



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Pinelands Commission announces lineup for its third annual “Pinelands Speaker Series”

Free educational programs offered to the public at the Richard J. Sullivan Center

NEW LISBON, N.J. – Beginning in June, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission will host a series of **free** educational presentations on a variety of Pinelands topics at its headquarters in Pemberton Township.

The third annual “Pinelands Speaker Series” features three presentations: one that will provide a hands-on demonstration of how to survive in the Pinelands, including finding food and shelter, locating water and making fire, one that focuses on the lesser-known stories of the people in the Pinelands and their struggles and triumphs over adversity in protecting their way of life, and one that will uncover the secrets of Pinelands plants and their nutritional and medicinal uses. All of the programs will be held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education on 15 Springfield Road. Organized and sponsored by the Pinelands Commission, the “Pinelands Speaker Series” is an annual educational initiative that seeks to raise awareness and appreciation of the natural, cultural and historic resources of the million-acre Pinelands area in southern New Jersey.

“With our annual Pinelands Short Course and the presentations we provide to school districts, the Pinelands Commission has educated thousands of people in New Jersey about the treasures of the Pinelands this year alone,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. “The Pinelands Speaker Series will educate even more people about this unique region and the resources that are so vital to protect.”

The first presentation, "**Survival in the Pines,**" will describe how to make shelter from natural materials in the Pinelands and how to find and purify water. The program also will feature a demonstration on how to make a fire and find food in the Pinelands. It will be presented by **Simon Harrison**, program director of the Children of the Earth Foundation, a nonprofit organization created by notable author and tracker Tom Brown Jr., on **Thursday, June 18 at 2 p.m.**

The second presentation, "**Voices in the Pines,**" will recount the stories of the men and women who have toiled in the Pinelands, carving out occupations and raising families

(MORE)

Pinelands Commission press release

Page 2...

here. From true life tales of murder and mayhem to inspiring accounts of local Pinelands residents fighting to protect their way of life, this engaging presentation will detail the stories and lives of these incredible people. The program will be presented by author **Karen F. Riley**, who recently roamed the woods, rural communities and farms of the Pinelands in search of compelling stories for her new book. It will be held on **Thursday, July 16, at 2 p.m.**

The third presentation, "**Secrets of Pinelands Plants,**" will detail relationships and reproductive strategies of Pinelands plants, as well as their historical and contemporary uses for medicine and other purposes. The program will uncover interesting facts about native Pinelands plants, including one that was once thought to be a cure for smallpox and another that contains caffeine and can be used as a substitute for coffee. The presentation will be delivered by retired biology teacher **Millicent Moore** on **Thursday, August 20, at 2 p.m.**

Anyone interested in attending the presentations must pre-register by calling (609) 894-7300 or sending a message to info@njpines.state.nj.us. Seating will be limited to approximately 60 per program.

***** SPECIAL NOTE TO EDITORS:** Digital, high-resolution photos of the Pinelands are available for publication with this press release. Please contact Paul Leakan of the Pinelands Commission at (609) 894-7300 or info@njpines.state.nj.us to obtain the photos.

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