



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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21st annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 27 new educational presentations, including two all-day bus tours of the Pinelands

WHAT: 21st Annual Pinelands Short Course

WHEN: Saturday, March 20, 2010, 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. To receive a brochure by mail or to register by phone, please call (609) 893-1765 or (609) 893-1783.

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The 21st annual Pinelands Short Course will feature a record total of 43 presentations, including 27 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

"The Pinelands Short Course has educated thousands about this special part of New Jersey during the past 20 years, and this year's event features an exciting line-up of informative programs," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. "Attendance at the Short Course has soared to record heights during each of the past four years, including last year's record of 700 people. The remarkable turnout and interest provide a yearly reminder of how much people care and want to discover more about the Pinelands."

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College's Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies. To be held at Burlington County College's Pemberton Township campus on March 20, the program is open to all who are interested in learning about the Pinelands.

This year's event features four live musical performances, six field trips, two all-day bus tours and Pinelands art exhibits and demonstrations, including photography, decoy carving, woodworking, painting and basket-making.

The new courses include an all-day bus tour focusing on historic sites in the Pinelands, as well as courses on primitive survival techniques in the Pinelands, New Jersey's biodiversity, historic uses of Pinelands plants for medicine and other purposes, a photographic journey of preserved natural sites, birding, botany and canoeing in Gloucester County, bats, butterflies and moths, Pinelands pollinators, the value and characteristics of red and white cedar trees, the history of Brotherton and Shamong, cranberry culture and the business of farming, lesser known stories about Pinelands people, the effects of fire and disturbance on Pinelands soil, the impacts of land use changes on the natural environment, and a viewing and discussion of a new documentary that charts the history of the Central Railroad of New Jersey's most famous train: the Blue Comet.

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Two new programs are specifically geared for educators.

Four of the six field trips will be held at the historic Whitesbog Village in Pemberton, including an orienteering and "treasure hunt" and tours of Elizabeth White's house, gardens and original blueberry test fields, and a discussion of agricultural practices that were developed onsite. Additionally, there will be an orienteering field trip to Brendan T. Byrne State Forest and a field trip and walk at the North Pemberton Railroad Station Museum and Rail Trail.

The event also will feature popular courses from previous years, including a guided, all-day bus tour focusing on Pinelands ecology, and presentations on Pinelands birds, vultures, frogs and toads, fish, gardening for Pinelands wildlife, fungi, traditional Pinelands lifestyles, the history of Double Trouble State Park, lost and forgotten towns of the Pinelands and Lenape living.

Participants should register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections. There will be limited seating (48 people per **school bus**) on the two all-day bus tours, so early registration is crucial for those who are interested in those programs. **An early registration discount of \$5 is in effect until Feb. 19, 2010.**

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) 893-1765 or (609) 893-1783. The registration form also can be printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site. The address is: www.nj.gov/pinelands.



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

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Attendees at last year's Pinelands Short Course point toward a nesting bald eagle that they saw at the Franklin Parker Preserve in Burlington County during an all-day bus tour of the region.

Photo/Ed Wengrowski



Last year's Pinelands Short Course drew a record crowd of 700 people.

Photo/Paul Leakan