

STATE of THE  
**PINELANDS**

An Annual Report by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance



**State of the  
Pinelands  
2010**



Four Mile Branch, Barnegat Township, Ocean County

Photo: PPA

# A Letter from the Executive Director

The economy and public finance dominated public policy discussions and politics this year, and the environment usually got into the debate only because certain special interests are using the economic crisis to try tearing down environmental protections. This year's State of the Pinelands Report provides grounds for satisfaction and disappointment, optimism and worry for the future. On the positive side of the ledger, the public's vote for more open space funding stands out, especially in the midst of a severe financial and economic crisis and an election in which two of the three main party candidates for governor opposed the measure. On the negative side, we see a raft of legislation coming from both parties aimed at weakening environmental protection in the name of economic necessity – an argument that finally only serves those specific industries, like house builders, who benefit at the expense of other industries, like tourism, and the public at large.

The conviction of former Assemblyman and Mayor Dan Van Pelt cuts two ways: It is gratifying that a crook who sought to use his influence to get development approvals for his "client" got caught. But the case also points up again just how deeply money is embedded in our whole system of local land use planning. Only the most egregious cases are treated as criminal corruption, but we should have no illusions about the pervasive, damaging role of the money that cycles through the political institutions that have such a large say in the future of our landscape and the fate of its treasured resources.

Looking forward, the public will need to keep an eye on several issues discussed in this report – in some case, because government looks poised to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory at the behest of developers. Here are some of the key challenges we will face in the coming year arising from issues discussed in this report:

- Department of Environmental Protection staff are under pressure to reverse their denial of a permit to build a massive Wal-Mart store on critical habitat of threatened Northern Pine Snakes in Ocean County.
- The developer Walters Group is suing Barnegat Township, trying to force it to reverse its courageous decision to keep a portion of the Ocean Acres neighborhood in conservation. Sadly, the township has gotten no support from the Pinelands Commission or its staff, even though it was the Commission that originally sponsored and designed the conservation plan for this area.
- Deep budget cuts and the failure to fill vacancies are crippling the Pinelands Commission, and the consequences remain to be seen. Staff shortages will weaken or defeat needed actions to fix known deficiencies in the [Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan](#) (CMP) and to implement the CMP rigorously and consistently, especially when the construction industry begins to rev up again.
- Barnegat Bay and its watershed are in desperate need of bold action to reverse the accelerating impacts of over-development in Ocean County. The Governor has promised to make the Bay's restoration a priority. But we have yet to see a plan of action from the new administration, and there will be great pressure to maintain business as usual.
- Democratic and Republican lawmakers are working together on a slew of anti-environmental bills being pushed by the construction industry. Some bad bills have already been adopted, but many more are in the pipeline. In a variety of ways, these bills seek to reduce or dismantle environmental protections for land, water, and public health. All are being justified as necessary to get us through the recession – but you can bet their sponsors won't be moving to revoke them as the economy bounces back!

Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

## STATE OF THE PINELANDS

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# Summary

This has certainly been an interesting year from a number of perspectives. This past year illustrated that there is real cause for concern in the actions of government agencies responsible for safeguarding the Pinelands environment. It also pointed out that these same agencies can accomplish great things if they so choose, and that the voters of the state recognize the importance of preserving land.

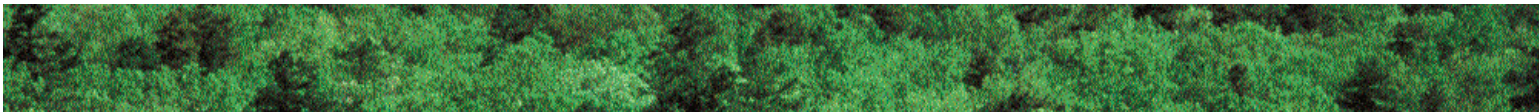
The Pinelands Commission – the lead government agency planning growth and preservation in the Pinelands – is staffed by experts with a real commitment to preserving the Pinelands environment. The vast majority of new development is taking place in the areas designated for growth in the Pinelands CMP. And hundreds of thousands of acres of Pinelands forests and wetlands are still intact today due to the Pinelands Protection Act and the Comprehensive Management Plan. The reasons for this have been the Commission’s strict interpretation of their rules up until recently.

During the past 6 years, PPA has witnessed a slow shift in philosophy from the CMP as rules with regulatory teeth to the CMP as guidelines only, to be negotiated, ignored or enforced on a case-by-case basis for the convenience of local governments, developers, and even the Commission itself. A good example is the proposed expansion of Richard Stockton College. In 1990, a formal agreement was signed between the college and the Commission to permanently protect 1,000 acres of Pinelands. The college is now back before the Commission to undo that agreement and it is becoming clear that Commission staff is laying the groundwork to facilitate the nullification of the original agreement. It is also becoming increasingly clear that the Commission is giving preferential treatment to municipal and county government for their development applications compared to private development, despite the fact that both types of development can have the same negative impacts on the environment. For example, this year the Commission advanced a streamlined review process for public agencies. In addition, in a stunning reversal of 30 years of practice, the Commission suddenly re-interpreted its rules to limit public comment on government applications. Public comment is the bedrock principle of any government process, and is something that PPA takes very seriously. A formal petition to modify the CMP may be the only answer to fix the problem. On the positive side, the Commission continued the funding of significant land acquisitions through its Pinelands Conservation Fund. In addition, the annual Pinelands Short Course continues to grow in size and interest from the public.

This year, along with a new Governor, came calls for regulatory “reform” and fiscal constraint. Today there is a growing list of proposed legislation to weaken environmental regulations and undo what has been accomplished since the first Earth Day in April 1970. In addition, the state’s budget woes have taken a toll on the Commission, forcing staff reductions of six people following several years when the Commission has not been allowed to fill key staff vacancies as they arise. That’s six less people to watch over and manage activities in 56 municipalities of the Pinelands.

The [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#) (DEP) affirmed its commitment to protecting threatened and endangered species by rejecting a formal petition by a builders association to remove protections for the northern pine snake. In addition, DEP denied a second permit application for a Wal-Mart for fear that it would impact the habitat of a threatened species. PPA gives DEP high marks for their handling of these two cases and illustrates that regulations to protect the environment can work when enforced.

This past year cemented PPA’s conviction that if the Pinelands is going to survive as a distinctive place for future generations, it is going to require more than government regulations. It is going to take a citizenry committed to holding our elected and appointed officials feet to the fire. And perhaps most of all, it is going to require a new generation of citizen activists to accomplish this important task.



## About this Report

June 28, 2010 marks the 31th anniversary of the signing of the Pinelands Protection Act establishing the Pinelands Commission and the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) to preserve natural resources and control development in the 1.1 million acres of the Pinelands National Reserve. Many wonder how the Pinelands will fare in the long term considering that New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation. Despite a high cost of living and the recent recession, New Jersey's population is still growing. More importantly, that population is still spreading out over the landscape in sprawling subdivisions that eat up habitat and degrade our waters.

Since the fate of the Pinelands ultimately rests with decisions by government agencies, PPA became convinced that a mechanism was needed to hold these agencies accountable in a focused and systematic way, rather than on a crisis by crisis basis. The State of the Pinelands report allows us to rate, on a yearly basis, how specific actions of government agencies, elected officials and the courts have either helped or harmed the Pinelands during the previous year. In addition, it allows us to acknowledge those individuals and organizations that took the extra steps through education or action to help keep the Pine Barrens special.

This report highlights some of the most significant actions taken by government, organizations and individuals that affected the Pinelands in the year since June 2009. The agencies rated in this report include, but are not limited to, the Pinelands Commission, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), New Jersey State Legislature, Governor, mayors, county government, local governing bodies, federal representatives and the courts. The underlying goal is to make the regulatory process more transparent and therefore, help members of the public become more engaged in protecting the Pinelands.

Six criteria were used to guide the preparation of the report. They included how agencies:

1. promoted the integrity of the Comprehensive Manage-

ment Plan (CMP);

2. protected native habitats for plants and wildlife;
3. safeguarded the quality of Pinelands water in aquifers and surface waters;
4. insured the integrity of water supply for both people and ecosystem;
5. promoted the cultural and historic resources of the area; and
6. promoted education about the Pinelands.

We believe this report is a representative sampling of the scope and nature of environmental policy issues that the Pinelands Preservation Alliance staff tackles on a regular basis. It is our hope that a yearly State of the Pinelands report will serve as another tool to insure that the next three decades of protecting the Pinelands will be as promising as the first.

## Voters of New Jersey



### **Open Space – Yes Again!**

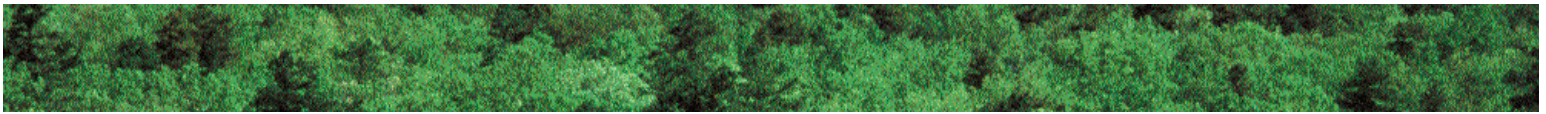
Once again New Jersey voters said "YES" to continue investing in preserving our land, water and history for this and future generations. The electorate (with a majority of 52%) voted for the open space question this past November to continue the state's highly successful preservation programs. Funding for the [Green Acres Program](#), the [Farmland Preservation Program](#), and the [NJ Historic Trust](#) will now continue for the next two years, giving New Jersey time to identify a long-term funding source for these programs. Since its inception, all fourteen ballot questions regarding open space have been approved by voters. This is an outstanding record, and shows that New Jersey residents understand the long-term benefits of open space, farmland and historic preservation.

## Governor Christie



### **Pinelands Commission Appointments**

Currently Governor Christie has the opportunity to fill one vacancy and to reappoint or replace five commissioners with expired terms to the Pinelands Commission. In addition, he needs to appoint a chairperson to lead the Com-



mission. The Governor’s appointments, therefore, will play a critical role in ensuring the Commission does its job of protecting the Pinelands. So far, we have seen no indication of when or how the Governor will act. It is imperative that he appoints people who believe in the Commission’s bedrock environmental mission, and who have the courage to ensure the Commission succeeds in that mission.

 **Budget Cuts Too Deep, Disables Pinelands Commission**

The Governor’s budget cut to the Pinelands Commission for the coming fiscal year, on top of several years of reduced budgets, cuts so deep that it threatens the Commission’s ability to do its job. The Commission’s state funding for next fiscal year is less than it had in the early 1990s. After laying off six staff in mid-June, the Commission now has too few expert staff to apply its rules rigorously and consistently to all development projects, and to improve the rules where they are failing. We will see the consequences in developments that should not have been approved and in continued reliance on rules and standards that are not working well enough to save irreplaceable Pinelands resources. Given the magnitude of the Pinelands Commission’s responsibilities, the fact that it has always been an efficient government agency, and the very small savings to be achieved, the governor’s proposed funding cut for next fiscal year is simply too big.

 **Long-Term Open Space Funding**

The Governor has reiterated his promise during the election campaign to find dedicated, long-term funding for open space. Governor Christie stated that he would seek a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the sales tax to open space preservation, so that these funds would be used to *“increase the number of acres annually preserved ... especially in the Highlands and Pinelands.”* We look for Governor Christie to fulfill this commitment.

 **Barnegat Bay Restoration**

Governor Christie has made a public commitment to doing something to reverse the rapid decline of Barnegat Bay due to human activities which have brought the loss of once-thriving shellfish populations, steep declines in submerged aquatic vegetation, algal blooms, jellyfish explosions, and

cascading changes to fin fish populations. But neither the Governor nor Bob Martin, the Commissioner of DEP, has announced what the new administration will do. Solutions are available, but they have to be bold, comprehensive, and carried through over the predictable objections of development interests that have enjoyed a free hand in most of the Barnegat Bay watershed – with disastrous consequences for the Bay.

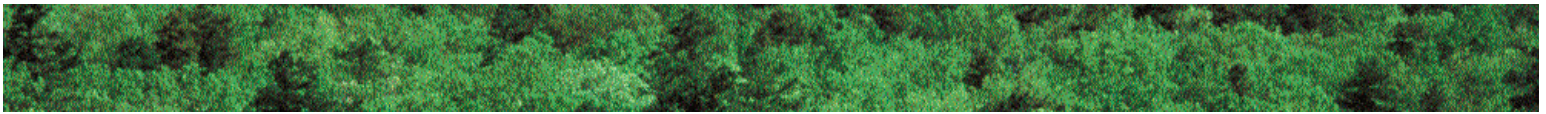
 **NJ Clean Energy Funding Cuts**

New Jersey’s clean energy program promotes energy efficiency and helps steer New Jersey towards a more sustainable future by encouraging residents and business to conserve energy and adopt renewable energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal. The Governor recently froze \$158 million from the Clean Energy Fund and \$128 million from the Retail Margin Fund. The state is an acknowledged leader in fighting climate change. New Jersey has become second in the nation in terms of solar installations (behind California) and is poised to create the first off-shore wind farm in the United States. The funding cuts may appear to save money in the very short term, but will bring long term costs and stall our state’s efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our addiction to fossil fuels.

**Pinelands Commission**

By statute, the [Pinelands Commission](#) has fifteen (15) commissioners who make up the governing body of the agency: seven (7) appointed by the Governor; one appointed by each of the seven (7) Pinelands counties; and one (1) person appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The gubernatorial appointees are subject to the review and consent of the New Jersey Senate. Members of the Commission serve staggered three-year terms. These commissioners have final say with regards to all activities regulated by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). In addition, the Commissions staff of approximately 40 people is directed by the commissioners.

The Commission today consists of the following thirteen members. **U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Appointee:** Robert McIntosh, Jr. **Gubernatorial Appointees:** Candace Ashmun (Acting Chairperson), Robert Jackson, Edward



Lloyd, Rev. Dr. Guy Campbell, Lloyd Henderson Jr., and Judith Link, with one vacancy. **County Appointees:** Paul Galletta (Atlantic), Daniel Kennedy (Burlington), William Brown (Cape May), Leslie Ficaglia (Cumberland), Francis Witt (Gloucester), and John Hass (Acting Vice-Chairman - Ocean), and one vacancy (Camden County).



PPA testifying at the Pinelands Commission

## Public Comment Stifled

In a stunning reversal of 30 years of practice, the Pinelands Commission suddenly re-interpreted its rules to bar public comment at Pinelands Commission meetings regarding public development projects (that is, development by government agencies) and requests for waivers of strict compliance with the Commission's rules. This new approach is the latest in a string of actions that have limited public participation in the Commission's work over the past several years. Fortunately, Commission members have pushed back and demanded that the Commission's rules and practices be changed to ensure the public can review and comment effectively on public development and waiver applications before the Commission votes, and the staff has proposed some interim measures to provide on-line information for the public to use. But so far the Commission has not proposed specific rule or process changes to ensure that the public's right to review and comment is respected.

## Management Area Changes....Stalled!

Three years ago, the Commission initiated a review of the Pinelands conservation and growth boundaries that was

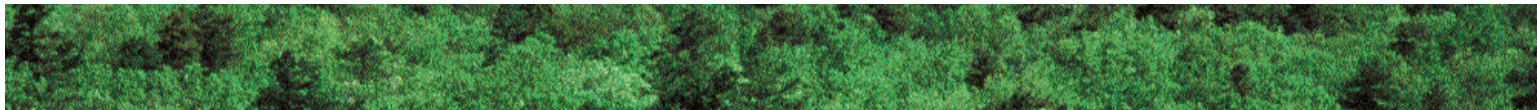
based on science and held great promise for improving the Pinelands CMP. In general, this process has turned out to be a big disappointment. As we reported in the last two reports, the Commission's planning staff identified changes to the CMP management area boundaries aimed at protecting areas of high ecological integrity. However, this initiative hit a brick wall as a result of ratable-chasing municipalities opposing the changes. The Pinelands Commission bowed to virtually all these demands, pairing down the proposed changes to the point where only a few of them had any substance left. Then the new administration in Trenton issued orders that no rules be changed. At this point it is unclear whether the Commission will resurrect this important initiative and bring it to a successful and substantive conclusion.

## Commission Says No to Saving Threatened Species Habitat

In October 2009, Pinelands Commission staff sided with an Ocean County developer's contention that a section of the Ocean Acres area of Barnegat Township no longer constituted critical habitat for Northern Pine Snakes, even though pine snakes were known to be denning on the site in recent years. The decision opened the door for the developer to demand that Barnegat Township change the zoning of this land from conservation to development. PPA and residents pointed out that the developer's claims were flawed for a number of reasons (*see PPA's website at [Protection, PPA at Work, Current Issues and Campaigns](#)*). Fortunately, as we explain below, the Barnegat Township Council declined to change the zoning (and the developer has now sued to force its hand).



Northern Pine Snake



## Pinelands Funding for Land Acquisition

This year the Pinelands Commission contributed significant sums of money from its [Pinelands Conservation Fund](#) towards the acquisition of environmentally sensitive properties throughout the Pinelands. Some of the projects included: \$1.9 million for 1,612 acres in various towns in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May and Ocean counties; \$300,000 for a 700 acre property in Hamilton Township, and \$662,633 to purchase 215 acres in Jackson and Ocean Townships. The funds were used to purchase lands in partnership with various local governments and nonprofit organizations.

## Roadside Vegetation

Roadside native plant communities, including spectacular displays of native orchids and other wildflowers, have been in decline throughout the Pinelands during the last several decades, despite Pinelands Commission oversight. Repeated mowing during the growing season and destructive methods of “soil stabilization” are the causes. Repeated mowing prevents the plants from flowering and setting seed. The soil erosion control practices that follow various soil disturbances (e.g., pipe burial along a roadside) have included the application of pollutants such as lime and fertilizers and the sowing of non-native turf grass and non-native weedy species. Last year, PPA produced a [Best Management Practices for Pinelands Roadsides](#) document, and persuaded the Pinelands Commission to start implementing some reforms. The Commission is in the process of getting counties, municipalities, and other roadside main-



Credit: PPA

Road shoulder in the Pine Barrens

tenance agencies to implement the reforms. If these reforms are adopted, most road shoulders will be mowed only during the dormant season, and exposed soil will be addressed in ways that do not involve soil amendments or the planting of non-natives.

## Homeowner Landscaping

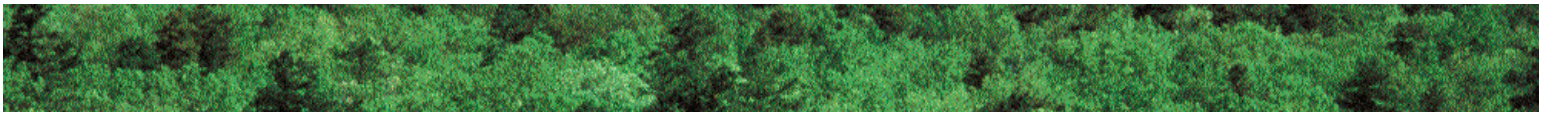
The Pinelands Commission is encouraging homeowners to landscape with native Pinelands plants, and it has become an outstanding resource for people who want to follow those suggestions. For the last two years, the Commission was the lead organizer of the Pinelands Yard and Garden Festival, which has been held at the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge each fall. Now, it has produced a [Homeowners Landscaping Guide](#). These accomplishments should contribute to the goal of reforming landscaping practices in the Pinelands.

## Vegetation Standards – *Business as Usual*

After nearly a decade of advocacy on behalf of native plant communities, PPA is obliged to report that the Pinelands Commission remains committed to policies that fail to implement clear language in the CMP aimed at protecting and enhancing native plant life. PPA has [persistently advocated](#) for reform of Commission practices that promote the use of non-native turf grasses along roadsides and in many public and common areas, where it is entirely unnecessary, suppresses native (often rare and endangered) plants, and requires soil alteration and fertilizers that degrade water quality. The Pinelands Commission has responded by indicating it will not change its approach to implementing – or, really, ignoring – the vegetation standards of the Comprehensive Management Plan.

## Plant Species Not Allowed Protection

The CMP’s current list of protected plant species is still out of date and incomplete. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), via its [Natural Heritage Program](#), sets conservation priorities for our native plants using a methodology created by The Nature Conservancy, and now being used internationally by [NatureServe](#). The Pinelands Commission – in opposition not only to state government, but also to virtually every local botanist and ecologist – refuses to get in step with these priorities. The



Commission tries to justify its inaction by claiming it is skeptical of the DEP's methods and documentation — all the while engaging in no research of its own. According to PPA's extensive research and consultation with experts, it appears that several hundred rarities that occur within the region remain officially unprotected.

### **Pinelands Short Course**

On March 20, 2010, the Commission cosponsored its 21st Annual Pinelands Short Course at Burlington County College. The event is a joint effort by the Commission and Burlington County College. The short course featured over 40 presentations including 27 new programs. This year over 700 people attended this wonderful annual event to learn more about the Pinelands.

## **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

### **State Stands Firm to Protect Threatened Species**

On January 8, 2010, the NJDEP denied a petition by the New Jersey Builders Association to remove the "threatened" status of the Northern Pine Snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) in New Jersey. As part of its formal review of the builders' petition, the Endangered and Nongame Species Program issued a Status Assessment of the Pine Snake, concluding that, "Taken collectively, the patterns and documented threats that we have reported strongly justify the pine snake's existing legal status of 'threatened' in New Jersey. ... Clearly, the conditions surrounding the pine snake population in New Jersey have already begun to deteriorate as a result of the threats outlined in this assessment (habitat loss, poaching, natural and subsidized predation, roads, fire suppression, and ORV activity)." The Department found that while Pine Snakes were once abundant throughout a large range on the eastern seaboard, they are fast losing ground to development and other human impacts. New Jersey's populations have not been exempt from this trend. Since Pine Snakes are an upland species, their discovery frequently results in development projects being denied or reduced in scale. This is why the New Jersey Builders Association sought to have their protective status reduced.

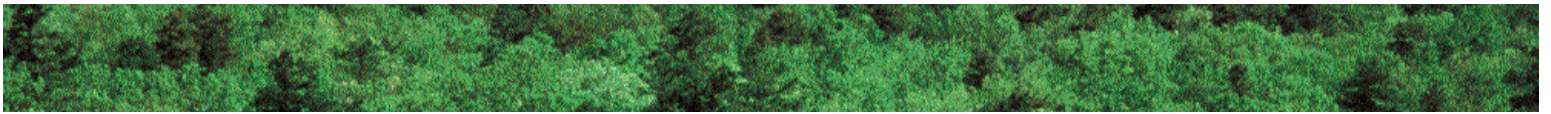
### **Wal-Mart Denied...Again**

In March 2010 the NJ DEP denied the second permit application submitted by Jaylin Holdings to build a Wal-Mart on the Toms River/Manchester border, Ocean County. One key factor in the second rejection was the review by the State's Endangered and Nongame Species Program, which submitted a report stating that the project "would have direct adverse impacts upon threatened species habitat on the site." The plan proposed sealing off a small buffer of 164 feet around a Northern Pine Snake den found in 2005. The site is in the Pinelands National Reserve and, therefore, is under the jurisdiction of NJDEP to enforce coastal and Pinelands standards. Wal-Mart's second application was for a 187,793 square foot retail store with a 5,703 square foot seasonal garden center and an associated large parking lot. PPA gives NJDEP high marks in this case for holding firm to their regulations that protect threatened and endangered species and not caving in to political pressure. *But watch for more: There are rumors that powerful people want this permit granted and are pressuring DEP staff to give in.*

### **Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant**

On January 7th, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued a draft Clean Water Act permit that requires the plant operator to install a closed-loop cooling system on the plant – which means using cooling towers instead of the current system of using vast amounts of Barnegat Bay water. DEP has yet to make this draft permit final and official. Converting to cooling towers would greatly reduce the effects of the power plant on Barnegat Bay, including its massive intake of over 1.4 billion gallons of water a day for cooling. Billions of fish and shellfish – like Blue Crabs, Striped Bass and Flounder – are killed each year, along with their eggs and larvae. And each year endangered sea turtles become stuck on intake screens, and many have been injured or killed by the plant. The water that is returned to the Bay is over 40 degrees hotter than when it came in, harming the overall ecology of the Bay and hurting marine life. Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin reported that one of his three short-term priorities is addressing the decline of Barnegat Bay and Oyster Creek, but he has given no definite sign that the new administration will stand by the draft permit and re-





quire the conversion to cooling towers.



### **Off-Road Vehicle Park Designation**

Former NJDEP Commissioner Brad Campbell made a commitment to find appropriate sites for two off-road vehicle parks, where people could ride legally rather than destroy critical habitats in public and private conservation lands. The Department has yet to identify such a site, and illegal riding on public and private property continues to occur on a massive scale. Motorized recreation users have the opportunity to get around \$300,000 a year from the state to use for purchasing, creating and maintaining ORV parks. Under the recently passed off-road vehicle bills (A823/S2055), DEP must designate at least one site on state land for off-road vehicle use before the state can implement new rules that require licenses and tags for ORVs – measures that are needed for law enforcement officers to identify illegal riders and put an end to the destruction that exists on both public and private property. After waiting ten years for this legislation to be passed, PPA hopes that DEP will work hard to designate a site within the year, so that property owners and the public who continue to suffer from illegal riding will not have to wait much longer.

## **Other State Agencies**



### **BPU Says Yes to Sprawl Development**

In April 2010, the state [Board of Public Utilities](#) gave its go-ahead for Atlantic City Electric to sell a 1,350-acre piece of property in Millville to a housing developer for the construction of a 900-unit adult community and golf course. The site is currently known as Holly Ridge and is located just outside the Pinelands boundary. The site and surrounding area should have been included in the Pinelands because of their Pine Barrens ecology and very high ecological value but was left out. The parcel is home to species such as Bald Eagle, Osprey, Pine Barrens Tree Frog, Pine Snakes, Barred Owls, and a number of plants threatened with extinction, such as the sensitive joint-vetch which is on the federal threatened and endangered species list. In addition, the Manumuskin and Menantico rivers, two waterways federally protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers, run through the area. BPU had the authority to stop the sale, and Atlantic City Electric would actually receive a better price –

benefitting rate payers – if it had accepted an offer from the state Green Acres program to buy the land for conservation.



### **NJ Department of Transportation – Mowing Practices**

The state is implementing new mowing practices that will allow native Pinelands plants to grow through the season, wherever such growth does not introduce driving or wild-fire hazards. NJDOT actually started this program on its own initiative, but has now expanded it as a result of encouragement from PPA and the Pinelands Commission. Road shoulder vegetation will still be regularly mowed wherever necessary, but most broad areas of road shoulders will only be mowed during the dormant season.



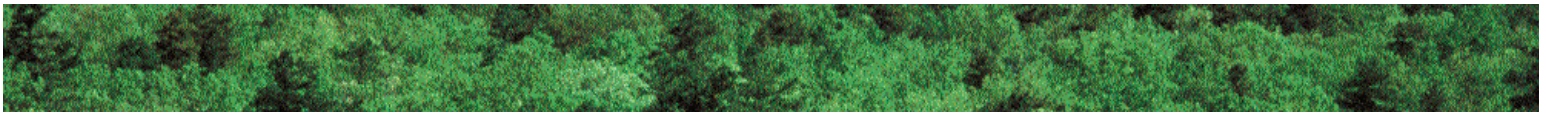
### **NJ Department of Transportation – Native Plants**

There are hundreds of acres of degraded roadsides in the Pinelands due to road construction and maintenance practices that have imported fill material that does not match the low nutrient and low pH of Pine Barrens soils. This is most evident adjacent to bridges and wherever paved roads traverse wetlands. As part of a recent pilot restoration project, NJDOT removed non-native plants and some of the rich soil from an intersection of Route 70, back-filled with locally-sourced soil, and created a Pinelands native plant landscape. If this project is successful, and if more funding is available, NJDOT intends to tackle more of these degraded sites.



### **NJ Department of Agriculture and Soil Conservation Committee**

As a direct result of PPA’s advocacy, the Pinelands Commission approached the [Soil Conservation Districts](#) (SCDs) and, finally, the [State Soil Conservation Committee](#) (SSCC), in order to initiate reforms of harmful practices that have been used regularly in the name of “soil conservation.” By state law, any significant area of soil that has become exposed as a result of disturbances associated with development or maintenance has to be protected from erosion. The problem is that the SCDs had gotten into the habit of treating any and every instance of exposed soil — even extremely porous sand on dead-flat dry land in the Pine Barrens — as if it needed to be “stabilized” promptly with some



kind of vegetative cover. In the Pinelands, the only way to get that kind of cover within the time frame imposed by the SCDs is to amend the soil and plant non-natives. That has resulted in the degradation of Pinelands soils, especially on roadsides, leading to the establishment of non-native plant populations that have displaced the natives. The SSCC is now in the process of revising its [standards](#), which detail the methods that may be used to address the threat of soil erosion. The proposed revisions incorporate a new level of awareness of the need to avoid degrading the Pinelands, but it is not yet clear exactly what will be adopted or how effective the new standards will be in protecting the Pinelands.

## State Legislature

### **Senator Van Drew – Actions Hurt the Pinelands**

Senator Jeff Van Drew (D-Cape May) took two actions this year that hurt the Pinelands. First, he orchestrated an eleventh-hour switch that prevented the Senate from voting to confirm a first-rate scientist to the Pinelands Commission. Second, he opposed the bill that will require registration of Off-Road Vehicles that cause so much harm in the Pinelands and elsewhere, helping to weaken the bill that was finally adopted. Knowledgeable Commissioners are vital to the protection of the Pinelands. The Commission currently includes no scientist, and Larry Niles, who spent 30 years as a wildlife biologist for the DEP, would be on the Pinelands Commission now but for a last minute maneuver by Senator Van Drew that removed his name from the list on which the Senate voted. Many legislators did not even know Dr. Niles' name was taken off the list right before the vote.

### **Special Interest Groups Prevail**

The Time of Decision Bill (A437/S82) passed the New Jersey Legislature and was signed by Governor Christie. This bill locks in development regulations in effect as of the time a builder files local applications, even if many years pass before the application is complete or acted upon. Although

this bill allows for public and safety exceptions, it takes away the local municipality's ability to make changes when new information comes to light as it relates to environmental protections. Hundreds of municipalities passed resolutions in opposition to this legislation. They were joined in opposition by a broad coalition, including environmental groups and planning officials throughout the State. This bill is among one of many that have been introduced and passed to reduce environmental regulations to accommodate development interests in the State. The public is taking a back seat to special interests. Senators Ron Rice and Jeff Van Drew and Assemblyman Jerry Green and Assemblywomen Alison Littell McHose and Charlotte Vandervalk were responsible for introducing this bill.

### **Rush to the Regulatory Bottom**

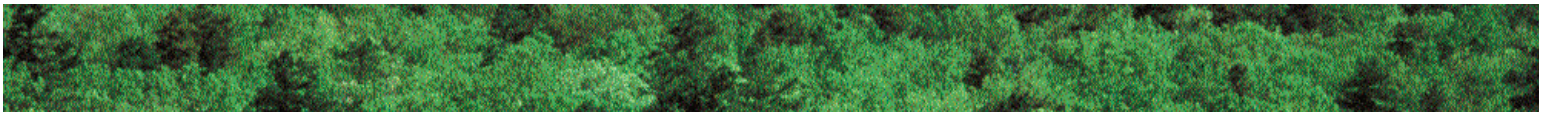
This recently introduced bill (A-2486/S1986) would prohibit DEP and other state agencies from adopting standards that are more protective than federal standards, unless specifically authorized by a state statute. Federal standards are typically weaker, and designed to cover all states and situations. They are not tailored to New Jersey's needs as the nation's most developed state. So this bill, pushed by developers and other industries, is specifically designed to make it hard for agencies to protect the public and the environment.

### **ORV Legislation.... *Finally!***

After ten years of hard work by PPA and other partners, the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) registration bill finally passed. The bill's provisions do not take effect until DEP designates



ORV damage at the Black Run Preserve in Evesham Township



one ORV park on public land. Once implemented, all off-road vehicle owners, new and existing, including dirt bike owners, will be required to register, tag and insure their vehicles. The bill also allocates a portion of the registration fees to a fund for maintaining and creating legal parks for riding. This bill does not make any activity illegal that was not already illegal. But it should solve one of the basic problems with enforcing existing law: the fact that law enforcement officers can only punish the crime by physically apprehending a rider, because their vehicles are not required to have license plates. A special thanks to the prime legislative champions: Senator Bob Gordon and Assemblyman Reed Gusciora as well as the additional sponsors on the bill Assemblymen Paul Moriarty, John Wisniewski, Ruben Ramos, Jr., Caridad Rodriguez, John McKeon and Linda Greenstein, and Senators Brian Stack and Shirley Turner.

 **Forest Stewardship Bill**

The newly passed Forest Stewardship Bill (A3239/S713) allows landowners with at least five acres to be eligible for reduced property tax assessments by actively managing their woodlands to promote forest health and sustainability. Previously, the same woodland owners participating in the farmland assessment program were subject to an income requirement, which forced landowners to cut their trees for timber and firewood. The practice was not sustainable and resulted in a major loss of forest productivity and biodiversity. The Forest Stewardship law sets up a voluntary incentive that allows forest landowners who meet farmland assessment criteria to actively manage their properties under improved forest stewardship plans – promoting productivity, regeneration and restoration. Stewardship activities can include: removing invasive plants, restoring endangered species habitat, fencing property to encourage regeneration and prevent deer damage, and resolving problems caused by erosion, disease and pests. Special thanks are due to bill sponsors Senator Bob Smith and Assemblyman John McKeon.

**County Government**

 **Ocean County Green Acres Land-Grab**

Ocean County is seeking to circumvent the Pinelands

process in order to expand its airport for a handful of hobby pilots. In the Preservation Area of the Pinelands, the CMP allows for a 50 percent expansion of non-conforming uses that existed prior to 1981. The county already exercised this option years ago at the Robert J. Miller Airpark in Berkeley Township, but is now asking for permission to deviate from Pinelands requirements to further expand. It is now planning for six new development projects. These include a new runway and parallel taxiway, nine airplane “T” hangers, a 500-foot shift of the existing runway, tree topping and removal, apron expansion, and pavement maintenance. In order to proceed with the development project, the county wants to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Commission to waive Pinelands requirements. The county also wants to offer compensation in the form of land that is already listed as protected open space under the States Green Acres Program. So in essence, the county is proposing to compensate for taking the public’s natural resources (habitat and wildlife) with public lands already funded and protected with taxpayer dollars.

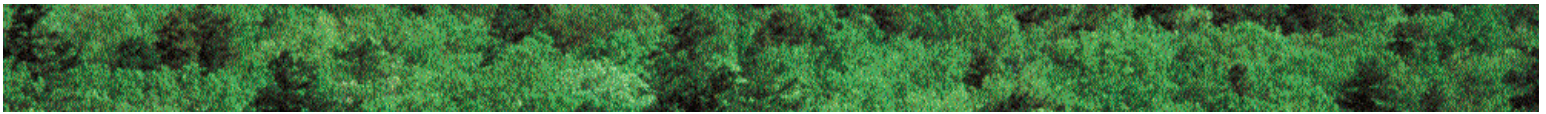
 **Burlington County Protects Roadside Vegetation**

The Burlington County Road Department has been aware of special plant populations, especially on Route 563 and other local county roads, for a long time, and has been working with members of the Burlington County Natural Sciences Club to protect them. Burlington County has now expanded its protective measures. Last year, it delayed mowing the entire length of Route 563 until the dormant season. (Unfortunately, some of the private landowners along one extensive span of Route 563 continued to scalp White-fringed Orchids and all the other native plants on the road shoulders abutting their properties.) Now, Burlington County plans to delay roadside mowing wherever possible along all of its roads in the Pinelands.

**Local Government**

 **Buena Vista Ignores Pinelands Regulations**

Buena Vista Township proceeded with at least five development projects in the Richland Village area without obtaining public development approvals from the Pinelands Commission. These projects included a railroad siding and boarding platform, clearing of wooded areas on three lots,



creation of a stone parking lot, a stone driveway, and three structures associated with the train station along Harding Highway. The public expects that their own public agencies, at least, will adhere to the procedures that protect Pinelands resources.



Richland Village in Buena Vista

 **Pemberton Township – Agriculture Not Wanted!**

At a time when many towns are fighting to maintain their agricultural heritage, Pemberton Township is actively in the process of undoing theirs. Pemberton Township recently completed the process of updating its master plan. Most of the changes adopted by the township council rezoned farmland to accommodate development. There are three areas just outside, but adjacent to, the Pinelands that have been changed for increased development. Two parcels were rezoned from AR (agricultural) to GCLI (general commercial); one area was changed from AR (agriculture) to NC (neighborhood commercial) and the Greenburg farm changed from AR (agriculture) to senior housing. These areas were zoned agriculture and are being actively farmed. The rezoning will now allow commercial or high density senior residential housing. In addition, the township is now petitioning the Pinelands Commission to change an active farming area along Route 530 within a Pinelands Agricultural Production Area to a Regional Growth Area.

 **Little Egg Harbor Says No to Ill-Planned ORV Park**

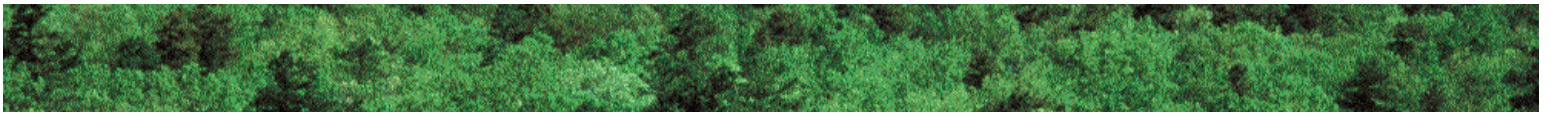
Kudos to the Little Egg Harbor Zoning Board for opposing

a badly-planned Off Road Vehicle (ORV) park proposed for an area surrounded by a state forest. Atlantic Off-Highway, a non-profit Off Road Vehicle group, applied to the Little Egg Harbor Zoning Board to convert a 120-acre tract near Thomas Avenue into a recreational ORV park. The proposed park is surrounded by Bass River State Forest. Atlantic Off-Highway also proposed using extensive parts of the State Forest as part of the ORV park, and it was unable to show that park users would not damage adjacent natural areas. Residents, PPA and many others raised concerns that allowing this ORV park would result in the degradation of environmentally sensitive public lands. After many hours of testimony by citizens and environmental groups, the Zoning Board denied the application.

 **Barnegat Township – Ocean Acres Denial**

In May 2010 the Barnegat Township Committee voted not to rezone land in Ocean Acres which would have removed 38 acres from the 350-acre Ocean Acres conservation zone in order to allow it to be developed into 135 houses. The Committee courageously resisted pressure from its own lawyer, as well as the developer’s threat to sue. The developer has now sued in an attempt to force the rezoning.

The Ocean Acres conservation zone was created in 2004 by agreement between the Pinelands Commission and the township to protect wetlands and associated buffers, as well as critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. When Barnegat passed an ordinance to implement the conservation zone in 2004, the Walters Group, a major landowner and developer of lots in Ocean Acres, objected. Walters persuaded the Pinelands Commission and Barnegat Township to enter into a three-party agreement, allowing the developer to do an additional two-year study of the 38-acre portion aimed at showing it was not really critical habitat for Northern Pine Snake, even though pine snakes had denned there at least as late as 2003. The agreement provided for Barnegat to rezone the land for development if the Walters study found no Pine Snakes and the Pinelands Commission accepted the study. When the study was completed in 2008, the developer’s study asserted that there were no more Pine Snakes using the area. *Can you imagine that!* The Pinelands Commission subsequently caved in and accepted the questionable findings. Due to the Pinelands Commission’s failure to protect important habitat, in the end it was up to the Township Committee to say, *NO!*



## Hammonton Planning

Hammonton, with the assistance of the firm Brown and Keener, is creating a [Form-Based Code](#) for the town. Form-based codes create a predictable public realm by controlling the physical form of buildings, with a lesser focus on types and intensities of land use. These codes address the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks. Hammonton's planners have spent a lot of time observing, talking to a wide array of people, studying the buildings, sidewalks, streetscapes, and range of businesses, and they have surveyed residents and held workshops to get input. The evident strengths of Hammonton's main street corridor have been cataloged – a wide range of building styles, a train station, a clear town center, and community support for retaining the character of downtown. A second, strong commercial corridor along the White Horse Pike was also identified. Both would be the envy of many communities, and both position them well for future development if it is well planned. Hammonton is looking ahead and using the most progressive tools available to ensure a sustainable future of its residents.



## Jackson Reduces Open Space Preservation

In a short-sighted move that will affect the future of Jackson, the Township Council advanced a proposal to reduce funding for open space preservation. In November 2009 the Jackson Township Council placed a question on the ballot to reduce the amount of the levy for open space from 3 cents per \$100 to 2 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. At a time when municipal taxes everywhere are increasing partly due to the increase of new residential development, why would Jackson want to decrease the amount of revenue going into its open space fund? Preserving land is far cheaper than having it developed.



## Towns Receive Sustainable Jersey Certification

PPA gives thumbs up to Galloway Township, Woodbine Borough, and Manchester Township for receiving [Sustainable Jersey](#) certification in 2009. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a sustainability program that links cer-

tification with strong state and private financial incentives. The program rates municipalities on issues such as biodiversity, water quality, water conservation, open space planning, energy conservation, recycling and many other topics.

## Federal Government



## Department of Defense – Open Space Funding

The Department of Defense continues to provide funding to partners to buy lands in Ocean and Burlington Counties to keep in their natural state, and to serve as natural buffers to the military bases. Last year, Defense Department's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative program awarded Burlington County \$500,000 to offset the costs of preserving farms in the area of the McGuire-Fort Dix-Lakehurst Mega-base. An additional \$30,000 from the fund was used towards the purchase of 112 acres surrounding the Warren Grove Bombing Range in Bass River Township, Burlington County.



## Nuclear-Tipped Missiles

This June marked the 50th anniversary of a fire at an Air Force facility in Ocean County that sent radioactive particles from the fire into the air over the Pine Barrens. Today the missile complex located off Route 539 is rusted and overgrown. The missile shelters are largely intact, along with low-levels of plutonium contamination from the burnt nuclear warhead, and groundwater contamination from missile maintenance. Soil with high levels of plutonium contamination have been removed, but groundwater contamination has never been addressed. In the meantime, the contamination continues to spread and is now reaching a nearby stream in Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area. Only recently has the Air Force proposed a strategy for intercepting and treating the groundwater contamination. Hopefully this is the year that real progress starts to be made in cleaning up the groundwater contamination in the Pinelands.



## Educational Institutions



### **Evesham Township Educators**

In 2009, PPA partnered with REI, Evesham Environmental Commission, and teachers and students in the Evesham and Lenape Regional School Districts to hold the [Black Run Preserve Summer Teacher Institute](#). This place-based environmental education program had teachers learning about the unique Pine Barrens ecology within a couple of miles of their schools, and how to use this preserved open space as a very local outdoor classroom for their students. As a follow-up to the Institute, teachers and students organized and led public programs for local residents, including guided hikes and an Earth Day clean up. Another Summer Teacher Institute will be held in July 2010, with the goal of more fully integrating the use of the Black Run Preserve as an excellent environmental education and recreation resource for the local schools and the public.



### **Richard Stockton College – *Expansion ...Again!***

The college, located in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, is currently negotiating with the Pinelands Commission to revise the prior Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the college and the Commission so it can expand its campus into environmentally sensitive areas that were supposed to be protected under the prior agreement. In 1990, 500 acres of the Stockton College campus were changed from a Pinelands Rural Development Areas (RDA) to a Regional Growth Area, which allows smaller wetland buffers and higher density development. In exchange, the college agreed to permanently protect the remainder of the campus property, approximately 1,060 acres of Pine Barrens forests and wetlands. The Commission's executive director in 1990 stated that, "It should be noted that the re-designation is part of an overall master plan for the entire 1,500 acres property which should afford a greater level of protection for the balance of the property than if the general land use standards of Rural Development Areas were followed." Neither the college nor the Commission met its obligations under the 1990 agreement, since they did nothing to permanently protect this land. Now, in 2010, it is becoming apparent that Commission staff is laying the groundwork to facilitate the nullification of the original 1990 agreement that protected environmentally sensitive areas.



### **Taunton Forge Elementary School**

Students from this Medford elementary school are helping to restore the Pinelands to a patch of land across from the main entrance to the school. This abandoned area had become a parking lot of sorts, but not now. The students in the school's Environmental Awareness Club have been working with their teachers to prune, plant and label native Pinelands plants on this small spot. They have stopped mowing the area and hope to see this spot grow into a vital Pinelands habitat. The students also created a pathway for visitors and set up cut tree trunks on the perimeter in order to prevent cars from parking in the restored area.

## Non-Governmental Organizations



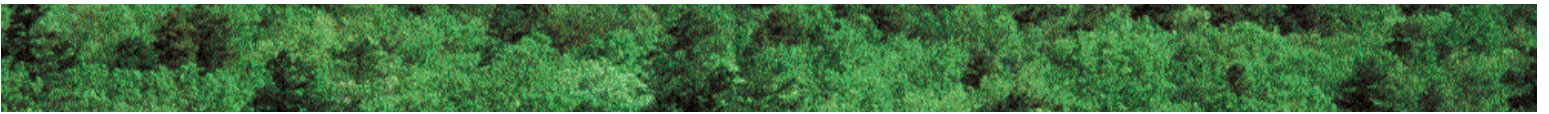
### **Hovnanian Enterprises - Water Violations**

Home builder Hovnanian Enterprises has agreed to pay a \$1 million civil penalty to settle federal Clean Water Act violations at 590 sites throughout the nation. During April 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the settlement is for violations in 18 states with 54 sites in New Jersey. Of the New Jersey sites, 13 were for violations in Pinelands towns. The violations relate primarily to poor stormwater management on construction sites. The EPA estimated that approximately 183,104 tons of sediment was discharged annually into streams and rivers.



### **Keep it Green Coalition**

The NJ [Keep It Green Campaign](#) (KIG) represents over 150 statewide, local and regional organizations ranging from clean water groups, to sportsmen's groups, to affordable housing and urban park advocates working to secure funding to protect our clean water, natural areas, farmland, parks and historic sites for our benefit today and for the benefit of future generations. This large coalition of organizations (including Pinelands Preservation Alliance) has effectively worked on securing open space ballot questions for public voting since 2006. KIG was awarded the Regional Environmental Program of the Year by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for all



the work that it has done in the past year.



### **New Jersey Builders Association**

The New Jersey Builders Association filed a petition with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to remove the “threatened” status of the Northern Pine Snake in New Jersey. Some developers are annoyed by the fact that they have to follow rules that protect threatened and endangered species, even in Pinelands growth areas. This is especially true with the Northern Pine Snake, since it likes to inhabit upland areas where developers like to build homes. In an effort to remove this obstacle, the Builders Association petitioned the state to remove the protective status of the Pine Snake. The DEP found the petition weak and rejected the Builders Association request to remove protective status of the pine snake. (*You can find the [builders’ petition and other related materials](#) on PPA’s website under Protection, PPA at Work, Issues and Campaigns.*)



### **NJ Conservation Foundation – Ocean County**

The [New Jersey Conservation Foundation](#) (NJCF) continued to show its long-term commitment to the Pinelands with the purchase of almost 1,500 acres in Ocean County. NJCF teamed with the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders to preserve an area in the Pine Barrens know as the Forked River Mountains. Funding for the land acquisition came from the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust, state Green Acres Program, and the Pinelands Conservation Fund. This latest acquisition brings the nonprofit organization’s total land holdings in the Forked River Mountains alone to nearly 4,000 acres. Since 1960 NJCF has protected more than 120,000 acres of open space from the Highlands to the Pine Barrens.



### **Hammonton’s Eagle Theatre – Historic Preservation**

Through the incredible determination and hard work of volunteers from Hammonton and the surrounding communities, the [Eagle Theatre](#) was brought back to its

glory and re-opened on June 6, 2009 to serve as a culturally diverse performing arts center in downtown Hammonton. The Eagle Theatre originally opened its doors in 1914 as a silent movie theatre house. Built exclusively for this purpose, it was a unique theatre that remained open until the advent of the talkies in 1929. Through the years, the Eagle Theatre served as a church, an apartment, and a storage facility. It was rediscovered in 2007 when it faced demolition to make room for parking. Today, the Eagle Theatre is run by a nonprofit arts organization that serves audiences throughout Southern New Jersey with traditional and innovative productions from touring theatres, live bands, and its resident community theatre organization, The 2nd and Vine Players. Seating 208 patrons, the Eagle Theatre has brought a new artistic epicenter to the heart of the Pinelands.

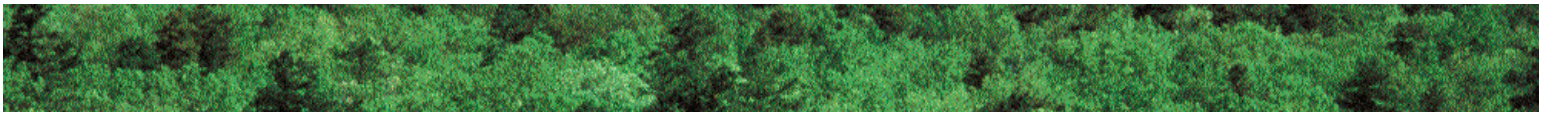


Credit: PPA

*The historic Eagle Theatre in Hammonton*

## **Pinelands License Plate Update: Pinelands Plates Preserve Land!**

The sale of [Pinelands license plates](#) have been used to purchase over 5,100 acres of land from approximately 600 landowners throughout the Pinelands National Reserve. From the time legislation establishing a Pinelands license plate was signed into law, more than 7,500 sets have been purchased by New Jersey drivers. The six-color plate was designed by Robin Jess of



Edison, NJ and depicts blueberries, cranberries, a pine branch with a pine cone and a small green Pine Barrens Treefrog.

The creation of a special Pinelands license plate was the brainchild of PPA’s own Theresa Lettman. After three years of hard work on her part, it became a reality in December 1996. The Pinelands plates initially cost \$50 to acquire, with a \$10 annual renewal fee. More than 80% of the initial fee from the sales goes into the “Pinelands Preservation Fund” to be used for land preservation in the Pinelands. The legislation allows the lands that are purchased to include: Green Acres Acquisitions; the purchases of land with Limited Practical Use in the Pinelands National Reserve; and for use as a match to federal funds for acquisition of lands with limited practical use.



*Pinelands License Plate*

The Limited Practical Use program is a joint Federal, State and Pinelands Commission program aimed at purchasing smaller properties in the Pinelands. The goal of the program is to offer some compensation to those property owners significantly impacted by the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan. These properties must be less than 50 acres in size with limited development potential under the CMP.

To help these landowners and at the same time preserve land, beginning in the early 1990’s Congress ap-

propriated funds for acquisition of these types of properties in the Pinelands, however, the federal money must be matched with state funds before the federal money can be released to purchase land.

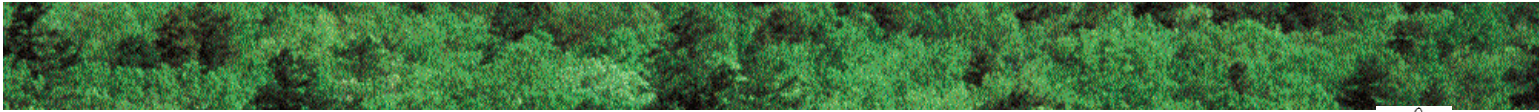
Federal and state funding for the program was provided up until 2005 and then ceased. As a result, monies obtained from the sale of license plates are currently the only source of funding to purchase lands through the Limited Practical Use program.

Anyone with property in the Pinelands who feels they may qualify to have their land purchased under the program should contact the Pinelands Commission at (609) 894-7300. ***Show your support for the Pinelands by seriously considering buying a set of plates the next time your car registration is due!***

## **Beryl Robichaud Collins (1919 -2009)**

Beryl Robichaud Collins, PPA trustee emeritus and Pinelands author, passed away on December 7, 2009, in Hightstown, New Jersey. Beryl is best known in the Pinelands region as the author and editor of important works on the history of the Pinelands protection movement and the natural resources of New Jersey. With Emily Russell, Beryl edited and wrote much of *Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands: A New Direction in Land-Use Management* (Rutgers University Press, 1988). This book is an indispensable reference on the extraordinary sequence of events leading to the adoption of the Pinelands Protection Act and Comprehensive Management Plan. With Karl Anderson, Beryl wrote the highly regarded *Plant Communities of New Jersey: A Study in Landscape Diversity* (Rutgers University Press, 1994). Both books remain in print and continue to provide a rich source of information and inspiration for conservationists both regionally and nationally.





Beryl was deeply involved in the Pine Barrens years before Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands was written. As a researcher at Rutgers, she was a key member of a team of scientists who helped spur national recognition of the Pinelands' unique natural resources and thereby shaped the course of the federal and state Pinelands protection program. Among other contributions, Beryl authored *A Conceptual Framework for Pinelands Decision-Making for the Pinelands Commission*, a source for several basic resource protection strategies now embodied in the Pinelands CMP. The report sounded the themes of maintaining native water quality characteristics, aquifers, and contiguous natural habitats that Pinelands advocates continue to press to this day.

Beryl received her master's degree in biology from Columbia University and her doctorate in ecology from Rutgers University. As an educator she was a champion of Pine Barren conservation, both as an associate professor at Rutgers and as a research associate at Rutgers University's Institute for Environmental Studies.

Prior to her retirement in 1979, she was Senior Vice President at McGraw-Hill, in charge of the Corporate Management Information Services Division. She served on many nonprofit boards, as well as on numerous corporate and governmental advisory commissions and boards. The nonprofit boards on which she served include the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the YMCA of New York City, Mount Holyoke College, and Rider College. PPA was pleased to honor this hero of Pinelands preservation as an inaugural inductee into The Pine Barrens Hall of Fame in 2004. She will truly be missed!



# Pinelands Preservation Alliance

## The Pinelands Portal

**For information about Pinelands protection, plants, wildlife, history, recreation and events, go to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance website:**

[WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG](http://WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG)

**Become a PPA Fan on Facebook:**

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PINELANDS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PINELANDS)

**Sign up for the PPA email alert by sending an email to:**

[PPA@PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG](mailto:PPA@PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG)

**Sign up for the our citizen-activist Pinelands Watch Network by sending an email to:**

[THERESA@PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG](mailto:THERESA@PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG)

# The New Jersey Pinelands

The New Jersey Pinelands is home to the most extensive surviving forest on the Eastern Seaboard between Maine and Florida. The Pinelands is a region of 1.1 million acres defined by federal and state legislation enacted to protect the unique ecological values of the Pine Barrens ecosystem by controlling development on a regional basis. The Pinelands landscape consists of generally flat, sandy and acidic soils deposited over millions of years of rising and falling sea levels. Early European settlers gave this region the derogatory name of “Pine Barrens” not because the region is barren of life, but simply because its acidic, sandy soils are an unfriendly medium for crops like wheat and vegetables. Indeed, the New Jersey Pine Barrens is a lush ecosystem that provides a haven for a growing number of rare species adapted to its unusual conditions. At least half of the Pinelands are privately owned – that is, not protected as state and local nature preserves.

The realization that the Pine Barrens is underlain by one of the continent’s largest fresh water aquifers and that the Pines also serve as home for many rare and endangered plants and animals, led to passage of federal and state legislation to protect the area’s natural resources. Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 created the Pinelands National Reserve. New Jersey adopted the Pinelands Protection Act the following year. This Act implemented the federal statute, created the Pinelands Commission, and directed the Commission to adopt a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) to manage development throughout the region.

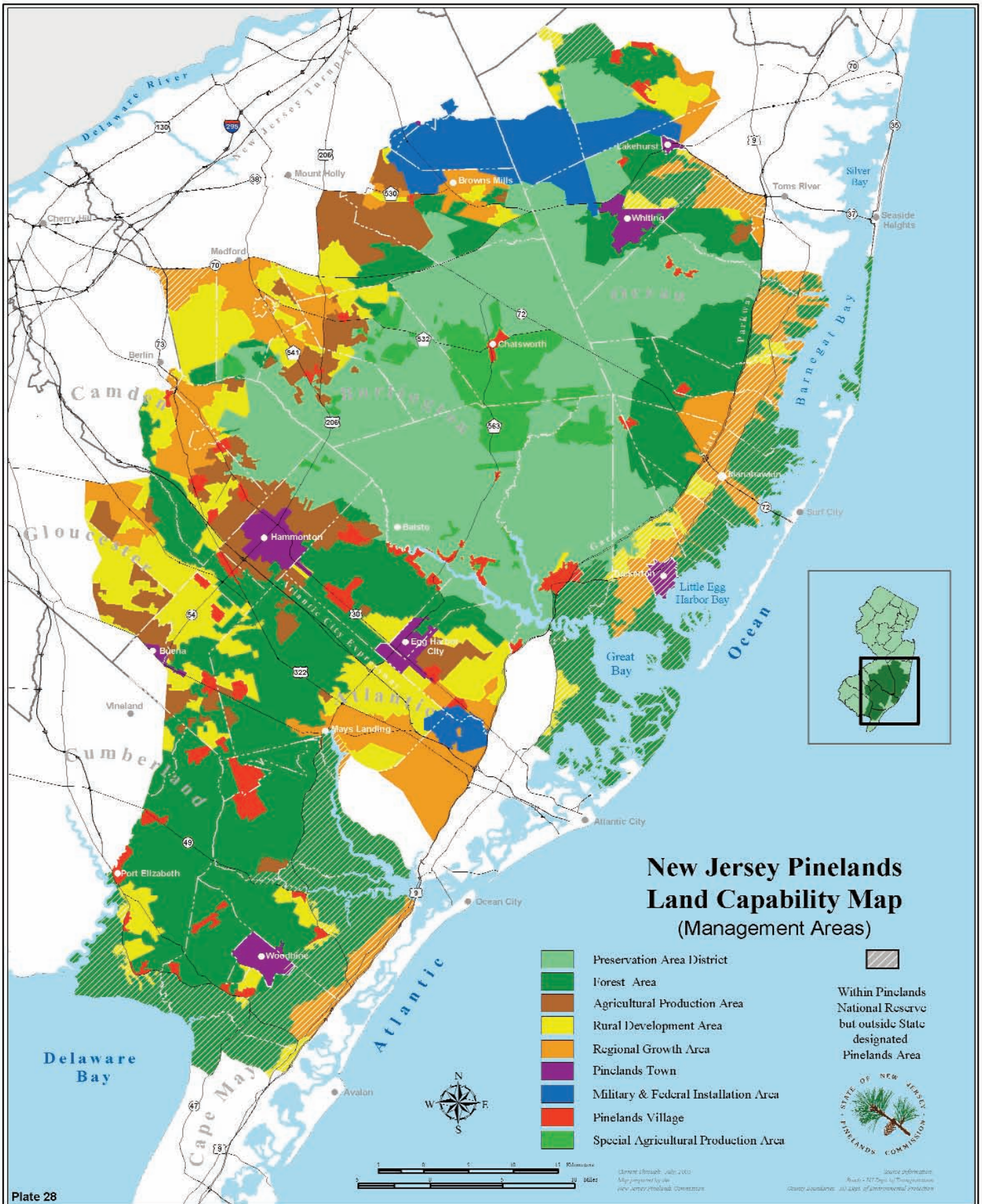
The Comprehensive Management Plan covers the 1.1 million acres of the Pinelands National Reserve. In addition to writing and amending the CMP, the Pinelands Commission applies the CMP by reviewing all development applications in 936,000 acres of the National Reserve. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) implements the CMP in most of the balance of the Pinelands National Reserve through New Jersey’s coastal zone management rules.

Even in the Pinelands, many residents do not know that all new development here is controlled – and in most areas severely limited – by the nation’s most innovative regional land use plan. The CMP is designed to preserve the pristine conditions found within the core of the Pinelands while accommodating increased human use and a regulated amount of growth around the region’s periphery. The Pinelands Commission’s staff of approximately 40 professionals is directed by 15 Commissioners, individuals appointed as follows: seven by the Governor with approval of the state Senate, seven by the counties in the Pinelands, and one by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

The DEP also plays key roles in protecting the Pinelands environment. In addition to its job of implementing the CMP in the coastal zone, the DEP regulates the distribution of fresh water from the aquifers that lie beneath the Pinelands, and it is the state agency that also controls the filling or dredging of wetlands here as elsewhere in the state.

The Pineland Commission and DEP’s accomplishments in the Pinelands are many and truly remarkable. They are, however, government agencies susceptible to changing political currents. There is no guarantee that the Pinelands Commissioners’ enforcement of the CMP always furthers its statutory mandate “to preserve, protect, and enhance” the Pinelands. There is no guarantee that DEP will consistently protect the water resources it controls. Therefore, it is up to the citizens of the state to monitor, engage, criticize and support these agencies as they do their work. Ultimately, only the demands of the public will guarantee the survival of the Pine Barrens.

# Pinelands Land Capability Map



# The Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Founded in 1989, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to preservation of the New Jersey Pinelands. Our members include concerned citizens, businesses, and environmentalists who believe the actions and decisions of the Pinelands Commission and other government agencies should be rigorously monitored, missteps critiqued, and good steps supported.

PPA's primary objectives are three-fold: First, we monitor issues coming before the Pinelands Commission, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, local government, courts, and monitor the state's lawmaking bodies when legislation affecting the Pinelands is introduced. PPA supports the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and acts to insure that the CMP is observed, enforced and improved. Second, we build grassroots support for conservation and work with citizens to help them add their voices to the debates over conservation and preservation. Third, PPA educates. Our staff and volunteers travel throughout New Jersey and neighboring states providing education on the Pinelands through presentations, workshops and panel discussions. PPA provides numerous field trips for the public and school groups, and we hold intensive teacher-training programs to help educators incorporate the Pinelands into their teaching.

PPA welcomes inquiries regarding membership and is happy to provide information and suggestions to those wishing to visit the Pinelands. We also invite people to visit our 250 year-old headquarters at the Bishop Farmstead in Southampton, where you will find an excellent visitors' center that can serve as your gateway to exploring the Pinelands. Basic membership to PPA includes a yearly subscription to our newsletter, a discount on PPA field trips and merchandise; and the knowledge that your contributions are used to help us preserve, protect and enhance our state's greatest natural resource.

For more information, contact PPA at Bishop Farmstead, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088, phone 609-859-8860, fax 609-859-8804 or e-mail at [ppa@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:ppa@pinelandsalliance.org). Visit our web site at [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org).

