



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

April / May 2017

Volume 24

Number 3

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Open House

May 21st
12 noon to 4 pm

*Celebrate the successful
completion of the
Brendan T. Byrne Fund
for the Pinelands. Tour
the newly renovated
barn, enjoy music, light
refreshments and more!*

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T - 609.859.8860
F - 609.859.8804
WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG



INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Residents protest the South Jersey Gas Pipeline during the Pinelands Commission vote on February 24th.

Pinelands Commission Approves SJ Gas Pipeline

by Katie Smith, Policy Advocate

On February 24, the Pinelands Commission voted 9-5-1, over massive protest, to approve the South Jersey Gas pipeline that will cross the Forest Area of the Pinelands- if it is ever built. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance has one pending appeal against the informal process the Commission used in its approval, and we filed an appeal on the merits of the February 24th decision. With the support of leaders like former governors Brendan Byrne, Tom Kean, Jim Florio and Christine Todd Whitman, and of many thousands of citizens, PPA aims to prevent the pipeline from being built through the Forest Area, in violation of Pinelands protection laws.

On the unseasonably warm February morning, close to one thousand people showed up to voice their support for the Pinelands. Staff, trustees, and members of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance joined forces with residents and groups from around the state to present their views to the Commission. People held

creative signs, including one depicting the Lorax from Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* with the caption "I speak for the Pines." The public filled over half of the ballroom, capacity 1500 people, reserved for the event.

When the chair began to make a motion to take action on the pipeline application, the crowd began chanting "NO!" After several minutes, some Commissioners expressed their concerns with the application. Voicing concern for the process of the public comment period, factual inaccuracies in the application, and limited time to review documents received by the Commissioners the *night before the vote*, Commissioner Lohbauer made a motion to table the application. This motion had the support of five additional Commissioners, but failed to carry.

Before the final vote, several Commissioners explained why they believed the pipeline violates Pinelands rules, including discussion of both direct and indirect impacts of the develop-

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Inside The Pinelands

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Executive Editor

Carleton Montgomery

Editor

Becky Free

PPA Staff

Richard Bizub

Tom Dunn

Audra Hardoon

Jason Howell

Ryan Rebozo

Jaclyn Rhoads

Stephen Sebastian

Katie Smith

Jane Wiltshire

Pinelands Adventures

Rob Ferber

John Volpa

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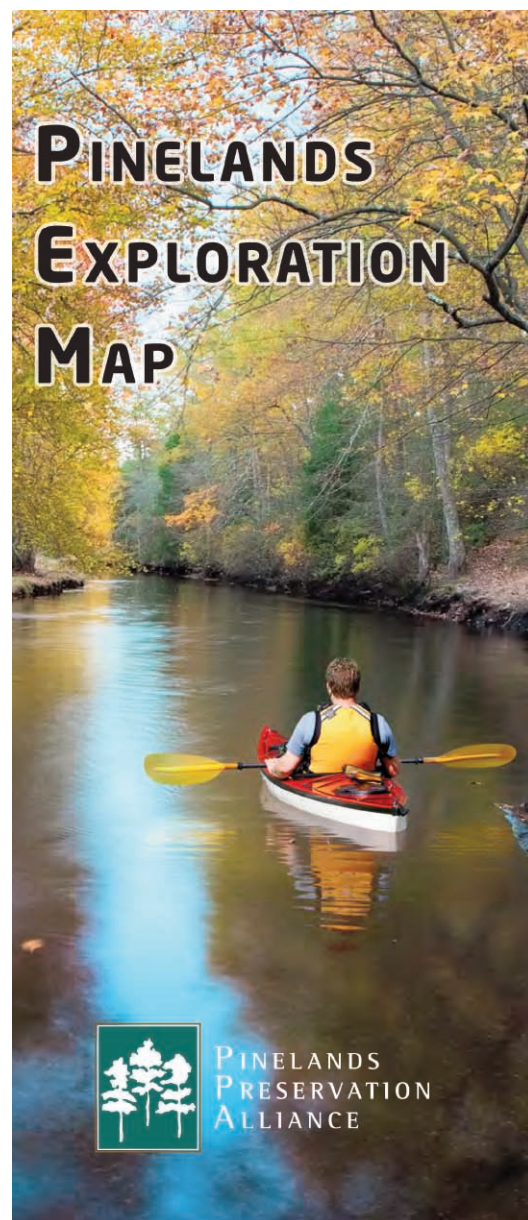
We often hear people say they do not know where to start when it comes to exploring the Pinelands, that it is a mystery, and that they are intimidated by its size. There is surprisingly little material available to help someone plan a trip for the day or a weekend. The need for an overall tour of the Pinelands – including a map, images and a description of activities prompted us to create the *Pinelands Exploration Map*.

This map is organized around 14 gateway sites into the Pinelands. These sites are accessible by paved road and they are interesting and representative of this region. They are also logical points from which you can engage in a wide variety of outdoor activities. An example of a gateway site would be Historic Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest. From Batsto Village you can visit the museum, go for a hike or a bike ride, bird watch and botanize and take the smart phone tour.

If you are looking for more adventurous travel you can explore the satellite sites associated with these gateway sites. Activities at these sites include hiking and canoeing and often these sites are only accessible by sand roads. An example of this would be the historic ruins of Martha's Furnace which is only accessible by sand road from the gateway site of Harrisville.

For more information visit our website www.pinelandsalliance.org/Gateways. Here you will find web links that will help you plan your visit as well as more information about what you can do there.

We hope this map makes it easy for people of all interests and abilities to experience the region's characteristic beauty. **You can get a copy of this map for \$5 at our visitor center and at Pinelands Adventures.** Ghost towns, historic villages, visitor centers, museums, and all sorts of wild areas are just waiting for you to explore them. Pick up a copy and get out there and explore today! If you are interested in selling this map please contact Becky at 609-859-8860 ext. 121.



Brendan T. Byrne Fund for the Pinelands Reaches \$4 Million Goal!

by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director and Steve Sebastian, Director of Philanthropy

Last May we took our \$4 million *Brendan T. Byrne Fund for the Pinelands Campaign* "public" with the announcement of the Robert and Joan Campbell \$250,000 Matching Gift Challenge. We are pleased to report that you responded – we have met the Campbell Challenge and reached our campaign goal!

When we launched this ambitious campaign, we had high hopes that our message would be well received. As we presented our case, we were moved by the support we received throughout New Jersey and the Delaware Valley and across the political spectrum. Over 900 families, individuals and organizations donated to the Byrne Fund. Their message to us was clear – we must protect the Pinelands for future generations.

We want to extend a very special thank you to former Governors Brendan Byrne, James Florio, Thomas Kean and Christine Whitman. They each actively supported our campaign and made their case as to why it's more important than ever to protect the Pinelands. We also want to thank Betty Wold Johnson, Bob and Joan Rechnitz, Robert Wilson, Robert and Joan Campbell, Cynthia and Peter Kellogg, the William Penn Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Hyde and Watson Foundation and the 1772 Foundation, all of whom were early supporters and helped the campaign get off to a strong start.

The timeliness and importance of our *Brendan T. Byrne Fund for the Pinelands Campaign* has been highlighted by the Pineland Commission's recent approval of the South Jersey Gas pipeline project. It shows how the Pinelands protection process and rules can be undermined by short sighted, special interest politics.

To protect the Pinelands in the long run, we need to reach a lot more people, from more walks of life, and show them why the Pinelands is a treasure they should help protect. We need to mobilize these people when big threats arise – otherwise

public officials find it easy to help the powerful interests looking to circumvent or revoke Pinelands protection rules (as was just demonstrated in the SJ Gas Pipeline case). We need to bring the best possible legal and expert minds to bear on threats as they arise.

The *Brendan T. Byrne Fund for the Pinelands Campaign* is designed to make these things happen, and the funds raised are already being put to work:

(1) In order to reach more people with the Pinelands message, we launched our Pinelands Adventures operation in 2015. Pinelands Adventures has been a resounding success with over 8,000 customers to date. We have expanded our outdoor recreation and education programs for youth and underserved communities so that this next generation comes to know and love the Pinelands. Our visitors have enjoyed their experience, giving us excellent ratings on TripAdvisor.

(2) We have completed Phase 1 renovation work on our Bishop Farmstead Headquarters' 1932 Loudon Barn. We have a wonderful venue to host more events, classes and exhibits, plus we gained some much needed office space.

(3) Funds from the campaign have been used in our efforts to stop the construction of gas pipelines through restricted areas of the Pinelands and to stop an illegal major development project in Ocean County.

(4) Finally, a portion of the funds raised have been placed in a Board directed endowment, giving us additional resources to sustain our organization through good and bad economic times. The Alliance is now in a stronger financial position to be your expert voice to Protect, Preserve and Promote the Pinelands far into the future.

Let's build upon the broad support that we have received and help us spread the word about the Alliance's work and the importance of protecting the Pinelands.

Now is the time that many fellow citizens are ready to take action to make a difference!

We are holding a campaign celebration open house event at the Bishop Farmstead on Sunday, May 21st. We hope you to see you there!

Fairs & Festivals

There is so much happening for Earth Day in 2017. We hope you can stop by our table at one of these great events!

ACUA Earth Day Festival

April 23rd, 10am - 4pm

at 6700 Delilah Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Cattus Island Nature Festival

April 29th, 10am - 4pm

at Cattus Island Park
Toms River, NJ

Burlington County Earth Fair

June 4th, 10:30am - 4pm

at Smithville Historic Park
Eastampton, NJ

Barneget Bay Festival

June 4th, 10am - 4pm

at Wanamaker Field
Island Heights, NJ

Whitesbog Blueberry Festival

June 24 - 25, 10am - 4pm

at Historic Whitesbog Village
Brendan Byrne State Forest, NJ

Would you like to volunteer at one of these events?

**Contact Mike 609-859-8860 ext. 115
or mike@pinelandsalliance.org.**

Join us for a Pinelands Adventure in 2017

by Rob Ferber, Director of Pinelands Adventures

You love the Pine Barrens. You support the work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance to defend this special place against the encroachment of an all-consuming civilization. You read the newsletters, open emails, sign petitions, share on social media, send money, attend meetings, make your voice heard at hearings and protest the pipelines. And for that we are grateful.

But how much time do you actually spend exploring the Pinelands, appreciating its beauty and learning its secrets? Have you ever climbed to the top of Apple Pie Hill Fire Tower? One glance at the view and you'll know that all of your advocacy efforts are worthwhile. When was the last time you let the current, nature's very force, silently propel you down the Batsto River? It's probably the most pristine waterway in New Jersey and the peace that can be experienced there is missing from our modern lives.

Pinelands Adventures was created by PPA to share the Pine Barrens with you. We'll help unlock its mysteries and make accessible its habitats so that everyone has an opportunity to learn and explore. It is our intention that when each individual departs Pinelands Adventures they take with them a sense of appreciation and a desire to learn more, see more and do more in, and on behalf of, this environment that we have been entrusted to protect.

In addition to Pinelands Adventures tours for the general public, we offer special trips for private groups and have hosted professionals, government officials, scientists, academics and especially students. In 2016, hundreds of school aged children experienced the Pine Barrens for the first time through our educational

programs. Many of these young people are from underserved communities throughout New Jersey including Newark and Camden. Some special trips were subsidized through grants and other fundraising efforts which make this important work possible.

Pinelands Adventures truly has something for everyone from the most adventurous overnight campers to individuals with limited mobility and everyone in between. Two, four and eight hour paddling trips down the Batsto and Mullica Rivers are available every day throughout the season, April 1 through October 31. See the list of upcoming guided programs on page 7 of this newsletter. Advanced reservations are highly recommended.

Our small group guided bus tours and hikes present opportunities to learn about Pine Barrens culture, history and ecology by visiting ghost towns, unique habitats and some of the places John McPhee wrote about in his landmark book *The Pine Barrens*. Pinelands Adventures expert tour guides will interpret the sites for you and share their personal experiences.

We hope you'll carve out a few hours to join us for a naturalist led or self-guided Adventure in 2017. Our new schedule is posted and trips can be booked at any time at www.PinelandsAdventures.org, by calling 609-268-0189 or by stopping by the Adventure Center; 1005 Atsion Road, Shamong NJ 08088. Our friendly staff is happy to answer any questions and help you plan your next adventure in the Pine Barrens!

Thanks to all of you who have purchased certified organic vegetable and herb plants from

Pinelands Adventures 1st Annual Plant Sale! They will be ready to pick up at PPA's Earth Day Native Plant Sale on Friday, April 21 from 3 -6pm (PPA members only) or Saturday, April 22 from 11am -2pm. If you didn't have an opportunity to pre-order before our February 28 deadline, we will have a limited supply of plants available on the days of the sale, while supplies last.

Explore the Pinelands National Reserve

with Pinelands Adventures!

Guided and unguided trips on the Batsto River, bus tours, hikes, canoe lessons and more.

Fun for the whole family!

Book your trip today! Spring is a great time to experience New Jersey's Pine Barrens.

Call 609-268-0189 or visit www.PinelandsAdventures.org

Spring Guided Trips are listed on page 7 of this newsletter.



Staff from the G. R. Dodge Foundation enjoy a day in the Pinelands with Pinelands Adventures.

Pinelands Commission Approves SJ Gas Pipeline

continued from cover

ment as proposed. Commissioner Candace Ashmun included this powerful line in her statement: *“setting a precedent by allowing this line to cross the Forest Area with little or no advantage to the Pinelands residents will forever haunt future Commissioners.”*

No Commissioners made any statement in support of the pipeline, nor did any respond to the concerns other Commissioners raised.

When the chair of the Commission called for a vote, anti-pipeline activists began chanting and singing. The pipeline was approved over vocal objections from the crowd.

The final vote tally was 9-5-1, with newly sworn in Commissioner Frank Hays, the National Parks Service representative, abstaining. Public comment ensued after the vote, and many people were eager to speak. Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director of PPA, and Rachel Rosenberg, attorney with Dechert LLP representing PPA, made comments indicating the extent of inaccuracies in the Commission staff report that favored the application, the need to improve the process for the upcoming the New Jersey Natural Gas pipeline application, and the need to issue a stay on construction pending the outcome of litigation.

Carleton Montgomery commented on the unprecedented public turnout for a weekday meeting (at which everyone believed the fix was in long before the meeting began), saying: *“And yet they came out, to talk to you, to yell at you, to yell to you.”* He closed by advising the Commission, “you have the chance to get them believe again in this institution by doing some new and really good things.”

This vote on the application was upsetting and frustrating, but we are not giving up. We, and so many of our members and partners, will continue to fight this improper decision. At the time of the vote, PPA already had an appeal pending with the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court objecting to the procedure by which the Pinelands Commission dealt with this application and the procedure they plan to use for the New Jersey Natural Gas pipeline application. The Commission adopted this informal procedure in response to the Appellate Division decision that the full Commission, not just the staff, must approve a development such as the proposed South Jersey Gas pipeline.

On March 27th PPA filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court on both the merits of the decision and on unresolved conflicts of interest for two Commissioners who voted to approve the pipeline.

In addition to legal recourse, PPA and our members are focusing on advocacy work to rebuild the Pinelands Commission and get it back on track to protect the Pinelands. County governments appoint seven of the fifteen Pinelands Commissioners, and all seven county appointees voted for the South Jersey Gas pipeline. Staff, members, and activists have been attending freeholder meetings to demand that the freeholders and their appointees, including Pinelands Commissioners, uphold the Pinelands protection rules and the values of their constituents. Seven Commissioners are also appointed by the governor with approval from the Senate. It will be vital for our next governor to appoint individuals who will uphold the rules.

In the aftermath of this vote, PPA is preparing for the Pinelands Commission to take up its review of the proposed New Jersey Natural Gas pipeline routed through the Preservation Area of the Pinelands. In addition to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requirements, the Pinelands Commission must vote on this application, and the United States Air Force must conduct an environmental assessment for the major portion of the pipeline that would run through Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

PPA, along with citizens and partner organizations across the state, is working to ensure that these processes enforce environmental protections. PPA and several municipalities have already brought appeals over Department of Environmental Protection approvals for the New Jersey Natural Gas pipeline and its associated interconnection station planned for Chesterfield Township.

Editor’s Note: Federal appointee to the Pinelands Commission, Frank Hays, passed away suddenly on March 3rd. We offer our deepest condolences to his family.

Pinelands Commission

Next Monthly Meetings:

Fri., May 12th, 9:30 am

Fri., June 9th, 9:30 am

**Open to the public.*

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

Meet Katie Smith - Policy Advocate for PPA

I am excited to be joining PPA as the Policy Advocate. I grew up in South Jersey, so I was able to enjoy the Pinelands from a young age. It was not until high school, however, that I learned from my environmental science teacher (Ron Smith, PPA collaborator!) how unique the ecosystem is. I was able to learn more about the Pinelands at New Jersey's state program, Governor's School for the Environment, at Stockton University.

I graduated from Princeton University in 2015 with a degree in ecology and evolutionary biology and a minor in environmental policy. While at Princeton, I conducted research on nutrient cycling in the lower Mississippi River floodplain, worked at conservation research stations in Greece and Kenya, and studied tropical ecology in Panama. Outside of courses and research, I was involved in environmental activism on campus and participated in and organized alternative break trips in the intersection of ecology and civic engagement.

Prior to joining PPA, I worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, in Manhattan as a biologist. I worked in the regulatory division with a focus on coastal wetlands and completed rotations in several divisions including planning, engineering, and construction. While there, I was particularly excited to work on several of their large-scale ecosystem restoration projects currently in the planning stages in the Hudson River watershed. In New York, I was also involved with a few environmental activism organizations and the Brooklyn chapter of Amnesty International.

I started at PPA in late December, and it has been quite eventful in the Pinelands since, particularly with the South Jersey Gas pipeline application. Here at PPA, I will be your point of contact if you have any questions or comments on development proposals in your area or on ongoing applications. I will generally be the PPA representative at Pinelands Commission and Municipal Council meetings, so if you attend, please find me! I am also working with Jason Howell,

stewardship coordinator, to get activists involved with the Pinelands through their freeholders, the Pinelands Municipal Council, and the Pinelands Commission at the county level in a new organizational approach to the Pinelands Watch. If you are interested in getting involved, please email me at Katie@pinelandsalliance.org.

Outside of work, I enjoy running, traveling, reading, hiking, and spending time with my dog, family, and friends. I look forward to meeting you all at future PPA events and working with you on upcoming projects.



Join the Pinelands Watch Activist Network!

Pinelands Watch is a network of volunteer activists led by PPA. The goal is to help you get involved in Pinelands issues and to connect you with other like minded people in your county. Through this program you are kept up to date on issues and you learn how to advocate for the Pinelands.

Contact Katie:

609-859-8860 x 122
katie@pinelandsalliance.org

Save the Source

The Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer is a precious source of water in the Pinelands that is increasingly under threat.

We launched Save the Source in 2017 to raise awareness of the threats to our water and to tell the story of the aquifer from the perspective of the people who depend on it every day.

People like Pinelands Brewing Company's owner Jason Chapman, mom Katie Hoff, and farmer Jennifer LaMonaca share their stories about the aquifer and what it means to them. A new story is released each month so stay tuned!

Learn more about the campaign and the aquifer, see the latest video and to learn how you can take action to protect it!

www.SavetheSource.org

Thank You!

We are amazed by all the people who choose to become members of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. You really make a difference!

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Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Pinelands Adventures Field Trips

Spring 2017

The events listed below are just a few of the great trips offered by Pinelands Adventures this spring.

Visit www.pinelandsalliance.org and click on **Event Calendar** for a complete listing of Pinelands programs and trips provided by a wide variety of groups and organizations



Learn more on the web:

www.pinelandsadventures.org

Canoe and kayak rentals, guided tours, and other outdoor programs. Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA. Call 609-268-0189.

Hampton Furnace Family Exploration (Walk)

Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

April 23 and May 28, 2017.
Trips depart at 10am

May 20 and June 11, 2017.
Trips depart at 1:30pm

This 2-hour Pine Barrens introduction is perfect for everyone who wants to learn about Pinelands history, ecology and culture. Explore a serene Atlantic White Cedar swamp and discover life in a Pine Barrens stream, step back into the history of Hampton Furnace, use dip nets to look for aquatic life and examine unique carnivorous Pine Barrens plants.

Cost is \$25 Adults, \$15 Children (6 to 15 years old).

Journey Between Two Rivers (Hike)

May 21 and June 17. Trip departs at 9 a.m. returns 2 p.m. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join Pinelands Adventures Naturalist, John Volpa, for a four-mile hike at an easy pace

between the Mullica and Batsto Rivers. Explore the uplands and river edges for native plants and animals while learning about the unique features of the Pine Barrens. Bring a picnic lunch!

Cost is \$35 Adults, \$20 Children (8 to 15 years old)

Pine Barrens Time Machine (Small Bus Tour)

April 30th. Trip runs from 10am to 3pm. Guide John Volpa. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Change is the key to life on earth. Join former social studies and science teacher, John Volpa, for a journey exploring the region's geologic past to the present. We'll focus on the human interplay with its natural resources, its unique flora and fauna, how it became the Pinelands National Reserve and what we can learn from its history as society grapples with today's local and global environmental issues.

Cost is \$60 per person.

John McPhee Pine Barrens Today (Small Bus Tour)

May 17th, 10 am to 3pm. Guide is Barbara Solem. Trip meets at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join local historian and author Barbara Solem on a driving tour to visit many of the places described in John McPhee's landmark 1968 book *The Pine Barrens*. While most of the characters that McPhee profiled have since passed on, many of the places he wrote about have remained largely unchanged. Participants in will travel by van making stops at places like Paisley, Apple Pie Hill, Hog Wallow and the Forks on the Mullica.

Cost is \$60 per person.

Batsto River Naturalist Guided Tour (Paddle)

May 29, June 10 and June 18. Trip is from 8:30 am to 4pm. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

This trip begins at Quaker Bridge on the Batsto River. You'll explore on water and land while learning about Pine Barrens habitats, history, plants and animals. Once on the river we'll make stops along the way to investigate

unique Pine Barrens plants along the river's edge, learn about the role of fire in Pine Barrens ecology, and history of bog iron in the pines. This trip ends at Batsto Lake.

Cost is \$60 PP Canoe or Kayak |\$50 PP - BYO Canoe or Kayak | Ages 8 & up

Canoeing Lessons (Paddle)

May 27th. Trip starts at 9am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Learn the basics of canoeing with instructor John Volpa in our three hour class. This introductory program is designed to help you feel comfortable while enjoying this classic American outdoor activity. You'll learn to paddle on calm water close to the edge of the lake and canoeing terminology, technique and strokes.

Cost is \$35 per person. Ages 10 & up.

Mullica River 101 (Paddle)

May 20, June 11 and June 25, 2017. Trips depart at 9am

May 27, 2017. Trips depart at 1:30pm

Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Take a 3 hour trip down the Mullica River from Atsion Lake dam to Beaver Dam with guide and naturalist John Volpa. Participants will get a Pine Barrens Primer by exploring the river for an overview of Pine Barrens habitats, history and plants and animals.

Cost is \$45 PP - Canoe or Kayak and \$35 PP BYO Canoe or Kayak. For ages 8 and up.

Pine Barrens Discovery Tour (Walk & Paddle)

May 14 & June 4 at 9am. April 23, May 6, May 28 & June 25 at 1:30pm

Learn about habitats as we trek along the edges of the Mullica River. Canoe along a Pine Barrens lake try dip or seine netting and discover native plants and animals as you walk an easy pace.

Cost \$35 Adults, \$20 Children (8 to 15 years old).



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Bishop Farmstead
17 Pemberton Road
Southampton, NJ 08088

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SCAN: Scan this code to get to PPA's website



This code can be scanned and read by a
Smart Phone using a QR Code Reader app
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Name: _____

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Phone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

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☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Membership Categories

Basic ☐ \$35
Family ☐ \$60
Sponsor ☐ \$100
Patron ☐ \$250
Benefactor ☐ \$500
Chairman's Circle ☐ \$1,000
Other ☐ _____

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- ♦ PPA membership card
- ♦ Year-long subscription to Inside the Pinelands
- ♦ PPA window sticker
- ♦ 10% off at Pinelands Adventures and on PPA merchandise

Sponsors receive a copy of *The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural* DVD

Patrons receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*

Benefactors receive *The Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, a photographic history of this region

Chairman's Circle members receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

*Our mission is to protect and
preserve the natural and cultural
resources of
New Jersey's Pinelands.*



Please Recycle this newsletter! When finished give it to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to learn about PPA's mission and programs.