



New Jersey Pinelands Commission
PRESS RELEASE

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Pinelands Habitats: Home, Sweet Home—A Professional Development Workshop

NEW LISBON, NJ - Tuesday, August 12, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m., the Pinelands Commission will join with the New Jersey Geographic Alliance, the Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies (P.I.N.E.S.) of Burlington County College, and the Whitesbog Preservation Trust in presenting a day-long series of workshops based on this year's National Geographic geography action theme, "Habitats: Home Sweet Home."

This event will be held at Whitesbog Village, in Pemberton Township, Burlington County, a site rich in cranberry and blueberry agricultural history. New Jersey's Pinelands will serve as the backdrop for lessons that examine the natural and cultural resources of the region, as well as the interaction between the two. The Workshop will be especially useful for teachers, scout leaders, home school leaders, environmental educators, docents, interpreters and friends of Pinelands-related education. Teachers will receive 7 hours of New Jersey Professional Development credit.

Deborah Mongiardo, a workshop organizer, enrichment teacher employed by Gloucester County's Washington Township School District and state representative to this year's National Geographic Summer Workshop, believes this year's national theme, "National Geographic Geography Action! Habitats: Home Sweet Home," is "tailor made for our diverse state."

Workshop presenters and their topics for this August 12 event will include Mike Bisignano of the Nature Conservancy speaking about the use of pine barrens habitats by migrating birds and the region's connection to far away places; Terry O'Leary of the Forest Resource Education Center discussing the spatial relationships of fire communities and Pinelands plants; Maria Peter of P.I.N.E.S.-Burlington County College leading a field trip into nearby cranberry bogs to explore local soil, water, and plants and their relationship to the historic settlement of Whitesbog; Betsy Carpenter of the Pinelands Commission demonstrating the use of maps to enhance geography lessons; and Debbie Mongiardo of the New Jersey Geographic Alliance discussing activities and literature that will bring the day's lessons alive in the classroom.

Individual registration fee for this event is \$12.00. Checks should be made payable to B.C.C. (Burlington County College). Capped at 40 participants, registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or a registration form, contact Maria Peter, P.I.N.E.S.—Burlington County College, 120-13 Whitesbog Road, Browns Mills, NJ 08015 or call 609-893-1765.

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