



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Spring 2020

Volume 27

Number 1

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Earth Day Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

PPA Headquarters
17 Pemberton Rd.
Southampton, NJ

A wide variety of
Pinelands native trees,
wildflowers, and
shrubs for sale.

Members Only Pre-Sale
April 24th, 3pm to 6pm
www.PinelandsAlliance.org

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WWW.PINELANDSALLIANCE.ORG



INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Wild Lupine (Lupinus perennis) is a rare plant in the Pinelands with no state, federal or regional protections.

Pass the NJ Endangered & Threatened Plant Protection Act

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

New Jersey has over 2,100 species of native plants. This impressive diversity equates to approximately 13% of the floral diversity in the United States on just 0.25% of the landmass. New Jersey's plant diversity is largely attributed to the distinct ecological regions found here and that New Jersey is a meeting ground for both northern and southern species that are at the edge of their range.

Unfortunately, many of these species are rare in the state and we risk losing them from our natural heritage. A staggering 39% of native plants in New Jersey are considered rare and the overall trend is negative. From 2006 to 2016 the number of state endangered plants that were listed increased by 26 and the number of extirpated, or locally extinct, went up by 10 species. Beyond rarity at the state level, New Jersey is home to 42 species that are considered globally rare.

The Natural Heritage Program is a state program that is tasked with tracking the occurrences of rare plant species and their trends along with identifying the major

threats to our rare species. Habitat loss due to development and urbanization has been, and continues to be, the greatest threat to our native plant species. Climate change, invasive species and changes to fire regime and hydrology are additional major threats to our rare plants. These stressors to plant populations are particularly worrisome given that 60% of our endangered plant species occur only on private lands.

Even though New Jersey has a list of rare and endangered plant species, these plants are not yet protected by state law. Plant protections in the state are limited to regional agencies or rules like those found in the Pinelands, Highlands and Coastal areas. These rules are limited to specific regions and often they do not offer protections to all rare plants in the region.

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), for example, offers protection to state endangered plants and 54 plant species that were listed in the original drafting of the CMP. This leaves

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www.pinelandsalliance.org

We are launching a new schedule for our *Inside the Pinelands* newsletter. We have moved from five newsletters and our State of the Pinelands Report to three newsletters and the State of the Pinelands report.

This will save resources – financial and material. And we hope it saves a little time. We will now release our newsletter in the spring (April), summer (June) and fall (September). Our winter newsletter will be our annual State of the Pinelands report which is mailed in January.

We hope you enjoy reading these newsletters! We will continue to provide you with timely and informative articles about the Pinelands National Reserve.

Spring has sprung! And while it hasn't been a cold winter by any stretch, the days are getting warmer (and longer) which means it is time to plan your next trip to the Pinelands.

Pinelands Adventures, an initiative of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, is open and they have some amazing new programs. Take a self-guided river trip or naturalist guided paddling trip, hike or small group bus tour to learn more about the region's ecology, culture and history.

Pinelands Adventures has programs for explorers beginning at age six, from our Pine Barrens Discovery Tour to our Steel Wheels walk for participants with limited mobility on an ADA trail. Learn how to kayak with a lesson or visit the places John McPhee described in his landmark book *The Pine Barrens*.

Trips take place on the Mullica and Batsto Rivers, the most pristine rivers in the Pine Barrens. While paddling along these rivers, you'll have the chance to see many aquatic and terrestrial species and a variety of specialized habitats.

Our tea-colored waters are known for their narrow winding nature, passing through dense sections of pitch pine, red

maple and Atlantic white cedar. Throughout the season, you can see a variety of flowering plants including unique orchids and carnivorous plants! If you paddle silently, you might be greeted with the sight of wildlife along the rivers. No noisy car campsites line our rivers and limited automobile access contributes to the peace and serenity you'll experience while on a Pinelands Adventures expedition.

Book an adventure today!

Advanced reservations are required. Book your trip by calling 609-268-0189 or at www.PinelandsAdventures.org.

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!

New Guided Trips Include:

Mysteries of Pine Barrens Geology

Fire Ecology

Birding in the Pines

The Legendary Still Family of the Pines

Visit www.PinelandsAdventures.org to
plan your next adventure.

Pinelands Adventures

1005 Atsion Rd.

Shamong, NJ 08088

609-268-0189

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

Located within beautiful Wharton State Forest.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Welcomes New Staff

by Becky Free, Director of Membership & Communications

We have some new people joining our team this year! In January, Jeff Tober was hired as our first Farm Manager and Andrew Gold joined PPA as Legal Director in March.

Farm Manager – Jeff Tober



Last July PPA received an extraordinary donation of farmland adjoining its headquarters. Cindy Yingling, Louis Eni and Chris Eni inherited the 72-acre farm from their aunt and uncle, Lore and George Giacchino. Cindy, Louis and Chris are proud multi generation residents of Burlington County. This gift reunites land that had once formed part of a large farm first established by Quaker settlers in 1704.

This farm is in the Farmland Preservation Program and PPA will be using this land to promote sustainable farming and land management. Jeff was hired as Farm Manager to create and manage a new sustainable farming operation on the 72-acre property. He will work to produce great food, build soil health, plant a diversity of annual and perennial crops and work to attract native pollinators and birds.

Prior to joining the PPA staff, Jeff started a CSA farm (Community Supported Agriculture) at Fernbrook Farms in Chesterfield in 2007 and was the Farm Manager for 13 years. Jeff got his love for growing food at Aspen Farms Community Garden in West Philadelphia and later apprenticed at Brookfield Farm CSA in Amherst, MA.

Jeff got his degree in English from Muhlenberg College and later served for two years with AmeriCorps. He went on to work for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program revitalizing urban parks before farming full-time. Jeff is on the board of the New Jersey Agricultural Society and the Burlington County Agricultural Development Board.

Jeff said, "I have always been very impressed by PPA, their tremendous staff and the great work they do. So when I saw they were looking for a Farm Manager for this new project, I was really excited. Leaving Fernbrook was not easy but this new opportunity is ripe with challenges and great possibilities. I look forward to helping PPA establish a productive, diverse, sustainable and beautiful farm!"

PPA's goals for the farm include (1) create a vegetable and fruit farm guided by organic growing and sustainable soil and water management principles; (2) carry out a soil and stormwater management plan which prevents or minimizes runoff and soil loss into Vincentown and the Rancocas Creek system; (3) promote sustainable farming, human health and habitat stewardship through a range of public outreach and education programs and (4) expand the community of people who know about and support PPA's work.

Legal Director – Andrew Gold



Andrew is PPA's in-house attorney and advocate on policy, regulatory and development matters affecting the New

Jersey Pinelands. The attorney position is needed to ensure PPA has the staff capacity to be effective in its issue advocacy and litigation projects.

After graduating from law school in 2014, Andrew worked for the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1776KS, one of the largest labor unions in the region. As an in-house attorney with the Local, he handled day-to-day legal issues that arose, negotiated contracts, supported outside counsel in litigation, and oversaw regulatory compliance for the union, particularly with respect to campaign finance and lobbying disclosure. Among other projects, he helped lead the organization of workers in the medical marijuana industry and negotiated the first-ever collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in Pennsylvania.

Andrew said, "Part of my dedication to the labor movement is the idea that everyone should have the ability to live fulfilling and rewarding lives. By shifting power to working people, strong unions help people live better by freeing up time otherwise spent chasing after every dollar to make ends meet. Among other things, I happen to think that open space and opportunities to be outdoors are essential components of 'the good life,' and protecting the natural environment is a key part of promoting public health."

Andrew continues, "To me environmentalism is a cause that is relevant right in our own backyards in every community. That is especially so in densely populated New Jersey, where we have a remarkably large area of protected space surrounded by development. When I learned that there was a job opening at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, I jumped at the opportunity to help protect this beautiful place in my home state. Growing up around the Pine Barrens and knowing that wilderness was a short drive away from suburbia, I know the value of this unique place."

Welcome Andrew & Jeff!

*New members of our team to
protect the New Jersey Pinelands!*

Update: Nominations to the Pinelands Commission

by Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director

Governor Murphy nominated four new people to the Pinelands Commission in 2019, Theresa Lettman, Jennifer Coffey, Jessica Rittler Sanchez, and Robert Jackson (a former Pinelands Commissioner) and re-nominated an existing Commissioner, Edward Lloyd. Unfortunately, an entire year went by and the Senate failed to confirm these appointments. Now the process must start all over again.

Hopefully by the time you read this article, the Governor will have nominated this list of individuals again. The Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate must approve the Governor's nominations to the Pinelands Commission before they can serve.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is chaired by Nicholas Scutari (D-22), and the vice-chair is Nellie Pou (D-35). The chair is responsible for convening the Committee and placing individuals and items on the agenda with consent by the Senate President, Steve Sweeney (D-3).

Pinelands Commission appointments aren't the only ones on hold in the state. The Highlands Council, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, the Water Supply Advisory Council and others are in similar situations with appointments pending before the Senate. The Pinelands Commission may be in more dire straits however. There are two vacant seats on the Commission and three members are missing meetings regularly. As a result, the Commission has struggled to achieve quorum for meetings (they need eight affirmative votes to pass anything) which has stymied action on important issues like rule changes on water protection.

The most notable of the missing

Commissioners is Candace McKee Ashmun. Candy is the last original member of the Pinelands Commission and she just turned 96! Ms. Ashmun has served since the Commission was founded more than forty years ago in 1979. Theresa Lettman, who retired from Pinelands Preservation Alliance after a very successful 26-year career, was nominated to fill Candace Ashmun's seat. In fact, Candy requested Theresa as her replacement. Ms. Ashmun's seat should be filled immediately, so she can depart knowing that the Commission is still functional.

What can we do?

Staff from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance are meeting with legislators and government officials to discuss the situation, but we need your help. It is critical that your Senator understands how important it is to have the seats filled on the Pinelands Commission by a diverse team who support the Pinelands Protection Act and the Comprehensive Management Plan.

Email your Senator today (if you live in New Jersey) using our Take Action tool found online here:

PinelandsAlliance.org/take-action

Make sure you are signed up to receive our emails so we can keep you informed about important next steps. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/pinelands

Find us on Twitter
[@PinesAlliance](https://twitter.com/PinesAlliance)

Share with us on Instagram
[@pinelandsalliance](https://www.instagram.com/pinelandsalliance)

New Jersey Coast & Bay Research Symposium

April 30, 2020
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our bays and coastline are the focus of a variety of initiatives including habitat restoration, rare species, and climate change.

Enjoy 30-minute presentations and discussion with speakers from regulatory agencies, academia and nonprofit organizations.

Free, but space is limited.

RSVP online:

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

This symposium is funded by the Michael & Caroline Huber Fund for Pinelands Science and Policy.

Pinelands Commission

The public is welcome at these monthly meetings. Your help is needed! Next meeting dates:

May 8th, 9:30 am

June 12th, 9:30 am

July 10th, 9:30 am

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

Endangered and Threatened Plant Protection Act

continued from cover

55 rare plant species that are known to exist in the Pinelands without any protection.

Most people do not know that unlike animals, rare plants do not have any statewide protections and do not have a recognized threatened category. In 1973, New Jersey signed into law the New Jersey Endangered Species Conservation Act, which established laws to protect and restore endangered and threatened wildlife in the state. This legislation led to the creation of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program to do the work necessary to protect the state's rare wildlife.

Currently, 35 wildlife species are listed as endangered and 25 are threatened. The Endangered Species Conservation Act has protected our wildlife from capture, kill, harassment, habitat destruction, over-exploitation, and pollution for close to 40 years. It's about time we protect our botanical heritage as well. Plant and animal communities are inextricably intertwined. Our plants and plant communities are the sole source of food and habitat for wildlife and cannot be neglected if we are to truly protect our wildlife.

Assemblymen Herb Conaway and Kevin Rooney have teamed up to co-sponsor bill A985, the New Jersey Endangered and Threatened Plant Protection Act, which will offer protection to New Jersey's rare plant species.

This legislation would protect known populations of rare plants from intentional damage and sale or transport with some specific exceptions. The bill will also establish a threatened category for plants. This ensures that our recognition and characterization of rare species uses language that is consistent with other states and the federal government. Lastly, this bill directs the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to

establish an "Endangered and Threatened Plant Species Advisory Committee". This committee would be tasked with developing conservation plans for priority rare species, which will ensure that the DEP is not only protecting the rare plants we know of, but actively working to increase the number of individuals with the ultimate goal of delisting species if appropriate.

There have been calls for rare plant protection legislation for decades. Now is the time to take action. This bill was first introduced in 2019 and needs support from the public to move through our legislature. This bill has recently been referred to the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

Contact the members of this committee and let them know you want to see this bill passed through committee. Let your senator know you want to see a senate version of this important legislation.

We need to move away from documenting the decline of our New Jersey native plants and being implementing the measures that will protect our remaining wild plant populations. The longer we wait, the more difficult it will be to protect what we have left.

Film Screening

The Pine Barrens

directed by David Scott Kessler

May 2, 2020

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Spanning six years, the film paints a portrait of nature and identity that aims to capture the surreal wonder of the Pinelands during a time when corruption threatens to undermine its few protections.

**Tickets available on our website:
www.PinelandsAlliance.org**

*Showing takes place in the barn at the
Pinelands Preservation Alliance*

Take Action!

*Let the members of the Assembly
Agricultural Committee know you
want to see bill A985 passed
through committee.*

Assembly Agricultural Committee

Eric Houghtaling, Chair
(District 11)
(732) 695-3371

Adam J. Taliaferro, Vice-Chair
(District 3)
(856) 251-9801

John Armato (District 2)
(609) 382-5421

Ronald Dancer (District 12)
(609) 758-0205

Parker Space (District 24)
(973) 300-0200

Lisa Swain (District 38)
(201) 576-9199

**This bill also needs support in
the state Senate. Can you help?**

Call your Senator and tell them
you want to see a Senate version
of bill A985.

Find your Senator here:

www.njleg.state.nj.us

**More information about this
issue on our website:**

www.PinelandsAlliance.org

Rancocas Watershed Ambassador - Polina Dineva

by Polina Dineva, Rancocas Watershed Ambassador

Hi there! My name is Polina Dineva and I am the AmeriCorps Rancocas Creek Watershed Ambassador for 2019-2020.

AmeriCorps is a national service organization that gives people the opportunity to help their community by volunteering their time and service. My specific AmeriCorps program is known as the New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program, and it is sponsored by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) and several Host Agencies (including Pinelands Preservation Alliance).

As a Watershed Ambassador, I have three primary responsibilities:

1. I perform stream assessments, which can be used by the NJ DEP to determine the overall health of a stream.
2. I give hands-on presentations that educate the public on watersheds, water quality, water pollution, and macroinvertebrates!
3. I partner with townships, schools, and organizations to implement green infrastructure projects and sustainable practices.

My goal is to be part of coalition that creates a new generation of environmental stewards. I hope that my community engagement prompts others to spread environmental awareness, live sustainably, and implement their own eco-friendly projects.

Anyone with a college degree is encouraged to apply to be a Watershed Ambassador. Some Ambassadors are recent graduates who want to gain hands-on experience before taking their next step in life. Other Ambassadors (including myself) are tapping into environmental science for the very first time! This program truly caters

to anyone that is interested in the environment because it offers a wide range of responsibilities and opportunities.

The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors will be hosting more projects as spring approaches. I am currently planning tree plantings, clean ups, and rain barrel workshops. My fellow Ambassadors are planning their very own events, including rain garden installations, microplastics sampling, beach sweeps, etc.

If you are interested in participating in any of our projects, please follow us on Facebook at "AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program". You can also reach out to me via email, wma19ppa@gmail.com, or by phone at (609)-859-8860 ext. 156. I am more than happy to collaborate with you directly or to connect you to another Ambassador.



Polina ready to perform a stream assessment last fall.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

**ACUA
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**
6700 Delilah Rd.
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

**BURLINGTON COUNTY
EARTH FAIR**
Historic Smithville Park
Eastampton, NJ

JUNE 27 & 28

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
Historic Whitesbog Village
Brendan Byrne State Forest

JULY 14TH - 18TH

**BURLINGTON COUNTY
FARM FAIR**
Burlington County Fair Grounds
Springfield Township, NJ

Stop by our table at these events!

Life Science Field Training Institute

June 22 - 25, 2020

A multi-day field science experience for educators to strengthen field-based investigations in their teaching and improve student performance.

Fee: \$50 refundable deposit.

**Register online:
www.PinelandsAlliance.org**

This event is made possible thanks to the support of the Bonazzi Foundation for the Promotion of Science Education.

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Regional Planner

Paula Yudkowitz
Retired Public Health Nutritionist

Carleton K. Montgomery
Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

Pinelands Trips & Events

Spring 2020

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



Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA.

PinelandsAdventures.org

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

Self-Guided River Trips

April thru October - Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Most visitors to Pinelands Adventures take a self-guided canoe or kayak trip down the Batsto or Mullica Rivers. Trips take from 2-8 hours depending on your choice. Trips are available everyday from April through October but reservations are required. Canoes, single kayaks and double kayaks are available. You can also bring your own boat and they will handle the transportation.

Book your trip online at www.PinelandsAdventures.org or call 609-268-0189.

The Mysteries of Pine Barrens Geology (Hike)

4/26 at 10:00am. 5 hours. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

The Pinelands isn't the first area that springs to mind when one says geology. But there were once volcanoes in New Jersey and oceans advancing and retreating and glaciers to the north. This small bus tour will show us the gravels, sands, bog iron, and soils of the region with stops at Apple Pie Hill, Friendship Bogs, Franklin Parker Preserve, Oswego Lake and the Pygmy Plains. Guide is Karenne Snow.

Cost is \$65 per person. Reservations required.

The Legendary Still Family of the Pines (Hike)

6/27 at 10:00am OR 4/18 at 1:30 pm. 2 hours. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

The 2019 Oscar nominated film *Harriet* chronicles the life of Harriet Tubman. In the film you were introduced to one of the Still brothers, William, an Underground Railroad station agent in Philadelphia. William's older brother, James, was known as the Black Doctor of the Pines. Join Naturalist, John Volpa, for a short walk in the pines to discover some of the medicinal plants Dr. Still used in his practice. Along the way, you'll hear the amazing story of their parents' bondage, then freedom, to create this family's genuine American story.

Cost is \$25 per person. Reservations are required.

Birding in the Pines (Hike)

5/23 & 6/20, 8:30a.m. 3.5 hours. Trip meets at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Birding in the Pinelands of Southern New Jersey can be a challenging experience, since finding the birds is often a matter of being in the right place at the right time. About 100 species call the Pinelands home during the summer and winter. Find the summer warblers, winter waterfowl, and the surprises of migration. On this trip with guide Karenne Snow, we'll hike trails for 2 to 3 miles hoping to see some of the special birds that live or pass through the Pine Barrens.

Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations are required.

Pinelands Photography for Beginners

5/31, 5:15 pm. 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 fun-

damental 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. Reservations required.

Events at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance

New Jersey Coast & Bay Research Symposium

April 30th, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ

Our bays and coastline are the focus of a variety of initiatives including habitat restoration, rare species, and climate change. Enjoy 30-minute presentations and discussion with speakers from regulatory agencies, academia and non-profit organizations. Free but space is limited. RSVP on our website or call 609-859-8860.

Native Plant Sale

Members Only April 24 & Public Sale April 25th. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ

Find Pinelands natives and plants native to southern New Jersey. Members attend our "member's only" sale on April 24th from 3pm to 6pm. The plant sale is open to the public April 25th from 11am to 2pm. A plant price list will be posted on our website in early April.

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.



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

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CLICK: www.pinelandsalliance.org
 CALL: (609) 859-8860
 FOLLOW: www.facebook.com/Pinelands

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

E-Mail: _____ Referred by: _____

Check enclosed payable to PPA

Mastercard Visa Discover

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

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Membership Categories

Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$60
Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
Chairman's Circle	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

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.