



## Contact:

Paul Leakan, NJ Pinelands Commission  
Phone: (609) 894-7300, ext. 124  
E-mail: [info@njpines.state.nj.us](mailto:info@njpines.state.nj.us)

Maryjane Briant – News & Media Relations  
Stockton University  
Phone: (609) 652-4593  
E-mail: [MaryJane.Briant@stockton.edu](mailto:MaryJane.Briant@stockton.edu)

## For Immediate Release

### **Pinelands Short Course to feature 32 educational presentations** *27<sup>th</sup> annual event to be held on March 12, 2016*

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 19, 2016 – The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 32 presentations, including 18 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 12, 2016. Stockton is hosting the Short Course for the third straight year. Attendance has grown during the past two years, so participants are encouraged to register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections.

"Each year, the Pinelands Short Course attracts hundreds of Pinelands enthusiasts who learn about and share their passion for the Pinelands," said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director. "This year's event will once again heighten awareness about the region's tremendous and unique resources."

"Stockton University is very pleased to host the Pinelands Short Course, which brings together members of the community, students, faculty and staff to teach and learn about southern New Jersey's Pinelands history, culture and environment," said President Harvey Kesselman. "The course takes full advantage of our campus' unique location in the Pinelands National Reserve to engage learners of all ages."

For the second straight year, the Short Course will offer a family-friendly track of courses aimed at instilling a sense of stewardship among younger people. The track includes presentations that are designed to appeal to current or future Pinelands enthusiasts, starting from middle school and older. Parents, grandparents, chaperones and students will sign up for the same courses together.

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 2 ...

The 18 new courses include the following: the Wild Turkey and its Reintroduction, the Suburbanization of the Jersey Devil, the Soldiers and Seductress Who Helped Facilitate Washington's Christmas Victory in Trenton in 1776, a new Pine Barrens film, Butterflies and Caterpillars of the Pinelands (family-friendly), Monitoring Ospreys (family-friendly), the Spring Bird Migration, Soil Health Improvement, a Pinelands Overview (family-friendly), Wharton State Forest, Birding in Atlantic County, Sustainable Forest Management, Moths of New Jersey (family-friendly), the Centennial of the Highbush Blueberry, the History of the former Coast Guard Station 119, a Photographic Exploration of the Pinelands, Ecological Forest Management and a performance by the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society.

The event will also feature numerous popular presentations from the past, including Pinelands Frogs and Toads (family-friendly), Raptors of New Jersey (with live raptors; family-friendly), the Pinelands Jetport, Pinelands Weather, Lure of the Pine Barrens, Stream Water Quality and Aquatic Communities, Exploring the Mullica River, the Pygmy Forest, Pinelands Lichens, Sea Creatures with Amazing Features (family-friendly), Ghost Towns of the Pine Barrens, Birding the Pinelands at Stockton University and a performance by the Thomas Wesley Stern Band.

Pinelands-themed food, coffee and other refreshments will be available for purchase at Stockton's Campus Center.

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](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands).

To register online, go to: <http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=107&pageID=470>

#####

**\*\*\* 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 pages, can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300, ext. 124.

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 3 ...

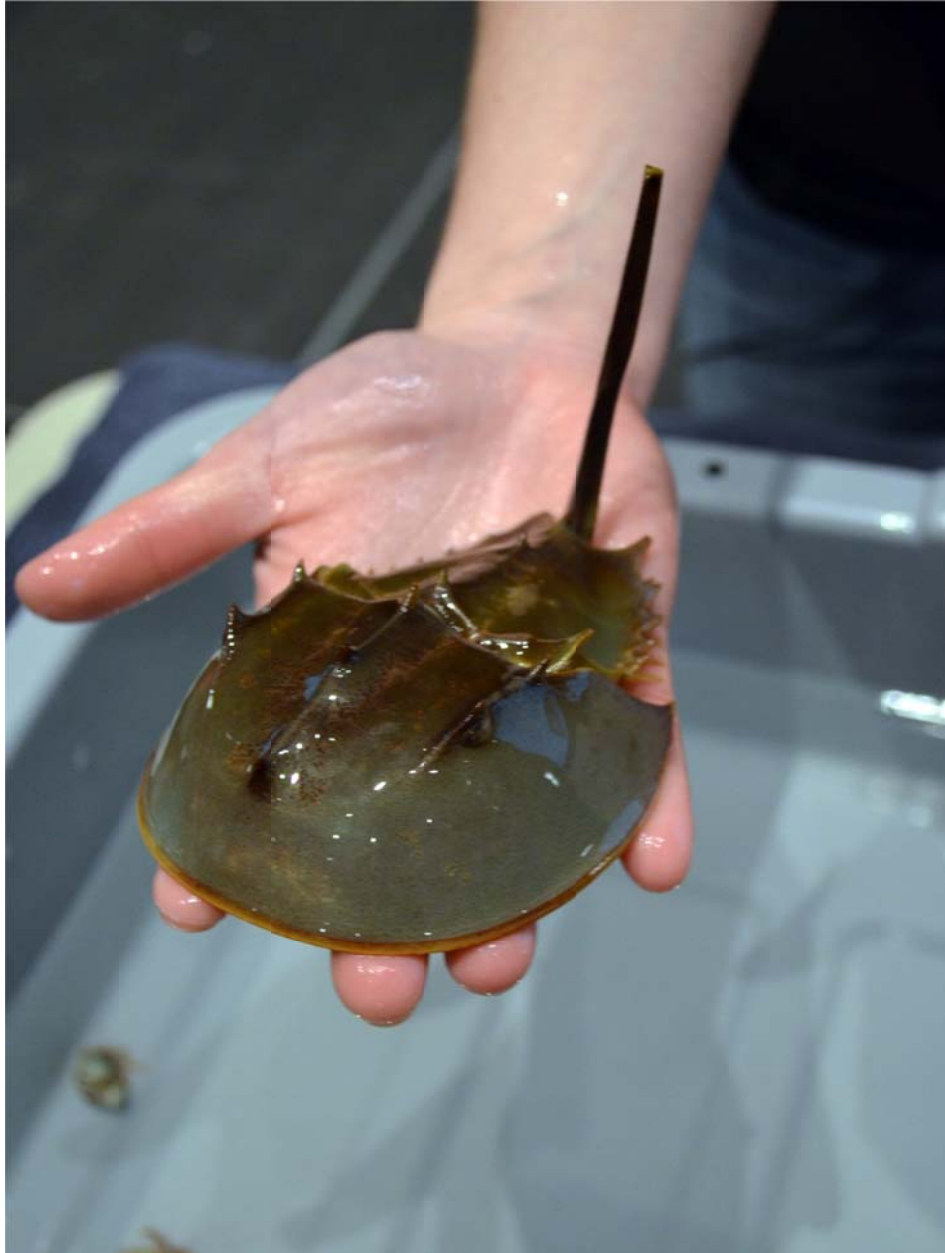


**John D. Rokita, the Principal Lab Technician at Stockton University's Animal Lab and Collection Facilities, delivered a presentation about Pinelands bird species during last year's Pinelands Short Course. The presentation will be offered once again at this year's Short Course.** Photo/Paul Leakan

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 4 ...



Participants in last year's Short Course had an opportunity to learn about and hold live sea creatures, including this horseshoe crab. The presentation will be offered once again at this year's Short Course. Photo/Paul Leakan

####