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Pinelands Adventures

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www.pinelandsadventures.org

Canoe and kayak rentals on the Batsto and Mullica Rivers, guided tours and other outdoor programs.

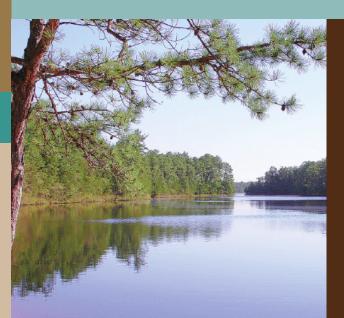
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PINSIDE THE SINELANDS



PINELANDS not PIPELANDS

Don't Stack the Commission





PPA and the NJ Highlands Coalition put this billboard up in February 2015 next to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Headquarters in Trenton, NJ.

Pipeline Proposals Abound in the Pinelands

by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director and Theresa Lettmen, Director of Monitoring Programs

Pinelands Preservation Alliance and our partners are now working on two big natural gas pipeline proposals.

The South Jersey Gas proposal in the southern part of the Pinelands has just been revived and New Jersey Natural Gas has now submitted a proposal in the northern part of the Pinelands. The two projects raise different issues of compliance with the Comprehensive Management Plan, but have similar concerns about their impacts on water and other resources. Here is a status report on each.

The South Jersey Gas proposal is the pipeline we have been fighting for almost two years now. The pipeline would traverse the Pinelands Forest Area of Cumberland and Cape May Counties – a Pinelands planning district where this kind of infrastructure is forbidden unless it primarily serves people living inside the Pinelands already. The stated purpose is to bring natural gas to the BL England

Power plant on the shores of Great Egg Harbor, and to provide an emergency backup supply to other gas customers. In 2013, the Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission determined that this route for those purposes violated the Pinelands rules because the gas line would not primarily serve the Pinelands – an obvious conclusion. The Executive Director and South Jersey Gas agreed to ask the full Pinelands Commission for a special exemption from the rules. In January 2014, the Pinelands Commission decided not to give South Jersey Gas that exemption.

Now South Jersey Gas has decided its plans don't violate the CMP after all, since (a) the power plant is just inside the Pinelands, and (b) arguing that the power plant will eventually serve demand for electricity that is mostly inside the Pinelands, so by extension the pipeline will mostly serve the needs of the Pinelands.

Inside The Pinelands

Published six times a year by the Pinelands
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Distributed to

PPA members & volunteers, state legislators, Pinelands municipalities, elected officials, selected officials, and planning boards

Mailing services generously donated by Swift Mailing Services of Bristol, PA (www.swiftmailing.com)

Printed on 100% recycled paper (made from post-consumer pulp produced in a chlorine-free pulping and bleaching process)

Circulation: 5500

Available online at www.pinelandsalliance.org

Pinelands Exploration Map Now Available!

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 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. At Batsto Village you can visit the museum, go for a hike or a bike ride, bird watch, 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. These sites are often 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.

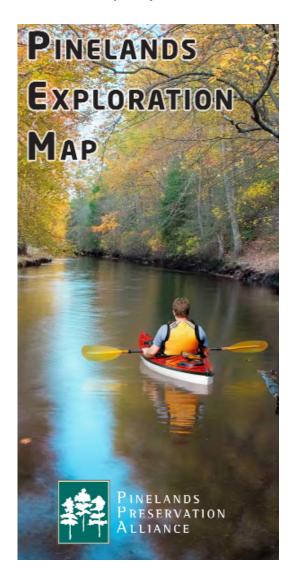
For more information visit our website www.pinelandalliance.org/Gateways. Here you will find web links that will help you plan your visit as well as more information about what you can do there.

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!

PPA Visitor Center Hours: <u>July & August</u>

*Mon. - Fri. from 10am to 4pm
**Sundays from 1pm to 4pm

*closed July 3rd for Independence Day
** closed July 19th for the Farm Fair



Come on a Pinelands Adventure this Summer

by Rob Ferber, Director of Pinelands Adventures

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) officially opened Pinelands Adventures to customers on May 2 for canoeing and kayaking trips on the Mullica and Batsto Rivers in Wharton State Forest. Pinelands Adventures is located at 1005 Atsion Road in Shamong NJ across from Atsion Lake.

I am excited to launch this new venture and look forward to developing the outdoor recreation programs offered by Pinelands Adventures. We are working closely with the staff at Wharton State Forest to ensure our programs are fun, educational and low impact. We recently hired John Volpa as our first education director. John is a retired Indian Mills Middle School biology environmental science teacher who has led outdoor trips for PPA and for REI's Outdoor School in Marlton, NJ. John is a tremendous educator with a deep love for the Pine Barrens. He will be organizing a range of guided trips for the public, for schools and for community groups.

This endeavor would not have been possible if it weren't for the support and vision of several foundations who understand that the only way the Pinelands will be saved is for more people to have a personal experience here that inspires them to take action to protect it. These foundations also understand the important role nature plays in the physical and emotional health of children and adults. These unstructured nature experiences are becoming harder to find as we become busier and as organized youth athletics becomes more prevalent. The following foundations and companies provided the grants that enabled PPA to create Pinelands Adventures:

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- William Penn Foundation
- Geraldine R. Doge Foundation
- The Carvel Foundation
- Holman Enterprises
- 1772 Foundation
- PSEG Foundation

At Pinelands Adventures you can rent a canoe, a kayak or a tandem kayak. You can also bring your own boat and we can drop you off and pick you up. We offer trips on two rivers in the Pine Barrens, the Batsto and the Mullica. To entice you to come on an adventure this summer I want to tell you more about these two rivers.

The Batsto River is an amazing and peaceful river full of twists and turns. It winds through the heart of Wharton State Forest and provides great chances to see wildlife as you pass through pristine Pine Barrens habitats. The name Batsto is said to originate from the Swedish word Batstu meaning "bath house" or "place to bathe". You can paddle through sections of the Batsto that are almost as wild as they were when the Lenape lived along its shores. We offer two different trips on this river and you can book your trip online at www.pinelandsadventures.org. Batsto River eventually joins the Mullica River below Batsto Lake.

The Mullica River canoe and kayak trail is a favorite for paddlers looking for a longer trip through Wharton State Forest. This trip is for experienced paddlers and some people turn this into an overnight trip with a stay at the Mullica River campsite (you must make a reservation for this campsite with Wharton State Forest). The Mullica River is rich in wildlife and flora and you won't regret the time you spent out here. The Mullica played an important role during the Revolutionary War when the British tried to send a fleet upriver in order to stop the Batsto ironworks which, at the time, was the primary source of cannons balls for the Continental Army. The Americans were able to stop the British fleet at what is now known as the Battle of Chestnut Neck. After this defeat the British did not try again to destroy the Batsto ironworks.

We hope to see you on a trip this summer! Current PPA members get a 10% discount on their canoe or kayak rental.

For more information please visit our website at www.pinelandsadventures.org or call us at 609-268-0189. On our website you can also enter to win the Explorer's Package which includes a free trip for two on the Batsto or Mullica River as well other fabulous merchandise. You must enter this drawing by midnight pm on June 30, 2015.



Carleton Montgomery christens the SS Brendan T. Byrne canoe as part of the official launch of Pinelands Adventures in Shamong, NJ. Also joining him were, from left to right, Andy Johnson of the William Penn Foundation, Rob Auermuller, superintendent of Wharton State Forest, Margaret Waldock, environment program director at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Kimberly Scarborough, environmental policy manager for PSEG, and Rob Ferber, director of Pinelands Adventures.



A peaceful scene from a recent Pinelands Adventures trip on the Batsto River.

Governor and Senate President Replace Robert Jackson on Pinelands Commission After "No" Vote on Pipeline

by Jaclyn Rhoads Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director

Pinelands Commission nominations are always a political process, and the latest struggle was uniquely intense as Governor Chris Christie and Senate President Stephen Sweeney — the state's most powerful Republican and most powerful Democrat — worked together to remove Robert Jackson from the Commission and replace him with a protégé of Cape May Senator Jeff Van Drew. Jackson, also from Cape May County, was one of the Commissioners who voted "no" on the South Jersey Gas pipeline deal in January 2014, and Senator Van Drew had been working since then to replace him with one of his own allies.

The governor has the discretion to replace, appoint or re-appoint seven of fifteen Pinelands Commissioners at the end of their three-year terms. (Seven Commissioners are appointed by the seven counties in the Pinelands and one by the US Secretary of the Interior.) But the governorís nominations must be approved by the Senators representing the nominee's county (so-called "senatorial courtesy"), then approved by the Senate's Judiciary Committee, and finally confirmed by a majority vote of the State Senate.

Since May 2014, when the governor made two nominations to replace two of those who voted against the pipeline deal, PPA and other Pinelands advocates fought these nominations, because they were clearly aimed at packing the Pinelands Commission for South Jersey Gas to come back to the Commission for a re-do on the pipeline. The initial nominations did not advance through the Judiciary Committee and expired at

the end of the calendar year. Governor Christie then re-nominated one of the two, Robert Barr, and the process began again.

During the debate on Mr. Barrís nomination, thousands of citizens contacted their Senators to express their opposition to this effort to manipulate the Pinelands Commission for political ends. Former Governors Brendan Byrne, Tom Kean, Christie Whitman and Jim Florio issued a bipartisan letter calling for the nomination not to advance while the pipeline issue was still pending, stating that replacing Mr. Jackson in these circumstances would "undermine the independence of the Pinelands Commission."

On the Senate floor, two Republicans and two Democrats spoke strongly against the nominations — and no Senator spoke in favor.

We nearly succeeded, despite the long odds. In the end, at a vote in March of this year, Senator Sweeney was able to use the extraordinary powers of the Senate President to get the bare majority vote he needed to approve Mr. Barr's nomination. By withholding his own vote until the end of the roll call, Senator Sweeney was able to suspend the initial vote when it became clear he was short of the majority. An hour later, he restarted the vote and we found that one Senator had been flipped, changing his prior "no" to a "yes." We do not know what occurred to make him change his vote. With that change, the nomination approved by a bare majority.

After the vote, Senator Kip Bateman (R, Dist. 16) said in the *Asbury Park Press* "This is wrong. We're stacking the deck. The Pinelands was set up

to be an independent autonomous commission for very good reasons. We don't want every time a board member or commission takes a vote to be looking over their shoulder thinking, 'Oh my God, if I don't vote the right way I'm going to be replaced."

Although we lost this vote in the Senate, the series of events that unfolded over the past year demonstrate that the public and environmental advocates have the ability to muster significant support for Pinelands protections and the integrity of our environmental laws. We saw that the Pinelands has strong champions from both major parties in the legislature. We showed those who want to manipulate the Pinelands Commission to press developments that violate the Pinelands Plan have a hard row to hoe.

As you will read in this newsletter South Jersey Gas has now, as expected, resubmitted its application to the Pinelands Commission. It remains to be seen whether this application will come before the full Pinelands Commission for another vote, thus allowing new commissioners Robert Barr and Jane Jannarone (appointed in 2014 to represent Cumberland County) to cast a vote in favor of protecting the Pinelands.

We will keep you informed as this process unfolds. In the meantime, it is important for you to weigh in with your county appointments. These Commissioners play an important role and serve the citizens within their county. Our website provides information about the appointments and what else you can do to help. It makes a difference!

Pipeline projects

continued from cover

PPA does not buy it. The pipeline's route and stated purposes have not changed at all since the Commission's findings and vote in 2014, so the new claim that the proposal complied with Pinelands rules all along is simply not credible. Instead, South Jersey Gas has just decided to reframe its argument for the same development plan – a plan that violates the Forest Area protections and threatens the integrity of the CMP. So the struggle over this project looks to continue over the coming year.

Keep up with this issue on our web page at www.pinelandsalliance.org. Click on *Protection* then *Hot Issues* and *Development*. This project is listed as *SJ Gas Pipeline Amended Application May 2015*.

New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) has submitted an application to the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the Pinelands Commission to build a 28mile long natural gas pipeline across the state from Chesterfield in Burlington County to Manchester Township in Ocean County. NJNG has provided various rationales for this new pipeline, including obtaining access to a second supplier for its network, reaching new customers in Ocean County, and providing a redundant source of gas to the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, a United States military facility.

The proposed route passes through Chesterfield, North Hanover, Upper Freehold and Plumsted before reaching Route 539, where it turns south and enters the Pinelands and travels through the Joint Base. Before leaving the Base, the route turns east near the southern boundary of the Base, enters Lakehurst Boro and ends Manchester. The route through the Joint Base is in the Preservation Area established bv the Pinelands Protection Act. The Preservation Area is the heart of the Pine Barrens ecosystem and home to many threatened and

endangered species. It is supposed to get the highest level of protection.

This pipeline is generating a great deal of opposition from residents and their representatives in the towns outside the Pinelands, in large part because the route passes through residential areas.

PPA's main concerns are whether the pipeline complies with the Pinelands rules and the impact that construction and maintenance will have on the aquifers, rare species populations and Pine Barrens habitats along its route. The Pinelands CMP states that development on the Joint Base must "serve the function of the Federal installation" and "where feasible" avoid the Preservation Area.

While PPA is still evaluating the application, this project appears aimed at using the Base as a conduit to reach developed areas of Ocean County, rather than to serve the Joint Base. The Board of Public Utilities application can be found at: www.njng.com/regulatory/filings.asp.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance has posted a map and other documents on our web page. Click on *Protection* then *Hot Issues* and *Development*.

The best way to stay informed about these projects is to join our email list. We never share your email address with anyone.

Stay Informed

Email ppa@pinelandsalliance.org with the subject "Add my Email"

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Find us on Twitter @PinesAlliance

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Cape May County
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Cumberland CountyJane Jannarone

Gloucester County
Francis A. Witt

Ocean County Alan W. Avery, Jr.

Next Monthly Meeting:

*Fri., July 10th, 9:30 am
*Open to the public.

Contact Information:

New Jersey Pinelands Commission

P.O. Box 359 15 Springfield Road New Lisbon, NJ 08064 Ph: (609) 894-7300 www.nj.gov/pinelands

PPA's Native Plant Sale and the Nurseries that Make it Possible

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

On April 24th and 25th, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance held its 10th annual native plant sale. Our first plant sale was held in 2006 in order to raise awareness of the plant species native to southern New Jersey and the Pine Barrens in particular. We wanted to encourage Pinelands residents to plant native species in their yards by offering them a wider variety of native plants than they could find in their local garden store. Many of the plants we offer at our sale can only be found at wholesale nurseries making it hard for individual homeowners to access the amazing variety of plants native to this region. Since 2006 we have sold over 19,100 plants at this annual event.

This year's sale was a great success, and we would like to thank everyone who came out to support us. This sale would not have been possible without the help of three native plant nurseries that provided us the plants for the sale. We were supplied by Fernbrook Nursery of Chesterfield, New Moon Nursery based in Bridgeton, and Pinelands Nursery & Supply in Columbus. We would like to thank all of the growers who support our effort to hold this plant sale every year.

Pinelands Nursery & Supply is by far the biggest provider of plants to our sale. They have supported this event ever since it started in 2006. This wholesale nursery was first established in 1983 by Don and Suzanne Knezick. They began by supplying blueberries, raspberries, and grapes to garden centers in the Mid-Atlantic States but Don says "Our interest was really in the propagation of native species. If you plant native plants that evolved here with the native flora, insects, birds and critters - they provide for a whole food web. Whereas if you bring in plants from other countries it won't provide anywhere near the number of benefits to the local ecosystem."

Pinelands Nursery & Supply has become one of the largest native plant nurseries in

the country, providing millions of plants for environmental restoration projects. They are strong believers in maintaining high levels of genetic diversity in their plants and in matching local plants and seed with specific site conditions to maximize the success of restoration projects. In addition to native plants, they offer a suite of erosion control products including coir logs, erosion hydro-mulches, blankets, geotextiles, and silt fencing. In 2006 they even started creating their own custom seed mixes for use in stormwater management basins and construction

In the summer of 2014 Pinelands Nursery purchased a nearby 29-acre preserved farm that will be used to produce seed of various wildflowers, grasses and sedges. They recognize that there is a demand for local provenance seed for pollinator habitat, wildflower meadows and restoration projects. So far they have established about 14 acres of various species grown from seed collected right here in New Jersey. This fall they anticipate harvesting hundreds of pounds of seed well adapted to regional conditions.

Pinelands Nursery & Supply is a wholesale-only nursery but this spring they created a separate company called Pinelands Direct run by the Knezick's, son, Tom. Pinelands Direct gives individuals the chance to purchase plants from Pinelands Nursery online through mail order. Learn more or place an order online at www.pinelandsdirect.com. With over 30 years of service, Pinelands Nursery & Supply is regarded as a leader in environmental restoration and in the protection of native Pinelands flora. We are grateful for their support of our work.

If you are still looking for plants native to southern New Jersey and the Pinelands please check out RareFind Nursery in Jackson, NJ. RareFind is open for retail customers from Thursday to Saturday, and specializes in many Pinelands rare plant species. You can get more information on their website www.rarefindnursery.com. PPA also has a brochure called *Gardening with Nature:* A Guide to Native Plant Landscaping in the New Jersey Pinelands. It includes a list of commercially available species that are good choices for gardening and landscaping. You can pick up a copy at our visitor center or you can contact me at ryan@pinelandsalliance.org.

Tour de Pines

September 30 to October 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. It is a voluntary, non-competitive, unsupported ride. Ride one, two or all days of the Tour. Some shorter loops available.

To learn more visit our website:

www.pinelandsalliance.org

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

JULY 14 - 19

70TH ANNUAL BURLINGTON COUNTY FARM FAIR

Burlington County Fair Grounds
Columbus, NJ

Stop by PPA's table at this event!

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Robert Tucker, Ph.D.

Retired Scientist

Carleton K. Montgomery

Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Pinelands Programs and Field Trips

July 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.org

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.

Canoe/Kayak the Batsto River (Burlington Co).

Fri., July 3, 9:30 am, Sponsored by the West Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club

Paddle from Quaker Bridge to Batsto Lake. Rent or get a shuttle from Pinelands Adventures. Cost information www.pinelandsadventures.org Contact leaders to confirm the trip, meeting location and your participation. George & Leona F, 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com

July 4th - Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

Sat., July 4, 3pm to 8pm, Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum (Tuckerton, NJ)

Salute the start of ice cream month and Independence Day at the Seaport! Ice cream making demonstrations, popsicle stick building contest, cow milking contest and more. Fireworks over the lake at dusk. For more information www.tuckertonseaport.org

Canoeing/Kayaking Skills Refresher on Lake Oswego (Burlington Co).

Sun., July 5, 9 am, Sponsored by the West Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club

ACA Certified Instructors from the Sierra Club will share information about paddling efficiencies, safety practices, rescue techniques and equipment. Boats can be rented from Mick's Canoe and Kayak Rental 800-281-1380 or www.mickscanoerental.com Bring lunch, snacks and water. Contact leaders to confirm your participation. George & Leona F. 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com

Refuge Night Hike

Sat., July 11, 8:00 pm, Offered by Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (Medford, NJ)

Explore the refuge in a whole new way, at night! Enjoy a guided hike under the light of the full moon to visit nocturnal habitats that are home to owls, raccoons, opossums, and other wildlife that emerge after dark. Be there as the "night shift" awakens. Bring flashlights, water and comfortable shoes. Registration is required. Contact Erin by email at

erin.kiefer@cedarrun.org or (856) 983-3329 ext.103. www.cedarrun.org

Walk on the Wild Side

Sun., July 12, 1:30 pm, Offered by Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (Medford, NJ)

Join one of our educators at for a themed hike through our many trails. Trails are family-friendly. \$10/adult, \$8/child age 4 and up, ages 3 and under free. Advanced registration required. Contact Erin at erin.kiefer@cedarrun.org or (856) 983-3329 ext.103 for more information.

Go Batty about Bats

Sat., July 18, 8:00 pm, Offered by Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (Medford, NJ)

This night hike will feature a special program focused on the bats of NJ. Program will begin inside with a short lesson on the various species found around here and then you will head out on the trails in search of these wonderful nighttime creatures.

\$10/adult, \$8/child. Suitable for ages 8 and up. Bring flashlights, water, and comfortable shoes. Advanced registration required. Contact Erin at erin.kiefer@cedarrun.org or (856) 983-3329 ext.103 for more information.

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 additional information. Sponsors needed.

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



Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Bishop Farmstead
17 Pemberton Road
Southampton, NJ 08088

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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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