



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Pinelands Commission mourning the loss of former Commissioner Jay Edward Mounier

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The New Jersey Pinelands Commission is mourning the passing of Jay Edward Mounier, who was a former Commissioner and mainstay at Commission meetings for nearly two decades after his term ended. Mr. Mounier passed away on November 24th. He was 77.

“Jay was a strong advocate for all the farmers that eke out a living to produce agricultural products in the Pinelands,” said Commission Chairman Rick Prickett. “His frequent presence over many years at the Commission, expressing his views and sharing his vast experience during the public comment portion of meetings, have been invaluable to the Commission. I consider Jay a good friend, and I will miss seeing and hearing him at Commission meetings.”

Mr. Mounier was a longtime resident of Franklin Township in Gloucester County, and he served as a gubernatorial appointee on the Commission from January 1995 to December 2002. He was a member of the Pinelands Agricultural Advisory Committee and served as its Chairman from 2000-2002. Mr. Mounier operated a hay and livestock farm in Franklinville. He previously served on the Franklin Township Environmental Commission and the Franklin Township Planning Board. Mr. Mounier also served as a Trustee and Treasurer of the South Jersey Land Trust, and he was a founding member of the South Jersey Astronomy Club and the Upper Maurice River Watershed Association. He was a hobbyist beekeeper and was the former President of the South Jersey Beekeepers Association. He held a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University.

Mr. Mounier’s colleagues said he was a highly intelligent and effective voice for agriculture in the Pinelands.

“He was a true friend of agriculture and the Pinelands,” said Paul E. Galletta, who served on the Pinelands Commission from 2007 to 2019. “He was deeply concerned with the protection of both. He was a personal friend and one of the smartest men I ever met in my life. He was almost encyclopedic with almost any topic you could recite. I believe not only the Pinelands and the agricultural community will miss him deeply, but a lot of friends also.”

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Stephen V. Lee III, who served on the Commission from 1982 to 2010, recalled Mr. Mounier's knowledge and attention to detail.

"I was most impressed over the years with his incredible intellect and patience to read the volume of material that we received (as Commissioners)," Mr. Lee said. "... I could always count on Jay for finding something in the record that might be worth raising a question (about) at a Commission meeting."

Mr. Lee also praised Mounier for providing updates on Pinelands issues for the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

"For that, I'm grateful for him and grateful to the Farm Bureau for supporting his work," Lee said.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency that is governed by a 15-member board of directors. The board consists of seven members who are appointed by the New Jersey Governor, one member appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties, and one member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Commission members serve staggered, three-year terms and are unpaid volunteers. The Commission and its staff are charged with protecting the 938,000-acre state Pinelands Area, which includes parts of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.



Above: The late John C. Stokes (left), who served as the Commission's Executive Director from April 2003 to January 2011, shakes hands with the late Jay Mounier.

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