

The PINELANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION • WINTER 2010

Pinelands Commission dedicates \$1.9 million to preserve 1,612 acres in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May and Ocean counties

The Pinelands Commission's Permanent Land Protection Committee has dedicated more than \$1.9 million to preserve 1,612 acres in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May and Ocean counties in the Pinelands.

The Committee approved the expenditure from the Pinelands Conservation Fund to preserve the land in partnership with local governments and nonprofit organizations during its meeting on Jan. 29.

"Permanent land protection has been a critical part of our efforts to protect the Pinelands' unique resources for the past 30 years, and it will continue to be vital as we enter a new decade of Pinelands protection," said John C. Stokes,

Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. "These properties contain outstanding natural resources such as habitat for rare Pinelands plants and animals, and they connect large, adjacent properties that also have been permanently preserved."

The Permanent Land Protection Committee approved funding for the preservation of 13 properties in multiple planning areas that it has deemed to have significant environmental resources. The funding is contingent upon the execution of a purchase contract, supported by a certification of fair market value, by May 31, 2010. These areas include:

■ **The Medford and Evesham Sub-regional Planning Area in Burlington**

County: (one property totaling 688 acres, up to \$115,000 allocated to the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program);

■ **The Toms River Sub-Regional Planning Area in Jackson Township, Ocean County:** (two projects totaling 357 acres, up to \$17,325 to the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust and up to \$1,000,000 to the Trust for Public Land);

■ **The Forked River Mountain Area in Ocean Township** (one project totaling 268 acres, up to \$363,000 to the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust)

■ **The Preservation Area of Bass River Township, Burlington County:**

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Lloyd Henderson Jr. joins Pinelands Commission as a new gubernatorial appointee

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission welcomed Lloyd Henderson Jr. of Lawnside, Camden County, as he attended his first meeting as a new member of the Commission on Jan. 15.



Henderson Jr.

Governor Jon S. Corzine nominated Henderson to fill one of seven gubernatorial seats on the Commission, and the nomination was approved by the state Senate on Jan. 11.

"I'm excited to serve the State of New Jersey as a member of the Commission, and I hope to fulfill the Commission's mission to preserve, protect and enhance New Jersey's great natural resources," Henderson said.

Henderson is a Project Engineer with experience in the engineering-design industry. He holds a bachelors of science in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., and he will be attending the Rutgers School of Law in Camden this fall. In addition, he is active with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Camden

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27 new presentations to highlight Pinelands Short Course

21st annual event to be held on March 20, 2010 at Burlington County College

The 21st annual Pinelands Short Course will feature a record total of 43 presentations, including 27 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

"The Pinelands Short Course has educated thousands about this special part of New Jersey during the past 20 years, and this year's event features an exciting lineup of informative programs," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. "Attendance at the Short Course has soared to record heights during each of the past four years, including last year's record of 700 people. The remarkable turnout and interest provide a yearly reminder of how much people care and want to discover more about the Pinelands."

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College's Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies. To be held at Burlington County College's Pemberton Township campus on March 20, the program is open to all who are

interested in learning about the Pinelands.

This year's event features four live musical performances, six field trips, two all-day bus tours and Pinelands art exhibits and demonstrations, including photography, decoy carving, woodworking, painting and basket-making.

The new courses include an all-day bus tour focusing on historic sites in the Pinelands, as well as courses on primitive survival techniques in the Pinelands, New Jersey's biodiversity, historic uses of Pinelands plants for medicine and other purposes, a photographic journey of preserved natural sites, birding, botany and canoeing in Gloucester County, bats, butterflies and moths, Pinelands pollinators, the value and characteristics of red and white cedar trees, the history of Brotherton and Shamong, cranberry culture and the business of farming, lesser known stories about Pinelands people, the effects of fire and disturbance on Pinelands soil,

the impacts of land use changes on the natural environment, and a viewing and discussion of a new documentary that charts the history of the Central Railroad of New Jersey's most famous train: the Blue Comet.

Two new programs are specifically geared for educators. Four of the six field trips will be held at the historic Whitesbog Village in Pemberton, including an orienteering and "treasure hunt" and tours of Elizabeth White's house, gardens and original blueberry test fields, and a discussion of agricultural practices that were developed onsite. Additionally, there will be an orienteering field trip to Brendan T. Byrne State Forest and a field trip and walk at the North Pemberton Railroad Station Museum and Rail Trail.

For a list of course titles and presenters, please see Page 8

The event also will feature popular courses from previous years, including a guided, all-day bus tour focusing on Pinelands ecology, and presentations on Pinelands birds, vultures, frogs and toads, fish, gardening for Pinelands wildlife, fungi, traditional Pinelands lifestyles, the history of Double Trouble State Park, lost and forgotten towns of the Pinelands and Lenape living.

Participants should register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections. There will be limited seating (48 people per school bus) on the two all-day bus tours, so early registration is crucial for those who are interested in those programs. An early registration discount of \$5 is in effect until Feb. 19, 2010.

The Pinelands Short Course is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend. Discounted registration fees are offered to senior citizens and students.

To access the registration brochure, log on to www.nj.gov/pinelands.



Attendees at last year's Pinelands Short Course point toward a nesting bald eagle that they saw at the Franklin Parker Preserve in Burlington County during an all-day bus tour of the region.

Photo/Ed Wengrowski



Commission dedicates \$1.9 million to preserve 1,612 acres in the Pinelands

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(three projects totaling 112 acres, and a total of up to \$65,825 allocated to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation);

■ **The Special Agricultural Production and Infill Development areas of Woodland Township, Burlington County:**

(one project totaling 61 acres, up to \$74,250 allocated to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation; Requires concurrent approval by the Pinelands Commission);

■ **The Preservation Area of Woodland Township, Burlington County:**

(two projects totaling 56 acres, and a total of up to \$67,500 allocated to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation);

■ **The Batsto River Headwaters in Shamong Township, Burlington County:**

(one project totaling 39 acres, up to \$200,713 allocated to Shamong Township);

■ **The Forest Area of Dennis Township, Cape May County:**

(one project totaling 25 acres, up to \$57,750 allocated to The Nature Conservancy);

■ **The Forest Area of Estell Manor,**

Atlantic County: (one project totaling 5 acres, up to \$5,445 allocated to The Nature Conservancy);

Including the \$1.9 million expenditure from the Pinelands Conservation Fund and the cost-share funding from local governmental and nonprofit organizations, more than \$8.8 million worth of properties will be preserved.

Specific details regarding each property will be released upon completion of contractual negotiations.

The 13 properties represent the fourth round of funding that the Commission's Permanent Land Protection Committee has allocated for land acquisition through the Pinelands Conservation Fund (PCF). In the previous three rounds, 18 properties totaling 3,027 acres have been allocated funding from the PCF. The total fair market value of those properties is \$18,077,700. The properties are located in the Pinelands in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Ocean counties.



A 688-acre property in Medford Township (above) is among the properties that the Pinelands Commission allocated funds to preserve under the fourth round of the funding from the Pinelands Conservation Fund. Photo/Jon Wagar

The Pinelands Conservation Fund was created in 2004 as part of an agreement with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to permit the construction and upgrade of an electric transmission line through eastern portions of the Pinelands. Under the agreement, the special fund was established to further the Pinelands protection program and ensure a greater level of protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands Area. The utility that built the transmission lines, Atlantic City Electric (formerly Conectiv), provided \$13 million to establish the Fund.

Henderson joins Pinelands Commission as gubernatorial appointee

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County and the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Henderson fills a gubernatorial seat previously held by Stephen V. Lee III of Chatsworth, Burlington County. Lee is a partner in Lee Brothers, Inc., a 1,800-acre cranberry and blueberry farm in the Pinelands. He had served on the Commission since 1982.

"Steve Lee devoted countless hours of his time, expertise and insight as a mem-

ber of the Pinelands Commission for nearly 30 years," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. "His experience, commitment and attention to detail helped to improve many of our policies, thereby strengthening the Pinelands protection program."

Also on Jan. 11, the state Senate approved the re-appointment of Robert Jackson as a gubernatorial appointee on the Pinelands Commission. A resident of Middle Township, Cape May County,

Jackson joined the Commission in July 2008.

The Commission consists of 15 members: seven appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties and one appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Commission serve staggered, three-year terms and do not receive compensation for their service.





Commission approves new rules regarding forest management

NEW LISBON, N.J. – During its regular meeting on Nov. 13, the Pinelands Commission approved new rules aimed at encouraging specific practices that can be used to sustain and improve the overall health of Pinelands forests.

The rules detail a series of recommended, ecologically-based forest management techniques that are incorporated in amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, the rules that govern land-use and natural resource protection in the million-acre Pinelands Area.

“Effective, pro-active management of Pinelands forests can help preserve and enhance the region's unique ecological character, including important habitat for native wildlife,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. “These new provisions provide specific direction to potential applicants regarding techniques they can employ to better

manage Pinelands forests while avoiding negative environmental impacts.”

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) recognizes that the proper management of Pinelands forests will increase their economic value to their owners while also preserving and maintaining the region's ecology.

In 2004, the Commission asked its Forestry Advisory Committee to review, clarify and refine the forestry provisions in the CMP. Specifically, the Committee was asked to recommend management practices designed to ensure that forestry activities in the Pinelands are consistent with the Commission's mandate to protect and maintain the region's sensitive environment while ensuring that forestry remains a viable economic and cultural resource. In 2006, the Committee issued a report that suggests methods to improve forest

management planning on private and state-owned properties and recommends a series of silvicultural practices for forestry in the Pinelands. The recommendations guided the Commission's amendments to the CMP.

The amendments define 14 different forestry techniques and indicate where and how a particular practice should be conducted, and what controls should be applied to avoid potentially negative environmental impacts.

In addition to adopting the new forest management standards in the CMP, the Commission proposed a rule amendment that further clarifies specific limitations on the use of disking (a forestry technique in which one or more steel disks are drawn across a site to cut through soil and roots) in Pine-Shrub-Oak forest types.



Commission to help Pinelands municipalities with costs to implement new clustering rules

NEW LISBON, N.J. – During its regular meeting on Nov. 13, the Pinelands Commission voted to help 37 Pinelands municipalities offset costs they will incur to implement recent rule changes that will better protect the Pinelands' unique environment.

The Commission dedicated a total of up to \$305,000 in funds that it will offer to municipalities for expenses associated with adopting amendments that require the clustering of residential development in Pinelands-designated Forest Areas

and Rural Development Areas.

“Pinelands municipalities play a critical role in helping to preserve and protect a million-acre region that supplies clean air and water for residents and sustains a fragile ecosystem,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. “We are pleased to provide financial assistance to municipalities for an effort that will keep large expanses of forested land from being disrupted and degraded by scattered and piecemeal development.”

Pinelands municipalities are required to incorporate clustering provisions into their zoning ordinances as a result of amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, the rules that guide land-use, development and natural resource in the Pinelands Area. The Commission adopted the amendments on January 16.

Clustering is a style of development that allows reduced minimum lot sizes in exchange for the preserva-

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Pinelands Commission, Wharton State Forest and local students test water quality, learn about Pinelands resource protection during World Water Monitoring Day

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. – More than 170 students gauged Pinelands water quality and learned about the importance of protecting the region's unique natural and historic resources during World Water Monitoring Day on Oct. 15.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Wharton State Forest, the event was held at the historic Batsto Village here.

"With its incredible abundance of resources and sensitive ecosystem, the Pinelands is, in many ways, the ultimate classroom," said Paul Leakan, the Commission's spokesman. "This event provides students with an excellent, hands-on experience in which they learn how clean water is not only an essential ingredient in their lives, but is vital for sustaining the Pinelands' unique environment.

"By educating these students about water quality and water supplies, we can empower the next generation of citizens with the knowledge that they can make a difference in protecting this critical resource."



Students from Pinelands Regional Junior High tested the water from Batsto Lake during World Water Monitoring Day.

Photo/Paul Leakan

Approximately 70 students from Hammonton Middle School in Atlantic County, 40 students from Pinelands Regional Junior High in Ocean County, 30 students from Barnegat High School in Ocean County, and 30 students from Sterling High School in Camden County obtained and tested water samples from Batsto Lake, which is located in the heart of the Pinelands.

The students measured the levels of pH or acidity in water, as well as water clarity, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Water in the Pinelands is generally undisturbed, has a low pH and low dissolved solids, enabling it to support uniquely adapted Pinelands plants and animals. The students' findings will be posted on the World Water Monitoring Day Web site (www.worldwatermonitoringday.org), where test results can be compared over time.

In addition to assisting with the water tests, staff from the Pinelands Commission used nets to catch native Pinelands fish, and demonstrated how the Commission protects wetlands, historic resources and habitat for rare plants and animals. The 1.1-million-acre Pinelands National Reserve covers portions



Students from Hammonton Middle School used nets to catch fish from Batsto Lake, with assistance from Patrick Burritt, a Research Technician with the Commission (center). Photo/Paul Leakan

of seven counties in South Jersey, and is home to 850 species of plants and nearly 500 species of animals, including more than 130 plant and animal species that are classified as threatened or endangered.

Melanie Reding, Education Coordinator of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Reserve, discussed the region's natural attributes at Batsto's Nature Center.

World Water Monitoring Day is an annual, global event coordinated by the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association. People around the globe monitor the quality of their local watersheds and enter their results into an international database. A major goal of this effort is to create an awareness of the importance of protecting the resources upon which our lives depend.

The Pinelands Commission and Wharton State Forest have organized a "Pinelands-themed" World Water Monitoring Day event during the past three years.





Commission approves new rules regarding wetlands restoration and the maintenance of electric transmission rights-of-way

NEW LISBON, N.J. -- During its regular meeting on Oct. 9, the Pinelands Commission approved two amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the rules that govern land use, development and natural resource protection in the million-acre Pinelands.

The first change provides specific guidance for those interested in restoring wetlands in the Pinelands while the second authorizes a detailed plan of maintenance practices for 233 miles of electric transmission rights-of-way in the Pinelands.

"These carefully-conceived measures will better protect the Pinelands and the sensitive and unique environment that it supports, including critical habitat for rare plants and animals," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission.

Wetlands are an essential element of the Pinelands' ecology because they provide critical habitat for many rare plant and animal species and they maintain ground and surface water quality. They also provide critical stormwater storage capacity that helps control flooding. Development is generally prohibited within all wetlands in the Pinelands, and activities that have an irreversible effect on wetlands' ecological integrity are strictly prohibited. However, these limitations pose a dilemma when the Pinelands Commission receives proposals to restore natural wetland vegetation communities that have been impacted or altered due to human

activities such as agriculture or urban development. These restoration projects might be viewed as inconsistent with Pinelands rules despite the beneficial effects they might provide to these wetlands.

Changes to the CMP seek to solve this dilemma by authorizing certain management activities in wetlands. Examples

of these activities include allowing the establishment of characteristic wetlands on inactive farmland, the removal of exotic plant species or Phragmites from a wetland and activities that achieve ecological goals such as preventing the loss of a rare wetland community through succession, expanding a rare type of wetland community or creating more favorable conditions for the viability of rare plant or animal populations.

A second amendment to the CMP establishes a pilot program that authorizes a plan to maintain electric transmission rights-of-way in the Pinelands. The plan sets forth a variety of vegetation management practices for each of the roughly 3,000 spans along approximately 233 miles of right-of-way. The primary objectives of the plan are to create and maintain early successional (low-growth) habitats that are characteristic of the Pinelands,



The Commission adopted an amendment that authorizes a detailed plan to maintain electric transmission rights-of-way in the Pinelands, including the one above in Berkeley Township, Ocean County.

Photo/John Bunnell

provide habitat for native and rare plant and animal species and ensure the reliability and safety of the electric transmission system in the Pinelands.

The CMP was amended to permit utility companies to carry out these prescriptions without prior approval by the Commission for 10 years. This period will allow for the Commission's Science office to undertake an extensive monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of the prescriptions and to determine whether the goals are being met. The utility companies are required to remit annual payments to the Commission to help finance these monitoring responsibilities. At the end of the 10-year period, the Commission's Executive Director will recommend whether to permanently incorporate the plan into the CMP, extend the pilot program or propose other measures.





Commission adopts measure to establish new standards for advanced wastewater treatment systems in the Pinelands

NEW LISBON, N.J. — During its regular meeting on Dec. 11, the Commission approved changes to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan that establish new management standards for advanced wastewater treatment systems in the Pinelands.

The rules set forth a series of measures that provide for the long-term maintenance of "alternative" or advanced treatment systems, including certification that these systems are in good repair and are functioning properly. Property owners use these systems when building on lots that are between 1 and 3.2 acres. Unsewered development is not permitted in the Pinelands area on lots smaller than 1 acre. These treatment technologies can remove more than 65 percent of the pollution that is typically generated by standard septic systems.

The changes do not apply to standard or traditional septic systems. After review-

ing and analyzing comments it received from Pinelands municipalities, counties, residents and others, the Commission chose not to proceed with changes to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan that would have required all Pinelands municipalities to establish programs for the long-term maintenance of standard septic systems. This would have included issuing operating permits to ensure that these systems are inspected every three years and pumped only as needed, as opposed to existing Pinelands regulations that require these systems to be inspected and pumped every three years. These existing rules will remain in effect.

"The Commission remains committed to the goal of improving septic system maintenance, but it also recognizes that, in the current economic climate, where all levels of government are shrinking, there is a need to move ahead more grad-

ually with Pinelands-specific rules for managing standard septic systems," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. "We look forward to working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to help municipalities and counties implement the DEP's statewide septic management rules in the Pinelands."

Stokes added that the Commission will continue to provide public education on the importance of maintaining septic systems for clean water, public health and preservation of the investment that homeowners have in their systems. The Commission also will explore the possibility of offering municipalities incentives for establishing a program to manage standard septic systems. This could include grants.



Commission to help Pinelands municipalities with costs to implement new clustering rules

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-tion of open space or other desirable features of a property. Development can be directed toward appropriate locations of a property, such as areas close to roads and other infrastructure, while natural resources such as critical habitat for rare plant and animal species can be protected. The rule changes require clustering of residential development in the Pinelands-designated Forest Areas and Rural Development Areas on one-acre lots. The open space created as a result of clustering will be permanently protected through deed restriction.

The changes became effective on April

6, 2009, and Pinelands municipalities are required to revise their certified master plans and land use ordinances to be consistent with the amendments by April 6, 2010. The Commission will provide each of the affected municipalities with a sample ordinance for consideration and adoption in response to the amendments.

The Commission will offer a maximum of \$10,000 to municipalities with large Forest and/or Rural Development Areas or whose existing zoning plans are more complex. It will offer a maximum of \$5,000 to those municipalities whose Forest and/or Rural Development Areas are small or for whom the adoption of a clustering ordinance will be a relatively

simple matter due to existing zoning, the amount of remaining, privately-owned vacant land, and other similar factors.

Municipal expenses that could be eligible for reimbursement include the cost of notifying affected property owners, consultant assistance in preparing master plan amendments or re-examinations, legal advertising for public hearings, codification of the adopted clustering ordinance, copying and other miscellaneous administrative costs.

The Commission will provide the money from the Community Planning and Design component of the Pinelands Conservation Fund.





List of Course Titles and Presenters ~ 21st annual Pinelands Short Course

■ **Bats of New Jersey (NEW) and Got Bats? Tips for Homeowners (NEW):** Rick Dutko

■ **New Jersey's Biodiversity (NEW):** Blaine Rothausen

■ **Birds of the Pinelands:** Clay Sutton

■ **Vultures:** Kimberly Gurlavich and Jenny Mastantuono

■ **Pinelands Frogs and Toads and Pinelands Fish:** John Bunnell

■ **Garden for Wildlife in the Pines and Garden for Butterflies and Hummingbirds:** Pat Sutton

■ **Butterflies and Moths (NEW) and a Photographic Journey of the Pinelands (NEW):** Jennifer Bulava

■ **Monarch Butterflies (NEW):** Dan and Luanne Weekes

■ **Pine Barrens Pollinators (NEW):** Toni Price

■ **Secrets of Pinelands Plants (NEW):** Millicent Moore

■ **A Tale of New Cedars (NEW):** Terry O'Leary

■ **Fungi in Forests (NEW):** John Dighton

■ **Fire and Disturbance: Fertile Ground (NEW):**

Dennis Gray

■ **Impacts of a Changing NJ Landscape (NEW):** Scott Haag and Melanie Reding

■ **Birding, Botany and Canoeing in Camden and Gloucester Counties (NEW) and Stream Assessment:** Michael Hogan

■ **De Luxe: The Tale of the Blue Comet (NEW):** Robert A. Emmons Jr.

■ **Brotherton and Shamong (NEW):** George Flemming

■ **Voices in the Pines (NEW):** Karen F. Riley

■ **Cranberry Culture (NEW) and Piney Lifestyles:** Brenda Connor

■ **Double Trouble State Park:** Andrew Anderson

■ **Lost and Forgotten Towns:** Ted Gordon

■ **Lenape Living:** William Guthrie

■ **Primitive Survival in the Pines (NEW):** Simon Harrison

■ **The Winding Road: From Barnegat Bay to the Pinelands (NEW):** Apolonia Galie

■ **Jersey Juniors (NEW):** Gail Hunt and Roni Strain

BUS TOURS:

■ **All Day Bus Tour:** Emile DeVito

■ **All Day History Bus Tour (NEW):** Joe Laufer

FIELD TRIPS:

■ **Whitesbog: Agricultural Pioneering Center (NEW):** Rick Prickett

■ **Elizabeth White (NEW):** Sue Phillips

■ **Whitesbog Tour:** John Joyce

■ **Orienteering Treasure Hunt (NEW) and Orienteering at Brendan Byrne State Forest (NEW):** Bob Burg

■ **North Pemberton Railroad Station and Rail Trail (NEW):** Pemberton Township Historic Trust

LIVE MUSIC:

■ **Bad Dogz (NEW)**

■ **Ong's Hat String Band (NEW)**

■ **Piney Hollow Drifters**

■ **Tunes and Tales of the Pinelands:** Valerie Vaughn



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