



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Commission, Burlington County College Team Up for 2004 Short Course *15th Annual Short Course offers 16 diverse Pinelands topics*

WHEN: Saturday, March 6, 2004, 9:00 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 website at www.nj.gov/pinelands. If you want to receive a registration brochure by mail, call Joel Mott at 609-894-7300 ext.125. To register by phone, call 609-894-9311 ext. 7415 or 856-222-9311 ext. 7415.

NEW LISBON, NJ - The 15th Annual Pinelands Short Course will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2004 at Burlington College in Pemberton Township. Although close neighbors, this year marks the first time that the Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College (BCC) have teamed up for the widely anticipated yearly event. The Pinelands Short Course gives the public an opportunity to learn about the Pinelands and how the Pinelands Commission and other organizations are working to protect the region's unique natural and cultural resources. The Pinelands Institute for Natural and Environmental Studies, housed at BCC, is also a sponsor of the 2004 Pinelands Short Course.

"Joining forces with Burlington County College is truly an exciting opportunity to work with a Pinelands-based academic institution which has a strong reputation for raising awareness and understanding of the Pinelands ecology, history and culture," explained John C. Stokes, Pinelands Commission Executive Director. "In addition to the College's commitment, we are also honored that such a large group of experts from throughout New Jersey have agreed to share their time and expertise with others who care about the Pinelands."

The Course is open to all who are who are interested in learning about the Pinelands and offers educational sessions addressing a wide range of topics on the region's environment, ecology, wildlife, recreation, history, economy, and folklife. There are discounts offered on registration fees for senior citizens and students. Additionally, NJ Department of Education Professional Development Certificates are available to teachers who attend.

"Burlington County College is proud to partner with the Pinelands Commission on the 2004 Short Course, said Robert C. Messina, Jr., President of the College. "We look forward to hosting the Course and helping it grow in the future. This year's course will no doubt offer participants an enlightening and enjoyable learning experience."

2004 Pinelands Short Course

Page 2

For those who have attended in the past, the 2004 Pinelands Short Course offers sessions on some new topics including woody plants, turtles, the biology of Pinelands soils, health benefits of cranberries and blueberries, Pinelands foodways, neo-tropical songbirds of the Pinelands and a look at the interrelationship between inland and coastal ecosystems in the Pines.

2004 will also see the return of some popular topics from years past, including fire ecology, frogs and toads, ghost towns and legends, the Pinelands rural-industrial era and, of course, the essential Pinelands Overview.

Pinelands Commission staff members will deliver presentations on two innovative Pinelands planning projects: one dealing with smart growth planning in developing areas and another on planning for conservation and land protection for wildlife corridors. A field trip to nearby Whitesbog Village will delve into the site's rich historic and natural features.

For more information on the program and to how to register for the 2004 Pinelands Short Course, call Joel Mott of the Pinelands Commission staff at 609-894-7300, ext. 125. The Short Course brochure and registration form can also be printed from the Pinelands Commission website at www.nj.gov/pinelands.

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