



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: info@njpines.state.nj.us

Twenty-fourth annual Pinelands Short Course to feature 33 educational presentations

WHAT: 24th Annual Pinelands Short Course

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Burlington County College, Route 530, Pemberton Township, NJ.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Registration brochures can be printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site at www.nj.gov/pinelands.

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The 24th annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 33 presentations, including 18 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

“The Commission is proud to present this outstanding lineup of educational programs,” said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission's Executive Director. “Each year, this event raises awareness and appreciation of this special part of New Jersey.”

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College's (BCC) Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies. The program will be held on March 23 at Burlington County College's Pemberton Township campus. It is open to all who are interested in learning about the Pinelands. Last year's event attracted more than 600 people.

This year's event includes two live musical performances and four field trips, including a guided canoe tour along a 3.3-mile section of the Rancocas Creek.

The new courses include a presentation with live hawks, owls and falcons, as well as programs on container gardening with carnivorous plants, the Pinelands and its role in the Revolutionary War, roadsides and rare plants, conservation issues in the Pinelands, preserving land to protect bog turtles, Barnegat Bay shellfish, cranberries, the Invasive Species Strike Team, estuaries and the Pine Barrens, pathogens in New Jersey amphibians, Eastern fence lizards, Island Beach State Park, an ecotour of the Great Bay Boulevard Peninsula, the wetlands environment, orienteering, capturing the beauty of the

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Pinelands through photography and a hike of the Dot and Brooks Evert Trail in the Franklin Parker Preserve.

The event also will feature popular courses from previous years, including a discussion about New Jersey's biodiversity and presentations on Pinelands frogs, toads and fish, current research on the Northern Pine Snake, the secret world of plants and pollinators, forest modeling, a pictorial journey of the Pine Barrens, early advocates of the Pinelands, wilderness survival, Double Trouble State Park and Whitesbog Village Living History.

Canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided for participants who register for the Rancocas Creek canoe tour. Participants should have some canoeing experience, and **registration will be limited.**

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 and presenter.

To request an event brochure/registration form or for more information, please call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. The registration form also can be printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site. The address is: www.nj.gov/pinelands.



*** **ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** Digital photographs of last year's Pinelands Short Course, including the one on the preceding page, can be obtained by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300, ext. 124.

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Above: The Bad Dogz will perform during the 24th annual Pinelands Short Course.
Photo/Paul Leakan

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