



PINELANDS  
PRESERVATION  
ALLIANCE

Summer 2021

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# INSIDE THE PINELANDS



Intermittent pond affected by ORV use in Wharton State Forest. These pictures were taken before and after vehicle barriers were installed.

## Protecting Publicly Owned Lands from Off-Road Vehicles

by Jason Howell, Public Lands Advocate

On June 2nd, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance hosted an online forum about the impact of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on public lands and on strategies to limit abuse. Presenters included activists, lawyers, and environmental scientists from across the country and right here in the Pinelands National Reserve. We owe a debt to our presenters, who work tirelessly on this and other issues affecting the quality and survival of our nation's lands, waters, and wildlife. For too long, natural resource protection has taken a backseat to narrow issues that have loud, singularly focused sub-constituencies like ORV recreationalists and fossil fuel interests. Our hope is that this presentation can be used as a resource for others working on this issue and be the beginning of a unified movement to protect lands held in the public trust.

Our keynote speaker, George Wuerthner, author of *Thrillcraft* and long-time wildlands activist and educator, presented his view on the impacts and outlook of the off-road vehicle issue in the western United States and in southern Florida.

Environmental Scientist Barry Sulkin presented his work in the Grand Fork of the Cumberland River, which flows into the Tennessee River Gorge, aka the Grand Canyon of Tennessee. Barry related his experience working to address sediment runoff from large scale vehicle usage on private lands by utilizing the provisions of the Clean Water Act. His short film about the issue, *Water and Brimstone*, is on the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility's website: [peer.org/water-and-brimstone-d77/](http://peer.org/water-and-brimstone-d77/).

Marla Fox, Staff Attorney for WildEarth Guardians, presented her work on litigation and legal strategy to protect wilderness areas and wildlife habitat on federal lands. Dr. Emile DeVito (New Jersey Conservation Foundation), Jason Howell (PPA), and Fred Akers (Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association), presented on the history, current habitat impacts, and advocacy strategies for protecting the Pinelands from ORV abuse. New Jersey Pinelands Commission scientist Marilyn Sobel presented the Commission's survey analysis of Pinelands intermittent ponds

*continued on page 5*

### Explore the Pinelands!

Take a canoe or kayak  
trip down the Batsto  
or Mullica River.

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After a year's postponement, planning for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance's Annual Juried Photo Exhibition is back in full swing with a scheduled opening for March 26, 2022. Capture the mood of the Pines through the seasons and submit your best photographs by January 30, 2022.

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance launched its first Juried Photo Exhibition in 2017 to celebrate the natural beauty and rich cultural heritage of the Pinelands and raise awareness of the need to preserve this unique ecosystem. Since then, over 1,200 photographs have been submitted through three exhibitions. By all accounts, each was a success with great participation from a large number of photographers—from amateurs to professionals—as well as good reviews from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the local press.

Now is the perfect time to venture out to discover all that the Pinelands has to offer. Bring your camera or cell phone and capture an image that speaks to the region's splendor. Photos must be taken within the boundaries of the New Jersey Pinelands and submitted under one or categories of landscape, flora and fauna, and other. Send images depicting expansive vistas, rumbling rivers and streams, or amazing wildlife. Other images can represent Pinelands heritage and culture, from its architecture and small towns to its abundant recreational opportunities. Help us tell the story of the Pines through its scenery, people, and places. A Pinelands map is available on our website or for purchase from our online store.

Photographs submitted for exhibition will be selected by a talented and credentialed jury with final selections chosen by Michael Yamashita, an

acclaimed National Geographic photographer. Awards, including cash prizes, will be announced at the reception on Saturday, March 26th, 2022. All selected photographs will be exhibited at the historic Bishop Farmstead in Southampton from March 28 through April 30th, and all submitted photos will be on display in our online Gallery opening by April 15, 2022.

Visit [PinelandsPhotoExhibit.org](http://PinelandsPhotoExhibit.org) for a prospectus, registration information and a map showing the Pinelands boundaries. Questions? Reach out to Erin Tobiassen at 609-859-8860 ext. 112 or email [Erin@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:Erin@pinelandsalliance.org).

## *Tour de Pines*

**Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, 2021**

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

***In Person Event!***

Make new friends and see the Pinelands National Reserve. Travel thru Pine Barrens forest, visit historic villages and farm and the legendary birthplace of the Jersey Devil!

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

### **Locations:**

9/30 - PPA Offices

10/1 - Whitesbog Village

10/2 - Batsto Village

10/3 - Estell Manor Park

**To learn more visit our website:**

**[www.TourdePinesNJ.org](http://www.TourdePinesNJ.org)**

# Meet the Staff at Pinelands Adventures

The paddling season is in full-swing and Pinelands Adventures has been busy! Launched by PPA, Adventures has shared the Pine Barrens with thousands of visitors since 2015. In March the founding director of Pinelands Adventures, Rob Ferber, left to become the Project Manager for Delaware Bay Watershed with the NJ Conservation Foundation. We wish Rob the best of luck on his new adventure! Additionally, John Volpa, Adventures' Education Director retired and can now spend more time with his family.

## Meet the new team at Pinelands



### Adventures:

#### Krissy Raudys- Operations Manager

Krissy leads the team and started her Pinelands Adventures journey in April 2021. Bringing an Adventure Recreation degree from Green Mountain College and spending over 10 years in Vermont working seasonally as a lifeguard, dive instructor, and mountain operations supervisor, she returned to NJ and gained further experience working in schools, camps, sports, pools, and eventually as a travel agent for several years. Looking to escape the desk life, Krissy made the move to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst as the Adventure Programmer for our military members for the past 3 years. She saw Pinelands Adventures as a great opportunity to become more environmentally connected to the Pine Barrens and a place to add cre-

ative programming to expand NJ's adventure activity portfolio. She is an avid hiker and skier. Krissy is thrilled to do work with an eager, energetic, and super-experienced



staff that make Pinelands Adventures the best adventure in New Jersey.

#### Allison Hartman – Assistant Manager

Allison joined the team in March 2021 and runs the day-to-day operations. She is a South Jersey native and has spent years leading kayak and paddleboard tours through a variety of different environments. Allison has always been fascinated by the ocean, and she turned that love into a degree in Marine Biology from Stockton University. Allison spent the last several years teaching classes and leading groups with the Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium in Camden. She helped start the *Discover the Delaware Watershed Youth Engagement Program*. This program is a joint effort with organizations throughout Philadelphia and Camden and aims to engage youth through in-class and on-water experiences on the Cooper River and Delaware River Back Channel, as well as through conservation service projects in the City of Camden, Camden County, and Philadelphia.

#### Charles Johnson III - Education Director

Charles joined the Adventures staff in May 2021. He has just returned to the Pine Barrens after spending 12

years in Virginia gaining a vast amount of knowledge in natural resources and environmental education. Charles was born and raised on the sandy shores of Monmouth County, NJ, growing up in a family of outdoorsmen, and quickly fell in love with nature as a child. He loves paddling, swimming, and trail running. In 2014 he graduated from Virginia Union University with a degree in criminology and criminal justice. After Charles' undergraduate degree, he served two years with AmeriCorps through their Virginia Service and Conservation Corps, which fostered his love for steward-



ship and environmental education. Charles worked for many years as an American Canoe Association Instructor, Program Director at Camp Hilbert of Weinstein Jewish Community Center, and Senior Environmental Educator with the James River Association. He is a member of numerous professional, civic and academic organizations, currently serving on the Board of Thrive Virginia, member of the VA Association for Environmental Education, and as a member of Virginia Master Naturalists. He is always excited to see students grow in their knowledge of environmental science and immerse themselves in hands-on learning.

We hope you have the chance to get out on the river with Pinelands Adventures. and meet the new staff. You can reserve your trip online at [www.PinelandsAdventures.org](http://www.PinelandsAdventures.org).

# Summer Frogs

By Carlos Martínez Rivera, Director of Conservation Science

Summer is here and with it come the soothing and sometimes booming sounds of frog calls at night. In the Pine Barrens this could be anything from eager spring peepers who are still at it, to the constant trill of gray tree frogs and chirps of cricket frogs, or the nasal quack of our very own Pine Barrens tree frogs. Summer nights would not be the same without their calls. That is why we at PPA want to make sure our amphibian neighbors are actively calling at night.

When frogs call, it is always the male trying to attract females. Each species has its own distinctive call, and males “duke it out” in the pond or wetland for a space from which to call. In some cases, like with bull frogs and green frogs, males call from their own “bachelor pad” and will defend this territory where females can eat and lay their eggs. Females will mate with the male who “owns” that piece of prized real estate in the wetland.

Other frogs, like gray and Pine Barrens tree frogs, simply find a spot near a pond where they can call and give their all, competing with other frogs for a spot from where to call. Females in turn, gauge the male’s genetic quality based on their calls and chose the one that better suits them. In the case of Fowler’s toads and spadefoot toads, which are what we call explosive breeders, they simply come out in huge numbers after big rains and gather in flooded fields to call and mate at the same time in a wild frenzy.

We study this cacophony of frogs and try to identify how many species of frogs are calling in a particular place and also estimate the numbers of males calling in a given area. By getting these two data points (number of active frog

species, and how many individuals of each) we can learn a lot about a particular piece of land.

We know what different frogs, like Pine Barrens tree frogs and carpenter frogs, need to thrive in terms of water pollution and chemistry, age of the forest, and level of land degradation, and we also know where they should live. So it’s almost like a scavenger hunt: the more frogs of a certain species we find in a place, the better protected it is. On the other hand, some frogs, like bull frogs, shouldn’t even be in the Pine Barrens, as the original waters in here were too acidic for their liking and the forests were not fit for bull frogs. With deforestation, changes in land use, and changes in soil chemistry to improve agriculture, much of the Pinelands became good for them. Bull frogs eat other frogs and can carry diseases that affect other frogs, so their presence in the Pinelands, often means that the forest has been completely altered, and that the local frog species may be in trouble.

We have been monitoring urban areas as well as patches of forest to better understand what species are more active in these areas.

## Northern Cricket Frog



*Northern cricket frogs sound a little bit like a cricket and love to call from ponds next to the woods.*

## Northern Gray Tree Frog



*Northern gray tree frog calls can be heard all over New Jersey. They prefer to breed in small ponds near wooded areas, but have adapted to humans and inhabit urban settings calling from pools in people’s backyards.*

## Pine Barrens Tree Frog



*Pine Barrens tree frogs are the jewels of the Pinelands. They depend on pine forests and clean water to survive, but their populations are declining in the state.*

## Thank You!

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

# Protecting Public Land

*continued from cover*

and the relationship between a variety of situational factors and the likelihood of a pond being damaged by ORV use. It was clear from the presentations that solving the issue of ORV abuse is critical to protecting the quality of open space both now and in the future.

View the recording of the forum at [YouTube.com/pinelandsalliance](https://www.youtube.com/pinelandsalliance).

Participation in all outdoor recreational activities is on the rise, and although 2020 was an exceptional year, the rising trend in outdoor recreation is long-standing. According to market research group NPD (National Purchase Diary Panel), bicycle sales were up 63% in 2021, paddle sports were up 53%, wildlife observing equipment up 22%, and camping up 31%. However, Polaris Inc., manufacturer of powersports equipment like ATVs, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles, reported a 28% increase in ORV sales during the same period. This means there are more off-road vehicles on the land than ever before. While non-motorized activities dwarf motorized activities in overall participation, the negative and dangerous effects of off-road vehicles can drive the majority of the public away from areas being overtaken by ORV activity.

The confluence of increased vehicle presence on the land and the negative relationship ORV use has on other recreation, means that more of our open space will be recreationally occupied by ORVs, while other, more sustainable and compatible recreational forms are relegated to the few acres specifically designated for the use many decades ago. In the last 30 years, there have been few additions to designated recreational amenities like hiking and biking trails and camping areas in the Pinelands, even though open-space acquisition has added thousands of acres in the same time

frame. Some areas that have been available for unstructured, undesignated use are now closed to the public because land managers can't control lawless ORV abuse in these areas. Sections of Winslow Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Menantico WMA, Greenwood WMA, and Cedar Lake WMA are closed to all public uses until mid-September.

We must decide as a movement how we are to progress on this issue and others affecting the quality of open space in New Jersey. The state has been long-sighted and fabulous in acquiring land for environmental and recreational opportunities through the Green Acres Program, but work has not been done to ensure the long-term management of these same lands. The bureaucratic framework is fractured, understaffed, and underfunded. In the Pinelands, open space land is owned, managed, and regulated by a myriad of institutions who largely operate in silos with little consultation between institutions. These include the seven counties, dozens of townships, the Division of Parks and Forestry, NJ Natural Lands Trust, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Defense, various non-profit conservancies, and the Pinelands Commission - which has the legal authority, but not the practice, of overseeing the recreational management of these various institutions.

One solution to this problem is to look at the Pinelands comprehensively and designate compatible areas for specific forms of low impact of recreation in order to form an appropriate cultural expectation of use. The demand for structured and safe outdoor recreation is at an all-time high, yet New Jersey has not increased the supply - despite having many areas where this could be done sustainably. The result is that public

land is taken over for off-road vehicle use. State land managers should designate, map, and mark those roads that are safe for motorized vehicles and can be assigned to this use without harming natural resources or interfering in other forms of recreation. There also needs to be increased enforcement, appropriate fines and tagging and registration of vehicles.

You can read our ORV policy recommendations on our website at [www.pinelandsalliance.org/off-road-vehicle-damage](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/off-road-vehicle-damage).

## Pinelands Commission

*The Commission's offices are closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Monthly meetings are open to the public via livestream on YouTube.*

**Next meeting dates:**

**Aug. 13th, 9:30 am**

**Sept. 10th, 9:30 am**

**Oct. 8, 9:30 am**

The link to livestream meetings and a number to call in with public comment can be found on their website:

**[www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands)**

Questions? Contact Rhyen at [RhyenG@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:RhyenG@pinelandsalliance.org)

*Shop all things Pine Barrens*

## Online Store

*Our online store is always open!*

Purchase books, maps, t-shirts and hats! Items are shipped to you or your loved one or you can arrange a curbside pickup at our offices.

Find the store here:  
**[www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org)**

# New Staff at PPA

by Becky Free, Director of Membership & Communications

Kellie Westervelt joined the PPA team in May of 2021 to serve as our Director of Philanthropy. Originally from Mays Landing, NJ, she grew up playing in the Pine Barrens and later studied its ecology at Stockton University. She has been working within the nonprofit conservation community ever since.



Kellie Westervelt, Director of Philanthropy

With a career spanning over 25 years, her experience ranges from organizational development, fundraising, and strategic planning to natural resource management and ecological restoration. She began with the Florida Park Service and later joined the American Littoral Society to oversee the Cape Florida Project, an ecological restoration of a 436-acre park leveled during Hurricane Andrew. The volunteer-driven effort restored six ecological communities: beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, mesic pine flatwoods, interdunal lakes, and mangrove forest. Since then, she has served as Habitat Director with the tristate Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Director of Development for The Wildlands Network, Executive Director for the Florida Native Plant Society, and Development Director for Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

Rounding out her experience, Kellie has served on numerous boards including the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the Mid-Atlantic

Chapter of SER, Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network, Equinox Documentaries, and the Environmental Fund for Florida. Some of her publications include educational curricula like the *Plant-A-Seed Teaching Guide*, reference materials such as *A Guide to the Natural Communities of the Delaware Estuary*, and "From Adversity to Diversity," a chapter on Cape Florida's restoration published in *The Human Dimensions of Ecological Restoration* by Island Press.

Kellie has translated a lifelong passion for nature into a career advocating for its protection. She hopes to bring her experience to bear to help advance PPA's mission. "It's great to be back home where my love for nature began. The Pinelands have always had a special place in my heart. Working for PPA feels like I've come full circle and I couldn't be happier", she said. As Director of Philanthropy, Kellie works with other staff and volunteers, including the Executive Director, Board of Trustees, and the Development Committee, to help meet fundraising goals through major gifts, grants and legacy gifts. "I'm looking forward to meeting all of our wonderful supporters and volunteers and hope people stop in to see me or give me a call to say hello as I settle in." In the meantime, don't be surprised if she reaches out and calls you first!

Ayana McCall joined PPA as our database manager in May 2021. Ayana grew up in New York but moved to Pemberton, NJ with her family several years ago and sees this as a perfect opportunity to use her fundraising skills to protect the forests and rivers of the Pine Barrens where she now lives. Ayana has over 10 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, having worked as a Regional Giving Officer with Trinity Health Mid Atlantic in PA, run her

own consulting business providing database systems management and fundraising services, as well as serving as Development Officer for Visiting Nurse Service of New York and a development consultant for Professionals for Nonprofits in NY.

Ayana's nonprofit career started when she was an intake worker at a homeless shelter. She realized she wanted to do more to help people and felt called to be of service. This experience prompted her to earn her certificate of Certificate of Nonprofit Management & Development. She has managed databases of all types for many kinds of charitable organizations. "The database is the heartbeat of the organization. The brain. It helps you connect with people in meaningful ways and I am looking forward to helping PPA grow." She is not afraid of the challenges posed by PPA's many programs and initiatives. "All challenges provide an open door, an opportunity to meet great people."



Ayana McCall, Database Manager

Ayana is thrilled to be part of the team at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Her vast experience in managing databases for nonprofit organizations made her the perfect fit for this job. She is looking forward to helping members of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance learn more about the organization and meet their fundraising goals.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

# Calendar of Events

## Visit the Pinelands!

### Summer 2021

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



Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA.

[PinelandsAdventures.org](http://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](http://www.PinelandsAdventures.org) or call 609-268-0189.

#### Visit the Pinelands!

Now is a great time to explore the Pinelands. Here is a list of state parks and forest begging for you to visit. Make sure you check with each location before you visit.

#### Atlantic County

##### Estell Manor County Park

This is a large, user-friendly park where you can hike, bike, picnic, fish, go sightseeing, exercise, visit the park's nature center, and really enjoy the Pine Barrens. The Fox Nature Center provides programs for enjoying the outdoors as well as displays about the local ecology. With its location on tributaries to the Great Egg Harbor, the park

provides an excellent point to launch all manner of water craft. Historic ruins in the park are well-explained in interpretive signs.

#### Burlington County

##### Bass River State Forest

Home to one of the first Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps, Bass River State Forest now provides easily accessible camping, swimming and hiking facilities. In addition to a swimming beach on Lake Absegami, the State Forest has eight walking of 1 to 3.2 miles through typical Pine Barrens habitats. Right now swimming is not open due to the COVID-19 crisis. Bass River State Forest is located at 762 Stage Road, Tuckerton, NJ. This state forest is in Burlington and Ocean County.

##### Brendan Byrne State Forest

Brendan Byrnes State Forest is over 37,000 acres with lovely trails that crisscross the forest and pass historic sites. A great place to visit is Pakim Pond. A beautiful small pond in the heart of the Pine Barrens, Pakim Pond is a wonderful place to explore forest and wetland habitats. A short trail wraps around the entire perimeter of the pond, and also connects to the Batona Trail. Accessible by paved road, the pond has a gazebo, picnic tables and grills, and restrooms. Another lovely spot is historic Whitesbog Village the historic site of a company town where the blueberry was first cultivated for commercial production by Elizabeth White. The village, now incorporated within Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, includes historic buildings and houses, cranberry bogs, blueberry fields, reservoirs and surrounding woodlands. The village area is managed by the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, and JJ White Cranberry Company, owned by the descendants of Elizabeth White, cultivates some of the cranberry bogs at the edge of the village.

##### Wharton State Forest

Wharton State Forest is New Jersey's largest state forest at 125,000 acres. There are many trails, roads and historic

places to visit. A great place to start is historic Batsto Village. Batsto is one of the most popular stops in the Pinelands. Originally founded as an ironworks in 1766, a restored village surrounds the original ironworks with information and displays on site to show how things were done "in the old days". The mill dam in the heart of the village creates Batsto Lake, a beautiful lake on which most Batsto River canoe and kayak trips end. The mansion is restored and open for tours, and the village includes a nature center, saw mill, general store and other early buildings. Batsto's Visitor Center is also the main office for Wharton State Forest, where camping permits, trail maps, and a gift shop can be found.

#### Ocean County

##### Double Trouble Village in Double Trouble State Forest

Double Trouble is the site of an old village dedicated to cranberry farming. Many of the historic buildings, including the cranberry packing house and the sawmill are intact and can be toured. Cedar Creek runs next to the village and is one of the Pine Barrens' most beautiful. The State Forest contains excellent hiking trails.

##### Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

The Forsythe Refuge includes more than 47,000 acres of southern New Jersey coastal habitats and represents the fragile estuary ecosystems which are sustained by fresh water flowing from the interior Pine Barrens forests into the coastal marshes and bays. Located on one of the Atlantic Flyway's most active flight paths, the Refuge provides world-class birding opportunities. The Refuge also includes walking trails through increasingly rare coastal pine forest habitats. Start at the Visitor Information Center and Wildlife Drive on Great Creek Road in Galloway Township.



Pinelands Preservation Alliance  
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
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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.*