The Pinelands Commission has begun its fourth review of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the map and body of rules which controls development in the Pinelands. The CMP is the foundation of the Pinelands protection effort, so the public needs to make sure the Commission uses this review to improve, and not to weaken, the CMP.

This review is required by the Pinelands Protection Act, which says the Commission is to review the CMP every five years. Previous reviews have only taken place in 1983, 1992 and 2002.

What will the Commission do during this review? That question is still up in the air, as the Commissioners and the Commission staff are still deciding which parts of the CMP they will focus on trying to change. As part of that process, the Commission is holding public meetings where members of the public can provide their views on how the CMP should be improved. (See below)

PPA will be making the following recommendations. We think these are all important changes, so they are not in an order of priority. For more details on these proposals and ongoing reports, please see PPA’s website at www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/hotissues/planning/planreviewprocess/

1. Black Run Watershed protection in Evesham. The CMP should be amended to prevent intensive development in the headwaters of this pristine watershed at the edge of the Pinelands.

2. Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) changes. The rules for PDC use should be changed to provide a financial incentive for more efficient use of land in the Regional Growth Areas, which are slated to absorb the demand for housing and business development.

3. Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer protection. The CMP should only permit new or increased
PPA Programs in October: History, Activism, Photography

Wednesday, October 10
Our Forest Heritage: Pine-Belt Employments (Pinelands Heritage Series)

Description: This program provides a natural science-based overview of man’s use of Pinelands forest resources. For over 400-years, this great wilderness provided the raw materials needed for America’s rapid industrialization. Vast stands of Atlantic whitecedar were over-exploited to sheath growing cities. Before fossil fuels, carbon stores were tied up in tree stock. Pines and oaks were coal mines, which provided the combustibles needed to support local manufacture. Pines were oil wells, tapped for their petroleum-like gum turpentine that furnished naval stores for shipyards, and other gum by-products. Additional tree-based goods included lumber, medicines, and other more unusual output like tassels, bird-lime, and hooppoles.

Speaker: Mark Demitroff is a PhD Geography student at the University of Delaware, and a native to the Pine Barrens. He is by trade a tree expert and geomorphologist, and loves to revel in local history with his colleagues at the West Jersey Historical Round Table.

Cost: $10

Thursday, October 15
Pinelands: A Visual Journey (Pinelands Lecture Series)

Description: An exciting visual journey through the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve as seen through the eyes of fine art landscape photographer Albert D. Horner. Attendees will experience Pinelands scenes that at are rarely viewed by most visitors.

Cost: $10

Thursday, October 18
Water Supply: Your Right to Know! (Pinelands Workshop)

Description: It is your right to know how water is being used in your community and where it comes from. Join Rich Bizub, PPA’s Director for Water Programs, for a workshop designed to give you the tools you need to understand where your water comes from, what water company services your town, and why it should matter to you. The workshop begins with an introduction to water supply in New Jersey and the impact that water allocations for public supplies and golf courses can have on the rivers, streams and wetlands in your community. Learn how to obtain crucial information about how water is allocated and what to do with that information. This workshop is a must for anyone who cares about clean drinking water and protecting their community’s natural resources.

Cost: $10

Programs start at 7:00 pm and take place at Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ. SPACE IS LIMITED; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Registration: Register online or call 609-859-8860 x14 or email tom-dunn@pinelandsalliance.org dunn@pinelandsalliance.org

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31 Ways to Celebrate Pinelands Month

1. Become a member of Pinelands Preservation Alliance and help support our work preserving and protecting the NJ Pinelands!
2. Make something tasty with cranberries and enjoy the fruit of the Pines.
3. Learn about brave Captain Emilio Carranza and visit the Carranza Memorial.
5. Go into the woods with a bird book and binoculars. Stay very quiet and see how many birds are visiting on their fall migration.
6. Attend a NJ Pinelands Commission meeting and see what happens there.
8. Read a book about the Pinelands. We recommend anything by Howard Boyd.
9. Ask your children’s teachers and principals what they teach students about the Pinelands. If the answer is “nothing,” keep talking!
10. Go to Albert Music Hall and enjoy some bluegrass, country and old timey music.
11. Research a forgotten town, an endangered species, or a favorite flora or fauna. Learn everything you possibly can about it. Talk about it at parties.
12. Join your town’s Environmental Commission or Green Team. If your town doesn’t have one, persuade your mayor to create one.
13. Visit Apple Pie Hill, the highest point in the Pinelands. Forest fires are spotted in early stages from the fire tower.
14. Consider how much the Barnegat Bay owes to the Barrens.
15. Think spring gardening! Plan to use native plants in your landscaping. Avoid using herbicides and pesticides, and minimize the use of fertilizers.
16. Visit a cranberry bog when the harvest is happening.
17. Write to your local newspaper about the imperative of protecting the Pinelands. Write often!
18. Give a friend a gift membership in PPA or other organization.
19. Tell any organizations you belong to about PPA’s Speakers Bureau with presentations on the Pinelands, Water, and Threatened & Endangered Species.
20. Your car will get better gas mileage if you have a Pinelands license plate! Over 6,000 New Jersey vehicles are already sporting them.
21. Watch the full moon rising behind a pitch pine.
22. Go canoeing on a cool, cloudy day.
23. Visit the Pine Plains and walk like a giant through the pygmy forests.
24. Volunteer at PPA or another group working to preserve the Pinelands ecosystem.
25. Walk around the perimeter of Pakim Pond, 1.4 miles, in the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. How many plants can you identify?
26. Come say hello to PPA staff and volunteers at the Bishop Farmstead. Check out our visitors center and native plant garden.
27. Find out what Joe Mulliner, Mother Leeds and Ong are famous for.
28. Visit Batsto Village; see bog iron. Learn why Pinelands water wasn’t sold over a century ago.
29. Meditate on the fragility and finiteness of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer.
30. Learn what New Jersey and PPA are doing to preserve and protect the water supply.
31. The PPA film The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural makes an excellent gift. Start your holiday shopping at PPA!
pumping of the aquifer when and where streams, wetlands and ponds will not be harmed by a reduction in the water table.

4. Stormwater rules reform, including low impact development (LID) requirements. Because stormwater runoff carries pollution from developed land into the aquifer, streams and wetlands, it is critical that Pinelands rules be reformed to require the most effective methods for designing buildings, parking lots and stormwater treatment systems.

5. Public comment procedures reform. Public review and comment of Pinelands Commission actions is absolutely critical to the success, and the credibility, of the Commission in meeting its conservation mission. The Pinelands Commission has changed its public comment procedures in the past few years, fixed some problems in its procedures, and made some problems worse. The rules governing public comment need a comprehensive overhaul and clarification.

6. Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) rules reform. The MOA procedure allows the Commission to enter contracts that promote development in violation of normal protection rules. This process has become a real Trojan Horse that is weakening the Commission and the CMP from within. The procedure needs to be eliminated, or at least reformed to ensure it is only used for genuinely public projects.

7. Vegetation standards and roadside protections - Improve the CMP’s weak language regarding landscaping and revegetation that consist only of “guidelines” for planting native plant species, the use of soil and fill matter, and the use of fertilizer and liming agents to requirements and explicit restrictions. The list of native plant species must be updated as well to exclude non-natives and promote local varieties that are available on the market.

8. Amending CMP threatened and endangered plant list. The CMP’s list of threatened, and therefore protected, plant species is outdated and very incomplete. The list of protected plants needs to include all plant species occurring in the Pinelands that are listed as “species of concern” by the NJ DEP Natural Heritage Program.

9. Sustainable growth fixes for the CMP - Remove the CMP’s endorsements and promotions for the development of single family sprawling dwellings. Several areas of the CMP must be updated to promote and incentivize compact, mixed-use development that will ultimately provide greater protection to Pinelands natural resources.

10. Applications for enduros and similar events – Require all special use applications for off-road motorized events to submit a bond to cover potential damages from illegal trails and to pay for the actual costs for the Commission staff time to review these applications. Otherwise, illegal trails and use of state land will continue to occur by off-road vehicle riders.

The five members of the Commission’s Plan Review subcommittee have set the following dates to receive input from the public on areas of the CMP where changes may need to be made. The public will also have until September 28th to submit written comments.

The Pinelands Commission has developed a page on its web site where the public can find documents and the meeting schedule. The web page is located at: http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/cmp/planreview/index.html

What can you do:
1. Attend Pinelands Commission plan review meetings (see list dates and times) and make your comments part of the public record.

2. Write the Pinelands Commission by sending your comments to P.O. Box 359, New Lisbon, NJ 08064 or emailing to info@njpines.state.nj.us.
Keep New Jersey’s Pinelands Forever Green

by Becky Free, Director of Philanthropy

Since PPA’s founding more than twenty years ago, bequests have made an enormous impact on our organization. These extraordinary gifts have enabled PPA to weather recessions and carry out special projects, and they have helped PPA grow. In fact, without bequests we would be a less effective advocate. These gifts enabled PPA to maintain our expert, highly experienced staff despite the recent recession.

Indeed, the recession, and the resulting fall in donations and grants, brought home just how critical bequests are to PPA’s present and future. A bequest, or another type of planned gift, helps to ensure that PPA can continue to educate thousands of teachers, students and residents, watch over water quality and supply, and advocate for the protection of vital Pinelands habitats.

Nan Hunter-Walnut and her late husband Rick included PPA in their estate plans because as Nan said about the Pinelands, “Its forests and aquifers will only survive if there is an independent organization that will stand as a guardian and a public voice for saving this wonderful place. PPA is that guardian and that voice. By making a bequest we are reassured that PPA will have the resources to continue to work and fight for the preservation of New Jersey’s Pinelands.”

You can help protect the Pinelands when you name PPA to receive:

- A specific dollar amount from your estate,
- A percentage of your estate’s value,
- All or part of the remainder of your estate in your will or trust, or
- All or part of the proceeds of a life insurance policy or retirement plan, or
- A gift of “long term” appreciated securities

If you love the outdoors, if you cherish the joys of nature and want to save New Jersey’s wilderness for others, a planned gift to PPA might be for you. Your attorney is the best person to help you decide the form and wording of your bequest or gift to PPA. If you choose to remember PPA in your will a simple codicil is all that is needed and your attorney can help you with the wording. We can provide you with sample wording to take to your attorney.

Please consider leaving a long-lasting legacy, and notify us when you do. For more information contact Director of Philanthropy, Becky Free, at (609) 859-8860 ext. 21 or by email at becky@pinelandsalliance.org. You can also learn more online at www.pinelandsalliance.org/bequests.

Celebrating Pinelands Heroes

Saturday, November 10
5:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Lakeside Clubhouse, Medford

Ted Gordon and Jeanne Woodford have each made a tremendous personal commitment to preserve the natural resources of New Jersey’s Pinelands. Their exceptional contributions will be recognized as they are inducted into the 2012 Pine Barrens Hall of Fame at this event. Past inductees include author Howard Boyd, Governors Brendan Byrne and Jim Florio, and citizen activists Elmer Rowley, Janet Jackson-Gould and Nan Hunter Walnut.

Festivities Include:
- Hearty appetizers and desserts
- Cash bar stocked with New Jersey-made beer and wine
- Music by Jazz Doc & Friends
- Silent auction featuring exclusive Pinelands experiences

Tickets are $60 per person and can be purchased online www.pinelandsalliance.org/support/about/heroes or over the phone.

For more information about the event or sponsorship opportunities please contact Becky at 609-859-8860 ext. 21 or becky@pinelandsalliance.org
Autumn is a perfect time for observing mushrooms in the Pinelands. Their ephemeral nature, their habit of appearing overnight, their affinity for dark and damp places, their being neither plant nor animal, and, for many species, their toxic properties have earned mushrooms the reputation of being mysterious inhabitants of the forest. Many people are surprised to learn that fungi are more closely related to animals than to plants, having shared a common ancestor about 1.5 billion years ago.

Mycologists have long been aware of the critical importance of fungi in Earth’s ecosystems. They are the major decomposers in food webs. Some say fungi are what close the circle between life and death. Fungi secrete enzymes that digest complex compounds in dead organic matter which would otherwise be unavailable for other organisms to use. Without fungi, ecosystems would unravel.

A mushroom is the reproductive structure of a fungus, much like an apple on an apple tree. But, the rest of an individual fungus, analogous to the roots and limbs of an apple tree, resides in the soil in the form of long, thin threads called hyphae. These hyphae can extend for feet or miles and intertwine to produce net-like mats within the soil. Hyphae are active below-ground even when no mushrooms are seen aboveground.

Because they are not photosynthetic, fungi must acquire nutrients from other organisms. However, not all fungi are decomposers which extract these nutrients from decaying organic material. Many species of fungus obtain nutrients by forming mutually beneficial relationships with living plants. These associations between plant and fungus are called mycorrhizas and involve an underground physical connection between fungal hyphae and plant roots. Approximately 90% of terrestrial plants associate with mycorrhizal fungi. The beneficial relationship involves the transfer of carbon – produced by the plant via photosynthesis – along the hyphal network to the fungus, and the transfer of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus – absorbed from the soil by the fungus – back to the plant.

Mycorrhizal fungi help the pines and oaks in the Pinelands thrive in the naturally droughty and nutrient poor soils. Some plants, like orchids, are entirely dependent on mycorrhizal fungi for their survival. Orchid seeds are so small that they do not have enough food to nourish a developing embryo. Instead, they rely on specialist fungi in the soil to penetrate the seed and transfer nutrients to the tiny plant. These fungi may actually take carbon from nearby pine trees and transfer it to the developing orchid, with only a very modest drain on the pines.

Mycorrhizal networks, because they so closely resemble the web-like architecture of branching neurons, have been called nature’s nervous system. The bright and colorful mushrooms we’ll see in the Pinelands this fall are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the vast and complex fungal kingdom.
Pinelands Calendar of Events
October & November 2012

NOTE: Names, addresses, and phone numbers are provided here for frequently mentioned event sponsors. Please contact the sponsor of the event for full information and details of the event.


Ocean County Parks (OCP), 1-877-OPARKS ext. 5940, lobby@co.ocean.nj.us

Outdoor Club of South Jersey (OCSJ), www.ocsj.org

Sierra Club–West Jersey Chapter (SC), http://mysite.verizon.net/jev1uji/


Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (WCR), 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, NJ 08055, (856) 983 3329

Ongoing: Every Saturday in October and November at Belleplain State Forest


Saturday, October 13
Creepy Crawlies of the Night at Cedar Run
6-8pm, Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford.

Creepy Crawlies of the Night: A lot of the creepy crawlies come out at night. We'll discuss some of their stories and maybe discover if they are really creepy at all. Cost is $10 per adult and $5 per child. Advanced registration required

More Information: Erin | 856-983-3329 x103

Starwatch in Wharton State Forest
6:30 - 10pm, Atsion Ranger Station

Thursday, October 25
Haunted Seaport
Runs through Saturday, October 27 6-9pm, Tuckerton Seaport, 120 W. Main Street, Tuckerton, NJ

New for 2012... Three Scary Nights! Pirates and sea captains long lost at sea stroll the boardwalk for a night of screams. Haunted Tucker's Island Lighthouse, hayrides, phragmites maze, food, refreshments, entertainment and a non-scary pumpkin patch for the little ones. Fun for the whole family!

Thursday, October 25
Pinelands: A Visual Journey
7:00 pm. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088

Description: An exciting visual journey through the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve as seen through the eyes of fine art landscape photographer Albert D. Horner. Attendees will experience Pinelands scenes that at are rarely viewed by most visitors. Cost: $10. Registration: Register online or call 609 859-8860 x14 or email tom.dunn@pinelandsalliance.org

Saturday, October 27
Jersey Devil Bound at Wharton State Forest
4:30–6:30pm, Wharton State Forest.


Sunday, October 28
Jersey Devil Hike
9 am – 2 pm, Leeds Point.

Gather your courage and join New Jersey Conservation Foundations, Chris Jage, Assistant Director for South Jersey, on an 8-mile hike in Leeds Point, birthplace of the mythical Jersey Devil. According to the Pine Barrens legend, there is a haunted place in the bog along the Mullica River where the sight of the Jersey Devil is considered to be an omen of disaster. Bring a snack, water and your camera. Specific location will be given at time of registration. $5 per person to be paid in advance to carol@njconservation.org. Children are FREE! More Information: 908-234-1225

Tuesday, November 13
Low Impact Development Guide (Pinelands Lecture Series)
7:00 pm. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088

Description: Dr. Stephen Souza of Princeton Hydro will present on a newly created Low Impact Development guide specifically tailored for the Barnegat Bay Watershed. This guide includes many practices that can be applied to many municipalities within the Pinelands. The guide is especially useful for municipal officials, planners, and developers. Come learn some new techniques and achieve your continuing education credits. Cost: $10. Registration: Register online or 609 859-8860 x14 or email tom.dunn@pinelandsalliance.org

Saturday, November 17
Starwatch in Wharton State Forest
Sundown–10pm, Batsto Historic Village


Saturday, November 24
Preparing for Winter Hike
10am, Wharton State Forest


Saturday, December 15
Verge of Winter Hike
10am, Wharton State Forest


If your organization is having an event you would like to see listed, contact Inside the Pinelands, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088; ph: (609) 859-8860; e-mail mikew@pinelandsalliance.org. Next deadline: October 15, 2012.

Go to the Events Calendar on PPA's website for a comprehensive listing of events.
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CLICK: www.pinelandsalliance.org  
CALL: (609) 859-8860  
FOLLOW: www.facebook.com/Pinelands

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ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:
- A PPA membership card  
- A year’s subscription to Inside the Pinelands  
- A PPA window sticker  
- Discounts on PPA merchandise and events

Sponsors receive a copy of The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural DVD  
Patrons receive John McPhee’s seminal book The Pine Barrens  
Benefactors receive The Pine Barrens of New Jersey, a photographic history of this region  
Chairman’s Circle members receive the book Seasons of the Pines and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

Please Recycle this newsletter! When finished give it to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to learn about PPA’s mission and programs.