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## For Immediate Release

### **29<sup>th</sup> annual Pinelands Short Course to feature a record 41 educational presentations**

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 12, 2018 – The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Pinelands Short Course will feature a record 41 presentations, including 29 new programs, that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

Registration is now open for the daylong event, which will be held at Stockton University in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, on March 10, 2018.

“This year's Pinelands Short Course is our most ambitious yet,” said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director. “The event continues to grow in popularity, and we want to build on our success by offering more programs than ever before. Our main goal has always been to educate and inspire people to learn more about the Pinelands.”

“Stockton's location in the Pinelands National Reserve is a daily reminder of our role as stewards of the environment,” Stockton President Harvey Kesselman said. “We are pleased to host the Pinelands Short Course and to have members of our environmental studies faculty share their expertise about this unique New Jersey resource.”

A course charting the remarkable recovery of the bald eagle population in New Jersey is just one of the new offerings this year.

Other new programs include presentations on carnivorous Pinelands plants, mammal skull identification, primitive survival skills, the hidden world of glowing organisms in the Pinelands, and the recent archaeological excavation of Cedar Bridge Tavern.

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 2...

A workshop on the politics behind the passage of the Pinelands Protection Act will be presented by Nelson Johnson, an Atlantic County Superior Court Judge who has written numerous books, including “Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times, and Corruption of Atlantic City,” which was the basis for the HBO drama series “Boardwalk Empire.”

The Short Course will also offer three new field trips: a daylong birding and nature walk at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, a new van trip to see and discuss the pygmy pine plains, and a van tour about life along the Wading River in the 1800’s.

Three tours on Stockton’s campus include bird identification, Stockton’s Forest Management Plan, and biodiversity hotspots on the university campus.

Other new courses for this year include: citizen-driven mosquito control, coastal flooding and the impact on Pinelands estuaries, rain gardens, an introduction to the Pine Barrens, teaching the Pinelands, the Batona Trail, rare Pinelands plants, native landscaping, forestry, “ghost” forests of the Mullica Valley, the impact of World War I on the Pinelands, pioneering cranberry and blueberry research at Whitesbog Village, Dr. James Still and 19<sup>th</sup> century American botanic medicine, the rise and fall of the cranberry industry at Double Trouble Village, virtual tours of the Mullica River and Great Egg Harbor watersheds, the changes along the shorelines and barrier islands that protect the eastern edge of the Pinelands.

This year’s event will also feature live musical performances by Denizen Pine and The Pitch Pines.

The day will also include popular presentations from the past, including the Jersey Devil and origins of New Jersey, Pinelands weather and climate variability, the lure of the Pinelands, the geological history of Pinelands rivers, forest management, birds in New Jersey, Pinelands frogs and toads, Pinelands moths and historical changes in the Pinelands.

Pinelands-themed food, coffee and other refreshments will be available for purchase at Stockton’s Campus Center.

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.

To request the brochure/registration form, please call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. The form is also available online and can be downloaded and printed from the Pinelands Commission’s Web site. The address is: [www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands).

To register online, go to: <https://www.stockton.edu/continuing-studies/conferences.html>

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 3 ...

**\*\*\* ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** Digital photos of previous Short Course presentations and images related to this year's Short Course topics, including the photo on the following page, can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300, ext. 124.



**Above:** John Bunnell, the Pinelands Commission Chief Scientist, will deliver a presentation on frogs and toads in the Pinelands during the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Pinelands Short Course. Photo/Paul Leakan

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