



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

June / July 2019

Volume 26

Number 3

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INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Rick Prickett, Carleton Montgomery and the late Governor Brendan Byrne speaking at an event in 2006.

Good Things Coming to the Pinelands Commission

by Becky Free, Director of Communications and Membership

Governor Murphy continues to make an impact on the Pinelands Commission this summer. The Governor now has five nominations waiting for Senate approval and he appointed a new Chair in the month of May. The Governor has been busy!

The state Pinelands Commission is the agency charged with overseeing conservation and growth in the Pinelands National Reserve. It is comprised of fifteen members, seven of whom are appointed by the governor with Senate approval, one appointed by each of the seven Pinelands Counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean), and one federal representative from the Department of the Interior. Members of the Commission serve staggered three-year terms, but, once their terms expire, they continue in office until replaced or they resign.

Pinelands Commissioners oversee all

development activities regulated by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). They play a crucial role in the protection of this special place.

On May 15, Governor Murphy appointed Commissioner Richard H. Prickett to serve as Chair of the Pinelands Commission, replacing Sean Earlen who had served as chair since his appointment by Governor Christie in January 2016.

Rick Prickett is an outstanding choice for Chair of the Pinelands Commission. He is a naturalist with deep knowledge of Pinelands ecology. He is also an eminently thoughtful person when it comes to important policy and development issues coming before the Commission.

"I am proud to announce the designation of Richard Prickett as the Chair of the Pinelands Commission," said Governor Murphy in his official statement. "Richard's experience serving on the Commission, coupled with his extensive

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Published six times a
year by the Pinelands
Preservation Alliance

Executive Editor

Carleton Montgomery

Editor

Becky Free

PPA Staff

Richard Bizub

Isabella Castiglioni

Tom Dunn

Rhyan Grech

Audra Hardoon

Jason Howell

Alicia Plaag

Ryan Rebozo

Jaclyn Rhoads

Stephen Sebastian

Jane Wiltshire

Pinelands Adventures

Rob Ferber

Barnes Laucks

Donald Sulewski

John Volpa

Distributed to

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

*Mailing services generously
donated by Swift Mailing
www.swiftmailing.com*

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

Circulation: 5500

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Launches a New Website!

In May we launched a new mobile friendly website. This project has been a few years in the making and we are very excited to share it with you.

Our goal has always been to be your best source of information about New Jersey's Pinelands and we believe this website does that. **You can still find us at www.pinelandsalliance.org!**

Our new website features high quality images and easy to find information about visiting the Pines, its history and culture, its ecology and how you can protect it.

We have also made it easier for you to get involved. You can sign up to help with stewardship projects in the Pines, join the Pinelands Action Network and share information easily with your social networks.

Future additions to the website include a searchable scientific Pinelands plants database and a catalog of plants native to the Pinelands and South Jersey that you can use in your own backyard.

We are always adding information to our event calendar so you have a resource for the latest trips, volunteer opportunities and programs that are happening in and around the Pines. This calendar has some sweet functions including the option to add events to your own digital calendar and share events on Facebook to spread the word.

Help us keep our calendar up to date! Email program descriptions with title, description, location and cost to Becky@pinelandsalliance.org.

Please take some time to visit www.pinelandsalliance.org and let us know what you think. Websites are a huge amount of work and we can always improve it.

Speaking of what to do in the Pines - summer is a great time to get out on a Pinelands river. Pinelands Adventures offers canoeing and kayaking on the

Batsto and Mullica rivers and guided Pine Barrens paddling, nature and history tours in Wharton State Forest. We are so proud to see how it has grown since we launched it in 2015.

For three years in a row Pinelands Adventures has received the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence. Check out some of their reviews like this one from June 25:

Another outstanding paddling trip!

Pinelands Adventures just keeps getting better and better with innovations each year. I've been kayaking with them for several years and each and every trip is...simply...perfect. It doesn't matter whether paddling the Batsto or the Mullica, the venue is gorgeous in all seasons. But what makes Pinelands Adventures the best is the staff's knowledge, professionalism and kindness. They really want you to have a terrific trip!

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Pinelands Preservation Alliance and our members
get 10% off all trips and programs.*

Located within beautiful Wharton State Forest.

Reflections on the Creation of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

by Betty Wilson, Trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Passage of the Pinelands Protection Act in 1979 was a great victory for preservation of the New Jersey Pinelands. The new state law along with the 1978 federal law set in motion what environmental activists had worked toward for decades. Reaching the goal was celebrated as the astonishing achievement it was.

However, trouble was brewing almost immediately. Attacks on the law and on the Commission and its regulations began right away and they continued throughout the first decade after the Pinelands Protection Act became law. Some powerful officials and private interests were fiercely opposed. Towns pushed for more growth and resisted the Commission's new rules. Public hearings on the Comprehensive Management Plan, the regulatory structure required under the federal law, were attended by large, angry crowds. Sometimes they felt dangerous.

While the environmental community and its allies rallied to counter the opponents, concerns rose among New Jersey environmental organizations that none was able to spend what was needed to monitor the Pinelands Commission and the activities of its opponents. Through the 1980's New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) had a full time staff person, Michele Byers (now Executive Director of NJCF), assigned to the Pinelands. However, it became clear that much more was needed as a counterweight to the powerful organized forces seeking repeal of the Pinelands Protection Act, dissolution of the Comprehensive Management Plan and destruction of the New Jersey Pinelands.

NJCF was not going to let that happen! They had a record of leadership in protecting the Pinelands and once again, they stepped up. Executive Director David Moore and Michele Byers pulled together a group of interested people to figure out how to move forward to assure ongoing advocacy and support for the Pinelands Protection Act and the Plan.

They hired me as a consultant to help the group decide its mission and chart a path forward.

This group's work led to the incorporation of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, a non-profit organization whose sole mission would be protection of the New Jersey Pinelands. Initially the organization was envisioned as an alliance of the major environmental organizations in the State. Among the first Board of Trustees were such prominent people as Buntzie Ellis-Churchill, President of the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia, Dr. Beryl Robichaud-Collins, author of *Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands: A New Direction in Land Use Management*, and Howard Boyd, Pine Barrens naturalist and author of *A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey*.

PPA started out in makeshift office space at Elizabeth White's house in Whitesbog Village. The first Chairman of the Board was Michael Huber and the first Executive Director was Sally Price. With Board member Alex Keer's generous gift in 1993, PPA was able to buy a former bank building in Pemberton Borough where the offices were located until 2004. Carleton Montgomery, who had been named Executive Director in 1998, and Board Chair David Moore led the Board in the next bold step. PPA purchased the historic Bishop-Irick Farmstead in Southampton, its current home. PPA was now "on the map" as a serious environmental organization.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance is the leading advocate for Pinelands preservation, monitoring the Commission's adherence to the Comprehensive Management Plan, supporting the Commission when appropriate and sounding the alarm when necessary. In the beginning, some of the work required defending the very existence of the Pinelands Commission and resisting pressures to dilute its power and eliminate it altogether. More recently, the work of PPA has been all too often the "sounding

of the alarm" that the Commission has lost its way through our advocacy and going to Court when we must. The original purpose of PPA continues to be its central work – in the words of David Moore, to "give voice to public concerns for preservation."

Editor's Note: Original PPA Board members who have served continuously on the Board of Trustees to the present are Michael Gallaway and David Moore. Former Governor Brendan Byrne served as Honorary Chair of the Board until his death last year.

15th Annual Tour de Pines

Oct. 2 to Oct. 6, 2019

*Tour New Jersey's largest
wilderness by bike!*

**Ride as many days as you
wish for \$45.**

The Tour de Pines is a great way to make new friends and see the Pinelands National Reserve. This year features rides through farms, forests and the coast.

Rides range from 40-55 miles with average speeds of 11-13 mph. Shorter loops available on some of the days.

Locations:

- 10/2 - White Horse Winery
- 10/3 - Laurita Winery
- 10/4 - Estell Manor Park
- 10/5 - Bass River State Forest
- 10/6 - PPA Offices

To learn more visit our website:

www.TourdePinesNJ.org

Update: Protecting the Pines from Illegal Off-Roading

by Jason Howell, Stewardship Coordinator

Pinelands Preservation Alliance, in cooperation with our partners, is leading a campaign to reduce the damage done by illegal and irresponsible off-road vehicles (ORVs) to critical species habitat, roads, historic sites, and scenic areas of the Pinelands.

This campaign has had many difficulties, but new leadership in Trenton and at the Pinelands Commission brings renewed optimism that the Pine Barrens' many public nature preserves can be protected from illegal off-roading. Our goal is to make parks and forests safe for native flora and fauna, and to improve the experience for visitors who come to enjoy these public lands responsibly, whether on foot, or horseback, on bikes – or in motorized vehicles.

PPA is pressing the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Pinelands Commission to adopt badly-needed policy changes. The key points are:

Publicly designate the sand roads that are permissible for motorized vehicles, based on whether they are in a safe condition, provide access to vulnerable habitats, and are genuine public roads (rather than illegal paths cut by off-roaders).

Advertise and enforce these designations. That includes educating judges and other state and local law enforcement officials about what is (and is not) lawful use of public lands.

Ensure that all motorized vehicle events have required permits, are kept to appropriate routes, and stick to the approved routes. Jeep and motorcycle events can bring hundreds of vehicles into state lands.

Block access to areas being illegally driven through where necessary to prevent damage and enable forest to recover.

Provide law enforcement capacity to protect these large public lands and the people who are trying to enjoy them responsibly.

PPA and its volunteers and partners are achieving on-the-ground successes through stewardship work. Recent projects include “First Beach” on the Mullica River in Wharton State Forest, where ORVs had eroded the riverbank for a decade or more. In the summer of 2018, PPA volunteers, working in partnership with Wharton State Forest, erected motor-vehicle barriers that have completely stopped vehicle intrusion on the riverbank.

In Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, working in partnership with NJ Fish and Wildlife and NJ Parks and Forests, PPA volunteers erected vehicle barriers and installed signs at a critical snake habitat location that dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles had torn up illegally.

PPA, the Rancocas Conservancy and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation are reversing damage done by illegal off-roading on a 200-acre privately owned tract of land near Whitesbog Village. This tract, named the Bucks Cove Run Preserve, was recently purchased by the Rancocas Conservancy for responsible public enjoyment and habitat preservation.

At the New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Candace Ashmun Preserve, with funding from the Nature Conservancy of New Jersey, we have planted approximately 2000 native shrubs and trees near a large pond damaged by off-road vehicles

along the Middle Branch of the Forked River. These projects are rarely a one-time endeavor, because off-roaders often come back to destroy barriers and tear out restoration plantings.

Each project requires persistent monitoring and maintenance. Without a dedicated group of volunteers and committed partner organizations we would not be able to succeed. At the future Bucks Cove Run Preserve, one off-roader ripped out over 30 saplings planted by volunteers along the edge of a denuded pond. Vehicle barriers and posted signs were chain sawed and destroyed, and riders drove straight into the wetlands, a sensitive paleodune, and the stream corridor.

We will continue to work with NJDEP, our partners, and environmentally conscious vehicle user-groups to create a more comprehensive solution for the ORV issue on state land. We also hope to work more closely with law-enforcement and provide them with the on-the-ground information that they need to contribute to the solution. With the help of volunteers, state officials, and our conservation partners, the Pinelands will continue to be a haven for public recreation, wild things, and beautiful places.

Pinelands Commission

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

Aug. 9 & Sept. 13, 9:30 am

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

Good Things Coming to the Pinelands Commission

continued from cover

background in environmental science, make him an exceptional individual to serve in this critical leadership position.”

In May, the Governor nominated Jessica Rittler Sanchez and Jennifer Coffey to serve on the Pinelands Commission. He also nominated Commissioner Edward Lloyd for reappointment. Mr. Lloyd has been serving on an expired term for quite some time.

Jennifer Coffey is a strong voice for the protection of water resources in New Jersey. Ms. Coffey is executive director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), an organization that supports the states’ many municipal environmental commissions in protecting natural resources through the local government planning and permitting processes. Prior to assuming this position, Ms. Coffey worked for 10 years as the policy director for the Watershed Institute, previously known as the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. She is a member of the New Jersey State Water Supply Advisory Council and the New Jersey Society of Women Environmental Professionals. Ms. Coffey would replace Bob Barr, who resigned from the Commission.

Jessica Rittler Sanchez, Ph.D., is a regional planner specializing in water resource policy and management. She worked for the Delaware River Basin Commission until her retirement in 2018. A Rutgers graduate (MCRP, Ph.D.) and Pinelands resident from Tabernacle, Ms. Sanchez has focused her career on New Jersey’s water resource issues. She has been a member of the board of trustees for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance since 2007. Ms. Sanchez was nominated to

replace Gary Quinn, who was selected by Governor Christie in 2011.

Edward Lloyd was appointed as a Pinelands Commissioner in 2002, and he is a dedicated and strong advocate for the Pinelands. Mr. Lloyd is a lawyer, professor, and director for the Columbia Law Environmental Clinic. His experience is invaluable and critical to the Pinelands Commission.

In June, just before this newsletter went to press, Governor Murphy nominated Robert Jackson to serve on the state Pinelands Commission.

Mr. Jackson would replace Commissioner D’Arcy Rohan-Green. Robert “Bob” Jackson is a familiar face having served on the Commission from 2008 to 2015 before Governor Christie replaced him during the very controversial battle over the South Jersey Gas pipeline project.

A resident of Middle Township in Cape May County, Robert Jackson served as the Mayor of West Cape May from 2001-2005. Mr. Jackson has a background in marine environmental studies and is a former owner of a surf-fishing center. Bob served the Commission with great distinction and has a deep understanding of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. He will be a strong addition to the Commission when confirmed.

Governor Murphy now has five nominations to the state Pinelands Commission pending with the Senate Judiciary Committee. In January, the Governor nominated Theresa Lettman to succeed Candace McKee Ashmun. Candy Ashmun is the last of the original members still serving on the Commission, founded forty years ago in 1979.

The state Senate must approve the Governor's nominations to the Pinelands Commission before they can serve. We expect the Senate to take action soon and confirm these highly qualified individuals.

Call for Artists!

3rd Annual **Pinelands Juried Photography Exhibit**

Share your images taken within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve! Landscape, flora, wildlife, and people will be accepted.

The exhibit will hang at our offices.

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Sept. 15th!**

Categories:

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Exhibition Dates:

Nov. 10 - Dec. 14

*Awards announced at
reception.

Submission guidelines are in the
2019 Exhibit Prospectus
available online:

www.PinelandsPhotoExhibit.org

BOMARC Missile Site Contamination

by Rich Bizub, Director for Water Programs

This is the final article in a three-part series detailing key environmental issues at Joint-Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The history of this U.S. Air Force missile site located in Plumsted Township, Ocean County is a rather interesting one. The late 1950's and early 1960's were a time of high anxiety as the threat of nuclear war was on many people's mind. This was a time of deep mistrust by both the Soviet Union and the United States. The Cuban missile crisis would bring the two countries closer than ever before to nuclear destruction.

Starting around 1957, fearing a Pearl Harbor style attack by Soviet long-range bombers, President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the construction of anti-aircraft facilities throughout the United States. These facilities were equipped with missiles containing nuclear warheads that would protect the major population centers such as Philadelphia and New York City.

The Plumsted facility, located off Route 539 adjacent to Fort Dix, contained 56 missiles, each with a nuclear warhead of 7 to 10 kiloton destructive power (the bomb dropped on Hiroshima was 12 kilotons). The logic of using nuclear tipped missiles was that one missile could destroy a whole squadron of enemy aircraft high above the earth over the ocean.

The missile, known as BOMARC was a joint venture of Boeing and the University of Michigan Aeronautical Research Center. On June 7, 1960, a malfunction in a helium tank caused a fire that consumed one of the missiles. The fire burned for about 30 minutes but thankfully, the warhead never exploded. Radioactive particles from the fire contaminated the

facility and immediate Pine Barrens. BOMARC Base No. 1 is located entirely within the Preservation Area of the Pinelands. The site officially closed in 1972. During the 2000's the Pinelands Preservation Alliance was a strong advocate pushing to have the plutonium-contaminated soils removed from the site. This was finally completed in 2007.

The missile complex is now rusted and overgrown and while the plutonium-contaminated soil was removed, another serious problem remains. There is widespread groundwater contamination from trichloroethylene (TCE), an organic solvent that was widely used as a degreasing agent during the period of facility operation.

TCE was first identified in groundwater at the site in 1986. It is believed that TCE entered a storm drain on the facility and then discharged onto the ground surface offsite. The TCE then percolated down into groundwater every time it rained. Groundwater contaminated with TCE is a concern since there is strong evidence that TCE can cause kidney and liver cancer.

Testing from monitoring wells shows that this groundwater contamination plume is massive and measures approximately 64 acres in area. It has an estimated length of 2,759 feet and a width of approximately 1,200 feet. It continues to move following the flow of groundwater and grow in size. The plume is in the shallow Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer at a depth ranging from 25 to 74 feet below ground surface.

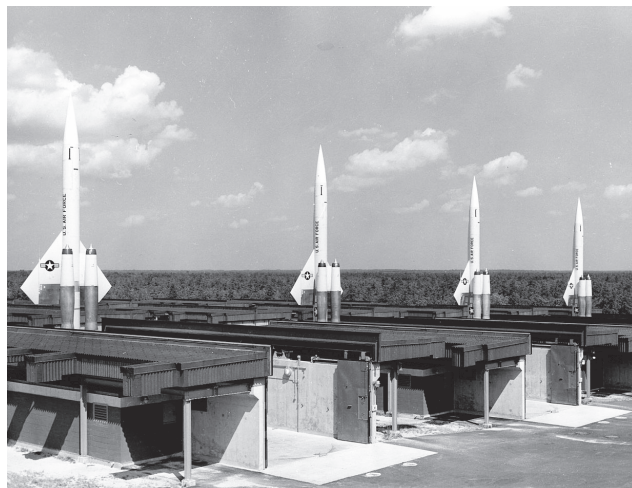
The shallow Kirkwood-

Cohansey aquifer provides over 90 percent of the water to local streams and wetlands. Thankfully, there are no drinking water wells in this area. The plume extends beyond the BOMARC facility into the Colliers Mill Wildlife Management Area and is discharging into Success Branch. Success Branch is a tributary of the Toms River, which drains into Barnegat Bay.

In 2018, a strategy was proposed by Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to clean up the groundwater plume. PPA has been advocating for a solution for two decades.

There is no good answer as to why it took so long to get to this point. Unfortunately, the Joint Base has moved at a snail's pace in addressing this issue. The cleanup is estimated to cost \$7.3 million. A significant reduction in TCE contamination could occur within the first 10 years. However, it will take almost 100 years to achieve healthy Pinelands groundwater standards.

Today the dilapidated metal structures and associated groundwater contamination are vivid reminders of a scary chapter in our nation's history.



Four of the 56 U.S. Air Force BOMARC IM-99A nuclear anti-aircraft missiles located at BOMARC Base No. 1 in Ocean County, NJ. ©U.S. Air Force

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Calendar of Events Pinelands Trips & Events

Summer 2019

Pinelands Adventures is our outdoor recreation program! 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.

Lower Batsto River Guided Tour (Paddle)

Aug. 11th, 8:30 am about 7.5 hours. Trip meets at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Paddle from Quaker Bridge on the Batsto River to Batsto Lake with our knowledgeable Pinelands Guide. 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.

Cost is \$70 PP in a Canoe/Kayak and \$60 PP BYO Canoe or Kayak. For ages 8 and up.

**Trip is offered on other dates though the summer. Visit PinelandsAdventures.org for a complete list.*

Mullica River 101 (Paddle)

July 28th, 1:30 Meet at 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 in a Canoe and \$60 Kayak and \$50 PP BYO Canoe or Kayak. For ages 8 and up.

**Trip is offered on other dates though the summer and fall. Visit PinelandsAdventures.org for a complete list.*

Kayaking Lessons (Paddle)

July 21 at 9am & July 27th at 1:30 pm. 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 \$60 per person. Ages 12 & up.

**Trip is offered on other dates though the summer and fall. Visit PinelandsAdventures.org for a complete list.*

Burlington County Farm Fair

July 16-20th. Burlington County Fairgrounds, 1990 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd, Columbus NJ

Admission daily is free. There is so much to see and do at the farm fair. Schedule varies be sure to check the Farm Fair website for daily schedule. Horses, cows, rabbits, chickens, sheep, goats and other animals are on display each day. Get more information:

BurlingtonCountyFarmFair.com

Blueberry Living History Day

July 28th 1pm - 4pm. Whitesbog Village, 120 W. Whitesbog Rd, Browns Mills NJ

Pick blueberries, take a wagon ride and more at the summer-time Living History Event! The Village comes alive with workers and residents from the 1920's. Visit Suningive, the home of the "Blueberry Queen". Call 609-893-4646 for additional details. Organized by Whitesbog Preservation

Trust. Fees: \$8 ages 12 & up, \$5 ages 4-11, children 3 & under are free. Family ticket \$25 for two adults and children. Tickets will also be sold the day of the event. www.whitesbog.org

RESCHEDULED!

Member & Volunteer Open House (PPA)

August 4th from 1pm to 4pm. PPA Offices, 17 Pemberton Rd, (CR616) Southampton NJ

Our members and volunteers are invited to join us at this special event just for you. Meet the staff, see the barn just before it opens, enjoy refreshments and more. The Pinelands Visitor Center will also be open, with books, DVDs, clothing and other items. Information and a registration link is posted on our website. Questions? Call 609-859-8860.

Pinelands Commission Meeting

July 12th, August 9th & Sept. 14th 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. They meet on the 2nd Friday of the month. They need to hear from you! You can find the agenda for each meeting on www.nj.gov/pinelands.



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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Southampton, NJ 08088

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Membership Categories

Basic ☐ \$35
Family ☐ \$60
Sponsor ☐ \$100
Patron ☐ \$250
Benefactor ☐ \$500
Chairman's Circle ☐ \$1,000
Other ☐ _____

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- ♦ PPA membership card
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- ♦ 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.