



What Is This? Why Me?

In the very first issue of *Pinelands Watch*, two years ago, we indicated that the purpose of this new publication is “to encourage those who are concerned about conservation issues in the Pinelands to get involved and make a difference.”

Now it seems appropriate to ask, “Has *Pinelands Watch* succeeded in encouraging citizens to make a difference?” We think the answer is “Yes,” but we still have a major goal to achieve.

We envision a constantly growing network of citizens who regularly monitor their own backyards and sound an alarm whenever they see inappropriate applications for development in the Pinelands, or other problems we can work together to solve.

PPA monitors the New Jersey Pinelands Commission meetings, both the regular sessions and those of the committees. However, it is within the individual municipalities of the Pinelands that inappropriate development plans often gain momentum.

Our best opportunities to stop or modify plans that threaten the integrity of the region present themselves at municipal planning and zoning board meetings, environmental commission meetings, and town council meetings.

We emphasized in *Pinelands Watch* Issue 8 the pressing need for an “early bird” citizen network, and we gave some examples of how dramatically different outcomes may be depending on the vigilance of local citizens. As we said in that issue, “*Clearly, whenever inappropriate development is proposed, the prospect of stopping it is intimately tied to timely public intervention.*”

Presently, of the fifty-six municipalities of the Pinelands, thirty-four have environmental commissions, which implies (but does not ensure) that local citizens have an opportunity to intervene when the need arises. Most of the remaining twenty-two may need closer monitoring by locals (see the list, p. 4).

What follows is a brief list of some of the topics and issues we raised in previous issues of *Pinelands Watch*, and a summary of where that particular issue stands with respect to action by local citizens.

Inappropriate Development
Upper Township’s Proposal to Revise its Master Plan. This was the proposal to revise Pinelands Management Area

boundaries in order to accommodate a proposed golf course development. Because of citizen opposition, the township has not passed any changes. Residents continue to monitor.

Middle Township’s Proposed College Site. Local citizens have been organized against this site for years. They recently succeeded in highlighting the inadequacy of Cape May County’s Green Acres application. The County has yet to file a complete application.

Greenbriar at Waretown. The courts ruled that the development may proceed, but the environmental community succeeded in setting a new legal precedent that Pinelands standards must be applied in the Coastal Zone.

The Sanctuary in Evesham Township. The settlement of the developer’s lawsuit, with its ill-conceived fences-and-culverts “experiment,” is a dramatic example of just how irresponsible government can be when conservationists *don’t* get an early start. PPA’s legal challenge is pending.

Hovbitt Housing Development & Golf Course. Local citizens helped show that the developer needed additional assessment of Threatened and Endangered species. No completed reports have yet been submitted to Jackson Township or to the DEP.

Woodbine Landfill. The Borough had proposed accepting three million tons of contaminated material as part of a strategy to eventually cap the landfill. Local citizen pressure was instrumental in killing the proposal, but we still await a new closure plan.

Water Quantity and Quality

Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer Study. Considerable pressure from citizens helped ensure that the legislation passed and was signed into law in the fall of 2001. Plans are being developed for the studies.

Berlin Well. See “Hearing Set...” beginning p. 2.

Endangered Species

Herptile Atlas Project. Citizens have the opportunity to participate directly in the documentation of wildlife habitats by volunteering for this project. Call the Endangered and Nongame Species Project at 609-292-9400.

Protocols for T&E Surveys. The Pinelands Commission relies on developers to provide Threatened and



Your phone calls count!

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Endangered species surveys, a practice which, predictably, often yields unreliable conclusions. Local citizens can often help stop inappropriate development by simply telling what they know about the wildlife community in or near a proposed development site. ENSP & ENSAC. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program is the State entity that develops official programs to protect rare species. It needs citizen support to accomplish the job. The Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee is the group of citizen experts who meet regularly with the ENSP and make recommendations.

The Pinelands Commission

CMP Plan Review. The Commission just completed a progress report of their last five years—the first step in the Plan Review Process. Citizens should write or call the Commission and insist that Pinelands protections be strengthened. PPA will inform you of more specific proposals we are advocating in coming months.

Appointments. Re-nominations of current Pineland Commissioners did not pass the Senate. Governor McGreevy will have six appointments to make immediately, and a seventh gubernatorial appointment expires June 30, 2002. Citizen pressure on our new Governor could help bring a balance of power back to the Commission.

BOMARC Missile Site Cleanup. In response to local citizen pressure, the Air Force will build a new rail spur on Lakehurst Naval Air Station and transport the contaminated soil to an approved facility in Utah. This should begin this April and be completed in the fall.

Hearing Set to Recall Berlin Borough's Well Permit

The Water Supply Administration of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has scheduled a public hearing for **February 20, 2002**

to rescind Berlin Borough's water allocation permit for Well No. 12. Written comments will be accepted until March 6, 2002. This municipal supply well is responsible for almost drying up the stream that

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Citizen Action Makes A Difference!

A letter distributed by the Concerned Citizens of Cape May County

HI EVERYONE:

Concerned Citizens of Cape May County is proud to announce another victory in our 3 1/2 year battle against the public sewerage of the Swainton section of Middle Township.

Today, we were contacted by representatives of Stone Harbor Country Club letting us know that the club is throwing in the towel in their fight to get sewers and proceed with a 308 single family home development. Instead, the club is building an on-site wastewater treatment plant - as we requested - and scaling the project back to 172 single family homes.

In October, 2000, Avalon Golf Club also gave up the sewer battle and opted for an on-site treatment plant - again, after citizen pressure. That reduced their development from 343 units to 249. They just recently further scaled back to 212 units.

While locals are not crazy about 384 residences being added to our tiny hamlet of 600 homes, it sure beats the originally proposed 651. That's a net reduction of 267 residential units.

Thanks to everyone who supported us in these battles. Next objective - STOP the 100,000 square foot, 646 parking space Harbor Bay Shopping Center. Stay tuned!!!

—Douglas Jewell

PPA Provides Public Education On Threatened And Endangered Species Of The Pinelands

In addition to PPA's general slide presentation about the Pinelands and the strategies to protect this unique region, a new slide presentation entitled the Threatened and Endangered Species of Pinelands is now available.

All the legally protected animals and plants that occur in the Pinelands National Reserve are featured, including 21 birds, three snakes, two frogs, two turtles, two salamanders, and the 54 plant species.

This presentation includes outstanding color slides of all the animals, with their respective range maps. All of the 54 plant species protected under the Comprehensive Management Plan are shown, as well, many of them in color.

The presentation includes an introduction to the legal protections that are in effect for these plants and animals and their habitats, tips on identifying them, and suggestions on the many ways we can help protect and restore their habitats and populations.

Call PPA to schedule a presentation.



flows into Marlton Lakes, Evesham Township. *The NJDEP needs to hear from you to prevent further damage to the Pinelands.*

The supply well is operated by Berlin Borough and is located off Maple Avenue in Berlin Township, just outside of the Pinelands. Water from this and the Borough's five other wells is being sold to Berlin Borough, Berlin, Winslow and Voorhees Townships.

Well No. 12 is only 84 feet deep and pumps water from the shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, which flows out of and into nearby streams and rivers. The United States Geological Survey estimates that this aquifer provides over 90 percent of the water that you see in Pinelands streams.

The connection between groundwater and surface water was proven in 1997 when the Borough turned the well on for 24-hour production. Within a few weeks the Borough received some 200 complaints ranging from burning eyes to "earthy" odors.

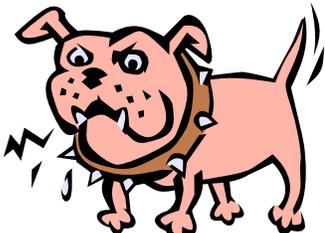
A consulting firm hired by the Borough determined that the odor in the well water was coming from bacteria found in the nearby stream and wetlands. The Borough fired the original engineering firm and sued them for negligence in planning, designing, and implementing a municipal water well.

Currently the well is removing about 4.7 million gallons of water per week or 18.8 million gallons per month from this shallow aquifer.

The New Jersey Geological Survey has been monitoring the stream since January 2001. They estimate that, at current pumping rates, there will be a loss of 5.8 million gallons per month of stream flow. They also determined that during summer months the stream will probably flow only when it rains and then cease flowing a few days later. What will happen to the wetlands, endangered species and Marlton Lakes?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Attend the public hearing and/or send written comments to the NJDEP and request Well No.12 be removed from Water Allocation Permit Number 5044 because of documented impacts to the nearby stream, presence of the federally endangered plant Swamp-pink (*Helonias bullata*), and the loss of surface waters to the Pinelands. A detailed Fact Sheet can be found on our website at www.pinelandsalliance.org, or we can mail or fax it to you.



RESOURCES

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PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

www.pinelandsalliance.org/

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.njaudubon.org/

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

www.njconservation.org/

SIERRA CLUB, NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

www.sierraactivist.org/

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

<http://nature.org> (use drop-down box to find NJ chapter)

THE FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN COALITION

www.frmc.org/

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

www.lwv.org/

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION

732-280-8988

GARDEN STATE ENVIRONET

www.gsenet.org

ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS

www.anjec.org

SAVE BARNEGAT BAY

www.savebarnegatbay.org

ALLIANCE FOR LIVING OCEAN

www.livingocean.org

BARNEGAT BAY WATERSHED & ESTUARY FOUNDATION

www.bbweif.org

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

www.state.nj.us/

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/

www.state.nj.us/dep/



Send written comments to the below address.

They must be received by **March 6, 2002.**

Public Hearing Location:

Berlin Borough Municipal Building
59 South White Horse Pike
Berlin, NJ

Time: 7:00 pm

Mailing Address:

Joseph A. Miri, Hearing Officer
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Water Supply Administration
P.O. Box 426
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Pinelands Preservation Alliance
114 Hanover St.
Pemberton, NJ 08068

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Here is a list of **Pinelands municipalities that do *not* have environmental commissions**, and that, as far as we know, do not have regular monitoring of their planning and zoning boards by local conservation-minded citizens. If you regularly monitor the planning & zoning board of any of these, or would like to begin doing so, please let us know! **PPA: 609 894-8000**

Atlantic County

Buena Borough
Corbin City
Egg Harbor City
Estell Manor City
Weymouth Township

Burlington County

New Hanover Township
Shamong Township
Springfield Township
Washington Township
Woodland Township
Wrightstown Borough

Camden County

Berlin Borough
Berlin Township
Chesilhurst Borough

Cape May County

Woodbine Borough

Cumberland County

Maurice River Township

Ocean County

Beachwood Borough
Lakehurst Borough
South Toms River Borough
Tuckerton Borough