

Aug/Sept 2015 Volume 22 Number 5

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Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept. 26 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

PPA Headquarters, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ

A wide variety of Pinelands native trees and shrubs will be for sale.

Learn more here: www.pinelandsalliance.org

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PINSIDE THE SINELANDS



This billboard was put up on Route 72 by Coyle Field on the border of Burlington and Ocean Counties in support of an effort to get a Jetport built in the Pinelands in the 1960s.

The Pinelands Jetport Controversy

by Becky Free, Director of Membership & Communications

Editor's Note: The federal and state agencies that plan for infrastructure must have a process by which the public evaluates their plans. Currently, protected areas and private residences in New Jersey are facing increasing pressure to allow the construction of large, high pressure natural gas pipelines. The story that follows is a historical lesson about the critical role the public plays in the protection of our natural resources.

In the late 1950s the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (a bi-state agency established in 1921) determined that a fourth intercontinental airport was needed in its metropolitan region in order to manage the projected growth of air traffic in the coming years. The Port Authority evaluated 15 sites and concluded that the best site for the new 10,000-acre jetport was in Morris County, NJ in a place known as the Great Swamp. Terrific opposition arose as soon as the Port Authority went public with its choice. A strong, organized grassroots effort, bolstered by significant legislative

support, prevented the jetport from being built there. In fact by 1960 the Great Swamp received permanent protection when the federal government created the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

In southern New Jersey there was great interest in bringing the jetport to the The Burlington and Ocean Pinelands. County Board of Chosen Freeholders established the Pinelands Regional Planning Board in 1960 and commissioned a comprehensive planning study of the region which made the case to site the jetport in the Pinelands and to create a "New City" of about 250,000 people nearby. Proponents of the jetport saw the open unused space of the Pinelands as a site primed to maximize regional economic development. They viewed the construction of the jetport as a key first step after which significant economic growth in the region would occur.

The Board's final report for the future development of the Pinelands region was

Inside The Pinelands

A Second Bite at the Apple

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On July 22nd the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) again summarily approved the South Jersey Gas pipeline project to construct a 24" natural gas pipeline through parts of Cumberland, Cape May and Atlantic Counties. It is the same route and project that the Pinelands Commission failed to approve in January 2014, because it violates the rules that protect the Pinelands.

The BPU approved the SJ Gas pipeline project stating that it had already approved the project in 2013 - before the public even knew the project existed and certainly before there was opposition to the project.

They claimed to only be accepting a small change in the location of the interconnection station in Tuckahoe as well as a meaningless change made by South Jersey Gas in which they state that South Jersey Gas will not allow anyone else to hook into this gas pipeline (in order to prevent additional development in the Forest Area of the Pinelands) - unless, of course they are ordered to do so by any government agency - including the BPU.

It is disappointing that BPU engaged in no discussion or debate. They did nothing to address the concerns raised during the public hearing they held in Upper Township in June 2015.

South Jersey Gas still faces its biggest hurdle - winning a legally sustainable approval from the Pinelands Commission as it tries for a second bite at the apple.

There are many reasons why SJ Gas should fail at the Commission - not the least being that the Commission's Executive Director has already issued a formal finding that the pipeline route violates the Comprehensive Management Plan's rules for the Forest Area.

Now that SJ Gas has given up claiming a special exemption, it would require the Executive Director to do a 180 degree reversal of position for the Commission to approve the pipeline.

What Can I Do?

Contact the NJ Pinelands Commission at 609-894-7300.

- 1. Tell them that you expect the Commission to deny the SJ Gas Pipeline project because the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Wittenberg, already issued a formal finding in 2013 that the pipeline route violates the Comprehensive Management Plan's rules for Pinelands Forest Areas.
- 2. Tell them that you expect a clearly defined process for public participation and hearings.

Your help is critical to stopping the South Jersey Gas pipeline again!

Spread the word.

Stop the Rush to Build Pipeline Throughout the Garden State

by Tom Gilbert, Campaign Director Energy, Climate & Natural Resources for New Jersey Conservation Foundation

New Jersey is facing an onslaught of oil and gas pipelines without a plan or a comprehensive evaluation whether these pipelines are needed, or are in the public interest. There is no assessment of full costs and impacts to natural resources and communities, and whether better alternatives exist.

In south Jersey, the proposed South Jersey Gas Pinelands Pipeline and the New Jersey Natural Gas "Southern Reliability Link" would threaten the nationally significant Pinelands National Reserve. In central Jersey, the proposed PennEast pipeline would cross the Delaware Wild and Scenic River and more than 3,000 acres of preserved lands in New Jersey alone, threatening significant environmental and historic resources. In north Jersey, the Pilgrim Pipeline would connect oil terminals in Albany, New York to a refinery in Linden, cutting through the Highlands, several major drinking water sources, and the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. This is just to name a few.

New Jersey citizens assume that there is a rational plan that has clearly determined whether or not there is an established public need for the oil and gas that these pipelines would bring to our state; or that our elected officials have carefully considered to best way to meet the state's energy needs in a fiscally and environmentally responsible way - but there is not. Instead, there is a disjointed, incomplete and piecemeal review process. The existing FERC and BPU processes for approving pipeline projects are akin to permitting private industry to build highways wherever they want, on anyone's land — but without first approving a statewide transportation plan. Imagine the chaos that would ensue on our roadways; this is the chaos that is erupting on our lands in the form of pipelines.

The absence of a well-established public planning process for evaluating pipelines threatens to wreak havoc on our land, water and communities. Nationally significant landscapes such as the Pinelands, and other historic sites and lands that have been preserved with tax-payer support, should not be undermined for the benefit of private companies — especially without a clear demonstration of need.

Consider that a professional analysis of the proposed PennEast Pipeline recently commissioned by Delaware Riverkeeper Network found that the planned pipeline would deliver 1 Bcf (billion cubic feet) of gas per day, which amounts to a +53% surplus above and beyond current demand in NJ and PA. Gas not needed locally would instead be shipped through the state to other markets, including for export overseas.

Interstate pipelines such as PennEast are reviewed for possible approval by the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC), while intrastate pipelines such as South Jersey Gas Pinelands Pipeline are reviewed by the State Board of Public Utilities (BPU). This fragmented review process by FERC and BPU means that pipeline proposals are considered in isolation. No consideration is given to the cumulative impacts or needs for numerous pending pipeline proposals statewide; no evaluation takes place to determine if there are better ways to meet the State's energy needs, such as developing cleaner, renewable sources of

Many citizens and local organizations are voicing concerns about the impacts of the various pipeline proposals throughout the State. FERC, BPU and our federal and state-elected representatives need to know that we are counting on them to protect our environment and communities, and that the current regulatory approach for reviewing pipeline proposals does not do that.

Instead of an unplanned rush to bring a multitude of additional pipelines to New

Jersey, approval of additional pipelines should be halted until a thorough evaluation is conducted to prove public need, to evaluate cumulative impacts, and to consider the best alternatives for meeting our energy needs. We need to prioritize greater investment in developing renewable sources of energy that represent a win-win for the environment and the economy.

A good place for citizens to deliver these messages is at one of the upcoming hearings that the BPU will hold as part of revising the State Energy Master Plan. A hearing will be held at the Richard Stockton College Campus Center on August 17th from 1-5 PM. Other hearings are scheduled in northern and central New Jersey. To learn more, see http://bit.ly/BPUhearings.

Adventures Along the Jersey Shore

Book Signing

Celebrate the storytelling magic of Dave Hart and John Calu!

Sept. 20, 2015 1pm to 4pm

at PPA Headquarters 17 Pemberton Rd Southampton, NJ 08088

Thanks to the generosity of Plexus Publishing a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this new book will benefit our work.

There will be reading by the authors at 1:30 and a book signing after.

Enjoy:

Refreshments, historic barn tours, plus live music by Paul Evans Pedersen Jr., as seen on CNN's "Anthony Bordain: Parts Unknown."

www.pinelandsalliance.org

Hammonton Water Conservation Update

by Geoff Richter, Outreach Manager

In the February/March newsletter, introduced the outreach campaign we would be conducting in Hammonton to encourage residents and businesses continue their water conservation efforts. To briefly recap the need for this campaign: the town has had a high water consumption trend over the past decade, which peaked in 2010 and resulted in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issuing a new water allocation to the town on the condition that it enact measures to reduce water consumption. The town embraced water conservation as an important and worthwhile goal and has seen a noticeable reduction in per capita water usage over the past few years.

PPA found the initial effort very encouraging and we hope to help continue the trend of water conservation among residents and businesses in Hammonton. A key part in our outreach strategy is door-to-door canvassing, which is a brand new method for us!

The results have been promising so far. As of July 20th we knocked on 805 doors and 228 residents entered into a conversation with a canvasser. We learned that many residents attend the Mt. Carmel Festival, a long-standing tradition, since many people weren't home then. Of those 228 conversations, 17% have been unreceptive to the idea of using the information, while another 19% have been partially receptive of the information, but are generally either in a rush or believe there isn't much else they can do. To our delight, 63% of respondents were receptive to the information. We also found that 42% of all respondents are conscious enough of their water habits that they report having taken some water conservation action previous

to our visit.

These last two statistics are encouraging. The large "receptive" demographic suggests a willingness to try new methods to save money (and water) on their water bill. The number of households where water conservation was already occurring is a good sign because it means that they are experienced in reading their water bill and adjusting accordingly.

Additionally we found that 21% of respondents are considering water conservation for the first time. This is great for the campaign and Hammonton's overall sustainability efforts; once people self-identify with conservation, they are much more likely to adopt other similar practices like turning lights out, reducing household waste, and driving less often.

I believe one of the reasons we've had such a good start is because of the manner in which information is presented. Our blue-shirted team of canvassers (Jin Chen, Goodwin, Amanda Maser, and Joy Nuzzi) begins their introduction by asking whether the person has conserved water, particularly in the last three years. We make sure residents are aware of the town's rebate program for the purchase of water efficient appliances, and encourage them to use the water conservation information found in the 4-page brochure we created for Hammonton.

Every interaction we have with a Hammonton resident is an opportunity to spread the word by asking them to share the information with their neighbors. The residents we have talked to appreciate having information brought personally to them. This supports the idea that grassroots

community engagement, while labor and time intensive, produces the best long term results for the campaign and for the community in general.

Jetport Controversy Revisited

Presentation

Oct. 14, 2015 at 7pm

PPA Headquarters 17 Pemberton Rd Southampton, NJ 08088

Timothy Hart, Division Director, Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission will discuss a 1960s proposal to construct a jetport in the Pinelands. See the original diagrams and illustrations that were part of this proposal. The Jetport can be seen as a prime motivation for the eventual creation of the Pinelands National Reserve.

Pre-registration is required because space is limited.

Call (609) 859-8860 ext. 14 or email tom@pinelandsalliance.org

Pinelands Commission

Next Monthly Meeting:

Fri., Sept. 11th, 9:30 am

*Open to the public.

Location:

15 Springfield Road New Lisbon, NJ 08064 Ph: (609) 894-7300 www.nj.gov/pinelands

The Pinelands Jetport Controversy

continued from cover

released in July 1964 by Herbert H. Smith Associates. The stated purpose of the report was to make recommendations for the future development of the "950 square mile Pinelands region" in order to prevent what was cited, even in 1964, as the "the great and endlessly growing suburban sprawl of America".

Five development alternatives were presented that ranged from little or no development to high density development. The option preferred by the consultants and recommended to the Board was the Jetport-New City option. It involved the construction of a 32,500-acre "global supersonic jetport facility" and a 10,800-acre New City for approximately 250,000 people. This was the option that offered "the greatest economic impact to the region," according to the report.

This recommendation went beyond the Port Authority's search for a fourth regional airport and focused on the creation of a facility for supersonic transports (SST). SST is a supersonic aircraft that transports passengers at speeds greater than the speed of sound. At the time SST's were seen as the future of long range air travel but were not yet in commercial use. The Pinelands jetport would be the first of its kind with more to follow in other areas of the country. The report stated "present estimates indicate that an American SST will enter commercial service by 1973" so construction of the Pinelands Jetport needed to begin by 1968.

At the time of their report Congress was funding an effort to design an American SST but the airplane's drawbacks were becoming increasingly obvious. SSTs generate an excessive amount of noise at takeoff and sonic booms during flight, and there was the possibility that its engine exhaust would damage the ozone layer. By 1971 Congress stopped funding the SST program and they banned all overland commercial flights. In fact the last commercial SST flight was in 2003 between New York and London's Heathrow Airport. The

challenges of aerodynamics, economics and opposition from the public spelled the end for this type of long range commercial aircraft.

Broad public interest in protecting the Pinelands was limited until the 1960 Jetport proposal. It wasn't a vacation destination like the Adirondacks, and lacks the allure of soaring mountains or giant water-falls. There was, however, a great deal of support for its protection from scientists and local residents. When the idea of a jetport surfaced in 1960 a group called the Pine Barrens Conservationists opposed it immediately and was able to generate a great deal of opposition to the plan. The issue of the Pinelands jetport was finally defeated during the 1969 governor's race. Republican candidate William T. Cahill opposed the construction of a jetport anywhere in New Jersey while his opponent did not, and Cahill went on to win the election.

How the Pinelands became our nation's first National Reserve in 1978, nearly 10 years after the jetport was defeated, is a story for another newsletter. What matters is that the defeat of the jetport established a legacy of conservation for the Pine Barrens. Prior to the jetport issue, passion for the Pinelands from outside the region came from a small number of scientists and nature enthusiasts. The presence of the jetport as a threat forged an enduring legacy of activism that eventually resulted in the creation of our nation's largest and most successful regional planning program, the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

There is a larger lesson in this story. The Port Authority of NY/NJ issued reports in 1959, 1961 and 1966 that stated a fourth airport in the NY/NJ region was urgently needed in order to manage air traffic. But public opposition prevented the Port Authority from ever constructing the airport. During the 1960s, as debate raged about where to put the airport, the Port Authority began to expand JFK, LaGuardia and Newark airports. Additionally, the Federal Aviation

Administration restricted general aviation use at these airports during peak hours. By the early 1970s the "economic catastrophe" predicted in the Port Authority reports had not come to pass. When researchers Lewin and Shakun looked at the Port Authority's original analysis they found the cause of the congestion at the three major airports had more to do with the increase in general aviation use (private, corporate and taxi aircraft) and not increased demand for commercial travel. (In fact as jet airplanes got bigger they could accommodate more people with fewer flights.) Lewin and Skakun say "one could rationally pose the question whether a giant new jetport is a solution befitting the problem." And indeed no new regional airport has ever been constructed.

So, is a 30-diameter natural gas pipeline through the Preservation or Forest Areas of the Pinelands a solution befitting the problem? What is the problem that all these pipelines are trying to solve? NJ Natural Gas and SJ Gas both state that their projects are needed because New Jersey must build "reliability" into its energy infra-structure and the only way to do this (much like a fourth regional airport) is to install large diameter, high pressure natural gas pipelines throughout the state, even if they violate the regulations that protect our open space. But perhaps the real problem is that there is an excess of natural gas available and there is nowhere for it to go – not that we have too few pipelines. The price for natural gas is at an all time low and the producers are seeking new markets to increase demand.

But, as with the airport, that demand might never materialize even if they build the pipelines. And artificially boosting demand cannot justify forever sacrificing Pinelands protections. We need a truly objective public planning process for evaluating pipeline needs and impacts so we do not give away our right to clean water and open space for anything less than the most compelling public need.

Wildfires and Prescribed Burns in the Pinelands

by Ryan Rebozo, Ph.D. Director of Conservation Science

The New Jersey Pinelands is a fire dependant ecosystem that includes many species adapted to frequent fires. Pinelands plants have evolved several adaptations to persisting in a fire prone environment. Some species are capable of re-sprouting from root stock when their above ground growth is consumed in a fire, while others rely on a seed bank in the soil from previous generations to germinate after a fire creates ideal conditions for growth. The Pitch Pine for example, can have serotinous cones that are sealed until heated by fire, which triggers the release of seeds. Pitch Pines can also produce new growth from under their bark, called epicormic growth, which helps them to continue to grow after a fire. Wildfires are also important in making nutrients available in the soil. The burning of organic matter creates a pulse of nutrients that is quickly taken up by plants and flushed from the system.

Natural disturbance by wildfire creates a mosaic landscape in varying stages of succession based on time since last burn and fire intensity. As a site goes undisturbed, the plant community begins to transition from annual graminoids (grasses) and herbaceous perennials, to include species of woody shrubs and trees. In the Pinelands, if an area goes without fire long enough, the typically dominant Pitch Pine forest will transition into an oak forest. Many plant species are becoming increasingly rare in the Pinelands due to limited earlysuccessional sites as a result of fire suppression. While wildfires have been historically important in maintaining a fire-adapted plant community, fire suppression has become an increasingly important strategy in protecting the homes and businesses within the Pinelands. Prescribed burns in the winter months are used to limit the amount of available leaf litter and other organic matter that can fuel a summer wildfire. These prescribed burns function as both a measure to limit the

occurrence and intensity of wildfires, as well as a form of man-made disturbance that can help create habitat suitable for early successional species.

Currently, there is a prescribed burn bill in the New Jersey Legislature that will promote the continued use of prescribed burns for ecological and public safety purposes. This bill would create a burn manager certification, reduce the liability for private property owners who implement prescribed burns, and allow the state to conduct mechanical thinning or prescribed burns on in-holding lands on state property. Last year, this bill passed the Assembly with a vote of 78-0. This bill has since been referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee where it must be brought up for a vote.

Please get this bill passed. Call chair of the Budget and Appropriations committee Senator Paul Sarlo at 201-804-8118, and ask to have bill A1275 brought to a vote. Encouraging the use of prescribed burns will help maintain the ecological integrity of the Pinelands, and help to keep the public safe from potential wild-fires especially in the summer months when the threat of a wildfire is greatest.

Tour de Pines

Sept. 30 to Oct. 4, 2015

Bicycle the length and breadth of the Pinelands National Reserve over 5 days.

Like no other bike tour in the state of New Jersey!

Each day's tour ranges from 40-55 miles with average speeds of 11-13 mph. Ride one, two or all days of the Tour. Some shorter loops available.

To learn more visit our website:

www.pinelandsalliance.org

Celebrate the Friends of the Black Run Preserve's

1st Anniversary

Oct. 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Indian Spring Country Club Marlton, NI 08053

The 1,300-acre Black Run Preserve in Evesham Township is an ecological wonder of Pine Barrens forest, wetlands, streams and old cranberry bogs.

The Friends of the Black Run Preserve is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the unique natural beauty and Pine Barrens ecology of the Preserve for the benefit of all citizens.

Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director of PPA, will be honored by the Friends as the first **Best Friend of the Preserve** at this very special event.

Enjoy a dinner buffet and an auction. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Black Run Preserve.

Tickets are \$50/person.

Sponsorships are available.

To purchase tickets please visit www.blackrun.org or contact Jill at jillg@blackrun.org.

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Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Pinelands Programs and Field Trips

August - September 2015

The events listed below are just a few of the great Pinelands trips this summer.

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.or

Canoe and kayak rentals, guided tours, and other outdoor programs. Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA. Sign up on the email list today or call 609-268-0189.

Albert Music Hall

Music every Saturday Night at 7:30pm, 131 Wells Mills Rd (Rt. 532) in Waretown

Albert Music Hall is a 350-seat concert with music every Saturday night starting at 7:30 pm all year round. Admission is \$5 adults and \$1 kids 11 and under. Enjoy live bluegrass, country, and pinelands music. Sets usually change every 30 minutes. Typically, there are six music sets. Refreshments and gifts may be purchased. The Hall is air-conditioned and is wheelchair accessible. No alcoholic beverages or smoking allowed.

The Pinelands Cultural & Historical Preservation Society (PCS) operates Albert Music Hall. PCS is an all-volunteer, non-profit historical preservation society dedicated to the preservation of the Pinelands Cultural Heritage. No payment is taken by either the managers, staff, or musicians at Albert Music Hall. All proceeds benefit the Pinelands Cultural Society and the Albert Music Hall Scholarship Fund. Visit

www.alberthall.org or call 609-971-1593.

Tour Kirby's Mill & the office of Dr. Still (Medford,

Sundays in August, Sponsored by the Medford Historical Society

of the Historical Society's properties will be open for tours on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Historic Kirby's Mill at 275 Church Road in Medford has been completely refur-bished with old mill stones turned by gears that provide power from the water wheel. The second floor is furnished with exhibits including a general store, printing shop and lathe. The Kirby Bros. office has been returned to its original condition, including old ledgers and price posters.

Visit the office and education center of Dr. James Still, located at 209-211 Church Road in the refurbished Bunning Farmhouse. Dr. Still (1812-1885), often referred to as the "Black Doctor of the Pines," was a renowned herbalist and homeopathic healer. His office is awaiting restoration, but the education center will be open with exhibits and books for sale.

Docents are at both sites. Admission is free - donations are always welcome. For more information 609-654-7767 or visit www.medfordhistory.org

Canoe/Kayak the Great Egg Harbor River (Atlantic Co).

Thurs., Aug. 27, 10 am, Sponsored by the West Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club

Enjoy a 7-mile paddle on the from Weymouth "egg" Furnace to Lake Lenape. Rentals are available from Restaurant Palace Outfitters 609-625-8552 or www.thepalaceoutfitters.com Contact leaders to confirm trip and participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com

Raptor Photography Session

Sat., Sept. 12, 9-11 am, Offered by Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (Medford, NJ)

Join us for a morning of

photography. Our trained handlers will bring at least 6 birds out of their enclosures for photographing up close and personal on perches and in a natural setting. Program limited to 12 participants. Preregistration and pre-payment are required. \$30/members, \$40/non-members. Contact erin.kiefer@cedarrun.org or 983-3329 www.cedarrun.org

Canoe/Kayak the North Branch Rancocas Creek (Burlington Co).

Sun., Sept. 13, 8:30 am, Sponsored by the West Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club

Paddle the 14-mile N. Branch Rancocas Creek Canoe Trail from BCCC to Mt. Holly. It's "Arts in the Park Day" at Smithville – during our lunch break at Smithville we'll enjoy entertainment on three stages featuring music, dance, theater and storytelling. Meet at the Vincentown Diner arrive 7:30am for breakfast. Contact leaders to confirm trip. Rentals are not available. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Save the Date! Tour de Pines

Bicycle the length and breadth of the Pinelands National Reserve over 5 days!

The 2015 Tour de Pines will begin on Wed., Sept. 30th and ends on Sun., October 4th.

Each day's tour ranges from 40-55 miles per day, with average speeds of 11-13 mph. Some shorter loops available.

Participants may ride one, two or all days of the Tour. Visit our website www.pinelandsalliance.org for more information. Sponsors needed.

Find more events on our website: www.pinelandsalliance.org

Click on Events Calendar



Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Bishop Farmstead
17 Pemberton Road
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This code can be scanned and read by a Smart Phone using a QR Code Reader app available from iTunes or Android web stores

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| Other | the Pinelands | | | |