



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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22nd annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 21 new educational presentations, including four field trips

WHAT: 22nd annual Pinelands Short Course

WHEN: Saturday, March 26, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Burlington County College, Route 530, Pemberton Township, NJ.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Registration brochures can be printed online at www.nj.gov/pinelands and <http://staff.bcc.edu/pines/>. To receive a brochure by mail, please call (609) 893-1765 or (609) 894-7300.

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The 22nd annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 42 presentations, including 21 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College's Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies (PINES). To be held at Burlington County College's Pemberton Township campus on March 26, the program is open to all who are interested in learning about the Pinelands.

"Last year's event drew a record crowd of more than 800, and it's great to see an event that is now in its second decade continue to grow and expand," said Joel Mott, Public Programs Specialist. "This year's Short Course will continue to build on its legacy of educating, enlightening and exciting the public about the Pinelands."

"Burlington County College is proud to be a hub for the community by sponsoring such an important, educational event," said Christine Lipsack, Director of PINES. "It's a great opportunity to inspire people to discover and experience the beauty of the Pinelands."

This year's event features live musical performances and four field trips, including the first-ever, guided canoe tour along a 3.3-mile section of the Rancocas Creek.

The new courses include a discussion of Pinelands weather and issues of global climate variability and change, as well as presentations on New Jersey ospreys, American eels and their life history, the last Pine Barrens charcoal makers, the Still family and their inspirational story of survival, service and success, the rise of the blueberry industry from its earliest beginnings in the Pinelands, ecosystem gardening, an exploration of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, the hidden world of plants and pollinators, the use of "ecological forestry" to conserve native vegetation and rare species, invasive plant species, a history of the Fenwicks of Fenwick Manor, a photographic "peek" back into Pine Barrens history, the vital role played by the railroad industry in the survival of Burlington County and the Pinelands, and a field trip that will take a step back in time at historic Whitesbog Village. Other new courses include workshops detailing

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how to create a rain garden and how to build and install a rain barrel, a presentation by a Pinelands author who embarked on a yearlong adventure to explore New Jersey, a hands-on demonstration of how to use Geographic Information Systems to view maps of habitats for threatened and endangered plant and animal species, and a discussion of the benefits and logistics of installing a solar energy system for your home.

Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided for participants who register for the Rancocas Creek canoe tour. Participants should have some canoeing experience, and **registration will be limited to the first 18 registrants**. The other field trips will provide a living history of nearby Whitesbog Village, a guided tour of the North Pemberton Railroad Station Museum and Rail trail, including a 1.5-mile wagon ride along the trail, and a leisurely, two-hour guided walk of the Franklin Parker Preserve, a 9,400-acre ecological gem located in Chatsworth.

The event also will feature popular courses from previous years, including a discussion of New Jersey's biodiversity, bats of New Jersey and how to attract them, Pinelands fish, frogs and toads, threatened and endangered snakes of the Pinelands, Pinelands bird ecology, the history of Double Trouble State Park, a tale of two cedars, the secrets of Pinelands plants, a photographic journey through the Pinelands, birding, botany and canoeing, stream assessment, Piney lifestyles, an update of the Cedar Bridge Tavern, Lenape living, and wilderness survival, including a hands-on demonstration of how to make fire.

Participants should register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections.

In addition to the programs being offered during the Short Course, participants will have the opportunity to register separately for two different, all-day bus tours of the Pinelands. These tours are offered separately from the Short Course and include a Pinelands History tour that will be led by Burlington County Historian Joe Laufer on Saturday, April 2, and a Pinelands Ecology tour that will be led by Dr. Emile DeVito on Saturday, May 7. These tours will be provided on a coach bus that will accommodate a total of 50 people and will have an on-board restroom. Registration for these bus trips will be by phone only, and payment must be made with a credit card. The fee for the bus tour is \$55 per person. The phone lines will be open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Registration for the Pinelands History tour will begin on March 3, and registration for the Pinelands Ecology tour will begin on April 7. Registrations will only be taken during these times and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.



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***** ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** Digital photographs of last year's Pinelands Short Course, including the one below, can be obtained by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300, ext. 124.



Matt Abatelli (center) of the Children of the Earth Foundation helped attendees make fire during last year's Pinelands Short Course. The program will be offered once again at the 22nd annual event.

Photo/Paul Leakan

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