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

Educational programs offered to the public at the Richard J. Sullivan Center

NEW LISBON, N.J. – Beginning June 24, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission will host a series of educational presentations on a variety of Pinelands topics at its headquarters in Pemberton Township.

The fourth annual “Pinelands Speaker Series” features three presentations: one that includes a screening and discussion of "Flying with Emilio," a documentary about Captain Emilio Carranza, a Mexican aviator whose plane crashed in the Pinelands in 1928 and has left a lasting impression on the community, one that provides a hands-on demonstration of how to make and use rain barrels, and one that will focus on the benefits of planting native vegetation in the Pinelands.

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.

The first presentation, "Flying with Emilio," features a screening of a 47-minute documentary of Captain Emilio Carranza. Post Commander Lawrence A. Gladfelter, Post Chaplain Allan R. Danley Sr. and Bob Barney of the American Legion, Mount Holly Post 11 will discuss why the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to honor Carranza at the site of Carranza's plane crash in Tabernacle, Burlington County, each year. The presentation will be held on Thursday, June 24, at 2 p.m.

The second presentation features a hands-on workshop in which participants will make their own rain barrel and learn the benefits of using them. Rain barrels are placed under a gutter's downspout and collect about 55 gallons of rainwater that can be used to water gardens and help to reduce flooding and pollution. It will be presented by Mike Haberland, Environmental and Resource Management Agent with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington and Camden counties on Thursday, July 22, at 2 p.m. The cost for the program is $45, which includes materials to make a rain barrel.

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that participants will take home with them. The rain barrels are made of food grade, recycled plastic. Participants must make arrangements to transport their 55-gallon rain barrels home. The barrels are 34 inches tall and 25 inches wide and can be placed lying down in the backseat of most vehicles to be transported home.

The third presentation, "Living and Landscaping in New Jersey's Pinelands," will detail the benefits of using native plants in the home landscape. It will be presented by David Kutner, Director of Special Programs for the Pinelands Commission, on Thursday, August 26, at 2 p.m.  
** (Please note this program was originally scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2010)

Anyone interested in attending the presentations must pre-register by calling (609) 894-7300 or sending a message to info@njpines.state.nj.us.

Those participating in the rain barrel workshop must bring a $45 check made out to the Board of Agriculture. Participation in the rain barrel presentation will be limited to 20 people. Seating for "Flying with Emilio" and "Living and Landscaping in New Jersey's Pinelands" will be limited to 60.

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