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For Immediate Release

30th annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 36 educational presentations

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 17, 2019 – The 30th annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 36 presentations, including 23 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 9, 2019. Last year's event attracted more than 600 people.

"Even after educating thousands during the past thirty years, interest in the Short Course continues to grow," said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director. "It's encouraging to see enrollment climb year after year, and we look forward to educating thousands more in the years to come."

To acknowledge the event's 30th anniversary, attendees are invited to a special post-event celebration.

"Every year Stockton students, faculty, and staff enjoy and learn from our 1,600-acre campus in the Pinelands National Reserve," Stockton President Harvey Kesselman said. "As stewards of this land, we are pleased to host the Pinelands Short Course and welcome the public to share our appreciation of and expertise about this unique New Jersey resource."

New programs include a tale of two Pine Barrens (comparing and contrasting the Pine Barrens in New Jersey and Long Island), as well as a program highlighting the ecology of native timber rattlesnakes (featuring a live rattlesnake housed in a secure tank).

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Other new programs include presentations on the Cedar Bridge Tavern restoration project, the historic Head of the River Cemetery in Estell Manor City, a local history of Tuckerton Borough, moth-watching in all four seasons, ospreys, the latest research on the health benefits of blueberries and cranberries, the underwater natural history of the Mullica Valley, attracting birds to the Pinelands landscape, the Nacote Creek Watershed, the last of the Ocean County cranberry growers, the link between fire and insects, Pinelands forests, the Moore's Meadow family farm, birds in the Pinelands, weather in the Pinelands (presented by a meteorologist from the Press of Atlantic City), Whitesbog Village, ticks, and a new GIS web tool that can be used to monitor New Jersey's forest resources and climate change.

Four field trips will include a new guided hike of the Stockton campus, a van trip to see and discuss the pygmy pine plains, a guided walk to see Stockton's ecologically-based forest management efforts, and a van tour about life along the Wading River in the 1800's.

The day will also include popular presentations from the past, including the lure of the Pinelands, Pinelands frogs and toads, a Pinelands introduction, the Batona Trail, a trip down the Mullica River, forestry, Pinelands rivers, Pinelands plants, geology, and animals and plants that emit UV-fluorescence.

The event will also feature live musical performances by Denizen Pine and Gabriel Coia.

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: Marilyn Sobel, a Research Scientist with the Pinelands Commission, delivers a presentation on Pinelands plants during last year's Short Course. The course will be offered during this year's event. Photo/Paul Leakan



Above: Denizen Pine, an instrumental music trio, will perform at the 30th annual Pinelands Short Course. Photo/Paul Leakan



Above: During last year's Short Course, naturalist Ann-Marie Woods displayed some of the moths that can be found in the Pinelands. She will deliver a new presentation on moths at this year's event.

Photo/Susan Allen

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