



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: info@njpines.state.nj.us

23rd annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 18 new educational presentations, including four field trips

WHAT: 23rd Annual Pinelands Short Course

WHEN: Saturday, March 24, 2012, 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 from the Pinelands Commission's Web site at www.nj.gov/pinelands.

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The 23rd annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 42 presentations, including 18 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

"From fossils to forests, this year's Pinelands Short Course offers an impressive variety of educational programs," said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director. "Interest in this event remains strong, and it goes beyond our borders, with some attendees traveling from several states away. We're pleased to see so many people care about this incredible part of New Jersey. "

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College's (BCC) Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies. To be held at BCC's Pemberton Township campus on March 24, the program is open to all who are interested in learning about the Pinelands. Last year's event attracted more than 600 people.

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

The new courses include a discussion of dinosaurs and fossils on the fringes of the Pinelands, as well as presentations on black bears, timber rattlesnakes, turtles, research of northern pine snakes, southern pine beetles, ancient climate change and periglacial landscapes, forests, environmental and ecological research in Barnegat Bay, the grassroots of the Pinelands preservation movement, wild and scenic rivers in the Pinelands, Elias Wright (a teacher, military leader and surveyor), the Jersey Devil, planning an ecosystem garden, Piney agriculture, a photographic journey of the Pinelands and rarely seen, historic videos that document the old cranberry harvesting

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process and the lives of migrant workers at Double Trouble State Park.

The event also will feature popular courses from previous years, including a discussion about New Jersey's biodiversity and presentations on Pinelands frogs, toads and fish, bird ecology, ruby-throated hummingbirds and how to attract them, ospreys, rain gardening, the health benefits of blueberries and cranberries, stream assessment, photographing the Pinelands, building and installing a rain barrel, Piney lifestyles, the Still Family, a virtual tour of the region, wilderness survival, and Double Trouble State Park.

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**. The other field trips will provide a living history and walking tour of nearby Whitesbog Village, and a leisurely, two-hour guided walk of the Franklin Parker Preserve, a 9,400-acre ecological gem located in Chatsworth.

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

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. The Short Course brochure and registration form includes complete, detailed descriptions of every program and presenter.

To request an event brochure/registration form or for more information, please call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. The registration form also can be printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site. The address is: www.nj.gov/pinelands.



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



Above: Matt Abatelli, program director of the Children of the Earth Foundation, delivered a presentation focusing on Wilderness Survival, during the last year's Pinelands Short Course. The program will be offered once again this year. Photo: Paul Leakan/Pinelands Commission.

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