



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

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INSIDE THE PINELANDS



PPA is a founding member of ReThink EnergyNJ. Learn more at www.RethinkEnergyNJ.org.

Rethink Energy NJ Makes the Case for Renewable Energy

by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director

When South Jersey Gas, and then New Jersey Natural Gas, brought out proposals to build new natural gas transmission pipelines through protected parts of the Pinelands, we realized that Pinelands advocates needed to get up to speed and get involved in pushing our state to move faster toward renewable energy sources.

Under the status quo, gas companies and utilities can profit from building pipelines through protected lands and neighborhoods, regardless of the environmental harms, regardless of whether they are needed, and regardless of violating the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Unless the laws that reward them for building pipelines are changed, they will keep deploying their great financial and political power to override or ignore environmental rules and community impacts, as they have done in the two ongoing Pinelands pipeline cases and the PennEast pipeline proposal in northern and central New Jersey.

Gas experts have debunked the purported public need for these projects. For example, gas experts at Skipping Stone found a much shorter, cheaper alternative to the Southern Reliability Link that would completely avoid the Pinelands. The NJ Division of Rate Counsel found no evidence of need for the PennEast pipeline and said it would be unfair to consumers who would foot the bill.

In order to address the big policy changes which these pipeline cases show are needed, PPA joined forces with New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Watershed Institute (formerly known as Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association) to form ReThink Energy NJ. We founded ReThink with the vital mission of transitioning New Jersey to home-grown, efficient and renewable energy and weaning ourselves off of dirty fossil fuels and pipelines that threaten our land, water, health and communities and to show how we can reach that goal.

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Volunteers Plant 1,000 Trees & Shrubs at the Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve

On May 12th 31 volunteers planted 1,000 trees and shrubs at the Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve in Lacey/Ocean Twp (Ocean County). This was a joint project between the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Program and The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey.

The Ashmun Preserve, owned by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, contains prime habitat for the threatened Pine Barrens tree frog, and rare plants like bog asphodel and little floating heart. "This unfragmented forest contains thriving populations of dozens of rare plants and animals, and protects the headwaters of Oyster Creek and the North, Middle and South Branches of the Forked River," says Emile DeVito, Manager of Science and Stewardship for New Jersey Conservation Foundation. All of these relatively pristine streams feed into the southern end of Barnegat Bay and are critical in safeguarding the bay's health.

In 2010, New Jersey Conservation Foundation named the preserve for Candace McKee Ashmun, a tireless environmentalist who has devoted more than six decades to helping New Jersey's environment. A resident of Basking Ridge, Ashmun has been a member of the state Pinelands Commission since its founding in 1979 and is the last original commissioner still serving. She was the founding director of the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), served on the State Planning Commission and was a longtime volunteer for New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Trees and shrubs were planted in an area of the preserve that serves as the headwaters for the Middle Branch of the Forked River. This area has been severely impacted by illegal off-road vehicle damage. The goals of this project

are to stabilize the soil and protect the headwaters from more abuse by vehicles.

"Joint projects that bring nonprofit organizations, volunteers and state government together to protect New Jersey's natural resources help to leverage resources to achieve big goals. None of us on our own could hope to put this many plants in the ground but together it is possible and very exciting" says Jason Howell, Stewardship Coordinator for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

Funding from The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey made this project possible. "Through the Nature Conservancy's Roots for Rivers Program, we hope to inspire others to improve New Jersey's freshwater resources by restoring floodplains, the critical land adjacent to our rivers. Our goal of planting 50,000 trees throughout state floodplains by 2020 will only be made possible through many partnerships, including a key collaboration like this one with the NJDEP Watershed Ambassadors," says Michelle DiBlasio, Watershed Restoration Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey.

Are you interested in volunteering for projects like these? Contact Jason Howell, Stewardship Coordinator for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance at Jason@PinelandsAlliance.org or 609-859-8860 ext 125.



*Volunteers gather plants and
get instructions on May 12th*

Pinelands Commission Welcomes New Commissioners

by Katie Smith, Policy Advocate

In early 2018, the Pinelands Commission welcomed two new county representatives: **William Pikolycky of Cape May County** and **Jordan Howell of Camden County**.

Both were sworn in during the February 2018 Pinelands Commission meeting. Jordan Howell is now a member of the Policy and Implementation Committee meeting. The presence of the new Commissioners and their potential for advocacy is critical as the Commission returns to long-term planning initiatives such as revising water allocation from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, Pinelands Development Credit rules, and protections for the Black Run headwaters.

William Pikolycky is the longtime mayor of Woodbine, a municipality designated as a Pinelands Town by the Comprehensive Management Plan. He also serves as the chair of the Pinelands Municipal Council, an advisory body to the Pinelands Commission composed of Pinelands-area mayors and their designees. Mr. Pikolycky is serving as the Cape May County representative after the retirement of William Brown, who served on the Commission from its inception.

Jordan Howell is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Sustainability at Rowan University and is the program coordinator for Environmental and Sustainability Studies. He holds a doctorate in geography from Michigan State University and focuses his research on infrastructure and environmental policy. Dr. Howell is serving as the Camden County representative following the resignation of Edward McGlinchey, who is no longer a Camden County resident.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency overseen by a 15 member board of unpaid Commissioners. Seven members are appointed by the Governor and are confirmed by the state Senate, one member is appointed by each of the seven

Pinelands counties, and one member is from the federal Department of the Interior. The federal seat on the Commission is still vacant following the passing of Frank Hays, who served on the Commission in early 2017. Typically, the federal representative is an employee of the National Parks Service. The Pinelands Commission has not given any indication yet as to when a new representative will be sworn in.

Governor Murphy has yet to make any nominations for gubernatorial appointments to the Commission to get it back on track after Governor Christie's politicization of the membership.

We encourage you to call, email, or write to Governor Murphy and urge him to make new Commission appointments and make the Pinelands a priority in his administration. We are also appealing directly to the Commission to make long-term planning a priority and act on amendments to the Comprehensive Management Plan that would better protect the Pinelands and Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer.

Contact Governor Murphy:

Phone: 609-292-6000

Office of the Governor

PO Box 001

Trenton, NJ 08625

Visit www.SavetheSource.org to see our video message to Governor Murphy and use our advocacy tool to send him an email.

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Share with us on Instagram
[@pinelandsalliance](https://www.instagram.com/pinelandsalliance)

Pinelands Commissioners

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Appointee

(vacant)

Gubernatorial Appointees

Candace McKee Ashmun

Edward Lloyd

Robert Barr

Mark S. Lohbauer

Gary Quinn

D'Arcy Rohan Green

Richard H. Prickett

County Appointees

Atlantic County

Paul E. Galletta

Burlington County

Sean W. Earlen (chair)

Camden County

Jordan Howell

Cape May County

William Pikolycky

Cumberland County

Jane Jannarone

Gloucester County

Giuseppe (Joe) Chila

Ocean County

Alan W. Avery, Jr.

Next Monthly Meeting:

***Fri., July 13th, 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

Lighting the Field on Fire

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

Fire is an important form of natural disturbance, particularly in the fire adapted Pinelands, that can cycle nutrients in the soil and create conditions for early successional plant species to thrive. When fire is excluded or suppressed in the Pinelands, we begin to see a shift in our forest plant species from fire adapted species to those that are less tolerant of disturbance.

On March 27th, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service conducted a prescribed burn on PPA's 6.75 acre native plant meadow. In a burn season that was limited due to frequent precipitation in February and early March, PPA's burn was carried out during the extended portion of the burn season that allows additional acreage to be burned that could not be addressed before the usual mid March deadline. The entire burn was conducted in under an hour, and now eight weeks later, we can see the vigorous growth of our milkweeds, golden rods and native grasses in the burned field.

Prescribed burns are an important part of our management of the field on our property. It helps to cycle nutrients in the soil and helps to slow down the colonization of the field by woody plants. In addition to prescribed burns, woody trees and shrubs are occasionally cut from the field in order to keep the meadow open and full of herbaceous species. This makes the field more attractive as habitat for native grassland nesting birds. Participants in this year's Life Science Field Training Institute will use the field as part of their studies, and we will continue to track the changes in vegetation as the field continues to grow up.

Other, larger-scale prescribed burns

occur all over the Pinelands in the winter months. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service conducts these large burns in a safe manner and manages a rotation of burn blocks near priority populated areas. These burns reduce the fuel load that could otherwise cause a summer wildfire.

While this has been effective on our public lands, some private land owners have had difficulty acquiring insurance and the protection needed to conduct prescribed burns on their properties. Bill A1675/S2140, that authorizes prescribed burning in certain circumstances, will help private land owners to use prescribed burning for ecological and safety reasons where it may have been difficult to do so in the past. This bill is sponsored by Senators Bob Smith, James Beach and Kip Bateman as well as Assemblymen Ronald Dancer, Herb Conaway, Marlene Caride, Parker Space, and Harold Wirths. The prescribed burn bill passed both the assembly (March 26th) and the senate (May 10th) with no dissenting votes. Because we recognize how important fire is to the Pinelands, PPA supports the work of our state forest fire service and the Prescribed Burn Bill. We are encouraged to see prescribed burning receive renewed interest by the state and hope to see more fire management in our fire adapted Pinelands region.

BURLINGTON COUNTY FARM FAIR

JULY 18TH TO 22ND

*Burlington County Fair Grounds
Springfield Township, NJ*

Stop by our table at this event!

Scenes from the Field



*Scene from the prescribed burn
of PPA's meadow on March 27th*



Day after the prescribed burn.



Two weeks later!

ReThink Energy NJ

continued from cover

Check out ReThink's web site (www.RethinkEnergyNJ.org) for information, detailed analyses and ways to get involved in this effort. Former governors Tom Kean, Jim Florio and Christine Todd Whitman all endorse ReThink and its goals.

This campaign is already bearing fruit, due to the strong support for renewable energy from Governor Phil Murphy and many legislators from both parties. On May 23 the governor signed a new clean energy bill that promotes the creation and use of clean, efficient and renewable energy from solar and wind. By setting a requirement of 50% reliance on clean, renewable energy by 2030 – up from our current 15% – the bill puts New Jersey at the forefront of the clean energy movement.

This landmark legislation will drive more investment in renewable energy, rather than building more unneeded pipelines and compressor stations. Just as important, it will also bring a dramatic reduction in air pollution and create tens of thousands of new jobs.

Through the efforts of ReThink and many others, the public is listening. According to a recent Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll conducted for ReThink Energy NJ, three out of four New Jersey voters agree that the state should invest in renewable energy, rather than in fossil fuels like oil and natural gas. And nearly 90 percent say clean energy is important to the overall health of New Jersey.

All of this is good for the Pinelands and its people. That's why PPA is proud to be a partner in ReThink Energy NJ and to be part of the movement to transition our energy to renewable sources.

Pinelands Summer Short Course

July 19, 2018
9am to 3pm

**Stockton University
Kramer Hall, 30 Front Street
Hammonton NJ**

Enjoy guided nature hikes and van trips, blueberry tours and presentations on insects, history and winemaking in the Pine Barrens. Professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend.

**Registration is \$60 per person.
Space is limited - register early.**

Summer Short Course Trips:
Our staff is proud to support this event:

PPA's Director of Conservation Science Dr. Ryan Rebozo, will lead a van tour through the core of the Pinelands Preservation Area.

Pinelands Adventures staff Jeff Larson, will lead a five-hour van tour that will highlight past industries in the Pinelands.

Pinelands Adventures Director of Education John Volpa, will lead a daylong, four-mile hike along the Mullica and Batsto rivers.

See full course descriptions and register online:
www.stockton.edu/pinelands

Explore the Pinelands National Reserve

with Pinelands Adventures!

Book Your Trip Today!

Guided and unguided river trips, bus tours, hikes, canoe lessons and more.

Fun for the whole family!

Visit www.PinelandsAdventures.org to plan your next adventure.

Pinelands Adventures

1005 Atsion Rd.
Shamong, NJ 08088
609-268-0189

Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and our members get 10% off all trips and programs.

Located within beautiful Wharton State Forest.

MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS AT PPA!

JULY 20TH AT 8:00 PM

Join us for a fun family night as we show an environmental movie at our offices under the stars. In the event of rain the movie will be shown indoors.

Movie to be announced.

This event is free but registration is requested.

Sign up on our email list so you are notified about this event and others like it.

Email tom@pinelandsalliance.org to sign up.

Proactive Beach Management along the NJ Coastline

by Jessica Ray, Coastal Project Coordinator

Coastal communities have come to recognize the importance of dunes for storm protection, aesthetic beauty, and overall ecosystem health, yet the value of our beaches for these purposes is largely overlooked.

Our beaches have the ability to provide us with far more than just a place for sun-bathing and recreational activities. When appropriately managed, beaches provide storm protection, reduce erosion, and increase coastal plant and animal biodiversity. Over the past two years, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) has teamed up with Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) to improve beach management along the New Jersey shoreline, focusing on the state's coastal parks. Moving forward, PPA and RVCC plan on providing townships with the tools and information needed to implement the same management in their communities.

The two most destructive activities to natural beach habitat are beach raking and driving, which occur on over 80% of the New Jersey coastline. These activities result in significant losses in habitat for rare and endangered beach species and hinder other beneficial qualities that characterize natural beaches. Furthermore, raking and driving inadvertently halt the growth of annual plants and clean the beach of natural debris, such as shells and wrack. Beach plants, like sea rocket and seaside spurge, naturally occupy the beach surface between the high tide line and the base of the dune. These plants provide structural stability to the beach, much like American beach grass does for the dunes. Because these features occur primarily on the upper areas of the beach and people primarily use the lower half of the beach, studies found that eliminating beach raking and driving from the back 25% of the beach would allow for 40% of the vegetation to flourish with minimal losses to driving, fishing, sun-bathing, walking, or other forms of recreation.

To promote natural development of the beach PPA and RVCC erect wooden posts and signs each spring to serve as a reminder of where not to drive or rake. Posts are positioned above the high tide line to ensure vehicle access is available at all times, throughout the tide cycles. This protected area is called a *Plant Protection Strip* and allows for the natural recolonization of plants along the upper beach. That is all it takes – There is no need to expend any energy or additional funds towards planting efforts in these areas. Nature does the rest, as winter tides have left seeds that will germinate come spring, not to mention shells and wrack that provide important habitat characteristics for beach nesting birds.

Plant protection strips implemented in all four of New Jersey's coastal state parks, have successfully led to the recolonization of rare and endangered plants and animals. For example, seabeach amaranth, a federally threatened plant, occurred in 3 out of the 4 state parks last year, and at Island Beach State Park (IBSP), its population more than doubled in size from the prior year. Additionally, piping plovers, a federally threatened bird, have successfully nested and fledged chicks at IBSP in 2016 and 2017. The breeding pair in 2016 marked first occurrence of an oceanside nest in the park in over 25 years.

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance looks forward to seeing the numbers of these and other species grow, along with the beaches and dunes themselves, as more townships proactively adopt ecological beach management techniques.

If your municipality would like to get involved, please contact Jessica Ray, Coastal Project Coordinator by email: jessica@pinelandsalliance.org.

Funding for this project comes from grants provided by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Call for Artists

2nd Annual

Pinelands Juried Photography Exhibit

Black and white and color images taken within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve of its landscape, flora, wildlife, and people will be accepted.

The exhibit will hang in the historic barn at our offices in Southampton, NJ.

**Registration open
until Sept. 14th.**

Categories:

Open Submissions
Student Submissions

Over \$2,000 in cash prizes!

*Opening Reception

Saturday, November 3, 2-4pm

Exhibition Open

Nov. 3 - Dec. 7

*Awards announced at reception.

Judge: Albert Horner

Rules and submission guidelines are in the 2018 Exhibit Prospectus available online:

www.bit.ly/ppaphoto2018

Questions?

entries@pinelandsalliance.org

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Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events Pinelands Trips & Events

Summer 2018

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



At Pinelands Adventures you can rent a canoe or kayak, take a guided tour, and so much more. Join us today! Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA.

[Learn more on the web:](http://PinelandsAdventures.org)
PinelandsAdventures.org

Pre-Registration is required for all trips and rentals and can be done online or by calling 609-268-0189.

Pine Barrens Ghost Towns Tour (Small Bus Tour)

Aug. 15 & Oct. 27. Guide Barbara Solem. Trip is from 10am to 3pm. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

The Pine Barrens contain more ghost towns, some say, than the entire America west. The Pinelands of today with its pristine woodlands and unique plant and animal communities, is a very different place than the busy industrial center it once was several hundred years ago. Barbara Solem, author of *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens*, will take participants on a tour of many of the forgotten industrial towns that once thrived in the Pine Barrens.

Cost is \$60 per person.

Batsto River Naturalist Guided Tour (Paddle)

July 4, July 21, August 11*. Trip is from 8:30am 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. *Trip is offered on other dates though the summer and fall. Visit PinelandsAdventures.org for a complete list.

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

Kayaking Lessons (Paddle)

July 22 and August 18. Trip starts at 9am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Learn the basics of kayaking with ACA instructor John Volpa in our three hour class. This introductory program is designed to help you feel comfortable while learning proper paddling technique. You'll learn to paddle on calm water close to the edge of the lake and kayaking terminology, technique and strokes.

Cost is \$55 per person. Ages 12 & up.

Mullica River 101 (Paddle)

July 8: departs at 9am

July 29: departs at 1:30pm

Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Take a 3 hour trip down the Mullica River from First Beach 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 \$55 PP - Canoe or Kayak and \$45 PP BYO Canoe or Kayak. For ages 8 and up.

Fairs, Festivals and More

35th Annual Blueberry Festival

June 23 & June 24 from 10am to 4pm in Whitesbog Village, Brendan Byrne State Forest, 120 West Whitesbog Road, Browns Mills, NJ

Sponsored by the Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

Visit the Birthplace of the

Blueberry! Pick berries from the original heritage plants in the fields. Eat them in locally made pies, muffins, cakes, jams, preserves, fried, blueberry drinks, blueberry wine, cider, syrup and kids pie eating contest!

Entry fee \$5 per CARLOAD of people.

Free activities for all to try. Bands include many local artists of New Jersey and the Pine Barrens. Craft and arts vendors from the region highlight handcrafts from candles, weaving, woodwork, nature painting, and live demonstrations by artisans. More info: at www.whitesbog.org

Summer Pinelands Short Course

July 19, from 9am to 3pm at Stockton University's Kramer Hall on 30 Front Street, Hammonton NJ

Sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Stockton University, the short course offers guided nature hikes and van trips, blueberry tours and presentations on insects, history, winemaking. These educational programs showcase the history, ecology, culture and music of the Pine Barrens. A free continental breakfast will be offered to attendees, beginning at 8 a.m.

Professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend.

Registration is \$60 per person. Space is limited, register early, as the event may sell out.

Register online:

www.stockton.edu/pinelands or by phone at 609-652-4227.

Looking for something else?

Check out our Event Calendar for a complete listing of Pinelands programs and trips provided by a wide variety of groups.

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Do you have an event that takes place in the Pinelands?

Let us know so we can put it on our calendar.

Email:

becky@pinelandsalliance.org with the details.



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Bishop Farmstead

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Southampton, NJ 08088

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Membership Categories

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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.