



New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

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

Pinelands Commission employee wins environmental studies award from the University of Pennsylvania

NEW LISBON -- Robyn Jeney, a Regulatory Programs Specialist with the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, has been named the recipient of this year's Environmental Studies Award from the University of Pennsylvania.

A resident of Delran, Burlington County, Jeney received the prestigious award after graduating from the Ivy League school with a master's of environmental studies this December. The award will be presented to her during an annual event at the University on May 1.

The Pinelands Commission, a state agency that oversees land-use and natural resource protection in the million-acre Pinelands area of southern New Jersey, encourages its employees to improve their job skills and contributed funds for her studies through its Degree Assistance Program. Jeney has worked for the Commission since 2004.

"We are very proud of Robyn for her hard work and dedication in the classroom, which will directly enhance her abilities here at the Commission," said John C. Stokes, the Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. "The Commission is fortunate to have a staff whose knowledge of, and commitment to, the Pinelands protection program has safeguarded one of New Jersey's greatest natural treasures."

The University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Environmental Studies (IES) presents the Environmental Studies Award each year to a student in the school's professional masters programs. The winner is selected by a school faculty committee that considers criteria such as excellent grade-point average, participation in departmental activities and contributions to their field of study.

During her studies, Jeney completed an independent study for American artist Jamie Wyeth, who painted several pieces based on his Point Lookout Farm on the Brandywine River in Chadds Ford, Pa. Wyeth and his wife run an environmental education center on the farm, and Jeney wrote pamphlets about the ecology of the site depicted in four of his paintings. The pamphlets will be used in the educational center.

For her master's thesis, Jeney created a comprehensive stewardship plan for the Natural Land Trust's Fulshaw Craeg Preserve in Salford, Pa. She partially verified and added to a comprehensive vegetation survey that was completed for the site. She also conducted research into the geology, topography, archaeological and anthropological history and hydrology of the

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preserve and made suggestions for how to best maintain it. The Natural Lands Trust will be using that document, at least as a starting point, for managing the preserve.

Since joining the Pinelands Commission in August 2004, Jeney has been promoted several times to take on additional responsibilities. As a Regulatory Programs Specialist, she reviews development applications to ensure compliance with standards to protect the Pinelands and its unique resources. She also meets with applicants and answers questions from the public.

**** ATTENTION EDITORS:** A high-resolution jpeg of the photo below is available by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300.



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