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For Immediate Release

36th annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 37 presentations

Daylong event to include 24 new, educational programs

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 8, 2025 – The 36th annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 37 presentations, including 24 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's main campus in Galloway Township, NJ, on March 8, 2025. The event is co-sponsored by the Pinelands Commission and Stockton University. **To register online and read the full course descriptions, please click [here](#).**

"From mosses to moths and birding to the Batona, this year's Pinelands Short Course boasts an extraordinary variety of programs," said Susan R. Grogan, the Commission's Executive Director. "These programs will go a long way toward heightening awareness and appreciation of the Pinelands and why the region is so special and worthy of protection."

"Stockton University is excited to host the 36th annual Pinelands Short Course, which showcases many of the amazing aspects of our home within the Pinelands National Reserve," said Michael Palladino, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Stockton. "Stockton faculty and staff will also share their expertise in several workshops, including Indigenous Survival in the Pinelands, Preserving the Pinelands' History and Birding in the Pinelands, where attendees will examine the university's ornithological specimens and then walk around Lake Fred to observe species in their natural habitat."

This year's Short Course includes the following new presentations: Inherited Generational Traumas (a panel discussion that includes Indigenous People with roots in Lenapehoking who grew up in the 90s and 00s experiencing the continued battle to reclaim their heritage that had

been on the brink of extinction); Pine Needle basketry for beginners (a hands-on workshop with materials supplied for making baskets from local flora); Drawing the Pinelands; Indigenous Survival in the Pinelands; Quenching New Jersey's Thirst: A Groundwater Mystery; Women's Experience in the American Revolution: Camp Followers to First Ladies; the Obscure and Beautiful World of Swamp Pink; Trees of the Pine Barrens; an Intro to Mosses; Sam Hunt of the Pinelands; Salty Hay from the Tidal Meadows; Cranberry Farm Lost and Found; Why Did New Jersey's 2024 Drought Happen?; NJ's Best Kept Secret: Biodiversity; Exploring Soils of the Pines (inside and outside); Native Plant Gardening in the Pine Barrens; Benthic Invertebrates of the Pinelands (inside and outside); Moths of Whitesbog; an Introduction to the Nature: Accessible for All Initiative; Preserving the Pinelands' History on Paper: Researching Stockton's Special Collections; Become a "Citizen Scientist" with the iNaturalist app (field trip); Community Science in the Watershed (field trip); Birding the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (field trip with transportation provided); and Anomalies of the Pines Van Tour (field trip with transportation provided).

The day will also include popular presentations from the past, including Raptors of the Pinelands (with live animals); Birding the Pinelands of Stockton University (inside and outside); Geological History of the Pine Barrens; No Wild Rivers in South Jersey: A Landscape Biography; Batsto's Sawmill: Preserving the Pine Barrens' Industrial Past; the People of Double Trouble Village; A Pinelands Road Trip; Seven Bridges Road: From Past to the Present; An Intro to the Hidden Kingdom of Fungi (with a special focus on Pine Barrens species); the Batona Trail; and Paddling in the Pines: An Overview of Kayaking and Canoeing in the NJ Pine Barrens.

The event will also feature live musical performances by Valerie Vaughn and Jackson Pines.

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.

***** ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** Digital photos of the Pinelands Short Course and the Pinelands can be obtained by contacting Paul Leakan at Info@pinelands.nj.gov, including the photos below.



Above: This year's Pinelands Short Course will include a new, guided field trip at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, including transportation to the site. An American coot is shown at Forsythe in the photo above.

Photo/Paul Leakan



Above: This year's Pinelands Short Course will include a new presentation on native plant gardening in the Pinelands. An American copper butterfly is shown sipping nectar from native Maryland goldenaster flowers in the photo above.

Photo/Paul Leakan



Above: This year's Pinelands Short Course will include a presentation on the 53-mile Batona Trail. Photo/Paul Leakan



Above: This year's Pinelands Short Course will include a new presentation on mosses. Photo/Paul Leakan

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