



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

January 2, 2008

Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: info@njpines.state.nj.us

Twenty new presentations to highlight 19th Annual Pinelands Short Course *Early registration discounts are now available for popular educational event*

WHAT: 19th Annual Pinelands Short Course

WHEN: Saturday, March 1, 2008, 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, call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. To register by phone, call (609) 894-9311, ext. 1382 or (856) 222-9311.

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The 19th annual Pinelands Short Course will feature a record total of 30 presentations, including 20 new programs and numerous popular topics from the past.

“Attendance at the Short Course soared to record heights last year, and there’s clearly tremendous interest in learning about the Pinelands,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. “This year’s Short Course will provide another opportunity for participants to expand their knowledge of this remarkable area of New Jersey.”

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College (BCC), which has hosted the event for the past four years. To be held at BCC’s Pemberton Township campus on March 1, the program is open to all who are interested in learning about the Pinelands. Participants are encouraged to register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections. An early registration discount of \$5 is in effect until Feb. 1, 2008.

Last year’s event drew a record crowd of 450 people, so early registration is highly recommended.

New course topics for this year include Pinelands storytelling; the Eastern Coyote of New Jersey; disturbance, fire effects and rare species: lessons from the Warren Grove Gunnery Range; Pinelands forestry; Pinelands orchids and wildflowers, maritime forest; birding, botany and canoeing in Atlantic County; the first temporary housing at Whitesbog

(MORE)

Pinelands Press Release

Page 2...

Village; an archaeological reconstruction of a rediscovered village called Florence; the earliest years of the blueberry industry; basketry; seasonal occupations; Lenape living in the Pinelands; hiking; creating backyard habitat for butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife; two presentations with live snakes; forest fire safety; and two programs with live Pinelands music.

Among other activities, participants in these new programs will have an opportunity to hold or observe several species of live snakes, build miniature houses as found in the historic Whitesbog Village, and learn tips on how to use materials found in the Pinelands to create baskets.

The two new music programs will feature live performances by Valerie Vaughn, a musician and educator from Tuckerton, and Jim Murphy, who is the first and only New Jersey artist to be inducted into America's Old-time Country Music Hall of Fame.

The presentation on Pinelands curriculum will help science and social studies teachers use Pinelands settings and themes to teach broader topics in biology, ecology, chemistry, earth science, history and social studies.

In addition to the new programs, popular presentations from the past will be offered during this year's Short Course. These include the Pinelands overview, native Pinelands fish, frogs and toads, a look at the Central Railroad that ran through the Pinelands, long-distance migratory songbirds, the Cedar Bridge Tavern, Pinelands curriculum, and two guided field trips. The two field trips -- one at Whitesbog Village in Pemberton Township and the other at the 9,400-acre Franklin Parker Preserve in nearby Woodland Township -- will enable participants to tour two natural and historic jewels in the Pinelands. Participants in the two field trips are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes and to be prepared for hiking outdoors.

The Pinelands Short Course is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits will be available to New Jersey teachers who attend. Discounted registration fees are offered to senior citizens and students. The Short Course brochure includes complete, detailed descriptions of every program and presenter.

To request a brochure/registration form or for more information, please contact the Pinelands Commission at (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. The brochure and registration form can also be printed from the Commission's Web site. The address is: www.nj.gov/pinelands.

#####