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"Pinelands" **Photography Exhibit**

Nov. 4th to Dec. 10th

This juried exhibit of images from the Pinelands National Reserve is on display at our headquarters.

See stunning images of the landscape, people and history that make this place so special.

Exhibit Hours: Mon. - Fri.: 10am - 4pm Sundays: Noon to 5pm.

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PINSIDE THE SINELANDS



Pinelands Commissioners Lloyd, McGlinchey, Lohbauer, Galletta, Earlen and Prickett prepare to vote (left to right).

Good News / Bad News from the Commission

by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director

For the first time in its history, the Pinelands Commission passed a resolution that will greatly reduce damages caused by off-road vehicles within Wharton State Forest. The resolution designates only those sand roads marked on specific USGS topographical maps as being available for use by motorized vehicles.

But for the second time in 2017 the Commission approved a high-pressure natural gas transmission pipeline in violation of Pinelands rules. This happened at their monthly meeting at the War Memorial Theater in Trenton on September 14th.

The Commission's resolution means there is finally a map of Wharton State Forest that shows a responsible way to explore its 122,800 acres of open space. Because of the vast area and limited funding for law enforcement, Wharton has become known throughout the northeastern United States as an area where off-road vehicle (ORV) users could challenge their machines

against the land with little or no repercussions.

State Park Police have worked to control the deluge of ORV activity, but have been hampered by a lack of clear guidance on where people can and cannot drive. This resolution will allow officials to keep vehicles on roads and out of sensitive areas. It will allow Park Police to issue citations with the confidence that users have clear information about where they can and cannot drive.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) tried to implement a motorized access plan in August 2015 to protect Wharton State Forest. Ultimately the DEP Commissioner withdrew the plan, and the DEP has since done nothing to designate appropriate routes for motorized vehicles - even removing signs meant to keep vehicles out of streams and wetlands. Under pressure from PPA and citizens who care about the State Forests, the Pinelands Commission picked up the issue in 2015

Inside The Pinelands

Another Great Year for the Tour de Pines

Published six times a year by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Executive Editor

Carleton Montgomery

Editor

Becky Free

PPA Staff

Richard Bizub
Tom Dunn
Audra Hardoon
Jason Howell
Ryan Rebozo
Jaclyn Rhoads
Stephen Sebastian
Katie Smith
Jane Wiltshire

Pinelands Adventures

Rob Ferber Barnes Laucks John Volpa

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A record number of people registered to ride the 13th annual Tour de Pines bicycle ride organized by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance – 336 people signed up to ride all or part of this five day tour of the Pinelands National Reserve.

This year's Tour took place from October 4th to the 8th. All rides are loop rides and range from 45-50 miles. On three of the days we offered an additional shorter loop of 22-28 miles. Riders can choose how many days they want to ride. This year our rides started at Estell Manor Park in Atlantic County, Laurita Winery in New Egypt, historic Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest, Jakes Branch County Park in Beachwood and on the last day we rode from PPA's Headquarters in Southampton.

This event would not be possible if it wasn't for the volunteer planning committee who spend hours of their own time planning the rides, checking the routes, and promoting and organizing the event.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the 2017 committee: Wayne Cahilly, Harry Chaikin, Mickey Coen, Bob Cummings, Helen Dudar, Anita Garner, Dick Gouldey, Michael Hardy, John Keenan, Kevin Kristian, Chris Monchinski, Dan Rappoport, Daniel Sferas, Susan Soesbe, Jay Stephens, Ed and Patricia Troike, and Jim Wheatcroft.

The Pine Barrens provides some amazing places to ride your bicycle. Places where you can still find country roads with low traffic, forests, farmland, and coastal views. The Tour de Pines is about the experience of being out in the Pinelands and appreciating all that has been protected. We hope that all riders who participate will also consider advocating for its protection.

Next year's Tour de Pines will take place October 3rd to the 8th - so mark your calendars for 2018! You can get

more information on the Tour de Pines and other events organized by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance on our website www.pinelandsalliance.org.

2017 Tour de Pines

The 2017 Tour de Pines was a huge success. We offer our thanks to the following sponsors:

Team Tour Sponsors

Jersey Shore Cycle Club Pinelands Adventures Wells Fargo Financial Services Flying Fish Brewing Co.

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Ghost Forests come to New Jersey

by Jason Howell, Stewardship Coordinator

In June we released the video *Barrens to the Bay: An Aquifer Flows to It* as part of our Save the Source campaign (www.SaveTheSource.org) to raise awareness about the need to protect the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer - the source of water that the plants, animals and humans depend on in this region.

During the filming we found evidence of a little reported, but important topic involving the issue of sea level rise and aquifer withdrawal. While exploring the lower Mullica and Wading Rivers with Barnegat Bay Partnership Project Coordinator Martha Maxwell-Doyle, we came upon a stand of Atlantic White Cedar that had been killed after salt water inundation from Hurricane Sandy in 2012. There it was - a ghost forest of dead trees standing there at the edge of the Mullica River. See the whole video at www.SavetheSource.org.

Atlantic White Cedar trees can't survive prolonged exposure to salt water. Martha explained, "The impact of saltwater inundation on some of the ecosystems here, especially after Hurricane Sandy, was that salt water moved in and the trees were not able to adapt... as you get into fresh water you will see along the edges healthy stands of cedar trees, but ... as the salt water line moves up into these systems, these trees will die."

It is hard for people to make the connection between the water that comes out of their faucet and the water that we find in our wetlands and estuaries – but they are intimately connected. If humans are using more water for daily activities than the ecosystem can support, it exacerbates the impacts of salt water intrusion. Martha said, "If you are drawing down on your aquifer because there is more demand for human populations, and you have sea level rise occurring, everything is changing and the saltwater line will move inland."

In our video series, we hope to illuminate some of the important reasons why conserving groundwater is essential to preserving the habitat within the Pinelands National Reserve. These ghost forests are a prominent visual example showing some of the consequences of over-withdrawal from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system.

One town in the Pinelands has been working hard to conserve water, and that town is Hammonton. Hammonton's publically owned water utility operates four wells that draw water primarily from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. PPA and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANIEC) have been supporting their efforts with a communications campaign to raise awareness among the town's citizens and businesses. Hammonton's work has led to a 37% reduction in water usage in the town between 2011 and 2015. If this water reduction can be replicated in other Pinelands towns these cumulative savings could help keep our coastal wetlands healthy.

We should not forget that the systems that feed the aquifer, the wetlands, and the streams also make it possible for us to survive. We are as dependent on this system as any of the streams and wetlands or plants and animals. The difference is that it is up to us to fight to keep the system healthy. Without active conservation, enforcement of water allocations, and active monitoring, we will continue to see losses to habitat and water supply. That is why we are asking you to make this one of your top issues in the coming months and years. This topic will have dramatic consequences if ignored and we need you join us in working to reduce the impact of increasing water usage and withdrawal. Learn more about how to take action on our website www.SavetheSource.org and click on Take Action.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the people who donate to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

You really make a difference!



Aerial view of ghost forests of Atlantic White Cedar along the Mullica River.

Pinelands Juried Photography Exhibit

from Nov. 4th to Dec. 10th

PPA Headquarters 17 Pemberton Rd. Southampton, NJ 08088

This juried exhibit Celebrating a Bold Vision - Our Country's First National Reserve is now open.

View 71 stunning photographs taken within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve.

The exhibit is on display in the newly renovated barn at our headquarters.

Exhibit Hours:

Mon. - Fri.: 10am - 4pm Sundays: Noon to 5pm.

Learn more:

www.pinelandsalliance.org

Photographs are available for purchase.

Dunes are Critical: A Coastal Conservation Update

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

Pinelands The Preservation Alliance and Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) are wrapping up their second year of partnership in helping to protect critical habitat on our state beaches. Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, PPA and Dr. Jay Kelly from RVCC have used string and post markers on four state beaches, Island Beach State Park, North Brigantine Natural Area, Corson's Inlet and Cape May Point, to identify portions of the back beach that would be protected from beach raking and motorized use.

This is an example of effective compromise management. Recreational use of the beach for fishing, driving, swimming and sunbathing is concentrated towards the lower beach (closer to the water), while beach nesting birds and beach plants are concentrated towards the upper beach (near the foot of the dune). A portion of the upper beach is protected from raking with string and post markers to create habitat for our beach species while recreation on the lower beach is unimpeded.

An additional benefit to these back beach protections is that they facilitate natural dune formation. Dunes are dynamic; they are constantly being formed and broken down. In order to form new dunes or grow existing dunes, blowing sand must be trapped by vegetation growing on the dunes and beaches. Protecting the upper beach allows previously bare portions of beach to re-vegetate and begin the process of trapping sand and creating incipient dunes. Dunes, in turn, benefit the beach front community by offering some protection during major storm events.

This simple and inexpensive form of compromise management produces results quickly. In 2016, the first year of this project, the federally listed Seabeach Amaranth was found in exclosures in two of the four state beaches, Island Beach State Park and Brigantine, the state listed Seabeach Evening Primrose was found in Cape May Point and Corson's Inlet, Oystercatchers nested in exclosures in North Brigantine Natural Area and Piping Plovers successfully nested in Island Beach for the first time in over 20 years.

The Piping Plover nesting at Island Beach State Park continued in 2017 along with Seabeach Amaranth occurring in five locations of improved ecological beach management, Port Monmouth, Belmar, Island Beach, Harvey Cedars, Brigantine and Corson's inlet. These are locations that have few if any Seabeach Amaranth occurrences in the past 16 years and further highlight how impactful the simple measure of protection our upper beaches can be.

PPA has received a new source of funding to continue this project through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

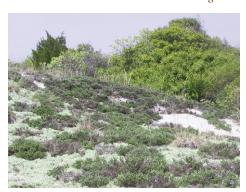
We are looking for municipal beaches in the following counties: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth and Ocean.

If your community qualifies please contact Ryan Rebozo, Ph.D. Director of Conservation Science at 609-859-8860 ext 126 or you can email Ryan@PinelandsAlliance.org.

PPA will help you develop a strategy as well as install marker fencing and signs to protect your community by promoting natural dune development.



Director of Conservation Science, Ryan Rebozo works with volunteers to install beach signs.



Dunes at Island Beach State Park

State of the Pinelands Report Coming Soon!

Our annual report on the actions of government agencies and officials will be mailed to current members in place of your Dec '17 - Jan '18 newsletter. It will also be available on our website:

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Good News / Bad News . . .

continued from cover

and has worked hard to come up with a solution. The Pinelands Protection Act requires the Commission to ensure motorized vehicles are used appropriately within the Pinelands boundaries.

This resolution is binding upon the DEP. A great first step would be to put signs and barriers in the undesignated paths of the Batsto Natural Area to prevent motorized use. The Natural Area system is meant to have the highest level of environmental protection in the state.

State Parks and Forestry should begin placing signage at the terminus and borders of paths now designated as off limits to motor vehicles. In time, they should also create physical barriers where damage is occurring. They should also modify their current map to comply with the Pinelands Commission designations.

This resolution is the beginning of a solution to end the abuse of Wharton and other protected land in the state. PPA has been working to address this issue for more than 20 years. Our efforts include scientific monitoring of damaged sites and their recovery, working to see legislation passed in 2009 requiring the mandatory registration and tagging of off-road vehicles, coordinating volunteer groups to clean up trash and protect sensitive areas, publicizing the impacts and supporting good solutions. We thank the Pinelands Commissioners that worked hard to get this resolution passed.

New Jersey Natural Gas

Unfortunately, the Pinelands Commission also voted to approve the New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) Southern Reliability Link (SRL) gas pipeline, in violation of federal and state statutes and regulations designed to protect the Pinelands National Reserve.

PPA will appeal this decision in court.

SRL is a 28-mile, 30" diameter high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline slated to run from Chesterfield in Burlington County to Manchester in Ocean County, through Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL). The pipeline is associated with a 30,500hp compressor station currently under residential construction in a neighborhood in Chesterfield.

In 2016, the Executive Director, without consent from the full Commission, made a determination to the Board of Public Utilities that the pipeline complied with the Comprehensive Management Plan bringing the pipeline a step closer to construction. PPA took legal action and in 2016, the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey determined that for such an application, the Executive Director didn't have the authority to decide on the compliance issue and the full Commission must decide.

In December 2016 the Commission passed resolutions to define how they would approach a vote on both the South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Gas pipelines. We currently have appeals pending on these resolutions (PC4-16-43 and PC4-17-10), which establish the rushed, unlawful process by which the Pinelands Commission reviewed these applications. These appeals are before the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court.

Over the summer a report by industry expert firm Skipping Stone, revealed that SRL is neither a necessary nor effective solution to increase reliability to the NJNG system. At no point has NJNG, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), or the Pinelands Commission conducted a reliability analysis to see if SRL is truly needed. PPA commissioned this report.

project This violates the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the set of regulations that protect the Pinelands, for several key reasons. First, pipelines are permitted in the Joint Base only if they are genuinely associated with function of the base. Second, the pipeline would be routed through the Preservation Area of the Pinelands, when it could be routed through the Protection Area or outside the Pinelands, as required by the CMP. Third, the pipeline application fails to meet essential wetland protection standards that hinge on need for the project.

The final vote was 8-4, with one recusal. Commissioner Lohbauer delivered a thorough rationale for his vote against the application. He mentioned section 7:50-5.29 of the CMP which defines the conditions under which the Commission is permitted to authorize development within the federal military installation area. He stated that the language indicates development can be approved by the Commission if its use "is associated with the function of the federal installation". Lohbauer's opinion the applicant (NJNG) has not demonstrated on record that the pipeline is associated with function of the federal installation. In fact the record indicates the pipeline will not supply gas to the military base, it will not even be connected.

PPA, Bordentown, and Chesterfield have appealed the New Jersey DEP permits and the Board of Public Utilities approvals. The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club has also joined in appealing the Board of Public Utilities approvals.

The pipeline still requires approval from the Joint Base. We will keep you informed about this issue.

Natural Resource Damages Ballot Measure - Nov. 7th

by Jaclyn Rhoads, Assistant Executive Director

New Jersey has tremendous natural and geographical resources. Its abundance of clean water, wildlife, and forests, its network of rivers, and convenient location between two of the largest cities in the U.S. makes New Jersey a natural center for manufacturing & business. With these attractive assets comes a history of industrialization. Unfortunately industry can lead to pollution, through major spills and the pollutants left behind in environment. New Jersey's natural resources belong to all of us. When they are polluted, damages must be paid.

New Jersey's history of industrialization has resulted in some of the strongest anti-pollution laws in the country, which hold companies responsible for cleaning up industrial pollution, as well as compensating communities for actions that damaged the environment. Payments assessed against polluters to compensate for injury to and lost use of the environment are known as Natural Resource Damages.

New Jersey's Natural Resource Damages program requires polluters to pay the state for lost use and restoration of natural resources, such as wildlife, habitat, water, or wetlands, due to pollution. For example, the waterfront park in Newark along the Passaic River and dam removals to restore fish passage along the Raritan River were funded with Natural Resource Damages. These restoration payments are separate from cleanup costs.

Natural Resource Damages are incredibly important for assisting communities that have sustained sudden, unanticipated pollution spills or have suffered ongoing toxic discharges, sometimes for generations. These funds help them recover. But recently, Natural Resource Damages have been raided from the communities that deserve them and redirected to balance the state budget.

Many polluted communities are

disproportionately urban and lowincome. Many impacted communities, such as Newark, Elizabeth, Camden and Linden also have limited outdoor recreational opportunities.

It is important to protect the funds that help clean up these communities. Voters will have the opportunity to decide if funds from natural resource damages should be constitutionally dedicated to clean up polluted sites on November 7th. Constitutional dedication prevents the use of funds for other purposes like state general funds that pay for operations or other programs in New Jersey. Please make sure to stay informed, learn more, and get out to vote on Election Day.

Pinelands Commission

The state Pinelands Commission holds their monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month. The public is welcome to attend.

Next Monthly Meeting:

Fri., Dec. 8th, 9:30 am

Location:

15 Springfield Road New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

Sign up on the Commission's email list through their website:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands

Stay Informed

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Green Trading Post

Dec. 2nd & 3rd
12 noon to 4pm both days

PPA Headquarters 17 Pemberton Rd. Southampton, NJ 08088

Join us for this annual event to use your holiday cash to benefit local nonprofits and artists! Refreshments, music, and other surprises.

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey www.conservewildlifenj.org

Master Gardners of Burlington County

Paul Evans Pedersen, Jr.
Pine Barrens Diamonds artist and author of New Tales from
Old Haunts

Pinelands Adventures www.PinelandsAdventures.org

Pinelands Folk Music & Basketry Center www.pinelandsfolkmusic.com

Pollenation Station www.pollenationstation.org

Rancocas Nature Center www.rancocasnaturecenter.org

Whitesbog Preservation Trust www.whitesbog.org

Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge www.cedarrun.org

www.ccdurram.org

<u>Get more information about</u> <u>this event on our website:</u>

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Use your Greens for Good this holiday season!

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Carleton K. Montgomery

Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Fall/Winter 2017

Pinelands Adventures Field Trips

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

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.



Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

www.pinelandsadventures.org

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

Journey Between Two Rivers (Hike)

Nov. 11 and Dec. 2. Trip departs at 9 a.m. returns 2 p.m. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join Pinelands Adventures Naturalist, John Volpa, for a four-mile hike at an easy pace between the Mullica and Batsto Rivers. Explore the uplands and river edges for native plants and animals while learning about the unique features of the Pine Barrens. Bring a picnic lunch!

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

Pine Barrens Time Machine (Small Bus Tour)

Nov. 19. Trip runs from 10am to 3pm. Guide John Volpa. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

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

can learn from its history as society grapples with today's local and global environmental issues. Cost is \$60 per per-

Industries in the Pines (Small Bus Tour)

Dec. 3rd, 10 am to 3pm. Guide is Jeff Larson. Trip meets at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

The Pine Barrens are a postindustrial 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. We will make several stops to explore on foot. Cost is \$60 per person.

Pine Barrens Habitats Tour (Small Bus Tour)

Nov. 18th, 10 am to 3pm. Guide is Jeff Larson. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

To many, the Pine Barrens appear as a monotonous expanse of sugar sand and pine trees. However, a closer look reveals a multifaceted environment comprised of unique habitats. This trip will be an exploration into the various habitats that exist in the pinelands. Characteristics of each habitat will be discussed including flora, fauna, natural and human influence. Areas to be visited include upland pine-oak communities, lowland pine communities, spungs, savannas, hardwood (gum) swamps, and other aquatic environments. Cost is \$60 per person.

John McPhee Pine Barrens **Today Tour**

Dec. 16th, 10am to 3pm. Guide is John Volpa. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

This small group driving tour will visit many places described in John McPhee's landmark book *The Pine* Barrens. While most of the characters that McPhee profiled have since passed on

many years ago, many of the places he wrote about have remained largely unchanged. They've remained that way in large part because McPhee's book challenged citizens and political leaders to find a way to protect the unique Pine Barrens ecosystem and culture from development that loomed on the horizon at the time. Participants in this tour will travel by van making stops and taking short hikes at places like Paisley, Apple Pie Hill, Hog Wallow and the Forks on the Mullica. Cost is \$60 per person.

Green Trading Post

December 2nd and 3rd from 12 noon to 4pm on both days. Held at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton NJ

Join us for this annual event to use your holiday cash to benefit local nonprofits and artists!

Refreshments, music, and other surprises. Vendors include: Conserve Wildlife Foundation, Pinelands Folk Music and Basketry Center, Whitesbog Preservation Trust, Pinelands Adventures and more. Music provided by the Great Pinelands Dulcimer Society. Basket making demonstration on Saturday and community wreath making event on Sunday.

For more information visit www.pinelandsalliance.org or call 609-859-8860.

Cool Day Trips in the Pine Barrens

Check out the following places when planning your next Pine Barrens trip.

Historic Whitesbog Village Wharton State Forest www.whitesbog.org

Historic Batsto Village Brendan Byrne State Forest www.batstovillage.org

Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge Medford, NJ www.cedarrun.org

Franklin Parker Preserve (New Jersey Conservation Foundation) Chatsworth, NJ www.njconservation.org



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

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