



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

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Number 1

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Earth Day Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 27
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

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Southampton, NJ

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Pinelands native trees,
wildflowers, and
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INSIDE THE PINELANDS



The Bishop Farmstead, home to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance since 2004. ©Ernest Cozens

Celebrating 30 Years of Protecting the Pines in 2019

by Becky Free, Director of Membership and Communications

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance was created in 1989 to ensure that there was one citizens' organization whose mission was to watch over the Pinelands. For 30 years, we have built public support and made the case for protecting the Pinelands' unique natural resources and respecting the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP).

Our work has prevented political and economic forces from revoking the Pinelands Protection Act and CMP. This advocacy work has also enabled public and private land trusts to buy far more land for conservation than they could without the CMP in place – more than 300,000 acres of Pinelands forests, and 60,000 acres of farmland, have been permanently protected since the rules came into effect in 1980.

PPA was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in July of 1989. In August 1989, thanks to funding from the Victoria Foundation, we hired our first

Executive Director, Sally Price, and in 1990, we hired our first employee, Theresa Lettman. During those early years PPA had an office in historic Whitesbog Village located in what was then known as Lebanon State Forest. (Lebanon State Forest was renamed Brendan T. Byrne State Forest in 2002 by Governor James McGreevey in recognition of Governor Byrne's work to get the Pinelands Protection Act passed.)

By the summer of 1993 we had outgrown our space in Whitesbog and moved our offices to an old bank building in the borough of Pemberton. The staff had grown to five. In May 1998 PPA hired its second ever Executive Director, Carleton Montgomery, who continues to serve and has guided PPA through complicated issues and significant organizational growth.

In 2004 we had grown enough to move to our current home, the Bishop Farmstead in Southampton. This property includes

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Meet the Rancocas Watershed Ambassador - Angelica Anglero

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Buenos dias, friends of the Pinelands! My name is Angelica Anglero and I am the watershed ambassador for the Rancocas Watershed Management Area. What does that mean exactly? In short, I am serving a 10-month term with AmeriCorps, which is a sort of domestic Peace Corps. In total, there are 20 watershed ambassadors who partner with “host agencies” like Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

My ultimate goal is to make sure our water resources are well protected, and I do this in 3 distinct ways. For one, I give presentations throughout my watershed so future generations are informed about their environmental impacts. Secondly, I perform assessments on local streams to determine their overall health, so we know which ones need the most help. Lastly, I help organize volunteer projects such as clean ups, biological assessment trainings, and rain barrel workshops.

Before I started here, I graduated from Stockton University with a degree in environmental science. I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to do with my degree at first, but I knew I wanted to protect people and wildlife from environmental degradation. In July of 2018, I applied to this AmeriCorps position because I was really interested in the diversity of the program. Being fresh out of college, getting a chance to have tons of new experiences has helped me figure out where I want to take my future career. Getting the rare chance to improve the environment while also helping out my local community has been an amazing experience.

While being an ambassador is a full-time commitment, you can still help out. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming

events, as Spring is usually the busiest time of the year. Check the Pinelands Preservation Alliance events page, and the AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors Program (NJWAP) Facebook page. New stuff is always going on, so check back frequently!

As an AmeriCorps member, I am a free community resource and I am here to help. I can give presentations, give biological assessment trainings, or help organize volunteer events. Whether you're interested in working with me or if you just have some questions, feel free to contact me with the information below.

Angelica Anglero

Email: wma19ppa@gmail.com

Phone: 609-859-8860 ext. 156



New Jersey Natural Gas Pinelands Pipeline Update

by Rhyan Grech, Policy Advocate

At least nine lawsuits and an incomplete set of approvals. It was under these conditions that New Jersey Natural Gas decided to begin construction on the Southern Reliability Link, a 28-mile, 30" diameter, high pressure natural gas pipeline in Plumsted Township (Ocean County) in December. The pipeline is slated to run from Bordentown to Manchester through the Pinelands National Reserve and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, and it is completely unnecessary.

New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) first sought approval for the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) in April of 2015. During the subsequent years, PPA staff followed the issue closely, filing lawsuits, presenting testimony to both the Pinelands Commission and the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and organizing concerned residents. Despite these efforts, BPU approved the pipeline in early 2016 and the Pinelands Commission followed suit in September of 2017.

PPA's objection to the pipeline is multi-faceted, but not complicated: the SRL violates the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), and sets a precedent that could lead to further destruction in the Pines. The CMP clearly states that infrastructure like pipelines are only permitted within the Joint Base if "associated with the function" of the facility. But the SRL is designed to merely traverse the base; it would not provide a connection to directly supply energy to the facility. Additionally, independent expert reports demonstrate that the pipeline is not needed to provide the base (or anyone else) with reliable gas service.

The SRL's path would cut directly through the Pinelands Preservation Area, as designated by the Pinelands Protection Act. Outside the Pinelands, it passes within feet of homes and other occupied buildings. Not only does this area consist of sensitive habitat, it is also a poorly-chosen route, as there are alternative pathways that could avoid the Pinelands

entirely. Plus, the pipeline would be constructed through two Superfund sites with insufficient plans to prevent the spread of those contaminants to our drinking water source, the Kirkwood Cohansey aquifer.

On top of that, the approvals of the pipeline were obtained without an evidentiary hearing, and required the votes of two Pinelands Commissioners who had clear conflicts of interest with this project.

The project's cost, which would be passed along to NJNG's ratepayers, is estimated at \$178 million, so why would NJNG begin construction when lawsuits are tied up in the courts and certain approvals are still pending? It can only be that the company intends to build as much as possible to influence the court decisions, since equipment removal and ecological restoration would be a large and expensive effort.

PPA and the Sierra Club of NJ have filed a petition to stay the construction of the pipeline, at least until the NJ Superior Court can hear the merits of the appeals. It is a risk to residents' safety, ratepayers' money and the Pinelands to proceed with this destructive project.

Take Action! Contact Governor Murphy and encourage him to halt construction until the legal challenges to the SRL pipeline are resolved. You can reach the Governor's office at 609-292-6000.

Fairs & Festivals

Stop by our table at this great event!

Atlantic County Utility Authority Earth Day

April 28th, 10am - 4pm

ACUA Environmental Park
6700 Delilah Road
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ

Rain or Shine

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IN OCEAN COUNTY

(started December 2018)



Staging materials along Route 539.



Aerial image of construction along Fisher Road in Plumsted Township.



Fisher Road in Plumsted Township.

Gov. Murphy Makes Nominations to the Pinelands Commission

by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director

The 15-member state Pinelands Commission plays a crucial role in overseeing land-use in the Pinelands. Seven members are appointed by the Governor and approved by the state Senate. Seven are appointed by the freeholder boards in the Pinelands counties, and one appointment is a federal representative through the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

In recent years, the Pinelands Commission has lost its way, approving major developments, particularly two natural gas pipelines, that plainly violate the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) but had lots of political and financial backing. Additionally, they have failed to take any action on numerous policy initiatives which the Commission itself identified as high priorities. The Commission has also adopted, or attempted to adopt, several measures to limit public participation and appeal rights in its development approval process.

Recognizing these problems, then-candidate Phil Murphy committed to appointing people to the Commission who would remove partisan politics from its decision making and restore the agency's historic objectivity in implementing Pinelands protection rules.

In January, Governor Murphy nominated Kelly Mooij and Theresa Lettman to serve on the Pinelands Commission. Kelly and Theresa will bring decades of experience, expertise and wisdom to the state agency that oversees Pinelands conservation.

Kelly Mooij is nominated to replace Gary Quinn on the Commission. She is an environmental lawyer and has worked for the New Jersey Audubon Society for the last ten years as their Vice President of Government Relations.

In 2017 Kelly received the Women & Wildlife Leadership Award from the Conserve Wildlife Foundation for her "work to promote and secure a legal

and regulatory framework that supports habitat conservation, open space preservation, and species protection and recovery in New Jersey." Kelly has also successfully worked at the state level to secure long-term, permanent funding for the conservation of New Jersey's natural resources through the *Keep It Green* coalition.

Theresa Lettman retired from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance after a very successful 26-year career monitoring the actions of the Pinelands Commission and building a grassroots network among the 56 Pinelands municipalities. She was one of our first employees in 1990. Theresa is nominated to fill the seat of Candace McKee Ashmun. Candy is the last of the original members still serving on the Commission, which was founded forty years ago in 1979. Ms. Ashmun requested Ms. Lettman as her replacement.

Theresa got involved in public service for the environment when water contamination threatened her neighborhood in the Pinelands. In addition to working for the Alliance, she has been a trustee of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust since 1995. She has also served as a board member of the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Advisory Committee, was on the Ocean County Solid Waste Advisory Council, and served on the Manchester Township Council and its Environmental Commission as chairperson.

We have been urging Governor Murphy to make appointments to the Pinelands Commission that will get this key agency back to its mission, protecting the Pinelands and implementing its rules in a consistent, science-based and even-handed manner. Nearly 5,000 New Jersey residents have emailed, called, signed petitions and written letters to the Governor on this topic since he took office in January 2018. The Pinelands needs Commissioners who under-

stand the Comprehensive Management Plan, believe in its mission, and will uphold it even under political pressure to do otherwise. These nominees fit that bill.

In order to be appointed to the Commission, Theresa and Kelly must be approved by the state Senate after a hearing and vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee. We are pushing the Senate Judiciary Committee to move these nominations along so that Kelly and Theresa can start to serve soon.

We want to express our thanks to all of you. Your petitions, phone calls and emails to the Governor certainly had an impact, and more help may be needed. Stay tuned!



Kelly Mooij



Theresa Lettman

Celebrating 30 Years of Protecting the Pines

continued from cover

a farmhouse, converted carriage shed and newly renovated barn on 12 acres surrounded by farmland. The Bishop Farmstead has allowed us to host programs, events and a small visitor center. The Farmstead is on the State and National Registers of Historic Sites. We are proud to ensure the preservation of this site.

In 2015, we created Pinelands Adventures, an outfitter based at Atsion Lake that is taking thousands of adults and children for trips in the Pine Barrens. We created Adventures to help spread love for the Pinelands through recreation that has a low impact on the environment and a high impact on the people.

We have grown in staff, expertise and effectiveness since 1989. We now have 13 full-time and four part-time staff. Protecting the Pinelands requires intense, consistent focus over a long period of time. Many of our victories were decades in the making. But we always remember that in this work every defeat is permanent and every victory provisional!

What does it mean to protect the Pinelands? We spend a lot of time considering how to answer this question. [We believe we will succeed in protecting the Pinelands if:](#)

1. The Pinelands' large, contiguous forests survive, because everything else - water, wildlife, botanical heritage, air, scenery and recreation - depends on saving these big connected forests.
2. People use Pinelands water resources sustainably, meaning we enjoy their benefits without depleting these resources or harming natural habitats by draining streams and aquifers.
3. Natural Pine Barrens water quality and soil chemistry are protected from contamination and alteration, so they will continue to sustain native communities of plants and wildlife.

4. The habitats of native and rare species of wildlife and plants are preserved from development and other damage, so they sustain the species that thrive there.

5. Historic and cultural resources that make the Pinelands distinctive are protected and enjoyed by the public, helping build interest in and loyalty to the Pinelands.

We believe the Pinelands can be managed for people and for nature if we are smart about it. This premise depends on the following basic strategies for protecting the Pinelands:

- Respect the boundaries of conservation and growth areas established by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) – the core blueprint for preservation and development in the Pinelands.
- Make policy and permitting decisions based on science and the law.
- Educate and engage the public to ensure government and business respect New Jersey's Pinelands protection policies and maintain the integrity of the public agencies charged with implementing those policies.
- Promote the stewardship and restoration of natural lands and waters in concert with citizens and State and local officials.

In 2019 we are focused on five main issues. First, we are working closely with members of the public and our partner organizations to ensure that Governor Murphy makes good on his promise to reform the Pinelands Commission. See the article on pg 4. Second, we continue to fight two gas pipelines proposed for construction in the Pinelands. Our legal appeals are pending. Third, we are pressing the Pinelands Commission and the DEP to implement a better and more aggressive land management strategy

to protect our forests and wetlands from damage. Fourth, the Pinelands Commission must make critical regulatory improvements, including standards to protect the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, for the long term health of the Pinelands. Finally, we are working with advocates throughout the state to advance clean energy policies, forest stewardship practices, new and improved stormwater treatment and cleanup of water pollution like lead and PFOAs.

Building public support for the Pinelands is at the heart of what we do. In the past five years, thanks to our members, we have been able to pursue new initiatives to grow the love and activism in defense of the Pinelands.

Recent projects include creating Pinelands Adventures to help people of all ages and abilities explore and enjoy the Pinelands. In 2017 we created Save the Source, a video series telling real stories about people who depend on the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer for their livelihoods and well-being. We are helping to launch the Hammonton Health Coalition whose first project is to help young people overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Finally, we have worked with hundreds of people through our Land Protectors volunteer stewardship program. These volunteers have removed thousands of tons of garbage from the Pinelands, helped maintain trails and protected habitat.

As we move into our next 30 years it is clear that the future of the Pinelands protection effort lies in your hands. We will continue to work side by side with you so that future generations will come to love and experience the Pinelands just as we do.

Thank You!

To all the people who support the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. You really make a difference!

Environmental Issues at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

by Rich Bizub, Director for Water Programs

This article is the second of a three-part series that will look into key environmental issues at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Joint Base).

Moving at a snail's pace are the words that best describes the progress (or lack thereof) of the Joint Base dealing with what are known as Perfluorinated Compounds (PFC's), also referred to as per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS). These contaminants have been found in drinking water, streams and fish both on the Joint Base and offsite. PFC's are a large group of environmentally persistent chemicals used in industrial applications, fire-fighting foam, and consumer products. They are very stable, slow to degrade in the environment and can lead to potential adverse health effects in humans and wildlife. At the base, the source of PFC's is primarily from the use of fire-fighting foam for training exercises and to extinguish actual fires.

Several chemical compounds fall under the umbrella of PFC's, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These two compounds have received much attention lately because they have been found in drinking water on the base and in private wells around the base.

On the base, the drinking water system serves approximately 3,000 people who live or work at the facility. Two wells within the main water system were found to have combined levels of PFOA and PFOS of 215 parts per trillion (ppt), which exceeds the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory of 70 ppt. These wells are located in the shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer and are therefore vulnerable to contamination from the use of fire-fighting foam.

In an effort to comply with the EPA health advisory and state drinking water standards, the base will be installing a new water treatment system. In addition, a new well will be installed in a deeper aquifer to reduce dependence on the two shallow wells. Near the base approximately 190 private well owners have allowed the Joint Base to test their wells for PFAS. Of these wells, five contained PFAS and needed to have treatment systems installed. But new wells and filters do not solve the problem as they leave the poison in the aquifer and streams.

In order to determine the extent of PFOA/PFOS contamination, a base-wide sampling effort was conducted in 2016 focusing on 21 areas of concern. Approximately 160 shallow groundwater samples were collected for PFOA and PFOS. A vast majority of the samples contained these two chemical compounds, with many samples far exceeding the EPA health advisory. Based on the groundwater sampling it is clear that contamination on the base is widespread.

The problem however, is not just restricted to groundwater at and near the base. This past year scientists from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) released a report that focused on PFAS contamination statewide. The report concluded that of the surface water samples collected statewide, those near the Joint Base contained the highest levels of PFAS. In addition, sediment and fish tissue samples near the Joint Base were the highest reported in the study.

The base is located almost entirely in the Pinelands National Reserve. Given the extent of PFC contamination and the impact to people and the environment, the

EPA and the Joint Base need to make it a priority to clean up PFC contaminated sites on the base sooner, rather than later!

The last installment of this series will focus on a site that is a relic from the days of the Cold War that contained missiles with nuclear warheads, but today has serious groundwater contamination.

Explore the Pinelands National Reserve

with Pinelands Adventures!

Paddling Trips resume in April!

Guided and unguided trips on the Batsto River, 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.
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609-268-0189

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

Pinelands Commission

Attend a Pinelands Commission meeting - the public is welcome and needed! Next meeting date:

Fri., April 12th, 9:30 am

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

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Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Pinelands Trips & Events

Spring 2019

Pinelands Adventures opens for paddling trips in April! Make your reservation today.



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:
PinelandsAdventures.org

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

Rain, Rain, I'm Not Going Away!

March 30 at 1pm. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Rd, Medford NJ - phone 609-983-3329

When it rains people go inside to get out of it, but the animals and insects stay outside. What do the animals and insects do when it rains? Dig in the dirt to find insects and nematodes, pick through dead wood to find spiders, look in bushes, trees and creeks to find the animals that call Cedar Run home on a rainy day. Ages 6-8 preferred, but all ages are welcome. www.cedarrun.org

Cost \$10/child with one adult free, additional adults \$10/each. Advanced registration required.

Behind the Scenes at Rehab

April 6th at 1pm. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Rd, Medford NJ - phone 609-983-3329

Ever wonder what happens in the hospital when you drop off an injured animal? Now you can find out! Rehab staff will discuss the process for accepting patients in our hospital, the care involved and give personal insight into working in this fast-paced environment. Program will be

followed by a tour of our outdoor wildlife housing area. (Sorry, no tours of the hospital will be given). 1-2:30pm. All ages. FREE with admission, but please bring an item from our wish list! Advanced registration required.

www.cedarrun.org

Earth Day Work Day

4/20/2019 at 10:00 am. Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Rd, Medford NJ - phone 609-983-3329

Celebrate Earth Day with hands-on action that will help spruce-up Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and benefit the environment. Get off-trail at the Refuge removing invasive plants, cleaning debris, clearing trails and much more! (Children are welcome as long as they are closely supervised by their attending adult.) To sign up contact Mike at mike.omalley@cedarrun.org.

www.cedarrun.org

Whitesbog Village Egg Hunt

April 21st at 1pm. Whitesbog Preservation Trust, 120 West Whitesbog Rd #34, Browns Mills, NJ Phone 609-853-4646

Children ages 1-10 years are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt in the historic gardens at Whitesbog Village. Children can make a craft in the General Store following the Egg Hunt.

www.whitesbog.org

Members Only Native Plant Sale (PPA)

April 26th from 3pm to 6pm. PPA Offices, 17 Pemberton Rd, (CR 616) Southampton NJ

PPA Members are invited to buy plants the Friday before our annual plant sale opens. You must be a member or become one that day to shop. Trees, shrubs, and wildflowers native to the Pinelands and South Jersey will be for sale. A plant list will be available in April. The Pinelands Visitor Center will also be open, with books, DVDs, clothing and other Pinelands merchandise. Plants are supplied by Pinelands Nursery, New Moon Nursery and Fernbrook Nursery. A plant

sale price list will be posted on our website in April with species descriptions to help you plan.

Native Plant Sale (PPA)

April 27th from 11am to 2pm. PPA Offices, 17 Pemberton Rd, (CR616) Southampton NJ

Trees, shrubs, and wildflowers native to the Pinelands and South Jersey will be for sale. A plant list will be available in April. The Pinelands Visitor Center will also be open, with books, DVDs, clothing and other Pinelands merchandise. Plants are supplied by Pinelands Nursery, New Moon Nursery and Fernbrook Nursery. A plant sale price list will be posted on our website in April.

Pinelands Commission Meeting

April 12th, May 10th starting at 9:30 am. Pinelands Commission, 15C Springfield Road, New Lisbon, NJ

The Pinelands Commission is the state agency that oversees conservation and development within the Pinelands boundaries. They meet on the 2nd Friday of the month and the meeting is open to the public. They need to hear from you! You can find the agenda for each meeting on www.nj.gov/pinelands. Questions? Call us at 609-859-8860.



**PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE**

Keeping the Pinelands Green for 30 Years!

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.



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Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

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- Basic \$35
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- 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

Our mission is to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of New Jersey's Pinelands.

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