



# Pinelands Preservation Alliance

*Your eyes, ears and voice for saving New Jersey's Pinelands*

**Thank you so much for being part of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance over the past year!** Your membership protects land, water, and wild things in the Pine Barrens. I am so grateful for your support, especially during these tough times.

***I am writing to ask you to donate to our summer appeal.*** Our summer appeal is an important part of our annual budget. We know that times are tough right now. If you can donate, it would make a big difference.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown us how important open space is to our physical and mental health. When New Jersey shut down in March, I was able to cope by getting outside. I don't think I have ever seen so many families enjoying the roads and trails in the Pinelands. *I feel incredibly grateful that this place is here for all of us – no matter the hardships we face.*

We are working differently right now to protect the Pinelands. Since March, our staff has primarily worked from home, although we can also work safely in the field and on our new farm. Here is a little bit of what we have been up to:

**Drilling Stopped for New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) Pipeline:** After a series of recent accidents, PPA and residents successfully got the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to suspend drilling permits for the NJNG Southern Reliability Link pipeline on July 8th. **Underground drilling for the pipeline must now stop.** This is a victory and comes after years of work to stop a project that is unnecessary, dangerous and threatens the Pinelands. **It also came at the cost of a resident's house which was condemned after a drilling accident at the end of June.** Now we are advocating for DEP to put a permanent stop to this destructive project. At a minimum, *the whole project be stopped until our legal appeals against it are decided in the courts.*



*NJNG pipeline construction in Upper Freehold (June).*

**Strengthening the Pinelands Commission:** The agency that is most critical to the future of New Jersey's Pinelands is the state Pinelands Commission. Governor Murphy nominated five highly qualified individuals in March, and they must be approved by a vote of the full Senate. We sent a joint letter to Senate President Stephen Sweeney that was signed by twenty conservation organizations and three former Governors (Thomas Kean, Christine Whitman, and James Florio) asking for swift action to approve Governor Murphy's nominations to the Pinelands Commission. *We will keep pressing for this critical action.*

**YES! I am making an additional gift.**

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

- \$100
- \$75
- \$50
- \$25
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

This 2020 appeal is in addition to annual membership.

**Monitoring Development Projects in the Pinelands:** The state-wide shutdown has created some unique challenges as public hearings are held virtually and development projects continue to move forward. Some agencies are taking advantage of the pandemic to rush through major projects with as little public attention as possible. Others are using the pandemic as an excuse for not answering our document requests so we can see what plans are afoot. *We are making sure nothing slips through while so many people must focus on meeting their own immediate needs.*

**Stopping Off-Road Vehicle Damage:** We are turning up the heat on New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to protect hundreds of locations on public lands that are being abused by illegal off-roading. We have regular phone calls with their staff to share information about off-road vehicle damage so that action can be taken. We are helping them spread the message about the importance of wearing a mask when near other people so that we can all enjoy New Jersey's protected open space safely. *We are working with partners to demand that DEP take stronger measures to protect our open space.*

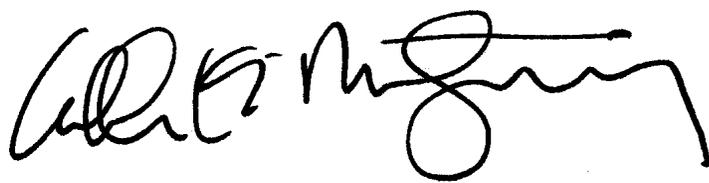
**Protecting the Threatened Northern Pine Snake:** We monitor Northern Pine Snake hibernation sites to record when these snakes are active and protect them from off-roading or from collectors for the pet trade. Each snake gets a pit tag (like pet microchips), which allows us to keep records of their length, weight, sex, and behavior in subsequent visits over several years. *The Northern Pine Snake is a state threatened species, so data collection is critical to their survival.*

**Reopening Pinelands Adventures:** Pinelands Adventures received permission from the state of New Jersey to reopen in June with a limited schedule of self-guided canoe and kayak trips in the Pinelands. Changes have been made to our operation in order to comply with new state and CDC regulations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been challenging and time consuming but worth it. *We are happy that people can get away from things and enjoy a few peaceful hours on the river.*

**Providing Food to Those in Need:** Rancocas Creek Farm is a new sustainable farm created by PPA to demonstrate chemical-free food production, soil conservation, and habitat management. Last year 72-aces of preserved farmland surrounding our offices was donated to PPA. *Now, a year later, we have already donated over 3,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to residents in need.*

**If you are in a position to do so, please donate today so that we have the necessary funding to continue our work.** For the last 30 years, we have built public support and protected the Pinelands' unique natural resources through our advocacy, outreach, science, and education programs. *We cannot do this work without you!*

Best Wishes from all of us,



Carleton K. Montgomery  
Executive Director

## Thank you so much for your support!

- My check is made payable to PPA.  
 Charge my credit card.

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

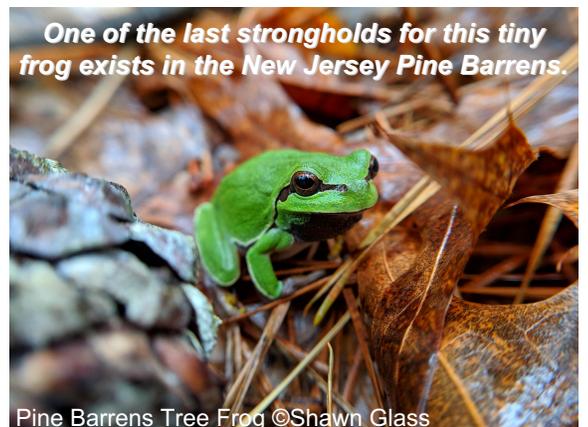
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*For your convenience you can donate securely online at [www.pinelandsalliance.org/give](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/give) or return your donation in the enclosed envelope. Thank you!*

**One of the last strongholds for this tiny frog exists in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.**



Pine Barrens Tree Frog ©Shawn Glass