



## RECENT PRIORITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2008-2010)

### CURRENT PRIORITIES

- ❖ Defend the **integrity of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP)**, so it is rigorously and consistently applied – and is not whittled away by weak implementation and improper compromises.
- ❖ Press the governor and county decision makers to **appoint conservationists** to the Pinelands Commission.
- ❖ Advocate for **new policies to protect and restore Pinelands water quality**, especially by reducing excessive nutrient pollution that is harming both coastal estuaries and inland forests and wetlands.
- ❖ **Protect the Pinelands' unique botanical heritage** by changing the way builders landscape their developments, getting government agencies to manage roadsides for native species, and showing residents the advantages of native plant landscaping.
- ❖ **Defend the critical habitats** of the Pinelands endangered and threatened wildlife and plants, so they are not lost to development or other human actions.
- ❖ Encourage local and state government to adopt **new sustainable practices** in community design, construction and government operations.
- ❖ Build the **next generation of Pinelands conservationists** by training teachers and students in Pinelands ecology, conservation and history.
- ❖ **Help the public and policy makers** appreciate the Pinelands' natural and historic resources, so they will do everything they can to protect and restore these resources.

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Published the annual **State of the Pinelands Report** – the most complete and incisive picture of just how well, or poorly, government agencies are protecting the Pinelands.
- ✓ Organized the first **Pinelands Science-Policy Forum**, in which scientists and policy makers discussed the current state of conservation science in the fields of Pinelands water resources, fire ecology and landscape ecology. This first Forum is the basis on which PPA is launching a series of Science-Policy Forums to generate science-based policy agendas that can tackle the fundamental threats facing the preservation of Pinelands water, wildlife and plant communities.

- ✓ Led the campaign to require the **registration and tagging of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs)**, so park rangers and police can keep ORVs off private property and nature preserves where they do not have permission to ride. Illegal and irresponsible ORV traffic causes enormous ecological damage. This legislation has numerous sponsors and should be adopted in late 2009.
- ✓ Persuaded state and county governments to begin **changing roadside management practices**, so our thousands of miles of roadsides can once again be showcases for native grasses and wildflowers – and stop them from being planted as non-native turf grass lawns that smother native species.
- ✓ Successfully advocated for **preservation of key natural areas**. A prime example was the Lumley Tract in Ocean County, where PPA’s advocacy over many years helped prevent development of the tract and persuaded the state and Ocean County Natural Lands Trusts to buy the land and protect it forever.
- ✓ Led a successful campaign to make sure **new Pinelands rules on forestry** were written to perpetuate native forests and natural communities – beating back an effort to change the rules at the last minute in order to allow the kind of industrial, plantation-type forestry that has replaced native forests elsewhere in the country.
- ✓ Successfully advocated for the establishment of the new **Partnerships for Plant Conservation** committee, composed of plant experts and government personnel, designed to develop new levels of teamwork to address threatened and endangered plant issues statewide.
- ✓ Worked with partners to carry out **new restoration initiatives to save very rare native plants**. Initial projects focus on Pickerings’ Morning-glory, Sand Yellow-eyed-grass, and Pine Barrens Gentian.
- ✓ Wrote, published and distributed **5,000 copies of Gardening With Nature, a Guide to Native Plant Landscaping in the Pinelands**.
- ✓ Convinced the Pinelands Commission to **change language in the CMP** that encouraged large lot sprawling development to language that rewards mixed-use, compact development. Language should be adopted in late 2009/early 2010.
- ✓ Held two **innovative teacher training institutes** each year, providing teachers with in-depth experience and lesson plans based on Pinelands ecology, history and conservation.
- ✓ Conducted the annual **Special Pinelands Plants Course**, to train regulators, consultants and citizens to recognize and identify rare plants of the Pinelands and their habitats.
- ✓ Created the **Harrisville Video Tour**, the first video tour of a Pinelands site – here, the ruins of Harrisville in Wharton State Forest. The tour can be viewed on PPA’s web site, or downloaded to a portable device like an iPod or iPhone and used on-site.
- ✓ Launched our completely new web site at **www.pinelandsalliance.org** – providing more images and information on everything Pinelands than you can find anywhere else.
- ✓ Offered numerous **Pinelands Adventures** outdoor programs, bringing hundreds of people into the Pinelands for fun, ecological education, and wilderness skills training.

## **New Jersey Pinelands – Some Key Facts**

### **Size:**

Pinelands National Reserve = 1.1 million acres

State Pinelands Area = 930,000 acres

### **Population:**

About 600,000 in the Pinelands National Reserve

About 300,000 in the State Pinelands Area

### **Population Density:**

Pinelands National Reserve = a little over 1/2 person per acre (ppa)

New Jersey as a whole = almost 2 ppa

New Jersey without the Pinelands = 2.4 ppa

New Jersey is the most crowded state in the country

### **How much of the Pinelands is protected by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan?**

Only 63% is protected from intensive development

Another 7% is reserved for farming

The remaining 30% is designated for urban and suburban development and military bases

### **State, local and private preserves:**

Over 400,000 acres of forest and wetlands are protected in public and private preserves

About 50% of the Pinelands is privately-owned land

### **Outstanding natural resources include:**

Native plant and animal communities adapted to very acidic, low nutrient soil and water

Ecosystem shaped by, and prone to, wildfire

Rare, threatened and endangered species

- 43 species of T&E animals
- Over 200 species of T&E plants
- At least 3 plants found nowhere else on earth

### **Biodiversity:**

Over 1,000 species of native flowering plants

34 mammal species

24 amphibians & 30 reptiles

144 birds (breeding and migratory)