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For Immediate Release

Second annual Pinelands Summer Short Course offers guided nature hikes and van trips, blueberry tours and presentations on insects, history and winemaking

NEW LISBON, N.J., May 23, 2018 – The second annual Pinelands Summer Short Course will feature seven field trips and a day of educational programs that showcase the region's history, ecology, culture and music.

Registration is now open for the event, which will be held at Stockton University's Kramer Hall on 30 Front Street in downtown Hammonton on Thursday, July 19, 2018. The event is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Stockton University.

"We are excited about this year's lineup of courses, which will once again enable the public to learn about and explore the Pinelands during the peak of summer," said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director.

"We are pleased to participate in sharing our region's history, culture and ecology," said Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman. "This is a wonderful opportunity for both local residents and summer visitors to experience the summer beauty of the Pinelands."

The Summer Short Course will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees should check in at Kramer Hall between 8 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. A free continental breakfast will be offered to attendees, beginning at 8 a.m.

The event will feature the following programs:

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- **A two-hour, guided tour of the Atlantic Blueberry Company's commercial farm in Hammonton:** Attendees will get the full farm experience as they tour the Atlantic Blueberry Company's processing and packing plant on Weymouth Road. After the tour of the plant, attendees will board a labor bus that will transport them to the expansive fields to see and sample different varieties of blueberries.
- **A full-day, guided van tour through the heart of the Pinelands:** Ryan Rebozo, Ph.D. Director of Conservation Science at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, will lead a van tour through the core of the Pinelands Preservation Area. Rebozo will focus on the area's fire ecology and the various ways plants have evolved to respond to disturbance. Attendees will visit the pygmy pine plains, an area of the Pinelands with a historically high frequency of wildfires. The van will then travel to Webbs Mill Bog, a wetland savanna where attendees will see some of the most rare Pinelands orchids and carnivorous plants in bloom.
- **A full-day van tour focusing on the traditional industries in the Pinelands:** Guide Jeff Larson, who has been exploring the Pinelands for three decades, will lead a five-hour van tour that will highlight past industries in the Pinelands. Participants will learn about Piney culture and history while making several stops to see places such as Hampton Furnace and other areas where traditional industries once thrived in the Pinelands but have since been reclaimed by the forest.
- **A full-day hike between the Mullica and Batsto rivers:** Naturalist John Volpa will lead a daylong, four-mile hike along the Mullica and Batsto rivers. Attendees will walk along the uplands and edges of the two rivers while seeing and learning about native plants and animals, as well as other unique features in the Pinelands.
- **A two-hour and 45-minute field class focusing on macroinvertebrates and water quality at Batsto:** Naturalist and photographer Michael Hogan will guide a field trip that will highlight the aquatic creatures such as stoneflies, caddisflies and other water bugs that live in our streams and lakes. Macroinvertebrates are excellent indicators of water quality, so they are used to determine stream health all over the world. Attendees will participate in a biological survey using the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's protocols for identifying and documenting these bugs and come away with an understanding of what their presence means for the waters in which they are found.
- **A two-hour and 45-minute guided hike at Hammonton Lake:** German Georgieff, Chief Naturalist at Wells Mill County Park, will lead a two-mile hike through a mostly oak-pine upland area and a white cedar swamp wetland area near Hammonton Lake. Attendees will learn about plant identification, fire ecology and human usage of local natural resources. Transportation will be provided to and from the lake.

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- **A two-hour, guided walk at Batsto Lake, with a focus on dragonflies and damselflies:** Attendees will venture to Batsto Lake to learn about the fascinating diversity and behavior of Pinelands dragonflies and damselflies. Jennifer Bulava, a Park Naturalist at Burlington County Parks, will lead the two-hour walk.
- **A 75-minute classroom presentation on the first Indian Reservation at Brotherton, Burlington County:** Tony McNichol, a Cultural Resource Planner with the Pinelands Commission, will discuss the 1758 establishment (and subsequent dissolution) of the Brotherton Reservation in a socio-historical context, with reference to the egregious Walking Purchase and the Treaty of Easton. The approximately 3,000 acre Brotherton Tract was situated in an area known to the local tribes as 'Edgepillock'. The land was acquired for the Delaware tribe by the New Jersey colonial government and Commissioners for Indian Affairs with the promise that the Delaware ceded the rights to the majority of their lands in New Jersey south of the Raritan River. The site of the original reservation is located in the present day Pinelands village of Indian Mills in Shamong Township, Burlington County.
- **A 75-minute classroom presentation that will provide an overview of the Pinelands:** Joel Mott, Principal Public Programs Specialist with the Pinelands Commission, will take attendees on an insightful virtual walk in the woods, punctuated by the sights and sounds of the Pinelands. Mott will focus on the importance of water to the area while highlighting the region's cultural, historic, and natural resources. The goal of this program is to raise awareness, appreciation and further stewardship of the Pinelands by revealing this unique treasure.
- **A 75-minute classroom presentation that highlights the history of winemaking in New Jersey:** New Jersey has been a vibrant place for winemaking since the Colonial days. Tom Consentino, Executive Director of the Garden State Wine Growers Association, will delve into the state's history of winemaking, covering the early founders of the industry, the establishment of Renault Winery in the Pinelands, the effects of prohibition, the current state of winemaking and future plans for the industry's growth.
- **A 75-minute classroom presentation on dragonflies and damselflies:** Jennifer Bulava, a Park Naturalist at Burlington County Parks, will deliver a presentation focusing on the local species of dragonflies and damselflies, as well as the diversity, behaviors, life cycles and the ecological significance of these beneficial insects.
- **A 75-minute classroom presentation on the Battle of Chestnut Neck:** Historian Norman Goos will highlight the Revolutionary War battle that was fought at Chestnut Neck, a settlement on the Little Egg Harbor River in present-day Port Republic City.
- **A 75-minute classroom presentation on fire and biodiversity:** Stephen C. Mason, a Graduate Research Associate in the Entomology Department at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University, will deliver a presentation highlighting the association between different types of fire, insects and biodiversity.

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- **A 75-minute classroom presentation on moths in the Pinelands:** Ann-Marie Woods, a wildlife photographer, will highlight the different species of moths that can be found in the Pinelands. She will also discuss and recommend various camera settings to achieve quality macro photographs of moths. Attendees will build a moth screen, make moth bait and look at lighting, while learning about basic moth anatomy and common terms.
- **An hour-long musical performance by Denizen Pine.**

Space is limited, so it is critical for participants to register early, as the event may sell out.

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. Registration is \$60 per person.

For more information about the courses, please call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. Full course descriptions are available on the Commission's website: www.nj.gov/pinelands.

To register online, please visit www.stockton.edu/pinelands. To register by phone, please call (609) 652-4227, Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*** **ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** High-resolution photos from last year's Pinelands Summer Short Course can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300 or Paul.Leakan@njpines.state.nj.us.



Above: Attendees sampled blueberries at the Atlantic Blueberry Company's farm on Weymouth Road in Hammonton during last year's Pinelands Summer Short Course. The field trip will be offered once again this year. Photo/Paul Leakan

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