



PINELANDS  
PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE

Nov - Dec 2012  
Issue 62

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**Upcoming  
PPA Event**

Sunday, December 2  
Green Trading Post



**Our Annual  
Holiday Shopping  
Bazaar at the  
Bishop Farmstead  
17 Pemberton Rd.  
Southampton**

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# PINELANDS WATCH



*Black Run Preserve in Burlington County.*

## Save Forests – Save Your Water Supply: Restore Green Acres Funding

Forests are the most effective and inexpensive means of cleansing and storing water. The Pinelands features the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, which contains an estimated 17.7 trillion gallons of water. Pinelands forests not only make up some of the largest unbroken tracts of forest in the eastern U.S., but they guarantee clean water to millions of residents and visitors. And that's not even mentioning the natural habitats, plants and wildlife which Pinelands forests and waters sustain.

Many forest acres of the Pinelands have been permanently preserved with funding from the Garden State Preservation Trust and Green Acres program. But these programs have now run dry of money. It is critical to the long-term health of both the human and non-human communities of the Pinelands that New

Jersey adopt new funding for land preservation.

The Pinelands provides benefits to people and wildlife alike. The Jersey Shore may be reeling from Hurricane Sandy right now, but it will come back and once again be an economic engine for the state. Permanent residents, tourists, and all of Atlantic City's hotels and casinos rely on the Pinelands to replenish the aquifers on which they draw for billions of gallons of water a year.

The Pinelands is also one of the country's foremost cranberry and blueberry growing regions. Clean and abundant supplies of water are an absolute necessity in growing these fruits and sustaining an industry that yields significant income for people in the state.

*continued on page 2*

The cleanliness of the aquifer relies upon native forests where water infiltrates through several layers of vegetation and soil, which act as a natural filter for the aquifers below. Lands purchased over the years through Green Acres are one of the greatest economic and natural assets for the State of New Jersey, and they provide many more benefits in addition to a clean water supply.

### *Economic Benefits*

- A 2009 study by The Trust for Public Land found that every \$1 invested in state land preservation programs returns \$10 in economic value through nature's goods and services, such as flood control and filtering air and water of pollutants.
- The average home price increases 16% when it is located within 1,500 feet of natural areas.
- Parks contribute up to 20% of the value of homes in urban areas.
- 1,931 farms generated \$30 million in income from sales of edible farm products in 2007.
- 38 jobs are created for every \$1,000,000 spent restoring historic nonresidential buildings, 2 jobs more than the same money spent on new construction.
- 7,000 jobs are supported by our public recreation lands.
- Wildlife-related tourism is estimated to generate about \$3 billion of gross economic activity annually, representing about \$1 billion of wage and salary income annually or about 37,000 jobs.
- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that, each year, over 2.6 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New Jersey, contributing \$1.7 billion to the economy.

### *Environmental and Health Benefits*

- For every 10% increase in forest cover, water treatment and chemical costs decrease by 20%.
- In one urban park (524 acres), tree cover was found to remove daily 48 lbs of particulates, 9 lbs of nitrogen dioxide, 6 lbs of sulfur dioxide and 0.5 lbs of carbon monoxide. (\$136 per day value based on pollution control technology.)
- Open spaces in New Jersey support approximately 900 wildlife species.
- Access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising three or more times per week.
- Increased activity levels improve health, reducing obesity rates and health care costs.

Although 415,000 acres of the Pinelands have been preserved, which is much less than half of the Pinelands

area, there are many more lands in need of protection and acquisition. For example, the Pinelands Commission identified approximately 333 locations totaling 64,947 acres through its Ecological Integrity Assessment that are considered high ecological integrity zones for its aquatic and ecological resources and in need of greater protections or acquisition. <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/science/complete/eia/index.html>

New Jersey has fully allocated all of its green acres, farmland preservation and historic preservation dollars from the 2009 bond act. Pinelands Preservation Alliance as a member of the Keep it Green Coalition is working with the coalition of 175 member organizations to identify and advocate for a sustainable source of funding to renew state funds for important acquisitions and stewardship. Time is of the essence to ensure lands aren't lost forever to development and our water quality and supply is not decimated for future generations. Everyone can take a part in making sure the Pinelands, this campaign, our state, our health and our economy is successful by picking one or doing many of the action items noted below.

### **Individuals can show their support by:**

- "Liking" Keep it Green on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NJKeepItGreen](http://www.facebook.com/NJKeepItGreen).
- Learning how to get involved and show your support by visiting [www.njkeepitgreen.org/getinvolved.htm](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org/getinvolved.htm).
- Learning more about efforts at [www.njkeepitgreen.org](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org), helping to spread the word, and encouraging others to do the same.
- Reaching out to local officials and state representatives now to express support for long-term funding by passing a resolution (a model can be found on [njkeepitgreen.org](http://njkeepitgreen.org)).
- Volunteering by getting in touch with Maeghan Brass by email at [maeghan.brass@njudubon.org](mailto:maeghan.brass@njudubon.org).
- Making a contribution [www.njkeepitgreen.org/donate.htm](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org/donate.htm).

### **Organizations/businesses can show their support by:**

- Becoming a member, or endorsing NJ Keep It Green at [www.njkeepitgreen.org/getinvolved.htm](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org/getinvolved.htm).
- "Liking" Keep it Green on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NJKeepItGreen](http://www.facebook.com/NJKeepItGreen).
- Learning more about efforts at [www.njkeepitgreen.org](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org), helping to spread the word, and encouraging partners to join the Campaign.
- Reaching out to local officials and state representatives now to express support for long-term funding.
- Making a contribution at [www.njkeepitgreen.org/donate.htm](http://www.njkeepitgreen.org/donate.htm).

## Save the Headwaters of the Black Run Preserve

The Black Run Preserve is a 1,300 acre parcel of permanently preserved land in Evesham Township, located between the Marlton Lakes and Kings Grant neighborhoods. It is an ecological wonder of Pine Barrens forest, wetlands, streams and old cranberry bogs, and hosts a variety of threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Developed land directly leads to the degradation of water and habitat quality. The Black Run watershed will only remain pristine if the headwaters area is protected from excessive development. State scientists have determined that the Black Run watershed can tolerate some additional housing development, but not too much, without suffering significant harm.

A newly formed group, Friends of the Black Run Preserve, formed this year to help in efforts to protect the headwaters of the Black Run Preserve and steward the land in conjunction with Evesham Township. The headwaters of the Black Run should ideally be preserved, but without adequate funding, the chance of this happening is slim. Other options are available to reduce the impact from any future development. Visit the new Friends group website to learn more about how you can help – <http://blackrun.org>.

## Upcoming Pinelands Commission Meetings

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9:30 am,  
Friday, December 14, 2012

Pinelands Commission meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting date at [www.state.nj.us/pinelands/](http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/)

### Plan Review Sub-Committee Meeting

11:30 am

Friday, December 14, 2012

More information can be found at:

[www.state.nj.us/pinelands/cmp/planreview/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/cmp/planreview/index.html)

## Oppose A3376 – Transfers State Forestry Services to Department of Agriculture

Assemblyman Ron Dancer has introduced a bill that would transfer New Jersey's forestry services including the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts, the Community Forestry Council, the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, and the Forest Health Advisory Council from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection over to the Department of Agriculture. This bill is just one of a handful of bills to subvert the environmental protections set in New Jersey to protect the natural resources essential to our very existence.

New Jersey's Forestry Department is responsible for managing state forests, educating the public about the benefits of trees, preserving diversity of species in New Jersey's forests, and growing seedlings for replanting of the state forests. All of these services rely on a team of experts including wildlife biologists to make sure our forests are managed not for product but for ecosystem diversity - a primary mission of DEP not the Department of Agriculture.

Please contact Assemblyman Dancer and oppose the bill before it continues to move forward in the legislature.

Email – [asmdancer@njleg.org](mailto:asmdancer@njleg.org)  
or call (609) 758-0205



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Distributed to members of the Pinelands Watch Network and other members of the public. If you would like to receive these alerts, please contact Theresa Lettman at (609) 859-8860 Ext 22 or [theresa@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:theresa@pinelandsalliance.org).

Prior issues are available at: [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org)

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The Pinelands needs your help...and so do we!  
Please support our mission & become a member

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Mastercard  Visa  Discover

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**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 a copy of the Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural DVD  
A Patron will receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*  
A Benefactor will receive *The Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, a photographic history of this region  
Chairman's Circle will receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands



*Pinelands Preservation Alliance*

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**Save Forests – Save Your Water Supply:  
Restore Green Acres Funding**

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