



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

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INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Seeing the cranberry harvest is a highlight for young and old in New Jersey.

October is Pinelands Month!

by Becky Free, Director of Membership & Communications

Twenty years ago the Pinelands Preservation Alliance asked Governor Christie Todd Whitman to declare the month of October as Pinelands Month. This designation was a call to action to every member of the Pinelands community – residents, business owners, and organizations - to celebrate this incredible place. We picked October because it is an especially picturesque time of year – cranberries are being harvested, the leaves are changing, and the air cools down making exploring the Pine Barrens even more enjoyable.

We worked to create Pinelands Month in 1996 for the same reasons that we opened Pinelands Adventures in 2015. The Pinelands will not survive if there isn't broad public support for its protection. People won't take action to protect what they don't love and they won't love what they don't know. We simply must find ways to get more people to smell the pine trees, feel the warm sand between their toes or canoe through its tea-colored waters.

We are all very busy these days. We have children in school and sports, our jobs are

demanding, our families need us, and information comes at us through our radios, TVs, phones and computers. I urge you to take some time away from these things in October and get out and really experience the Pinelands. You won't regret it and you certainly won't forget it.

Here is a short list (not in any particular order) of things to choose from. Check out our web page for a changing list of fun things to do. Share your experiences with us on our Facebook page or in our Instagram feed and tag your post with #PinelandsMonth.

1. Start your adventure by getting a copy of our Pinelands Exploration Map! This full-color map costs \$5 and highlights 14 key locations to start your Pine Barrens adventure.

2. See the cranberry harvest! There are a few ways to do this. Contact the Whitesbog Preservation Trust to join one of their tours or make a reservation with Pinelands Adventures to visit a working cranberry farm.

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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

Theresa Lettman

Ryan Rebozo

Jaclyn Rhoads

Stephen Sebastian

Jane Wiltshire

Pinelands Adventures

Rob Ferber

John Volpa

Distributed to

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Visit the Pine Barrens this Fall

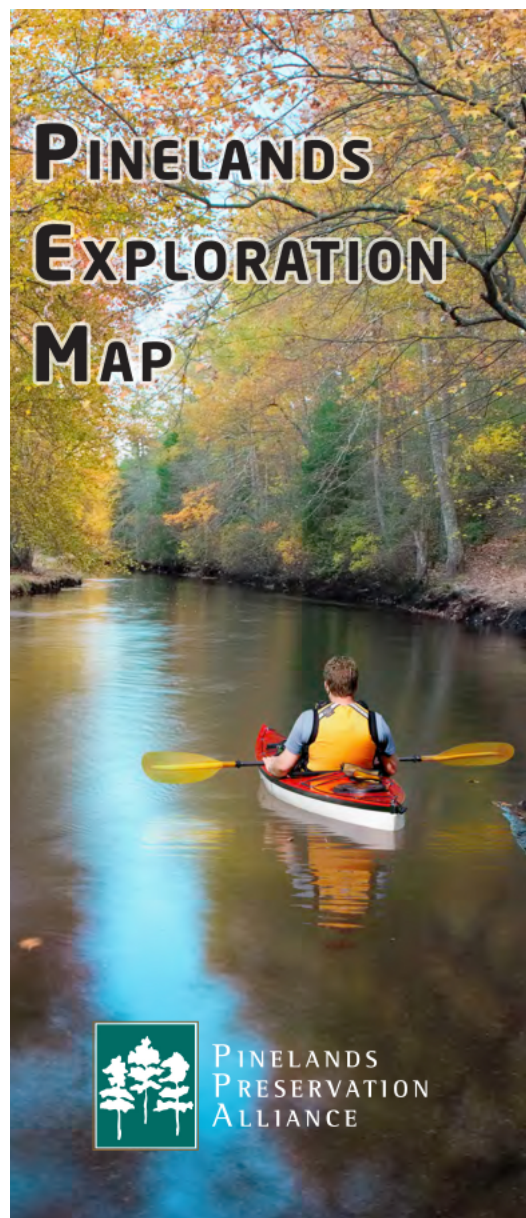
We often hear people say they do not know where to start when it comes to exploring the Pinelands, that it is a mystery, and that they are intimidated by its size. There is surprisingly little material available to help someone plan a trip for the day or a weekend. The need for an overall tour of the 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!



Inspiring the Next Generation at Pinelands Adventures

by John Volpa, Director of Education for Pinelands Adventures

Shaking his head at the Pinelands Adventures canoe, the young man said in a voice tinged with apprehension, "I'm not getting in that. No way."

"I can't swim," the young woman said, her voice shaking as she eyed the canoe.

Overcoming one's perceived limitations is a hallmark of personal growth. Providing a well-designed challenge by choice opportunity, such as first time canoeing, is only one aspect of a guided trip with Pinelands Adventures.

Impact Charity Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in the Greater Delaware Valley, scheduled some trips with Pinelands Adventures this summer. Associate Vice President, Judyann McCarthy, wrote in a thank you note: "I truly believe the kids wake up the next morning feeling proud because they actually accomplished something. You can't just 'get' good self-esteem and confidence - you must earn it. It was a great step for them all."

Immersing students in the serene green of the Pine Barrens to learn about its important and unique characteristics is another aspect of our guided adventures. Ms. McCarthy continued, "One boy said he was never around anything so calm in his life and how he felt so relaxed."

Inspiring young people to look inward to learn more about themselves and the natural world opens the portal of curiosity, another hallmark of humanity. Connecting the ecological concepts of niche and habitat to one's existence fosters that curiosity and can be life changing. We ask students to explore their interests and untapped skill sets in order to help find their niche in society. After kayaking a section of the Mullica River one young woman said, "I love this so much, I want to be a tour guide!"

I hope we inspire students to pursue the

true happiness they feel when they're hiking, paddling, or running in the great outdoors. Providing outdoor opportunities for America's youth to become members of a growing culture of health is part of our mission. Hopefully, as more young people utilize the Pine Barrens for healthful recreational activities, they'll come to understand the specialness of this land and love it enough to care for it.

So far this year, the Pinelands Adventures education staff have worked with over 945 students many of them from twelve different underserved communities from as far north as Newark and as far south at Wilmington, Delaware. Referring to her Camden Academy ninth grade students, Transition Counselor Ms. Lakasha Street wrote, "The trip was a huge success for everyone. The program was fun, engaging, and the timing was great."

We are grateful to our donors for subsidizing these educational and recreational experiences for students who would not normally have such an opportunity.

In addition to reaching underserved New Jersey communities, our most popular trip, the Pine Barrens Discovery Tour, has been customized to meet the needs of groups as diverse as Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts to graduate level college students, and the general public. We look forward to sharing the beauty of the pines with many more visitors. Come paddle, hike, or take a bus tour!

For more information about this program visit www.pinelandsadventures.org or contact john@pinelandsadventures.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!

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! Fall is a great time to experience New Jersey's Pine Barrens.

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



Fairs & Festivals

Pine Barren Jamboree
October 8th, 11am - 4pm

at Wells Mills Park
Waretown, NJ

Batsto Country Living Fair
October 16th, 10am - 4pm

at Historic Batsto Village
in Wharton State Forest

Stop by our table!

Fall in the Pinelands

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

The fall season in New Jersey brings with it cooler weather and earlier sunsets. This time of year also triggers the change in leaf color for deciduous trees in the state. In the Pinelands, much of our forests are dominated by evergreen pines and to a lesser extent, cedars. But one habitat type, the hardwood swamp, is dominated by deciduous trees and exhibits an impressive seasonal change in color.

Hardwood swamps are lowland forests that have a canopy made up of mostly Trident Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *trilobum*) and Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Other trees common in these swamps are Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) and Sassafras (*Sassafras sassafras*), with Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*) and Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) occasionally found in these swamps. While Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is also occasionally encountered in some Pinelands lowlands, this species was historically found along the periphery of the Pinelands. These areas also serve as important habitat for a wide diversity of wildlife. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds such as the state threatened Barred Owl can be found utilizing hardwood swamp habitats.

Hardwood swamps can be found all along our major rivers in the region, typically with an understory of shrubs like Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), and Dangleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa*). These habitats typically have a more established shrub understory than nearby open bog savannahs and

Atlantic White Cedar swamps. Savannahs and cedar swamps are habitat for many mosses, lichens and herbaceous plants like our many orchid species, which also utilize hardwood swamps under the appropriate conditions. It is believed that the extensive harvesting of Atlantic White Cedar in this region has led to an increase of hardwood tree species as they were able to establish in areas that historically were dominated by cedar.

Hardwood swamps, bog savannahs, and Cedar swamps all depend on ground water from the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer. Proximity to the water table is important for each of these habitat types as they are dominated by wetland plants.

In the Pinelands, small changes in topography, and thus distance to groundwater, determine which areas are uplands and which are lowland habitats. For this reason, our distribution of lowland habitat is very much tied to the health of our aquifer in terms of water quantity and quality. As we've seen in the past, over pumping of our shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer can dry up Pinelands wetlands. Being mindful of how we use and treat our groundwater in the Pinelands will not only help maintain wetland areas, but will also ensure a long-term supply of freshwater for residents and farmers to use.

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Thank You!

2016 Tour de Pines

The 2016 Tour de Pines was a huge success. Over 200 cyclists spent five days covering the length and breadth of the Pinelands National Reserve.

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Tour de Pines riders in
Brendan Byrne State Forest.

October is Pinelands Month!

continued from cover

3. **Become a member of Pinelands Preservation Alliance** and help support our work preserving and protecting the NJ Pinelands!

4. **Visit a local festival** like the Batsto County Living Fair on Oct. 16th from 10am-4pm in Historic Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest.

5. **See a Saturday night show at the Albert Music Hall** in Waretown, NJ. The Albert Hall hosts Saturday night shows throughout the year featuring country, bluegrass and old time music. And don't forget to grab a slice of pie!

6. **Fall is a great time to canoe or kayak in the Pinelands.** Take a self-guided trip down the Batsto River with Pinelands Adventures. You can also take guided small bus tours, hikes and visit a cranberry farm.

7. **There are some very cool general stores in the Pine Barrens.** Check out the iconic Buzby's General Store in Chatsworth (call ahead of time for hours 609-894-4415) or the historic General Store at Whitesbog Village in Brendan Byrne State Forest. For a modern twist visit the Pine Barrens Store located next to the Shamong Diner in Shamong, NJ.

8. **Join the South Jersey Outdoor Club** – this fantastic group offers all sorts of trips throughout the Pinelands and beyond. It is also a great way to get to know new people who share your passion.

9. **Walk around the perimeter of Pakim Pond**, 1.4 miles, in the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. How many plants can you identify?

10. **Visit the amazing state forests, parks and historic village found here** – Brendan Byrne State Forest, Bass River State Forest, Wharton State Forest, Historic Whitesbog Village, Historic Batsto Village and Belleplaine State Forest - just to name a few.

11. **Make a plan to hike the only trail the crosses the entire Pine Barrens – the Batona Trail.** It is the longest blazed trail in southern New Jersey at 50 miles. Get more

information and trail maps on the state's website.

12. **Attend a Pinelands Commission Meeting** and get to know the staff and Commissioners whose job is to oversee the protection of the forests, wetlands, rivers and towns within the Pinelands boundary.

13. **Visit the Franklin Parker Preserve, the largest nature preserve owned by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.** Covering 16 square miles in the heart of the Pine Barrens you will have more than enough to do on the 21 miles of trails that are open for hiking and some for bicycling and horseback riding.

14. **Take the little ones (and the big ones) to Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge in Medford.** This facility cares for more than 4,000 injured, displaced or orphaned wild animals. They offer kids programs, there are trails to hike and rehabilitated animals to see.

15. **Use New Jersey cranberries for your Thanksgiving feast!** There are a lot of local markets that sell New Jersey cranberries.

To get more information about any of these activities check out the box on the right. This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an event or an idea that should be included email becky@pinelandsalliance.org and I will get it on our website.

Pinelands Commission

Next Monthly Meetings:

Fri., Oct. 14th, 9:30 am

Fri., Nov. 4th, 9:30 am

**Open to the public.*

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

Pinelands Month

October 2016

Get more information using these links. You can also call us at 609-859-8860 or visit our website:

www.pinelandsalliance.org/october

Whitesbog Preservation Trust
www.whitesbog.org

Pinelands Adventures
www.pinelandsadventures.org

Historic Batsto Village
www.batstovillage.org

Albert Music Hall
www.alberthall.org

Outdoor Club of South Jersey
www.ocsj.org

New Jersey Conservation Foundation
www.njconservation.org

Visiting State Parks & Forests
www.state.nj.us/dep
(click on Parks and Forests)

New Jersey Pinelands Commission
www.state.nj.us/pinelands

Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge
www.cedarrun.org

Find Local Produce
www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov

The Pinelands Exploration Map is for sale at our offices, at Pinelands Adventures, at the Pine Barrens Store in Shamong and at Edwin Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Call us at 609-859-8860 and we will mail it to you for \$5 plus shipping.

Fencing the Apple Pie Hill Fire Tower

Editors Note: The following letter to the editor appeared in the Burlington County Times on September 18th in response to the state's closing of the fire tower at Apple Pie Hill. It was submitted by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Michele Byers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Climbing the fire tower at Apple Pie Hill has been a ritual for generations of people who love the Pine Barrens. It is the first place to take newcomers so they can grasp in one sweep of the eye the vastness of the Pine Barrens forests in our crowded state. Now the atrocious behavior of a small number of people has forced the Forest Fire Service to fence the fire tower to keep people out.

It is a sad commentary on the disrespect that some in our community have for the people who work to keep our lives and homes safe from wildfires. It is the same disrespect that many people now show when they tear up wetlands and sand roads in Wharton State Forest and other public lands with off-road vehicles.

The fire tower is not just a unique tourist attraction. First and foremost, it serves a vital public purpose. People set hundreds of fires in the Pine Barrens every year. Given that this is a naturally fire-prone ecosystem, those fires can spread rapidly and, if not controlled, threaten lives and homes. The fire tower is an essential part of the Forest Fire Service's system for quickly identifying fires and getting to them before they do damage.

The litany of outrages that people have committed at the Apple Pie Hill fire tower will turn your stomach. People break into and vandalize the observation station at the top of the tower. They leave used condoms on the locks and bottles of urine on the steps, so the fire warden must pass them to reach his station. They paint graffiti to deface a fine structure and degrade the experience of the spectacular views from the tower.

They will surely continue to trash the top of the hill and will probably try to tear down the fence. The Park Police have tried to stem the tide with patrols and

sting operations, but they cannot always be there – and the outrages have been growing more frequent with each passing year.

Some say that environmental advocates like us forced the state to fence the tower, which would be funny if it weren't so mean-spirited and out of touch with reality. We never asked for this, and we strongly regret the state had to take this step. For decades, we have used visits to the fire tower to help people grasp the vastness of the Pine Barrens, and how effective the Pinelands Protection Act has been in saving so much forest.

We are thankful that the Forest Fire Service says it will allow the public to climb the tower when it is manned by an observer and by arrangement with the Service for groups like school field trips. But this is not the same as being able to visit the tower, take your friends, and enjoy the view. Unfortunately according to the Forest Fire Service, it is the only way they can protect the tower and the fire watchers.

Our culture – and our state government – must stop tolerating the behavior of those few who find joy in destruction of public property and natural places. The vast majority of the public deserves to enjoy our public lands and know that the waters, wildlife and flora of these special places are preserved. The vandalism of the Apple Pie Hill fire tower is no different than the vandalism now happening to our Pine Barrens wetlands and forests from irresponsible off road vehicle drivers. Like Apple Pie Hill, natural places deserve protection. The state should begin with simple measures to designate approved roads and parking areas, and block motor vehicles from driving into wetlands, streams and woods.

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**Email is the cheapest, quickest
way to keep you informed. We
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Vandals Destroy Tree Planting in Pine Barrens

PPA Blog Excerpt 8/19/16

"On July 12th, as part of a restoration effort, volunteers planted 300 Atlantic White Cedar trees on private land that had suffered tremendous abuse by off-road vehicles. The total cost of the 3-6 foot tall Atlantic White Cedars was over \$2,000, not including the hours spent in the hot July sun by these committed volunteers. It appeared that this restoration had a strong chance of success, but on the night of August 6th, a group of off-road vehicle drivers decided differently.

They drove their vehicles in circles purposefully in the site, rutted the soil, and drove over the freshly planted saplings. They then got off their vehicles and physically pulled the tender trees out of the ground as the roots clung to the native soil. The ORV drivers then piled the saplings in a large mound, poured gasoline on them, and lit them on fire. This despicable behavior is all too common.

Whether it is a historic site, ice-aged pond, paleo-dune, stream, or river, off-road vehicle drivers have shown no mercy to the Pine Barrens. We have to work to stop this or we will continue to lose many of the most beautiful and unique habitats of the Pinelands."

Please visit our website to read more and to see pictures and video of this incident.

www.pinelandsalliance.org/blog

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Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events Pinelands Adventures Field Trips

Fall 2016

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. Call 609-268-0189.

Pine Barrens Time Machine

Oct. 16 & Nov. 19, 2016. Trip departs at 10am. 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. This is a 5 hour small group bus tour.

Cost is \$60 per person.

John McPhee Pine Barrens Today Tour

Oct. 12, Nov. 11 & Dec. 17, 2016. Trip departs at 10am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join Pinelands Adventures Education Director John Volpa on a driving tour to

visit many of the places described in John McPhee's landmark 1968 book *The Pine Barrens*. John will read excerpts from the book and lead a discussion of McPhee's relevant work as it pertains to the areas visited. This is a 5 hour small group bus tour.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$60 per person.

Industries in the Pines Tour

Dec. 3. Trip departs at 10am. Guide Jeff Larson. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

The Pine Barrens are a post-industrial forest. It has been said that by 1850 no trees existed between the Delaware River and the Atlantic Ocean due to over harvesting and industry in the Pine Barrens region. While such a claim is slightly exaggerated, it is difficult to imagine that the pine wilderness was once a major industrial center. Evidence of bygone eras still lie hidden along the quiet stream beds and below the thick patches of wild huckleberry. Participants will travel by bus and make several stops to explore on foot.

Cost is \$60 per person.

Pine Barrens Discovery Tour

Nov. 13th, 1pm to 4pm at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Trek along the edges of the Mullica River and discover its secrets. Join us for our Pine Barrens Sampler, a three-hour exploration of Pine Barrens life. This program includes a shore walk to learn about uplands and Atlantic Cedar Swamp habitats, conduct a water quality survey, try dip netting. 3 hour small group tour. Discover native Pine Barrens plants and animals around every corner of the trail as you walk an easy pace. Find out what fish, frogs, and bugs can tell us about their Pine Barrens home. Canoe along the perimeter of a Pine Barrens lake is included to discover life on the edge.

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

Cranberry Farm Tours

Sat/Sunday in Oct, 12-2pm, Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join Pinelands Adventures Director, Rob Ferber on a tour of Tom and Christine Gerber's Cranberry Farm, Quoexin Cranberry Co. Quoexin Cranberry Company is an independent grower and they currently have 50 acres of bogs in production. You'll get an overview of this cranberry operation. Meet the farmers and watch them "dry" harvest berries in the bog, learn about wet and dry harvesting, get a bag of cranberries to take home with recipes. Trip requires quite a bit of standing and walking.

Cost is \$30 per person.

Hampton Furnace Exploration

Dec. 4 from 10 am to noon, at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

This Pine Barrens primer is perfect for everyone who wants to learn about Pinelands history, ecology and culture, including families with children from ages 6 and up. Explore a serene Atlantic White Cedar swamp and discover life in a Pine Barrens stream between the Upper Batsto River and Skit Branch creek. Step back into the history of Hampton Furnace, its 18th century bog iron manufacturing, its transition to the cranberry industry, and the scene of a vicious 1916 robbery attempt. Adults and kids will be able to explore the streams, use dip nets to look for aquatic life and examine unique carnivorous Pine Barrens plants.

Cost is \$25 adults and \$15 for children.

Pine Barrens Habitats Tour

Nov. 5. Trip departs at 10am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

This trip will be an exploration into the various habitats that exist in the pinelands. This 5-hour small group bus tour will visit swamps, forests and other aquatic environments.

Cost is \$60 per person.



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

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- ◆ PPA membership card
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- ◆ 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.