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For Immediate Release

31st annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 42 presentations *Event to emphasize programs on climate change and sustainability*

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 13, 2020 – The 31st annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 42 presentations, including 21 new programs, that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

Registration is now open for the daylong event, which will be held at Stockton University in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, on March 14, 2020.

“The Pinelands Short Course workshops teach participants about the past, present and future of this unique natural resource,” said Stockton University president Harvey Kesselman. “We are proud to co-sponsor the event on our 1,600-acre campus located in the Pinelands National Reserve.”

“We are excited about this year's diverse lineup of presentations, which will inform and inspire the public about the Pinelands and the collaborative efforts to protect it,” said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director. “This year, we have added programs about climate change, an issue of great concern to the Commission.”

This year's Short Course includes seven presentations related to climate change, including Pinelands weather and climate: past, present and future, the effects of climate change on amphibians in New Jersey, preparing for climate change through municipal participation, climate change and its effect on the Pinelands water cycle, sustaining water supplies for the future, combating climate change in the residential landscape, and Pinelands weather and how it affects the state's microclimate.

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Aside from the climate-related courses, the event will feature numerous new programs, including presentations on the role of colonial privateers in the Pinelands, newly digitized photos taken by Elizabeth White, a field trip to see measures that are being undertaken to protect wildlife along the Atlantic City Expressway, birdwatching at the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, rare snakes, sustainable landscaping for butterflies, the role of African-Americans in the creation of Atlantic City, a Pinelands road trip, unique names in the Pinelands, moths of the Atlantic Coastal Plan, ecological forestry, fungi and lichens, tips for paddling and camping at Wharton State Forest, and a discussion on the impact of John McPhee's 1967 book, "The Pine Barrens."

The day will also include popular presentations from the past, including the latest research on how blueberries and cranberries can promote better health, insect-eating pitcher plants, a comparison between the New Jersey Pinelands and Long Island Pine Barrens, a tale of two cedars (Eastern red and Atlantic white), ticks and Lyme disease, fire and its effects on insects, the natural, underwater history of the Mullica Valley, Pinelands frogs and toads, a Pinelands introduction, the Batona Trail, Pinelands rivers, Pinelands plants and the historic Cedar Bridge Tavern.

The event will also feature a live musical performance by Denizen Pine.

Participants should register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections. The Pinelands Short Course is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend. Discounted registration fees are offered to senior citizens and students. The Short Course brochure and [registration form](#) includes complete, detailed descriptions of every program.

To request the brochure/registration form, please call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. The form is also available online and can be downloaded and printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site. The address is: www.nj.gov/pinelands.

To register online, go to: <https://www.stockton.edu/continuing-studies/conferences.html>

***** ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** Digital photos of previous Short Course presentations and images related to this year's Short Course topics, including the photos on the following page, can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300, ext. 124.

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Above: The Pinelands Short Course has educated thousands of people during the past three decades. More than 500 people attended last year's event. Photo/Paul Leakan



Above: Marilyn Sobel, a Research Scientist with the Pinelands Commission, will discuss rare and unusual plants in the Pinelands during the 31st annual Pinelands Short Course. Photo/Paul Leakan

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