nature film outside and under the stars. Chirping crickets and shooting stars will serve as our backdrop. Popcorn and refreshments provided. Please bring your own chair. FREE. Donations welcome. *In the event of rain, the movie will be screened indoors.*

## Thursday, July 19 *Stream Exploration Workshop*

**Time:** 9:30 am - Noon

**Description:** Join us for a family-friendly

morning as we explore either a Rancocas Creek or Barnegat Bay Watershed stream or lake and investigate the web of life of the aquatic environment. We will look at fish, creatures that live on the bottom, vegetation and water quality using a variety of tools such as nets and water quality meters. Bring old sneakers for wading, dry shoes to change into, and a sense of wonder.

**Cost:** \$10

## Saturday, July 21 *Canoeing the Batsto River* (Pinelands Adventures)

**Location:** the beautiful Batsto River

**Description:** A day-long naturalist tour of the beautiful and historic Batsto River. Foliage and wildlife make this an exhilarating and memorable experience. Dr. Amy Karpati, PPA's Director for Conservation Science, will serve as your guide as you explore a characteristic Pine Barrens wetland savannah along the river - home to several rare plant species.

We'll stop for a brown bag lunch along the way. Bring plenty of water and be sure that any cell phones, cameras, and other important items are secured in waterproof containers (plastic bags and tupperware will not work!).

**Tour Leader:** Dr. Amy Karpati, Director for Conservation Science, PPA

**Cost:** \$15, plus approx. \$40 canoe rental



# Working the Bay: Dale Parsons Jr.

by Angela C. Andersen, Science Co-Chair, Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences

At the helm of a 100-year-old family business nestled in the heart of the historic seaport town of Tuckerton, NJ, Dale Stewart Parsons, 35, devotes his life each day to sustaining an industry steeped in tradition along the Jersey shore – shellfish harvesting. He dedicates his 18-hour days, 365 days a year, to rebuilding what was once a thriving industry in southern New Jersey – baymen harvesting bumper shellfish crops from the Little Egg Harbor bay and surrounding areas. What used to be harvesting the clams which nature provided has now changed to the work Dale does each day: aquaculture – hatching, planting, and harvesting shellfish crops in underwater bay clam lots.



Dale Parsons Jr., working the Bay

For the Parsons family business, the early 1940's were the years when the bay yielded its most generous supply of clams, before aquaculture was necessary. Dale's great grandfather, E. Walter Parsons Jr., operated the original "clam house" – a modest building at the waterline on Tuckerton Creek, where baymen

could unload their heavily burdened boats of the clams that Parsons sold to major fish markets and restaurants from New York to Philadelphia. The original structure was constructed in 1935, and today leans toward the creek tideline, 100-yards from the Parsons Seafood business storefront on Tuckerton's South Green Street.

When the bay delivered up its bounty in the 40s, Dale's grandfather supplied Campbell's Soup Company in Camden with clams for those ubiquitous red and white cans of soup that made Campbell a household name. Each day Parsons shipped fully loaded trucks to Campbell's, around 9 million clams per year. As the bay's supply of clams began to diminish and baymen slowly abandoned the bay for other work, the family business grew from dealing with strictly shellfish to opening a retail fish market that offers various seafood. Today Dale's father operates the seafood market on South Green Street, within sight of the original clam house.

The family heritage of making a living from the bounty of the bay actually started with Dale's great-great grandfather, Daniel Mathis. He originally operated a shellfish business in Tuckerton. When E. Walter Parsons married Daniel's daughter, Sara Mathis, he took over the shellfish business from his father-in-law. Dale Stewart Parsons is the fifth generation in his family to sustain the family business. And Dale is instrumental in reviving the shellfish industry not only for his family, but for all baymen in the region. His aquaculture work

produces vast quantities of oyster and clam seed that are planted and then harvested by growers along the New Jersey coast. He is dedicating his life to reviving the region's heritage of making a living from the bay.

Over 80 percent of the shellfish that the Parsons business produces today are farmed through aquaculture. What this means is that specific oysters or clams are selected for their ideal traits and then spawned in the hatchery among ideal conditions. The microscopic shellfish are then meticulously cultivated in giant tanks, fed specialized strains of algae, and allowed to grow free from the threat of predation. Most survive. When they reach the appropriate size, they are transferred to "raceways" which look like tilted bowling alleys that receive a steady wash of nourishing bay water. When the clams or oysters are the ideal size, they are transferred to underwater lots in the bay.

Much of what Parsons produces is oyster seed for shellfish growers in the southern part of New Jersey. "We are adding raceways to meet that increased demand." Right now there are over 100 raceways, each 24' x 35' long at his hatchery. Over 6,000 gallons of water a minute is pumped through the raceways. "Bay water comes in and a minute later is back in the bay," Parsons says.

Dale feels strongly that the bay has "miles of potential" for a turnaround of the New Jersey shellfish industry.

*continued on page 4*

# Working the Bay

*continued from page 3*

He has hope for the survival of his industry, but is dismayed by policies that restrict what he thinks could really help the bay. "The issues with the bay are financial, not biological," he says. "There seems to be more money made exploiting the bay than embracing it."

Parsons is referring to certain state regulations that restrict what he feels would be great progress in reintroducing the oyster industry. He proposed an oyster production operation on his beds in Tuckerton Bay, but says there are restrictions on the dredge harvest in that area. "To make it successful and avoid any survival issues with the species, you need to move volumes quickly." He argues that harvesting by hand, which means using long handle rakes to scrape up the harvest, would not be an option. The benefit to the bay of a strong oyster production would be the bed of shells that the oystering would deposit on the bay floor. It would have the same beneficial effect as eelgrass, Parsons says.

Flow is another big issue for Parsons. "My grandfather, my father, and I have compared the change in the flow of water and silt in the (Tuckerton) bay. We grew up on this bay and look at it every day," he says. "When my dad was a kid, after a dig across the bottom with a rake, the plume would run; today it settles to the bottom."

Known as Clamtown prior to the Revolutionary War, Tuckerton has historically been a central hub for clam production in New Jersey. It was designated as one of the first

ports of entry in 1791 by George Washington. Generations of clambers have come and gone through the years, and few have persevered and helped to sustain the heritage of the bay like the five generations of the Parsons family.

A landmark in Tuckerton that attracts visitors, particularly during the summer and fall, the Tuckerton Seaport features an exact replica of the original Parsons clamhouse. The Seaport memorializes and pays tribute to the New Jersey baymen's heritage, and the Parsons family is a central figure in that ongoing legacy.

To learn more, visit Tuckerton Seaport, located at 120 West Main Street in Tuckerton. Ph: 609-296-8868

Or go to the website:  
[www.tuckertonseaport.org](http://www.tuckertonseaport.org)

## Coming Soon!

### 6th Annual State of the Pinelands Report

The report details how the specific actions of government agencies and appointed & elected officials either helped or harmed the Pinelands during the previous year, including the Pinelands Commission, NJ DEP, NJ State Legislature, Governor, mayors, township councils, federal representatives and actions by the courts.

The report is released each year to coincide with the anniversary of the signing of the Pinelands Protection Act on June 28, 1979.

## FAIRS & FESTIVALS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

### WHITESBOG BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

*Historic Whitesbog Village,  
Browns Mills,*

*10:00 am - 4:00 pm*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24**

### BURLINGTON COUNTY EARTH FAIR

*Smithville Park,  
Eastampton,*

*10:30 am - 4:00 pm*

**WED., JULY 18 - SAT.,  
JULY 21**

### BURLINGTON COUNTY FARM FAIR

*Burlington County  
Fairgrounds, Springfield  
Twp.,*

*10:00 am - 11:00 pm*

**Stop by the PPA table  
and check out our selection  
of books, DVDs,  
clothing, and gift items!**

Or go to

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to browse our online store

# Declare Barnegat Bay as Impaired

*continued from cover*

To the common sense of the citizen, Barnegat Bay is unquestionably impaired, or, as the dictionary says, "diminished in ability, value, or excellence; weakened or damaged."

But what is as clear as an empty swimming beach to New Jersey's residents and vacationers seems incomprehensible to the public officials of our state.

"Impairment" is a term that has carried legal consequences under America's Clean Water Act since the 1980s. Under that act, the state Department of Environmental Protection has been required to take action to declare Barnegat Bay's impairment and to set strict quantitative standards for reversing it.

Had the DEP respected this legal requirement, some combination of steps such as refraining from extending sewer lines into pristine areas, creating larger protective buffers for creeks and streams, lowering zoning densities and remediating storm water systems would have to be undertaken against measured quantitative standards.

Scientists have known since the 1960s that excessive plant food in the form of nitrogen is the greatest problem plaguing coastal water bodies throughout the United States, including Barnegat Bay. Scientists from Rutgers, Princeton and Woods Hole have confirmed this fact repeatedly.

Nitrogen from air pollution and fertilizer lands on our roofs, our pavement and our lawns to run off into Barnegat Bay without ever encoun-

tering vegetated areas where terrestrial plants can remove it. Instead, it is sluiced into Barnegat Bay to become harmful algae food.

A part of Barnegat Bay's tragedy is that the scientists and those employing them at the DEP are unwilling to accept what residents have long seen and what scientists within the academy have long unanimously affirmed: Barnegat Bay is impaired by excessive loads of nitrogen.

Scientists in general often fail to understand that the "proof beyond a reasonable doubt" mentality that is the definition of excellence in a scientific study is far different from the precautionary prudence by which sound public policy is created.

Scientists may be susceptible to the flaw of studying a problem until it is too late to solve it.

Another all-too-human possibility is that the department's scientists may be consciously or unconsciously unwilling to inform their superiors of facts they do not want to hear.

If New Jersey were to declare Barnegat Bay impaired, public officials would have to face an unavoidable fact of life: Barnegat Bay can never be saved if imprudent development is not restrained.

Toms River and Lakewood are already the eighth- and seventh-largest municipalities in New Jersey, respectively. They have plans to expand. The science is clear. If Ocean County continues to be

among the fastest growing counties in the nation, Barnegat Bay will be devastated.

In a world in which developers hold much political power through the mechanism of lax or non-existent campaign finance laws, it will take moral courage by governors, legislators, county party chairmen and freeholders to say "no" to developers as a necessary requirement for allowing our state's largest water body, Barnegat Bay, to survive.

Similar courage must be found or instilled within the scientists at the DEP, who know full well that excess nitrogen is gravely damaging Barnegat Bay.

The department's frequent excuse that excessive nitrogen "may only be one of Barnegat Bay's many problems" is unconscionably dilatory.

## PINELANDS COMMISSION MEETINGS

Fri., June 8, 9:30 am

Fri., June 13, 9:30 am

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CALL (609) 894-7300

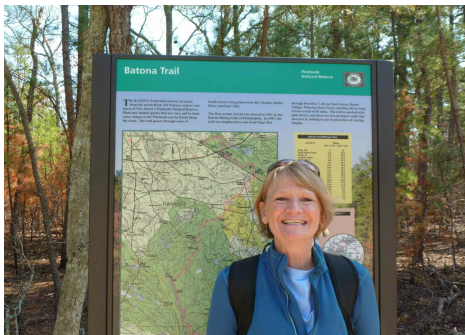
FOR DETAILS

# An Adventurer Looks at 60

by Patt Osborne

*PPA member Patt Osborne is hiking the Batona Trail in the Pinelands to celebrate her 60th birthday. Patt shares her motivation for embarking on this adventure below. We hope it inspires you to design your own Pinelands adventure!*

I'm turning 60 this year, which totally blows my mind since I feel like 35 or 40. I'm big on birthday celebrations, both for myself and for my family. That's all thanks to a great upbringing where my parents made a big deal every year over my sister's and my birthdays. And so the tradition continues.



*Patt Osborne, on her first leg of the Batona Trail*

Decade birthdays are an even bigger deal! I like to turn each of my own decade birthdays into a year-long celebration; starting off with a big challenging adventure. When I turned 30, it was sky diving. 40 was bungee-jumping. 50 was a week-long solitary getaway to the San Juan Islands and Olympic National Park in Washington State.

As my 60th looms closer, I've landed on an adventure that

totally excites and energizes me. I decided to hike the 50-mile Batona Trail that winds through the beautiful NJ Pine Barrens where I live. Initially I was going to do this over one long weekend but I did not feel like schlepping food, my sleeping bag and tent, and the other necessary gear. I just want to enjoy the serenity of the woods. So I decided to do it in 5 different legs of about 10 miles each.

My favorite hiking partner (my husband Robert) and I completed the first leg in March starting at the Northern terminus of the trail and it was AWESOME! We had most of the trail to ourselves on a sunny day so it was quiet and serene. We ended at Pakim Pond and had lunch and celebrated our journey. At the end of that first day, I knew that I picked the perfect adventure to celebrate my 60 years on this planet. On future legs, I look forward to being joined by various friends and family members to make the journey all the more memorable and meaningful.

*Patt Osborne spent 25 years as a third grade teacher and after retiring became a Certified Life & Adventure Coach and Adventure Retreat Leader, leading outings in the Pine Barrens and Jersey Shore. Check out [www.adventurecoach.com](http://www.adventurecoach.com) for more information.*

## Summer Field Ecology Experience for High School Students

July 23 - 27

8am - 4pm daily

Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the NJ Pine Barrens

The course will allow students to explore ecology and conservation science with emphasis placed on citizen science projects, Pine Barrens Ecology, and scientific analysis of field data. Each day will focus on a specific topic and field experience. Students will collect and analyze data from sites throughout the Pine Barrens and Coastal region. Based out of Pinelands Preservation Alliance, participants will not only conduct their own hands-on investigations, but will also have the opportunity to meet with and explore the research projects of professional scientists working in the area.

**Cost: \$375** (includes lunch daily, field notebook, Field Guide to the Pine Barrens, and transportation)

**\$100 non-refundable registration deposit required.**  
Balance due by July 1.

**Registration Deadline: July 1**

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## Pinelands Calendar of Events

### June & July 2012

#### Sunday, June 17

##### **Canoe/Kayak Cedar Creek on Father's Day (Ocean Co)**

9 am. Sarah Summerville, director of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, will join us on this trip and teach us about NJ's beloved beavers. We're paddling 7 miles from Ore Pond to Dudley Park. Meet at Double Trouble Park Headquarters. Boats can be rented from Cedar Creek Campgrounds [www.cedarcreeknj.com/](http://www.cedarcreeknj.com/) or 732-269-1413. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com) Sponsored by the Sierra Club - West Jersey Group. More Information: 609-259-3734

##### **Butterflies and Other Bugs**

1:30 pm. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford

As we approach summer, a lot of our insect residents are out in number. The colorful butterflies, buzzing bees and fast flying dragonflies can be found all around. We'll take a hike along the refuge trails and explore the diversity of the insects in the pines. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child (age 4 and up), children under 4 and members free. More Information: Erin, 856-983-3329 x103

#### Thursday, June 21

##### **Canoe/Kayak the Mullica River on the Summer Solstice (Burlington Co)**

9 am. June is a beautiful time of year on the Mullica to enjoy the aquatic flowering plants of the NJ Pinelands. This is a 12-mile trip for experienced Pines paddlers; expect downfalls and portages. Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. Rentals are not available. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com) Sponsored by Sierra Club - West Jersey Chapter. More Information: 609-259-3734

#### Thursday, June 28

##### **Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co)**

9 am. Enjoy a 10-mile summer paddle on the "egg" from Penny Pot to Weymouth Furnace. Rentals are available from Palace Restaurant and Outfitters 609-625-8552 or [www.thepalaceoutfitters.com](http://www.thepalaceoutfitters.com) Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or [leona@pineypaddlers.com](mailto:leona@pineypaddlers.com)

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

#### Friday, July 6

##### **6th Annual Barnegat Bay Day and Go-Green Expo**

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Bring the whole family to the LBIF, where you can learn about conservation and the environment. Kids can participate in hands-on activities that include all of the LBIF's resources, from a rain garden and terrapin hatchery to solar panels and a wetlands walk. Meanwhile, adults can discuss energy-saving tips, organic garden techniques, and more with local business owners and non-profit organizations. FREE.

#### Saturday, July 14

##### **Blueberry Pickin' at the Franklin Parker Preserve**

9am - 11 am, Chatsworth

The Franklin Parker Preserve, NJ Conservation Foundation's largest preserve, is known mostly for its history of cranberry cultivation, but there are also some huge, previously cultivated blueberry fields. Many of these areas continue to produce big, delicious blueberries! Come out for an "all you can pick" experience. Meet at the North Gate (Lake Entrance). We will carpool and caravan from there. Bring plenty of beverages. Trip leader: Russell Juelg, Land Steward. \$5 per person to be paid in advance through [carol@njconservation.org](mailto:carol@njconservation.org). More Information: 908-234-1225.

#### Sunday, July 15

##### **Wild Edibles at Cedar Run**

1:30pm. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Rd., Medford

Blueberries aren't the only edible plants found along our trail. Join our naturalist and we'll take a look at the wide variety of edibles found at Cedar Run. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child (age 4 and up), children under 4 and members free. Contact: 856-983-3329 x103

*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](mailto:mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org). Next deadline: July 1, 2012.*

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

**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.**

**Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)** 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton. (609) 859-8860. [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org). 10% discount to PPA members. Pre-registration required for all PPA programs.

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

**Outdoor Club of South Jersey (OCSJ)**, [www.ocsj.org](http://www.ocsj.org)

**Sierra Club-West Jersey Chapter (SC)**, <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzjev1ujt/>

**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](http://www.whitesbog.org).

**Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (WCR)**, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055, (856) 983 3329

**Ongoing: Every Saturday in June and July at Belleplain State Forest**

*The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural* (a film by Pinelands Preservation Alliance) 2pm. FREE.. Belleplain State Forest, Conference Room. ½ hour DVD presentation; ADA accessible. More Information: (609) 861-2404.

#### Saturday, June 16

##### **Stream Exploration Workshop**

9:30 am - Noon

Join us for a family-friendly morning as we explore either a Rancocas Creek or Barnegat Bay Watershed stream or lake and investigate the web of life of the aquatic environment. We will look at fish, creatures that live on the bottom, vegetation and water quality using a variety of tools such as nets and water quality meters. Bring old sneakers for wading, dry shoes to change into, and a sense of wonder. Cost: \$10. Register online or call 609 859-8860 x14 or email [tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:tomdunn@pinelandsalliance.org)

More Information: Tom, 609 859-8860 x14



**Pinelands Preservation Alliance**

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- Patrons receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*
- Benefactors receive *The Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, a photographic history of this region
- Chairman's Circle members receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

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