



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Oct / Nov 2019

Volume 26

Number 5

INSIDE:

South Jersey Landscape
Makeover Program . . . 3

Bucks Cove Preserve
Update 4

Pinelands Photo
Exhibit Opens 6

Pinelands Events 7

Green Trading Post

Dec. 7th and Dec. 8th
12 noon to 4pm

This holiday bazaar offers gifts from local non-profits. Use your "greens" for good and for gifts this holiday season.

Location

Pinelands Alliance
17 Pemberton Rd
Southampton, NJ

Learn more:

www.pinelandsalliance.org

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WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG



INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Jennifer Coffey, Robert Jackson, Theresa Lettman, Jessica Rittler Sanchez and Edward Lloyd.
(Names are listed clockwise starting in the upper left.)

Pinelands Commission Nominations Stalled

by Jaclyn Rhoads, Assistant Executive Director

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.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA), its members and supporters were jumping for joy when Governor Murphy released his first Pinelands Commission nominations in January 2019 – Theresa

Lettman and Kelly Mooij*. Then the Governor nominated Jessica Rittler Sanchez and Jennifer Coffey in May as well as Edward Lloyd for reappointment and shortly thereafter, Robert Jackson. Finally, in June, Rick Prickett was named chair of the Pinelands Commission. The Pinelands Commission could finally get back on track with new members and begin work on critical matters like climate change, but then something happened.

NOTHING!

Nominations began in January, but all five are still pending. The process to confirm Pinelands Commission gubernatorial nominations is as follows:

1. Nomination released by Governor.
2. Confirmed by Senators within the nominees district.
3. Interview of Nominee by Senate Judiciary Committee (optional).
4. Vote for approval by Senate Judiciary Committee.

continued on page 5

Published six times a
year by the Pinelands
Preservation Alliance

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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

Available online at
www.pinelandsalliance.org

WITNESS THE BEAUTY.

FEEL THE PASSION.

3rd Annual
**Pinelands Juried
Photography
Exhibit**

from Nov. 11th to Dec. 14th

**PPA Headquarters
17 Pemberton Rd.
Southampton, NJ 08088**

Come see this gorgeous exhibit of 79
images taken within the Pinelands
National Reserve.

The exhibit is displayed in the
historic barn at our offices.

Exhibition Hours:

Monday to Friday: 10am - 4pm

Saturdays: 1pm to 4pm

Sundays: Noon to 5pm

More information, including a list of
photographers, can be found on our
website. Exhibit will be open during
the Green Trading Post.

*Photographs are available for
purchase but must remain
hanging till the end of the exhibit.*

Exhibit Judge: Richard Lewis

More information:

www.PinelandsPhotoExhibit.org
or call 609-859-8860.

Green Trading Post

Dec. 7th & 8th

12 noon to 4pm both days

**PPA Headquarters
17 Pemberton Rd.
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Join us for this annual event to
use your holiday cash to benefit
local nonprofits and artists!
Refreshments, music, and other
surprises. Vendors subject to
change.

**Conserve Wildlife Foundation of
New Jersey**
www.conservewildlifenj.org

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

**Pinelands Folk Music & Basketry
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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

*Saturday Only ~
Author, Barbara Solem and
photographer, Al Horner will be on
hand to sign copies of their books.*

**Get more information about this
event on our website:**

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

**Use your Greens for Good this
holiday season!**

South Jersey Landscape Makeover Program

by Isabella Castiglioni, Outreach Manager for ANJEC and PPA

Our Landscape Makeover Program began in 2017 with the goal of treating stormwater runoff as a resource rather than a nuisance. The Landscape Makeover Program creatively addresses issues with existing stormwater management. Through grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the William Penn Foundation, the Landscape Makeover Program provides support to homeowners, municipalities, schools, and similar groups to build “green” stormwater infrastructure projects.

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) can include bioswales, rain barrels, permeable pavement, and rain gardens, amongst other solutions. The Landscape Makeover Program deals mainly in rain gardens. Rain gardens are shallowly depressed gardens that collect runoff from an impervious surface. We plant native perennials with long root systems in the gardens to infiltrate stormwater into the soil and fight soil compaction. By acting as a sponge, rain gardens decrease flooding, stop the spread of nonpoint source pollution, and recharge the aquifer. The native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees in the garden also create habitat for native species (a rain garden can double as a pollinator garden!).

Compare this to traditional stormwater management, which includes detention and retention basins, culverts and swales, or storm drains and pipes, and even the archaic and problematic combined sewers. They are designed to get water to the lowest point in the quickest way, but do little to prevent flooding or surface water pollution. More often than not, stormwater ends up in our waterways, carrying all sorts of pollution with it. Remember reading about those Harmful Algal Blooms this summer? Pollution carried by runoff in traditional “gray” stormwater infrastructure contributes to those.

Our projects for the year kicked off in May with the installation of two rain

gardens at Hammonton High School. These gardens, built on either side of the school entrance, capture runoff from the school's roof. The community came together to complete this project. With the help of about thirty high school seniors, a group of seventh graders from Hammonton Middle School, and several volunteers from the Hammonton Green Committee, the team got over 600 plants into the ground and completed the mulching in one day. Between the community involvement and its high profile location at the front entrance of the high school, this project helps to open up discussion about better stormwater management and reducing the pollutants that we put onto the ground, such as fertilizer and pesticide.

In June, we built two more rain gardens. In Marlton Lakes, Evesham Township, volunteers from the Evesham Green Committee and interns from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program helped with the installations. This is a lakeside community provided the perfect opportunity to show the connection between green stormwater infrastructure and improved water quality.

September found us building another rain garden at Rice Elementary School in Evesham. Over 100 students from the elementary school helped with the planting. Seeing students help with the planting is one of the best parts. We know that a rain garden benefits the environment, but when a student gets to take part in a project like this, it gives them something to take pride in and feel a connection to. I hope that it can foster their interest in nature.

We have one more GSI project to install before the year is done, and it will be our biggest project yet. At the Hammonton Early Childhood Education Center, we will be turning an existing detention basin (just under an acre!) into a native meadow. We will partner with the South Jersey Resource Conservation and

Development Council - Team Habitat to spread seeds after vegetation has been removed. Of course, students will help to do some planting, too. With such a large area, we can include a wide variety of beautiful native species--dogwoods, beebalm, wild bergamot, asters, milkweed and goldenrod, just to name a few. As I'm writing this, the project isn't in the ground yet, but my hopes are high for how this garden will look in its first season of flowering!

Homeowners have also been hard at work. Our partners at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program designed our projects throughout the program. They also educated homeowners about rain gardens and created dozens of designs for home rain gardens. Across South Jersey, homeowners have been installing these rain gardens as part of the Landscape Makeover Program.

The Landscape Makeover Program wraps up for the year in October, but we are excited to see what the future holds for green stormwater infrastructure. A huge thank you to all those who have participated in the program and made it a success!

State of the Pinelands Report Coming Soon!

This annual review of state, federal and local agencies is a thorough account of the public policy actions that affected the Pinelands National Reserve over the last year.

It will be mailed to members in place of your Dec./Jan. newsletter.

It will also be available here:

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Bucks Cove Preserve Update

by Jason Howell, Stewardship Coordinator

Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and partner organizations, the Rancocas Conservancy officially acquired the Bucks Cove Run Preserve near historic Whitesbog Village. This 202-acre preserve is located in the headwaters of the Rancocas Creek and is comprised of leatherleaf wetlands, pitch-pine lowlands, savannah habitat, overgrown cranberry bogs, decades-old blueberry rows, an ancient paleo-dune, and intermittent ponds. This property is home to species such as Pine Barrens Treefrogs, carpenter frogs, box turtles, and many other Pinelands species.

When the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, PPA and the Rancocas Conservancy found this property in 2015 it was in a pitiful state. Off-road vehicles were running rampant throughout the wetlands and dune area, illegal dumping had accumulated tons of debris such as boats, televisions with bullet holes, dumped sheds, and even an abandoned RV trailer. Since that time, our Land Protector Stewardship Volunteers removed approximately 50 tons of litter and illegal dumping from the preserve, planted 1,200 Atlantic White Cedar saplings (some of which were vandalized). These steps make significant headway in the struggle to save this property from being degraded beyond function and recognition.

Adjacent parcels of land owned by Pemberton Township and Brendan T. Byrne State Forest remain in completely unmanaged despite our protests to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Illegal dumping and ORV abuse continue on state-owned land and present a

major issue for local residents and for the protection of Bucks Cove Preserve. The persistent lack of management in these areas creates a culture of lawlessness that negatively affects surrounding properties and the Pinelands as a whole.

We encourage the Department of Parks and Forestry, under its new leadership, to regain control over these lawless and unmanaged areas. The state must post their property lines and borders, install vehicle barriers, and lead an aggressive enforcement campaign against illegal dumping and ORV abuse. The action or inaction by the NJDEP will be a key determining factor in the future survival of the Bucks Cove Run.

In the near future, the Rancocas Conservancy and PPA Land Protector Volunteers will mark a hiking trail on the preserve, clean up the remaining trash, post the property boundaries, and ramp up efforts to reduce off-road vehicle abuse on the property. With your help and the help of our partners and state and local governments, we will transition this completely lawless land into a preserve that is protected for nature to thrive and people to enjoy for decades to come.

Pinelands Commission

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

Dec. 13th, 9:30 am

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

Before and After Pictures Bucks Cove Preserve



Volunteers removed an abandoned RV (top) revealing a much prettier scene.



Volunteers removed a boat dumped at the Bucks Cove Preserve.

Volunteer with the Land Protectors

Sign up online:
www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Pinelands Commission Nominations Stalled

continued from cover

5. Vote for approval by full Senate if Senate Judiciary Committee approves.

The Senate Judiciary Committee met a few times before summer recess and has met once since the legislature returned. The Senate President, Steve Sweeney, and the Senate Judiciary Committee Chair, Nicholas Scutari, determine the agenda for that committee.

PPA and its partners and supporters have sent over 6,800 emails and made hundreds of phone calls asking the Senate to take action. It is disappointing that the process has stalled for what appears to be political unrest within the State. Even more disappointing is the fact that Pinelands Commission actions are stalling due to lack of a quorum, like refining procedures for pipeline development applications.

Issues before the Pinelands Commission need at least eight votes in order to move forward. This has been a struggle. The seat for the representative from the Department of the Interior has been vacant for over a year. Last month, Pinelands Commissioner Bob Barr, a Governor Christie holdover, stepped down. For more than a year, Candace Ashmun, the last original Commissioner, mostly participates by phone call, because at her wonderful age of 95 she needs to slow down. In addition, a few commissioners, who are slated to be replaced, have stopped attending meetings.

Listed below are all the Pinelands Commission nominations since January. If the nominations are not processed by the end of the legislative session mid-January 2020, then the process starts over again. We need your help to get the Governor's nominations appointed. As noted above, Senator Sweeney and Scutari are responsible for placing the nominations on the

Judiciary Committee agenda. Visit our website to send a message to the Senators - PinelandsAlliance.org.

Governor Murphy's Nominations to the Pinelands Commission:

Robert Jackson

A Pinelands Commissioner from 2008-2015, Bob Jackson was replaced by Governor Christie during the controversial battle over the South Jersey Gas pipeline. He is now nominated to replace D'Arcy Rohan-Green, who would like to step down. His return to the Pinelands Commission would add substantial knowledge and experience, and he would bring his vital perspective as the only person of color on the board. A resident of Middle Township in Cape May County, Mr. Jackson served as the mayor of West Cape May from 2001-2005, and has a background in marine environmental studies.

Jennifer Coffey

Ms. Coffey is the executive director of (ANJEC) the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and was the policy director for the Watershed Institute. Her experience makes her a strong voice for protection of water resources in New Jersey for over 10 years. She is nominated to replace former Commissioner Bob Barr, who stepped down in June. Given the great responsibility held by this agency over the 1.1 million acre Pinelands National Reserve, it is crucial that this vacant seat is filled as soon as possible so the Pinelands Commission can operate at full capacity.

Theresa Lettman

Candace McKee Ashmun is the last of the original Commissioners still serving on the board, and at 95 years old, has requested Theresa Lettman as her replacement. Ms. Lettman is a former trustee of the Natural Lands Trust, chair of the

Manchester Environmental Commission, and had a successful 26 year career at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Theresa's experience and deep understanding of Pinelands regulations make her a strong addition to the agency. After 40 years of service, Candy Ashmun is deserving of this senatorial courtesy.

Jessica Rittler Sanchez, Ph.D.

Dr. Sanchez 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

Commissioner Lloyd started serving 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. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Pinelands Commission. His experience is invaluable and critical to guide the Pinelands Commission.

*(Kelly Mooij is now employed with the State. She is no longer able to serve on the Commission.)

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Pinelands Photo Exhibit Opens November 11th

by Becky Free, Director of Communications and Membership

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is proud to host our third annual juried photography exhibit focused on the Pinelands National Reserve. The exhibit is displayed in PPA's renovated barn at its headquarters in Southampton. The exhibit is open from November 11, 2019 to December 14, 2019. Hours are Monday – Friday from 10am to 4pm, Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm and Sundays from 12 noon to 5pm. More information can be found on our website.

Over \$2,500 in cash prizes were awarded at the opening reception on Saturday, November 9, 2019. We were delighted to see this year's submissions. Over 500 photographs were submitted by 135 photographers and 79 beautiful images were selected to hang as part of the exhibit. In the student category, 15 young photographers submitted 50 photographs that will be displayed in a digital gallery. Photographic images had to be taken within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve.

Richard Lewis, photographer and educator, judged the exhibit. Richard says, "My love for photography started in 1973 when I met my wife and her 35mm camera. Ever since then I've been involved with photography both as a fine art and professional photographer. My mother owned an art gallery in New Hope, Pennsylvania in the 1960's and 70's so my earliest exposure to art came from painters. My biggest influences are the great American landscape painters, especially the Hudson River School and Andrew Wyeth. As a result, I call my photographic style "Painting with a Camera" which involves equal amounts of time in both creating and editing photographs. While I love to photograph the American landscape, no place is more special

to me than the New Jersey Pinelands. The unique beauty hidden in these pine trees and tea colored water is a treasure and a landscape that I especially love to explore, photograph and share." Learn more about Richard and view his work at www.richardlewisphotography.com.

More information about the exhibit and biographies for the participating photographers can be found on our website www.pinelandsalliance.org. The biographies provide a fascinating look at how important the Pine Barrens of New Jersey are to residents, photographers, students and families.

2019 Finalist Rafal Goracznik of Hillsborough, NJ explains "The camera helps me slow down to engage more deeply with where I am in space and time. From the Pine Barrens of New Jersey to the high desert of the Colorado Plateau, I find inspiration in what is often overlooked, the simple things that are hidden in an intimate landscape. In my work, I strive to create unique but realistic images with a surreal twist; photographs that offer visual metaphors for thoughts and feelings, rather than simply record the reality surrounding me."

Alicia Zavacky is nine years old and is one of the youngest participants in this year's exhibit. She said, "Photography is fun, because you can take something, whatever you want, and show your own view of it. Take a leaf - someone can see it as just a leaf, but you see it as something way different. I picked Pinelands as my subject, because of the forests. Forests are beautiful - they have wildlife and plants. But Pinelands is also community - beautiful people and buildings and places. I wanted to show how everything in the Pinelands is unique."

We offer our sincere thanks to the volunteer planning committee. This exhibit would not be happening were it not for their hard work and dedication. Exhibit steering committee members are Rich Lewis of Medford (co-chair), Chris Kosseff of Monroe Township (co-chair), Janet Giardina of Medford, Peter Hewitt of Doylestown, PA, Albert Horner of Medford, Robert Laramie of Moorestown, Cathy Melfi of Millsboro, DE, Charles Riter of Easton, MD, Bonnie Rovere of Voorhees, and Edward Tenthoff of Medford. This year's show will be hung by Sheila Geisler of Princeton.

Check it out!

Have you seen the new look of our website?

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Highlights Include:

Interactive Issue Maps
Mobile Friendly
History & Culture
Gorgeous Images
Video Library
and so much more!

Video of the Month

The Pinelands Project

A short film about the creation of the Pinelands National Reserve based on archival news footage from the late 1970s. See the controversy that surrounded the Pinelands and the passion that won the day!

Let us know what you think.

Email:
Becky@pinelandsalliance.org

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Jessica Rittler Sanchez, Ph.D.
Regional Planner

Paula Yudkowitz
Retired Public Health Nutritionist

Carleton K. Montgomery
Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Pinelands Trips & Events

Winter 2019

Pinelands Adventures is our outdoor recreation program! Make your reservation today.



Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA. Join us for a program this December.

PinelandsAdventures.org

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

Batona Trail - Franklin Parker Preserve (Hike)

12/8 at 8:30am. 6-8 hours. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

During the 1960s, the Back to Nature Movement urged Americans to experience our national and state parks. Local conservationists constructed the Batona Trail, a fifty-four mile hiking trail in the Pine Barrens. Join Naturalist, John Volpa, as we explore this trail. We'll keep a moderate pace between frequent stops for stories and exploration of Pine Barrens flora and fauna.

Cost is \$45 per person. Ages 16 & up.

Wilderness Survival

12/8 at 9:00am. 4-5 hours. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Every outdoors person should know basic survival skills. Throw on your boots and join US Army veteran, Donald "Ski" Sulewski, in the Pine Barrens for five hours of fun acquiring the basic wisdom of wilderness survival. Challenge yourself as you practice the hands-on skills of shelter building, fire making, water purification, and signaling for rescue. This is an immersive learning experience from which you will walk away with a new set of skills and the confidence to use them.

Cost is \$75 per person. Ages 8 & up.

John McPhee Pine Barrens Today (Bus)

12/14, 10a.m. about 5 hours. Trip meets at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join this small group driving tour to visit many places described in John McPhee's landmark book *The Pine Barrens*. Many of the places he wrote about have remained largely unchanged because this book challenged citizens and political leaders to protect the unique Pine Barrens ecosystem and culture from development. 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 \$65 per person. For ages 10 and up.

Pinelands Photography for Beginners

12/15, 1:30 pm. 2-3 hours. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Take a 2-3 mile journey through the beautiful Franklin Parker Preserve with Robert Laucks, founder of Bog Iron Outdoors and prolific Pinelands photographer. During this hike, you will learn the basics of your camera and its functions, proper lighting techniques, the fundamental elements of composition and how to get that "perfect shot". This class is designed to teach people how to use the manual settings on their DSLR cameras. A tripod and waterproof boots are recommended for this hike.

Cost is \$75 per person. Ages 12 & up.

Events at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Pinelands Photo Exhibit

Nov. 11th to Dec. 14th (hours vary). Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ.

See the exhibit! PPA sponsors an annual juried photographic exhibition, featuring images of the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve depicting its landscape, flora, wildlife,

communities and people. The exhibit hangs in the renovated barn at the PPA headquarters. The exhibit can be viewed during the following times: Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm - Sundays from 12 noon to 5pm and Monday - Friday from 10am and 4pm.

Green Trading Post

Dec. 7th and 8th from 12 noon to 4pm. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ.

Organized as a traditional holiday bazaar, the Green Trading Post offers homemade crafts, merchandise and memberships from local non-profit organizations. Use your "greens" for good and for gifts this holiday season. Book signing by Albert Horner and Barbara Solem on Saturday only. See the Pinelands Photo Exhibit at the same time. List of vendors on our website.

Wreath Making Event

Dec. 14th from 2pm to 4pm. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ.

Create a wreath from Pinelands greens to share with someone who might enjoy some kindness this season. Participants create wreaths using greens donated by Spotts Nursery of Medford as well as native trims and pine cones collected from the Franklin Parker Preserve. Bring canned goods for donation to a local food pantry. Pre-registration is required at www.pinelandsalliance.org since supplies are limited. Family friendly event.

Pinelands Commission Meeting

Dec. 13th 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. You need to hear from you! You can find the agenda for each meeting on www.nj.gov/pinelands.



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

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Inside:

- South Jersey Landscape Makeover Program - p. 3
- Bucks Cove Preserve Update - p. 4
- Pinelands Photo Exhibit Opens - p. 6
- Pinelands Events - p. 7

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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
- ◆ Year-long subscription to Inside the Pinelands
- ◆ PPA window sticker
- ◆ 10% off at Pinelands Adventures and on PPA merchandise

Sponsors receive a copy of *The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural* DVD
 Patrons receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*
 Benefactors receive *The Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, a photographic history of this region
 Chairman's Circle members receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

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