

# take ten



hike







bike



10 easy trails in the new jersey pine barrens  
by Bert Nixdorf

# Welcome to New Jersey's Pinelands!

## *Please...*

-  leave no trash when you hike or bike the Pinelands.
-  leave plants and animals where you find them.
-  extinguish all campfires, matches and cigarettes.
-  respect private property including homes and farmland.

*Thank you for helping us protect New Jersey's Pinelands,  
our country's First National Reserve.*

# Take Ten hike 5/bike 5

Ten Easy Trails in the New Jersey Pine Barrens

plus

*“Heart of the Pines Tour for Motorists”*

Bert Nixdorf

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Bert Nixdorf, co-founder of The Outdoor Club of South New Jersey and a leader of hikes and bike rides in southern New Jersey since 1967, has granted special permission to the New Jersey Pinelands Commission to reproduce this material from his books in order to develop a greater awareness of the Pinelands' natural, recreational and historic resources.

Reproduction of the maps and directions in this booklet by any process for any purpose is strictly prohibited without written permission from Mr. Nixdorf.

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## HOW TO USE YOUR TAKE TEN GUIDE

Each hike and bike ride is named, and the title includes a round-trip mileage. Choose the hike or bike ride that matches your skill level. You will notice that all the terrain designations in the Pinelands are similar: flat, level, slight grades. For hikes, the sand roads are mostly compacted sand while the woods roads and trails may be a soft or “sugar” sand. Bike rides are on paved roads and selected for minimal traffic.

All hikes and bike rides begin at the star ★ on the map. A map is not included if the route is easy to follow.

Numbered steps in the route directions match numbers on maps.

The distance you have traveled from the start is listed at the right of each step. For hikes, the distances were measured by Mr. Nixdorf using a pedometer. They are approximate. Pedometer readings may differ according to the user and soil conditions. Distances for bike rides were confirmed by an automobile odometer.



This symbol points north from the compass orientation found on United States Geological Survey Maps (USGS quads). These may be purchased at Visitors Centers in Lebanon State Forest and Wharton State Forest. USGS quads may also be purchased at the New Jersey Geological Survey’s Maps and Publications Sales Office located in the Carroll Building at 428 East State Street in Trenton between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you prefer to order by mail, call (609) 777-1038 for the free Maps and Publications Price List.

It is easy to become lost in forested areas of the Pinelands. For your safety, please read and observe the “Outdoor Safety Practices” found at the end of this guide. Please note that the Pinelands Commission and Mr. Nixdorf **cannot be held responsible** if any individual or group becomes lost or experiences any mishap, inconvenience, or accident while using this guide.



*Carranza Monument*  
photo by Elizabeth Carpenter

An Aztec falling eagle adorns one side of the Carranza Monument dedicated to the memory of Mexico's flying ace, Captain Emilio Carranza. His Ryan monoplane crashed at this site during a thunderstorm on July 13, 1928. Just 23 years old, Carranza was attempting a nonstop return to Mexico City after his goodwill flight to the United States, a venture similar to Colonel Charles A. Lindberg's earlier round-trip flight to Mexico.

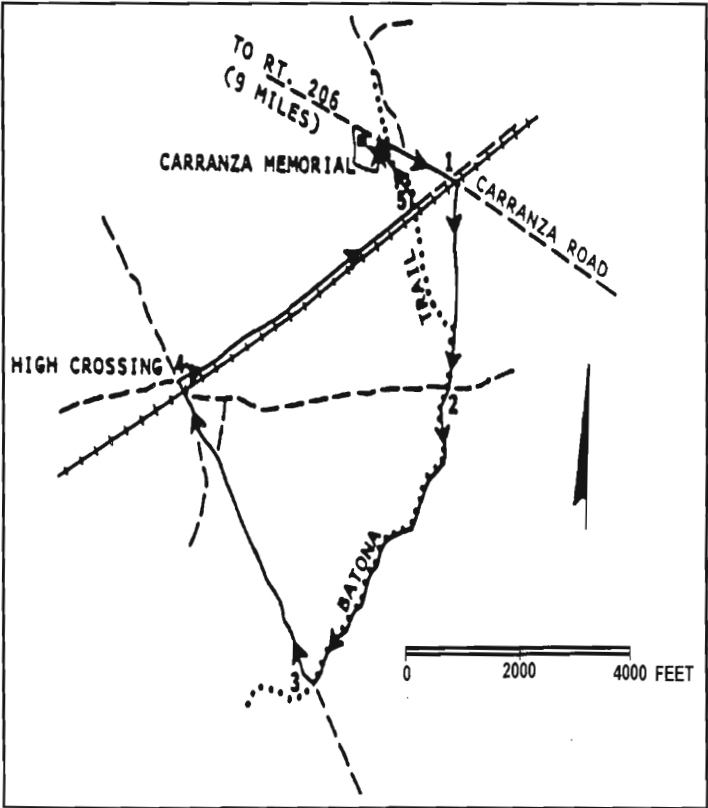
John Henry Carr, a Chatsworth mechanic, discovered Captain Carranza's body near his shattered plane after 3 p.m. on July 13. Burlington County Detective Arthur C. Carabine officially identified the body and notified government officials who led both nations in mourning this tragic loss.

Today a memorial service in remembrance of Carranza is annually conducted at the monument that is situated along Carranza Road near the BATONA Trail. Visitors are welcome to attend this midsummer ceremony held on the Saturday nearest to July 13.

Distance: 3.5 miles  
Terrain: Sand roads and a portion of the BATONA Trail; flat  
Map: USGS Quadrangle map for Indian Mills  
Parking: Behind Carranza Memorial. The memorial is on Carranza Road, 6.5 miles southeast of Tabernacle's Town Hall that is located at the intersection of Route 532 and Carranza Road. Tabernacle's Town Hall is situated southeast of the Red Lion Circle (intersection of Routes 70 and 206)

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Walk east on Carranza Road. Cross railroad. Take first sand road on right. Pick up the BATONA Trail marks in about .25 mile. Pink blazes mark the trail. Follow these blaze marks to the first east-west road.	.8
2. Cross the sand road and follow BATONA Trail .8 mile until trail intersects another sand road, where it continues on the other side of the road as a foot trail.	1.6
3. Leave the BATONA Trail at this point by turning right. Walk northwest to the railroad.	2.4
4. Cross tracks. Take first right, parallel to tracks back to spot where BATONA Trail crosses your path.	3.3
5. Left on BATONA Trail. Return to the parking lot.	3.5

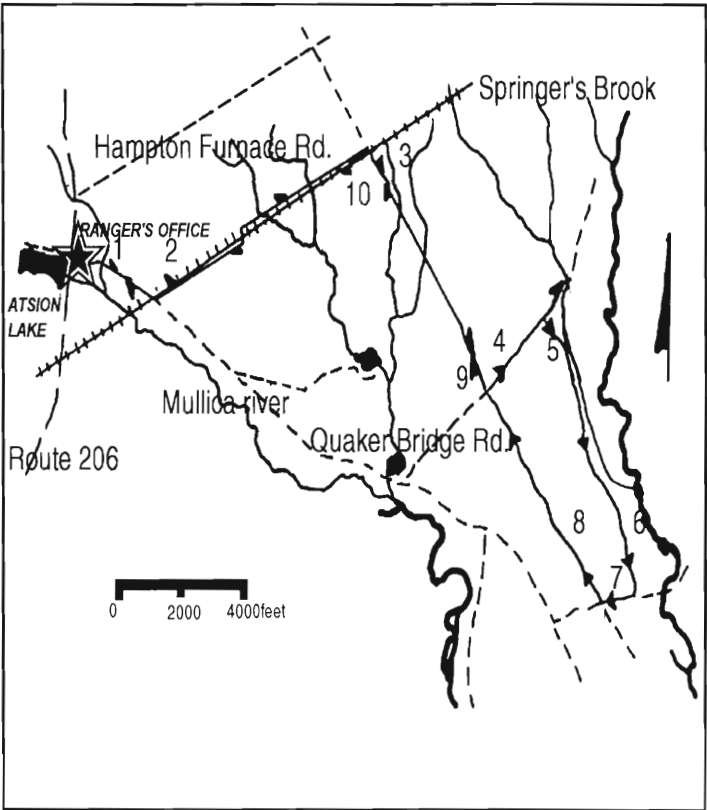


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**SPRINGER'S BROOK TO LOWER FORGE HIKE**

Mileage: 7.9 miles  
Terrain: Sand roads; mostly level  
Map: USGS Quadrangle map for Atsion  
Parking: In field next to Atsion Ranger's Station located along Route 206, just north of Atsion Lake in Burlington County.

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Start at Quaker Bridge Road, the first sand road south of the ranger's station. Follow Quaker Bridge Road to the railroad.	.5
2. Turn left. Follow the railroad to the first sand road intersection.	1.6
3. Go south (right) on this road to the next major sand road intersection. It may be wet going, but passable.	2.6
4. Left to Springer's Brook. Lunch stop.	3.1
5. Backtrack from the brook to a fork in the road.	3.3
6. Take the left fork. Always stay to the left when minor forks appear. Continue to Lower Forge Road, which is on slightly higher ground, like a causeway.	4.3
7. Right on Lower Forge Road to the next sand crossroad.	4.5
8. Turn right (north) to another crossroad.	5.4
9. Go straight across, continuing north to the railroad.	6.4
10. Left and back to the starting point at the Ranger's Station.	7.9



## LEBANON FOREST VISITORS CENTER TO PAKIM POND HIKE

- Distance: 6.6 miles; alternate route 12.2 miles
- Terrain: Level; woods roads and trails; BATONA Trail
- Maps: BATONA Trail Map, Lebanon State Forest marked trails map, a USGS Quadrangle map for Browns Mills, and a bicycle tour map are available at the Lebanon State Forest Visitors Center.
- Parking: Park at the Lebanon State Forest Visitors Center. To reach the Visitors Center, travel one mile east of the Four Mile Circle, intersection of Routes 70 and 72. Turn left at the entrance sign, then right, following the sign for the Visitors Center, which is on the left.
- 

<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Cross the road to start at the blue-blazed side trail opposite the parking lot entrance. Turn left at the pink trail blazes for the BATONA Trail.	.1
2. Follow the BATONA Trail to Pakim Pond.	3.4
3. Return by the same route.	6.8
<b>OR</b> for an Alternate Hike, follow steps 1 & 2, then:	
3. Continue beyond Pakim Pond on the BATONA Trail to the Hedger House on Route 563, an additional 2.7 miles.	6.1
4. Return by same route.	12.2



*The Pavilion at Pakim Pond*  
photo by Elizabeth Carpenter

The pavilion at Pakim Pond is a scenic rest stop situated in the midst of a picnic grove. The pond and surrounding forest provide homes for many plant and animal species. Currently, swimming is prohibited. Rest rooms are open at the Visitors Center year-round and at Pakim Pond from April 1 through October 31.

## EVANS BRIDGE TO BATSTO HIKE

Distance: 18 miles  
Terrain: forest trails; BATONA Trail  
Maps: USGS Quadrangle maps for Jenkins; BATONA Trail Map  
Parking: Evans Bridge, between mileposts 29 and 30 on  
Route 563, 10.5 miles south of Chatsworth

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Walk south on Route 563 from Evans Bridge to BATONA Trail entrance on the right.	.25
2. Walk west on the BATONA Trail, following the pink tree blazes. Continue to Batsto-Washington Road, the second <b>paved</b> road you cross. Turn left to go to Batsto Historic Village.	9.0
3. Return by the same route to Evans Bridge and your car.	18.0

### **OR** for an Alternate Hike,

1. Walk south on Route 563 from Evans Bridge to BATONA Trail entrance on the right. Follow the pink tree blazes of the BATONA Trail only to Washington Road, the **fourth sand road** intersection. Caution: this road is not labeled on the BATONA Trail Map. 2.25
2. Return by the same route to Evans Bridge. 4.5



*Batsto Mansion and Outbuildings*  
photo by Nancy Soper

Historian Charles S. Boyer in his book, *Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey* published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 1931, explained that Batsto's furnace and forge were considered vital to the American Revolution's success. Colonial John Cox, owner of Batsto from 1773 to 1779, was instructed by the New Jersey Assembly on June 5, 1777 to serve as captain for "a company of fifty men and two lieutenants." This company was to be exempt "from military duty except in case of invasion by the enemy."

Records show cannon balls and bullets were produced at Batsto for the Revolution as well as pans for evaporating salt water to recover much needed salt for the colonial troops.

In early October 1778, a British attempt to sail up the Mullica River to destroy Batsto's ironworks was abandoned when British intelligence learned that colonial ally, Count Casimir Pulaski, and his legion were nearby. Batsto remained unscathed by the war.

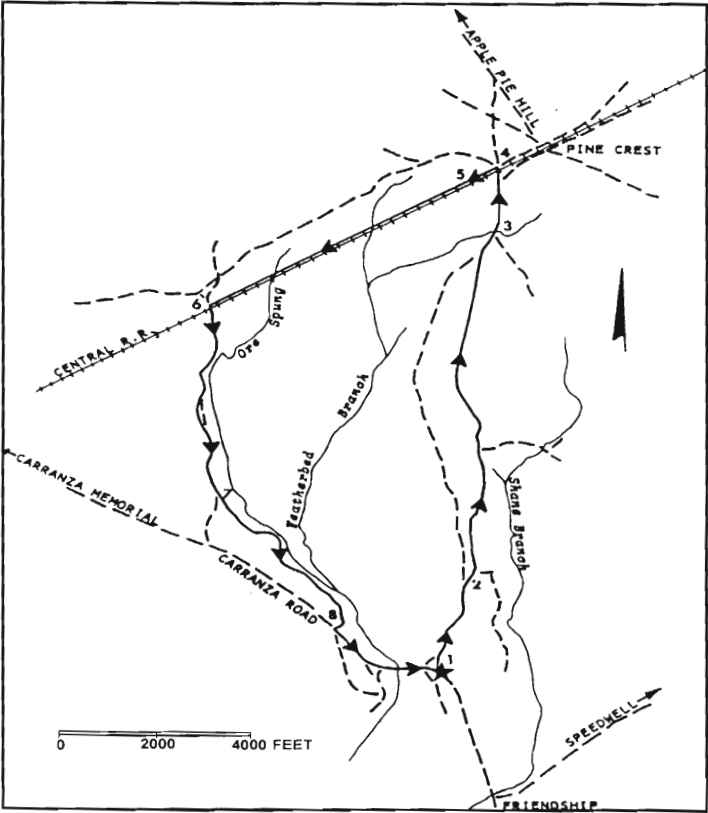
Today the Batsto Mansion rises above nearby buildings including a grist mill, saw mill, general store and post office. Visitors can wander along the gravel paths of this once bustling Pinelands industrial site or visit the nature center by Batsto Lake. A museum shop and rest rooms are located in the Visitors Center. Wharton State Forest camping permits, topographic maps and BATONA Trail maps may be gotten at the information desk.

## SANDY RIDGE TO PINE CREST HIKE

Distance: 6.5 miles  
Terrain: Mostly flat  
Map: USGS Quadrangle map for Chatsworth  
Parking: Just east of the bridge that is 2.5 miles southeast of Carranza Memorial and 2.3 miles southeast of the railroad tracks. Park on the shoulder of the road. (Carranza Memorial is on Carranza Road, 6.5 miles southeast of Tabernacle Town Hall where Route 532 and Carranza Road intersect.)

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Turn right and walk east on the road to the first sand road on the left. Turn left, north, and walk parallel to Shane Branch, to the fork in the road in about half a mile.	.8
2. Take right fork. Staying on a northward course, keep to the left at all forks unmarked on topographic map, for 1.8 miles	
3. The open body of water on your right is a good resting spot. This is the source of Featherbed Branch of the Tulpehocken Creek which feeds into the Wading River.	2.6
4. Continue northward to a small hunting lodge on left and a fork in the road. Take the left fork to the railroad.	2.9
5. Turn left and walk southwest along the railroad for 1.8 miles to a sand road crossing the track.	4.7
6. Turn left to another nice rest stop. You are now on the last lap of returning to the starting point. Stay to the left at all forks until you come to a triangular convergence of roads, about one mile south of the railroad.	5.7
7. Take left road here until you reach an open bog area bordered by Atlantic white cedars. This is a good place to see unique Pine Barrens plants, as well as take some scenic photos.	6.2
8. Continue to Carranza Road. Turn left to your parked car.	6.5

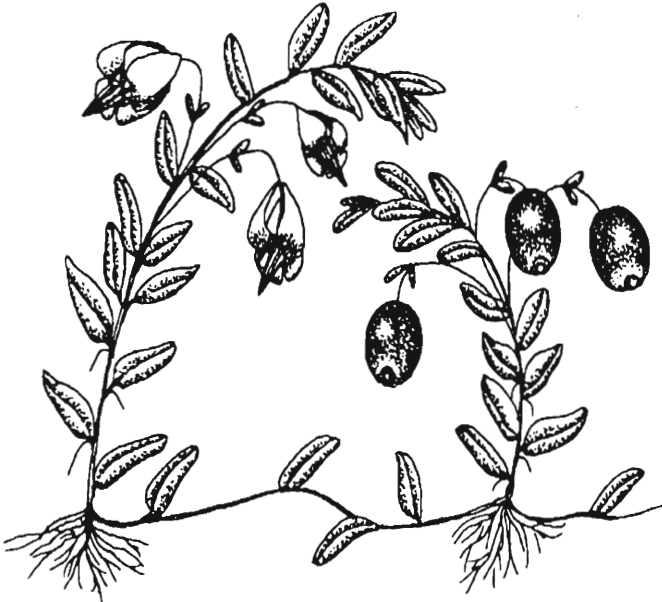


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**LAKE OSWEGO TO CHATSWORTH BIKE RIDE**

- Distance: 24 miles  
Terrain: Long straightaways, level to slightly upgrade on ride out. Return trip is slightly downgrade or level.  
Maps: USGS Quadrangle maps for Chatsworth, Jenkins, and Oswego Lake; Burlington County road map.  
Parking: In parking lot at Lake Oswego, on Lake Oswego Road, 3.1 miles east of Route 563 in Burlington County.
- 

<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Turn left and ride west on Lake Oswego Road past the Blueberry/Cranberry Research Center to Route 563.	3.1
2. Turn right at Route 563 and head north to Chatsworth, "Capital of the Pines."	11.9
3. Return by the same route to Lake Oswego.	23.8

Hot Diggety Dog, a refreshment stand located at the intersection of Routes 563 and 532 in Chatsworth, is open in clear weather during summer months. Buzby's General Store, a Chatsworth landmark in the center of town, opens under new management in 1999. Swimming is not permitted at Lake Oswego in Penn State Forest, unless lifeguards are on duty. There are outhouses and picnic tables at the lake, and canoeing is a popular pastime. You might see the cranberry harvest if you take the ride in September or October.



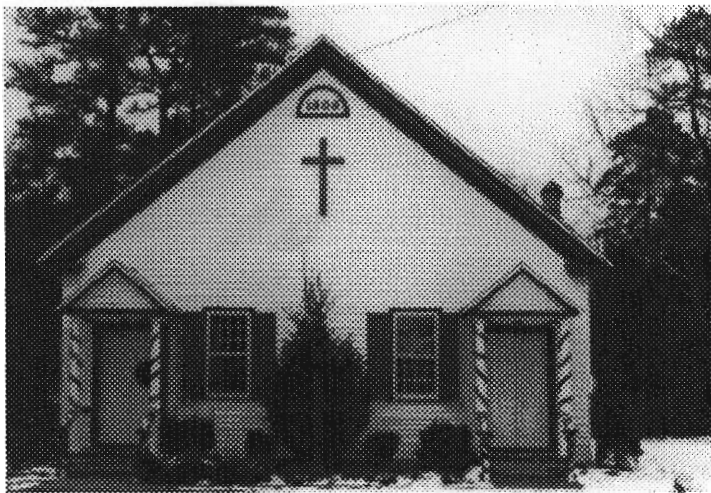
*Cranberries* - Illustration by Glen Malsbury

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**BATSTO TO LOWER BANK BIKE RIDE**

Distance: 21.3 miles  
Terrain: Mostly level with only slight variations in elevation.  
Maps: USGS Quadrangle maps for Atsion, Jenkins, Green Bank, and Egg Harbor City; Burlington and Atlantic County road maps.  
Parking: Parking lot at Batsto Village Historic Site on Route 542, 8 miles east of US Route 30, Hammonton. A parking fee of \$3 per car is in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. From parking lot, turn right to Route 542.	.5
2. Turn left onto Route 542 and continue to Route 563 (Egg Harbor-Green Bank Road)	4.5
3. Pass this intersection and continue on Route 542 to Old Church Road, on right.	5.8
4. Turn right on Old Church Road. Lower Bank Cemetery is on the right.	6.3
5. From cemetery continue to River Road in Lower Bank.	6.8
6. Turn right on River Road, to Lower Bank Bridge.	7.5
7. Cross bridge, Route 652. Continue to junction with Route 563	10.1
8. Turn left on Route 563 to Egg Harbor City Park (lake and picnic area) for lunch stop.	12.0
9. Turn around. Go north on Route 563. Pass Route 624 and Lower Bank Road (Route 652).	13.9
10. Stay on Route 563, north into center of Weekstown.	15.1
11. In the center of Weekstown bear left onto Pleasant Mills Road (Route 643) toward Sweetwater. Continue north at junction of Routes 643 and 623, on what is now Route 623.	19.3
12. Continue to Route 542.	19.9
13. Turn right on Route 542 past Batsto-Pleasant Mills United Methodist Church. Return to Batsto Village parking lot.	21.3



*Batsto-Pleasant Mills United Methodist Church*  
photo by Elizabeth Carpenter

Church at Pleasant Mills was built in 1808, and was once the gathering place for a large congregation. Inside the plain, rectangular structure is a handsome bronze tablet placed by the Kate Aylesford Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Hammonton, in memory of Revolutionary soldiers and sailors whose graves are in the adjoining cemetery.

## BATSTO TO LOWER BANK TO GREEN BANK

### BIKE RIDE

#### Alternate Route

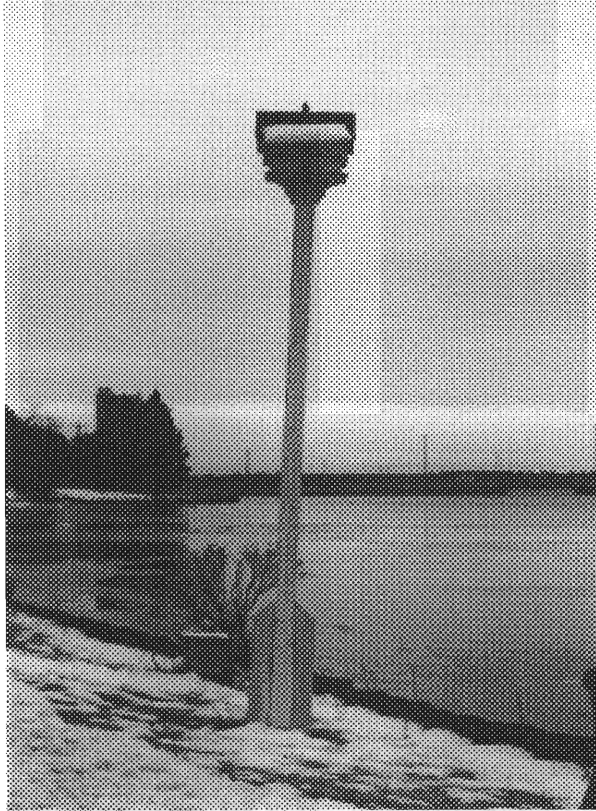
- Distance: 21.7 miles
- Terrain: Mostly level with only slight variations in elevation.
- Maps: USGS Quadrangle maps for Atsion, Jenkins, Green Bank, and Egg Harbor City; Burlington and Atlantic County road maps.
- Parking: Parking lot at Batsto Village Historic Site on Route 542, 8 miles east of US Route 30, Hammonton. A parking fee of \$3 per car is in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- 

#### Route

#### Miles

Follow steps 1 through 10 for “Batsto to Lower Bank Bike Ride” on previous page.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 11. Turn right in the center of Weekstown onto Route 563 north. Continue to Green Bank Bridge; | 15.1 |
| 12. Stay on Route 563 north through Green Bank to Route 542.                                   | 17.3 |
| 13. Turn left on Route 542 to Crowley’s Landing.   | 19.5 |
| 14. Continue west on Route 542 to Batsto Village.  | 21.7 |



*Purple Martin Birdhouse by the Mullica River*  
photo by Elizabeth Carpenter

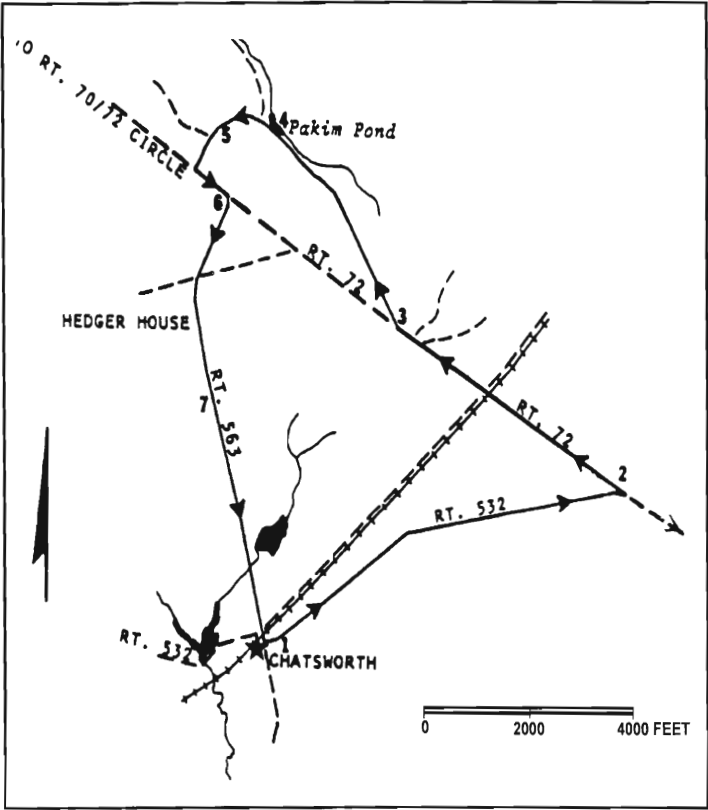
In the winter, this birdhouse is vacant - the purple martin is a summer resident in the Pines. While in flight, this member of the swallow family, feeds on flying insects. Look for this large, purplish-black bird in semi-open areas near water. The forked tail, dark underbelly and short black beak are descriptors for the male purple martin. Listen for its voice, which is described as a succession of soft gutturals and gurgling.

## CHATSWORTH TO PAKIM POND BIKE RIDE

Distance: 14.5 miles  
Terrain: Level to slightly rolling.  
Maps: USGS quadrangle maps for Chatsworth, Woodmansie, and Browns Mills; Burlington County road map.  
Parking: Behind the Chatsworth Fire House at the intersection of Routes 563 and 532.

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Ride east from Buzby's General Store on Route 532 to Route 72. Note the blueberry nursery on the right within one mile.	4.0
2. Left on Route 72 to railroad overpass.	5.5
3. Continue beyond the railroad overpass, still on Route 72, to the second paved road on the right. The road is barricaded to cars, but cyclists may enter.	6.5
4. Turn right on road until you reach Pakim Pond and the picnic site. Rest rooms are located here and are open from April 1 to October 31.	8.7
5. Leave Pakim Pond. Turn right and continue west to fork in road, around the bend. Stay left at fork and continue to Route 72.	
6. Turn left on Route 72 to Route 563.	9.7
7. Turn right on Route 563 and continue back to Chatsworth (You will pass the Hedger House in 1.5 miles.)	14.5

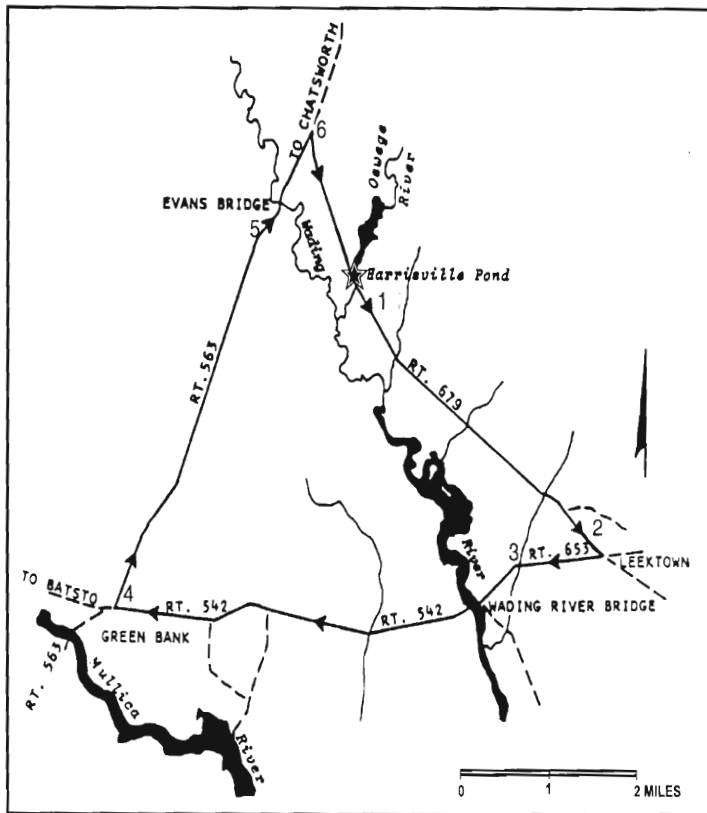


Distance: 17 miles  
Terrain: Generally level. Slight variations are almost negligible.  
Maps: USGS quadrangle maps for Jenkins, Green Bank, and Oswego Lake; Burlington County road map.  
Parking: In parking area along Route 679 at the lower end of Harrisville Lake, almost 12 miles south of Chatsworth.

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Turn left and ride south on Route 679 (Spur 563 on old maps) to Leektown and Route 653.	4.0
2. Turn right on Route 653 to Route 542 and the Wading River Bridge. You will pass the entrance to Chips Folly Campground.	5.7
3. Bear right on Route 542 and cross Wading River Bridge. Continue to junction with Route 563 in Green Bank.	10.1
4. Turn right on Route 563 to Evans Bridge.	14.6
5. Continue north to junction of Routes 563 and 679 (Spur 563).	15.3
6. Turn right, south, on Route 679 to Harrisville Lake.	17

In late fall and winter, bald eagles and tundra swans are frequently sighted from the Wading River Bridge or in the vicinity of Chips Folly Campground. The bike route takes you through both Bass River State Forest and Wharton State Forest.



Harrisville Lake to Evans Bridge Bike Ride

## Harrisville, a Pinelands “Ghost Town”

Twenty-inch to 36-inch walls of stone punctuated by gaping windows are the most visible remains of the once prosperous Harrisville Paper Company. Here brown wrapping paper used by butchers and grocers was made from hay, rags, rope and waste paper shipped from New York and Philadelphia.

An August 1877 site survey notes that the buildings were erected about 30 years earlier. Much of the machinery was propelled by an ample year round water supply harnessed from the West Branch of the Wading River and the Oswego River. According to this survey, equipment in the Main Mill included two rope cutters, one duster, two rotary boilers, six stationary bleaching tubs, five pulp engines, one paper machine with calender, one patent washing machine, two power and one lever press, one patent glazing calender, one paper cutter, four steam boilers, three pumps (one steam and two belt) and seven turbines.

Today Harrisville, a model nineteenth century industrial community, has joined the ranks of fabled Pinelands ghost towns. The careful observer can discover its remains along Route 679 in Burlington County just east of Harrisville Lake.

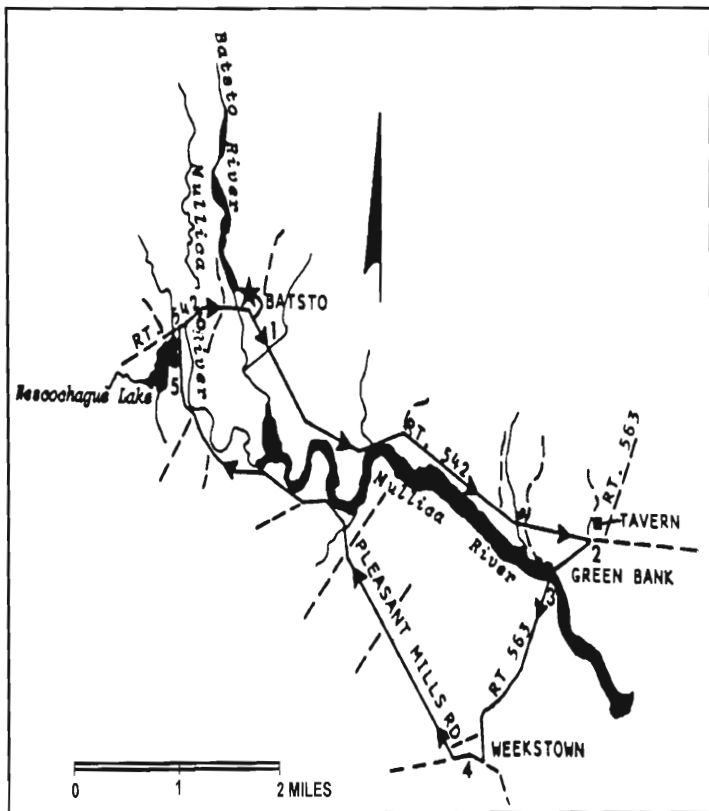


*Remains of the Harrisville Paper Company*  
photo by Elizabeth Carpenter

## BATSTO TO LOWER BANK TO PLEASANT MILLS BIKE RIDE

- Distance: 12.8 miles
- Terrain: Slight downgrades and upgrades; considerable amount of level riding.
- Maps: USGS Quadrangle maps for Atsion, Jenkins, Green Bank, and Egg Harbor City; Atlantic and Burlington County road maps.
- Parking: Parking lot at Batsto Village Historic Site on Route 542, 8 miles east of US Route 30 in Hammonton. A parking fee of \$3 per car is in effect from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- 

<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. From Batsto parking lot, turn right to Route 542. Turn left on Route 542 to junction of Routes 563 and 542. You will pass Bel Haven Lake that has a camp store on Route 542.	4.3
2. Turn right on Route 563 to the Mullica River Bridge in Green Bank.	4.7
3. Bear left to cross bridge and continue to Weekstown.	6.4
4. Turn right onto Route 643 north.	7.0
5. On Route 643, pass the Sweetwater Country Cupboard, at 9.3 miles. Continue north at junction of Routes 643 and 623, on what is now Route 623.	10.7
6. Continue to Route 542.	11.4
7. Turn right on Route 542. Return to starting point at Batsto Village.	12.8



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**HEART OF THE PINES TOUR - For Motorists**

Distance: 52 Miles  
Terrain: Mostly flat; slight, almost negligible, elevation changes.  
Maps: USGS Quadrangle maps for Indian Mills, Chatsworth, Jenkins, and Atsion. Burlington County Road Map.  
Parking: In field next to Atsion Ranger's Station located along Route 206 just north of Atsion Lake in Burlington County.

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<u>Route</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. North on Route 206 to Route 532.	7.5
2. Turn right on Route 532 to Tabernacle (4-way stop intersection of Route 532 and Carranza Road). Nearby farm markets sell fresh fruit.	8.8
3. Continue on Route 532 to Chatsworth and the intersection of Routes 532 and 563. The Firehouse will be on the right.	18.8
4. Turn right on Route 563. Buzby's General Store in Chatsworth is scheduled to reopen in 1999. Continue on Route 563 past two canoe outfitters, to fork in the road.	28.8
5. Stay on the right fork, Route 563, past Evans Bridge (between mile marker 29 and 30) to Route 542. Green Bank Inn will be on the right.	34.3
6. Turn right on Route 542.	
7. Continue west on Route 542 to Batsto Village Historic Site. Parking, picnic area, water, restrooms and tours are available at Batsto.	38.8
8. Upon leaving Batsto, turn right and continue west on Route 542, through the community of Nesco to Route 693.	43.4
9. Turn right on Route 693, passing Hammonton Airport. Turn right onto Route 613.	46.9
10. Continue north to end of Route 613. Turn right onto Route 206, returning to Atsion.	52



*Buzby's General Store in Chatsworth*  
photo by Robert Howell

Buzby's General Store has long been synonymous with the Pinelands. For over a century, its shelves were stocked with food, clothing and equipment needed by Chatsworth area residents. The installation of Esso gasoline pumps in 1921 was a plus for the community. Historically, Buzby's always has been the place where friends met to share local news.

An 1897-98 account book kept by store owner Willis Jefferson Buzby and his wife Myrtle is filled with the names of local residents and lists of the goods each purchased. The day before Christmas 1897, Sam Griffie stocked up on tobacco, flour, milk, ginger, mustard, cracked corn, bran, candy and peanuts.

- \*April 4, 1898 Sam Hart purchased fishing line, fish hooks, 1 1/2 yards of calico, tobacco, laudanum and flour.
- \*June 25, 1898 Chas. Kennedy treated himself to shoes, corn and nails.
- \*September 7, 1898 Herbert O. Todd bought nails, hinges and hooks.
- \*November 10, 1898 Mark Alloway stopped to get a box of cigars. The same day, Joe Emmons paid for a box of nails, 1 gallon of oil, 1 doz. shells, shoe polish, and 2 pounds of beans.
- \*November 14, 1898 Woodland Township purchased a broom, a brush, soap and ink.
- \*And, perhaps in anticipation of the holidays, the church bought four (lamp) chimneys on December 12, 1898.

Located at the corner of Main and First Streets in the heart of Chatsworth, a restored Buzby's is scheduled to open for business in late 1999, welcome news for area residents and visitors alike.

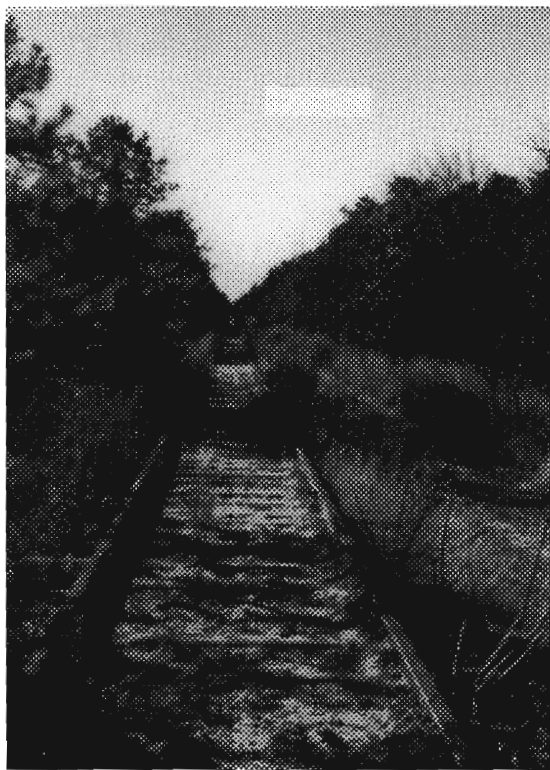
# THE PINELANDS COMMISSION

Federal legislation to help New Jersey protect the Pinelands was passed in 1978. The state's Pinelands Protection Act, one of the most unique land use laws in the nation, followed in 1979. The 15-member Pinelands Commission, consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor, one appointed by each of the Pinelands counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean), and one member appointed by the US Secretary of the Interior, then prepared the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. The Plan went into effect on January 16, 1981 following its approval by the Governor and US Secretary of the Interior.

The Pinelands Plan forges a public/private partnership that protects the region's natural resources while permitting development and industry in long-established communities and designated growth areas. Fifty-three municipalities join in the effort to guide the location and amount of Pinelands development, protect wetlands, and safeguard water quality by preparing master plans and zoning ordinances consistent with the regional Plan. Development proposals are then reviewed locally and monitored by the Pinelands Commission.

Nearly 40 percent of the Pinelands is publicly owned and our state's Department of Environmental Protection continues to work with the Commission to acquire environmentally-sensitive lands with federal and state funding. Other important areas are protected through the Pinelands Development Credit program, the first regional development transfer program in the United States. By purchasing development rights from owners of valuable farmland and natural areas, developers are able to increase the number of homes to be built in less sensitive areas on the region's periphery.

In addition to implementing the Pinelands Plan, the Commission and its staff work with interested citizens, organizations, academic institutions, and public officials. Important Pinelands research is conducted, education and interpretation programs are facilitated, and Pinelands protection policies are reflected in many state environmental and building programs.



*Abandoned Railroad Tracks, Central Railroad in Wells Mills Ocean County* - photograph by Robert Howell



*BATONA Trail*  
photograph by Robert Howell

BATONA - "BACK TO NATURE" Trail is 50 miles long, stretching from Lebanon State Forest, through Wharton State Forest, to Bass River State Forest

# Notes

# Notes

## OUTDOOR SAFETY PRACTICES

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- ☞ Don't go alone. Before leaving home, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- ☞ Take a supply of drinking water with you.
- ☞ Have a full gas tank when driving in the heart of the Pinelands.
- ☞ Swim only at protected beaches. Pinelands streams and lakes are often shallow. They may have sudden drop-offs. The tea colored water may conceal submerged logs, and mucky or weedy bottoms.
- ☞ If you become lost, stay where you are. You will be easier to find and you will conserve your body strength. Don't panic.



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