



PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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News Advisory

For Immediate Release:

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Botanists, Naturalists, and Others to Descend On the Pinelands Commission to Protest Lax Protection of Native Plants

SOUTHAMPTON, N.J. – On Friday March 13, at 9:30 a.m. the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and noted local naturalists and botanists will testify at the monthly Pinelands Commission meeting to protest the destruction of native plants along Pinelands roadsides. Some states cherish their roadside populations of native wildflowers, and deliberately protect them. *Not here in the Pinelands, however!* Native roadside plant communities—including populations of threatened and endangered species—are regularly being destroyed throughout the Pinelands, even though the Pinelands CMP contains rules designed to protect them. Why is this? Partly because the Pinelands Commission has been negligent in applying its own rules, despite decades of outcry from local botanical experts and other naturalists.

This kind of destruction appears to have accelerated and spread in recent years. If this trend continues, eventually all the shoulders of paved roads will be covered with non-native grasses and weeds, or worse yet, take on the appearance of roadside lawns. We need the Commission to recognize the value of these native plants by implementing their own rules.

Who: Pinelands Preservation Alliance, botanists, naturalists and others

What: Protest the lack of implementation of rules by the Pinelands Commission

When: Friday, March 13, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Pinelands Commission Office, Springfield Road, New Lisbon, NJ

Photo opportunities include large format photos of roadside vegetation destruction, and alteration. Digital imagery can be provided upon request.

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