



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

January 21, 2003

Contact: Francis Rapa

Phone: 609.894.7300

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

ON-LINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE FOR MARCH 1st SHORT COURSE

NEW LISBON, NJ – Offering 19 fascinating subjects to choose from, the 2003 Pinelands Short Course is just a click away. This year, the Pinelands Commission and Richard Stockton State College are offering quick and secure Internet registration for this annual event, which attracts Pinelands enthusiasts and scholars from across New Jersey and the surrounding region. The 14th Annual Short Course will be held on **Saturday March 1, 2003** at Stockton's Campus in Pomona, Galloway Township, Atlantic County.

"The short course is a great way to learn about many aspects of the Pinelands environment, protection efforts as well as Pinelands culture, folklife, recreation, history and economics," said Pinelands Commission Executive Director Annette M. Barbaccia. "Now, on-line registration makes it all the easier to sign up for this tremendous learning experience," Barbaccia added.

The Pinelands Short Course is open to anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of the unique Pinelands region. Experts on a wide range of Pinelands issues will present workshops on 19 topics during 28 sessions. Advance registration is \$35.00 for adults, \$25.00 for senior citizens (65 and older), and \$15.00 for students.

To register, visit the Pinelands Commission website at www.nj.gov/pinelands and click on the Short Course message at the top of the home page to link to Stockton's Pinelands Short Course website. Conventional registration is also available through postal mail. To receive a registration brochure with a complete course listing and directions, call the Pinelands Commission Public Program Office at **609-894-7300**.

New workshops for 2003 include *Pinelands Ethnobotany*, an examination of how people of the Pinelands, throughout history, have used plants for food and medicinal purposes. Another session will present native plants that are worthy for use as ornamental landscape plants by Pinelands homeowners. *Planning for Growth: Applying Lessons from the Pinelands Excellence Program*, will discuss how the Pinelands Commission is working with regional growth communities to better address the challenges of planning for and absorbing growth. Yet another new workshop will delve into the rich history of Whitesbog, the birthplace of the cultivated cranberry.

Some long-time favorite workshops will also be returning this year, including *Pinelands Frogs and Toads* which covers many native species, their distribution, habitat, breeding and vocalizations.

The Pinelands Commission is a registered New Jersey Professional Development Provider. Professional development certificates will be available to New Jersey teachers who attend the course.

####