

The PINELANDER



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Commission breaks ground on new Center

Commissioners, friends, community members and staff gathered at the Pinelands Commission's offices on November 9 to open a new era on environmental protection in the Pinelands with the groundbreaking of the long-awaited 12,000 square-foot Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education.

The building, which will be located adjacent to the historic Fenwick Manor farmstead where Commission offices are now located, has been designed to blend with its natural surroundings and to complement the rustic appeal of Fenwick Manor. New Jersey artists will produce wonderful scenes in the Center's interior, evoking the natural beauty of this landscape.

The Center is named for former Commission Chairman Richard J. Sullivan, who served in that capacity for ten years, from 1988 to 1998. Mr. Sullivan was this state's first Commissioner of Environmental Protection and also served as president of The Fund for New Jersey for more than 12 years, where he continues to serve as a trustee. The Fund for New Jersey is a major contributor to the Center. The Fund's



From left to right: Commissioners Jay Mounier and Ted Gordon, Executive Director Annette M. Barbaccia, Commissioner Leslie Ficcaglia, Commission Chairman Jerrold Jacobs, DEP Commissioner Robert Shinn, Honoree Richard Sullivan, Commissioner Charles Pritchard, Fund For New Jersey Executive Director Mark Murphy, and Commissioners Norman Tomasello and Linda Eckenhoff.

gift of more than \$600,000 was made to honor Richard Sullivan for his years of service to the organization and to the state, where his legacy of government and philanthropic service extends across New Jersey.

The Center will house a library stocked with books, maps and articles about the Pinelands, and it will include a technology lab linked to the Internet. These tools will benefit students, policymakers, planners and residents as they explore the unique land-management techniques employed in the Reserve.

The Center will also house a lecture hall, which will allow the full Commission to meet for the first time in its own offices for regular Commission meetings, as well as meeting rooms for conferences and small classes.

Septic Committee hears consultant

The Ad Hoc Committee on Alternative Septic Systems has met regularly to discuss preliminary results from several key initiatives undertaken during the past few months. Committee members recently heard a presentation from Dr. Anish Jantrania, a consultant hired by the Commission to conduct a technical performance review of selected alternative on-site systems.

Dr. Jantrania concluded that four of the five systems studied appear capable of meeting the Pinelands stringent nitrate standard on 1-acre

Ad-Hoc Septic continued on Page 5

Stockton College to host annual Short Course

The crowd-pleasing Pinelands Short Course has moved closer to its roots and will be hosted this year by The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. In addition to perennial favorites, new courses will include *Rural Industrial Heritage of the Pinelands*, *Creating Pinelands Lesson Plans*, *Writing in the Pines*,

and Energy Saving Technologies for the Homeowner.

The pre-registration fee for this all-day event is \$35 for adults, \$25 for senior citizens (over 65), and students are \$15. Participants may register the day of the event for an additional \$5 fee. Lunch is also available for \$7.50.

Also new this year, the Short Course will offer several field trips.

These outings will likely fill up fast, so get your registration in early.

Course brochures and registration forms may be obtained by writing or calling Stockton College, Office of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, P. O. Box 195, Pomona, NJ 08240-0195 (609-652-4546), or the Pinelands Commission, P. O. Box 7, New Lisbon, NJ 08064 (609-894-7300).

12th Annual Short Course
 Saturday, March 3
 9am-3:30pm
 Richard Stockton College
 of New Jersey
 Pomona, NJ

Call 609-652-4546
 or 609-894-7300
 for further information



The class at the Pleasant Mills School poses in front of the schoolhouse in 1909 with head teacher Tillie Grams.

Photo courtesy of the Theda Ashton collection.

Commission gets grant to develop Mullica Watershed Management Plan

The Pinelands Commission has entered into an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to manage the watershed planning process for the Mullica River Basin, known as Watershed Management Area 14.

In a contract signing held at Batsto Village in Burlington County on Sept. 14, DEP Commissioner Robert Shinn, Executive Director Annette M. Barbaccia, and Chairman Jerrold Jacobs signed an initial two-year contract agreement for \$300,000, with the expected addition of two more years for a total of \$600,000 in grant funding.

The Commission's watershed planning process will include five

main components:

1. Educating the public with outreach projects;
2. Consulting with all stakeholders, from the federal government to local officials and public-interest organizations;
3. Reviewing the Comprehensive Management Plan's vision for the watershed, including water quality targets for Pinelands waters;
4. Identifying programs to improve water quality (including finding funding sources to address necessary projects and coordinating acquisition efforts of critical lands);
5. Establishing a water budget to track exactly what happens to rainfall in the watershed.

-See related story on the Mullica Watershed Planning Project, Page 4



Pinelands Executive Director Annette M. Barbaccia and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert Shinn sign the initial two-year agreement.

The Pinelands Commission is a natural choice to lead this study since the watershed lies almost entirely within the Pinelands National Reserve's core Preservation Area.



Budget increase to fund Commission initiatives

The Governor's Office is recommending an increase of approximately \$1.5 million or 56% in the Commission's budget for Fiscal Year 2002. The increase - from \$2.6 million to \$4.13 million - includes an \$800,000 Information Technology Initiative.

Other budget increases include funding for microfilming records, structural improvements to the Commission's current offices at historic Fenwick Manor, and operation and maintenance of the Richard J. Sullivan Center, currently under construction.

Executive Director Annette M. Barbaccia sought and secured the funds through several initiatives submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for the purpose of streamlining operations for the benefit of the Commission's numerous constituencies.

The fully funded Information Technology Initiative will allow the Commission to convert the current DOS-based application tracking software to a system that will link development applications, GIS data, word processing and the Internet.

The Commission's goal is to reduce processing time for development applications, enhance assistance to the public, and to work more closely and efficiently with Pinelands municipalities on developing streamlined procedures.

The initiative to fund the operation of the Richard J. Sullivan Center will ensure that the new facility is able to provide the level of services required to deliver educational and interpretative experiences to the public.

These funds must still be approved by the state Legislature.

Retreat forum helps chart agency's direction

Commissioners and staff recently conducted their first Strategic Planning Retreat of 2001 at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton where they discussed goals and objectives for the upcoming year and began preparations for the five-year review of the Comprehensive Management Plan.

The Commissioners considered a wide range of issues at the Jan. 26-27 Retreat, focusing on natural resource issues, land use and development concerns, and strengthening partnerships.

Professional facilitator Kathy Stanwick of the firm New Possibility Partners led the Commissioners in their deliberations. Ms. Stanwick is preparing a report which will soon be made available to the public.

Subsequent Retreats will set out the "next step" processes necessary to implement the goals and strategies laid out by the Commissioners.

The Retreat proved a positive aid for fostering communication

among the Commissioners and for defining a common vision for the region. That vision includes fostering compatible economic development, protecting water quality and supply, and acquiring additional public lands.

'These intriguing Pine Barrens are not desolate stretches of sand and swamp. they are still alive with the love of a people who have made it their home for over three hundred years.'

Budd Wilson
Author, *Heart of the Pines*

New Gloucester rep joins Commission

Richard Westergaard is an experienced planner

Mr. Richard Westergaard is the new appointee for Gloucester County, replacing Michael Ontko who resigned this fall. Mr. Westergaard is the Principal Planner for the Gloucester County Public Works Department, Planning Division, and he has worked as a planner with Gloucester County since 1981.

As the project manager for numerous watershed projects and studies of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, Mr. Westergaard is extremely knowledgeable in the areas of water quality, pollution, environmental protection and sound land-use planning. He holds a master's degree in environmental science from Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota, and a bachelor's degree, also in environmental science, from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Mullica Watershed Planning Project gets underway



Charles 'Charlie' Cavilier views the Mullica River near the Lower Bank Bridge in this vintage picture. Courtesy of the William Augustine Collection, Alexander Library, Rutgers University.

The Mullica Watershed Planning Project will kick off soon with its first public meeting tentatively scheduled for late March. This meeting will provide a general characterization of the Mullica Watershed and an overview of the planning project. South Jersey residents and other interested parties will be invited to share their opinions and concerns about the future of the Mullica Watershed.

The Commission is also contacting representatives from key stakeholder groups to serve on a Steering Committee. Committee members will represent a wide variety of interests and perspectives and will help focus the overall watershed plan and the development of technical focus initiatives.

The Commission has hired

Dave Golden, a PhD candidate in zoology and a former instructor at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, as its full time Watershed Coordinator.

Twenty-three municipalities in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties lie at least partially within the watershed. The continued health of the watershed is particularly important to the flora and fauna of the Pinelands, the water-dependent cranberry and blueberry industries, and the shellfish and recreation industries of the Great Bay, as well as for the more than 85,000 people who live in this fragile area.

Look for the new Mullica Watershed web page and contact Dave Golden at 609-894-9311 x6580 to fine out more.

An educated moment:

Early settlers made iron in the Pines

By Dr. Barry Brady, Commission Archaeologist

A full quarter century before the Industrial Revolution began in this country, a thriving iron industry had been established in remote sections of what is today the million acre New Jersey Pinelands, our country's first National Reserve. Thousands of colonial Americans worked day and night at some 30-odd forge and furnace sites spread out along the major rivers of South Jersey.

Iron production flourished in so unlikely an area as the Pine Barrens because iron-rich water from streams and bogs provided the raw material, vast forests for charcoal-making offered the fuel, and piles of clam and oyster shells from nearby shore areas contained the lime necessary in the traditional iron-making process. The occurrence of these unique natural resources proved crucial for the

colonists who needed iron for ammunition and armaments in the Revolutionary War.

But how did they get iron from water? Bog iron derives from ferric oxides that occur in the iron-rich clays underlying much of New Jersey's Outer Coastal Plan. Waters laden with organic acids from decaying vegetation percolate down to these layers, leaching out the soluble iron and carrying it to the surface. Deposited along river banks and in swamps, this iron ore was mined and smelted for a full century from the 1760s to the 1860s.

The fuel used to stoke the brick and stone furnaces at places like Martha, Weymouth, and Atsion was charcoal, which burned slowly with just the right intensity. Colliers made the charcoal in smoky mounds of sand and turf using large amounts of the native pine from vast Pinelands forests.



Sanctuary settlement protects 1200 acres

The Pinelands Commission approved a settlement on Nov. 3 between itself, the state Department of Environmental Protection, Evesham Township and developer Iva Samost to permanently protect more than 1,200 acres of critical habitat for several threatened and endangered species including timber rattlesnakes, Pine Barrens tree frogs, swamp pink (a federally threatened species), Barrett's sedge, southern twayblade, northern pine snakes and red-headed woodpeckers.

The settlement was in response to litigation initiated against the Commission after timber rattlesnakes were discovered two years ago on the site of the Sanctuary development in Evesham Township, Burlington County. One-hundred

and three homes had already been built when the Pinelands Commission halted the development of a further 197 homes until the issue of the rattlesnakes could be studied and resolved.

Under this settlement, the developer will sell more than 1,200 acres of Pinelands habitat to the State of New Jersey and Evesham Township, including environmentally sensitive lands within the Sanctuary development. This acquisition will create a protection corridor for the snakes extending from Wharton State Forest in Medford Township to the Sanctuary development.

Development will continue at the Sanctuary site, although 53 fewer homes will be built than originally planned.

Ad-Hoc Septic *from Page 1*

lots, and she recommended a 3-year monitoring program to ensure long-term effectiveness. Committee members are examining the results of a survey of the manufacturers of the alternative systems under consideration on other design, opera-

tional, cost, and maintenance issues.

The Committee is currently considering strategies for an interim wastewater management program, including the overall structure, approval and use of alternative technologies.

Officials Orientation

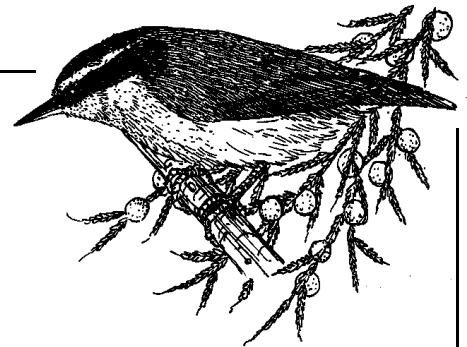
The Pinelands Commission has partnered again with the Pinelands Municipal Council to provide a Pinelands Orientation for newly elected and appointed municipal officials.

This Feb. 24 event in Hamilton Township hosted dozens of officials eager to learn how best to partner with the Commission.

Topics included intergovernmental relationships, master plans and zoning ordinances, and development permitting.

PDC program update

Two open houses were held in November for landowners interested in participating in the Pinelands Development Credit Program. An amendment to the Comprehensive Management Plan to raise the price of PDCs under the State Special Purchase buying program has been approved by the Commission. This higher price will more accurately reflect market levels.



Staff Spotlight

Fred Seeber records his original acoustic rock and folk music in his home studio. **Rhonda Horner** is a landscape photographer and has had several prints accepted into photo shows. During the summer she spends as much free time as possible sailing on Barnegat Bay. **Larry Liggett** recently took 30 students and community members to Egypt on a Burlington County College trip in January. He is currently learn-

ing Spanish for further travels in Latin America. **Kevin Sullivan**, an avid outdoorsman, is an environmental commissioner in Shrewsbury Borough, Monmouth County.

Welcome new employees:

Ron Cosnoski
Maintenance Custodian
Nicholas Procopio
Research Scientist

Jason Shvanda
Research Technician
Richard Federman
Resource Planner
Fredrick Seeber
Environmental Specialist
David Golden
Resource Planner

Pinelands Commission news

LPU program update

The Limited Practical Use program has completed Round 16. More than 850 acres have been purchased by the state and permanently protected from development.

Berlin well monitoring

The Commission is closely following the ongoing effort by the DEP to monitor the effects of a municipal well in Berlin Borough, Camden County, which may be adversely affecting groundwater levels.

CMP Amendments

Several amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive

Management Plan have been approved by the Commission. The amendments implement three principal objectives: first, responding to a request from the United States Secretary of the Interior concerning amendments and modifications to the CMP; second, revising the purchase price for Pinelands Development Credits under the State's Special Purchase Program; and third, reflecting recently passed legislation relating to aquaculture and the reconstruction of certain single family dwellings within the Pinelands Area.



Pinelands officials join Commission staff as they prepare to board a bus to map out the prospective route of a scenic byway through the Pinelands National Reserve. The mayors are forming a committee to seek a byway designation from the Department of Transportation. The Pinelands Commission is lending its support. Can you identify those pictured here?

Answers: Front row (left to right): Al Knoll, Administrator, Dennis Township; Linda Costello, Deputy Clerk, Maurice River Township; Jody Loen, Zoning Officer, Galloway Township; Cindy Bloom-Cronin, NJDOT; Liz Moritz, Mayor, Tuckerton Borough. Back row (left to right): Tom Palmentieri, Committeeman, Hamilton Township; Rich Bethea, Mayor, Bass River Township; Bill Pikolycky, Mayor, Woodbine Borough; John Stokes, Assistant Director, Pinelands Commission; Dave Byers, NJDOT; Rich Federman, Pinelands Commission; Gene Kobryn, Little Egg Harbor Township



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