

The PINELANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION/WINTER 2007

Hundreds celebrate 25th Anniversary of Pinelands Plan

Pinelands protection program lauded during special conference and banquet

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. -- Approximately 300 people gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) during a special conference and banquet held on September 28 and 29 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel here.

"Attendees came from all over the Northeastern United States to learn about the Pinelands while sharing their experiences with regional planning, including their successes and challenges," said Betty Wilson, Chairperson of the Pinelands Commission. "It was an event for which we can all be proud."

The two-day conference, entitled "Regional Planning Comes of Age," featured plenary addresses and semi-

nars on regional land use planning aimed at preserving natural and historic resources while strengthening communities in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states. It also showcased the success of the CMP, which contains the rules that govern land-use, development and natural resource protection in the Pinelands Area. The CMP was approved by then-U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus in 1981.

Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, who served as the keynote speaker during the first day of the conference, lauded the "breadth and comprehensive quality" of the Pinelands protection program during his speech.



Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt praised the Pinelands Plan during the Conference. Photo/Janet Pierce

"The Pinelands is the best model of broad-scale regional land-use planning in America," Babbitt said. "There are many lessons to be learned. It's an enormous achievement."

Continued on Page 2

Commission awarded \$82,500 grant from William Penn Foundation

Funds will be used to implement sub-regional natural resource plan in southern Medford and Evesham

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The William Penn Foundation has awarded an \$82,500 grant to the New Jersey Pinelands Commission to help Medford and Evesham townships implement a plan to protect significant natural resources and avoid future development conflicts in the southern portion of the townships.

The grant will fund efforts to undertake a series of tasks outlined in a Natural Resources Protection Plan that was developed for an ecologically sensitive

area that encompasses the 22-square-mile southern portion of the two municipalities.

"This grant will be crucial in carrying out a multitude of integrated strategies that were specifically designed to better protect natural resources such as water and habitat for rare plants and animals in southern Medford and Evesham townships," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission.

The Pinelands Commission received a \$73,000 grant from the William

Penn Foundation in 2004 to fund efforts to develop the Sub-Regional Natural Resources Protection Plan, which was a collaborative project between the Commission, Evesham Township, Medford Township and the NJDEP.

Although primarily rural in character, almost 75% of the Plan's study area is currently designated for modest amounts of residential development under local zoning. However, data compiled in recent years has shown that this area has

Continued on Page 3



Hundreds gather to celebrate 25th Anniversary of Pinelands Plan

Continued from Page 1

Babbitt served as Secretary of the Interior from 1993 to 2001, as Governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987 and as Attorney General of Arizona from 1975 to 1978.

The conference was sponsored by the Fund for New Jersey, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the National Park Service, the Pinelands Commission, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, PSE&G and the William Penn Foundation. It featured an impressive array of seminars on topics such as transfer of development rights, growth management tools, protecting water resources through regional planning, the economic impacts of regional planning, using regional planning to preserve historic and cultural resources, cooperative planning across political boundaries, and regional zoning and land use regulation.

Seminars also detailed the regional planning efforts undertaken in the New Jersey Pinelands, the New Jersey Meadowlands, the New Jersey Highlands, the Adirondack Park, the Long Island Pine Barrens, Cape Cod, Lancaster County, Pa., the Schuylkill River, Blackstone River Valley, and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Five representatives from the Pinelands Commission joined other seminar speakers during the conference, including Commission Chairperson Betty Wilson, Executive Director John C. Stokes, Chief Scientist Dr. Robert A. Zampella, Land Use and Technology

Programs Director Larry Liggett and Chief Planner Susan Grogan.

Notes were taken during each of the speeches and seminars, and they will be combined as part of an event proceedings that will be published.

Numerous current and former Commission members and staff attended the celebratory banquet. Former Commission Chairman and Gov. James J. Florio charted the



The Pinelands banquet drew approximately 300 people, including numerous current and former Commission members and staff. Photo/Paul Leakan

success of the Pinelands plan during the banquet, noting that more than half of the Pinelands Area is permanently preserved and that the Commission is undertaking numerous initiatives to help it bolster protection of the region's resources while promoting orderly growth.

Following Florio's speech, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance honored former Commission Chairman Franklin Parker and Terrence D. Moore by entering them into the nonprofit organization's "Pine Barrens Hall of Fame." Parker was the first chairman of the Pinelands Commission, and Moore was the agency's first executive director. Parker was introduced by Michael Catania, the president of Conservation Resources Inc. Moore was introduced by Robert C. Shinn Jr., a former Pinelands Commission member and Assemblyman who served as the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection from 1994-2002.



Former Pinelands Commission Chairman Franklin Parker (left to right), current Chairperson Betty Wilson, former Chairman and New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio and former Chairman Richard Sullivan reflected on the success of the Pinelands Plan during the 25th anniversary banquet. Photo/Janet Pierce





Report: Pinelands communities are outperforming the economy in the non-Pinelands area of southern New Jersey

Municipalities in the Pinelands are outpacing the non-Pinelands area of southern New Jersey in several key economic indicators, according to a report of economic data collected in 2006.

A cooperative project administered by the Pinelands Commission and funded by the National Park Service, the annual report is a product of the Pinelands Long-Term Economic Monitoring Program.

The program monitors, collects and analyzes data such as population demographics, property values, economic growth and municipal finances, with the fundamental goal of evaluating the economy of the Pinelands region in an objective and reliable way.

Data collected in 2006 reveals some key findings about the economy in the Pinelands*, including the following:

■ The average inflation-adjusted

residential property tax bill for municipalities in the Pinelands is \$597 lower than in municipalities in the non-Pinelands region of South Jersey and \$2,141 lower than the state as a whole.

■ In 2005, the unemployment rate in the Pinelands was the second lowest it has been in the last 25 years. In the Pinelands, the unemployment rate dropped 0.4% in 2005, finishing the year at 4.4%. The unemployment rate for the year in the non-Pinelands municipalities was 4.9%.

■ The median sales price for a home in the Pinelands was \$239,900 in 2005, compared to a median price of \$229,900 for homes in the non-Pinelands region.

■ The average Pinelands municipality added 4.2% more commercial and industrial space than their

non-Pinelands counterpart.

■ In 2005, the Pinelands' municipalities average equalized valuation grew by 16% for the year versus a gain of 15.2% for the non-Pinelands region.

■ Assessed farmland acreage in the Pinelands increased by 0.5% in 2005, while falling 2% in non-Pinelands municipalities.

***NOTE:** The "Pinelands" is defined as the entirety of the 47 municipalities in Southern New Jersey that have at least 10 percent of their land area within the state-designated Pinelands Area. "Non-Pinelands" is defined as the remaining 155 municipalities located within the eight southernmost counties of New Jersey, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem.



Commission awarded \$82,500 grant from William Penn Foundation

Continued from Page 1

significant natural resources, including undisturbed sub-watersheds, as well as rare plants and animals. Among other things, the strategies contained in the Sub-Regional Natural Resources Protection Plan recommend reducing the project area's future zoning capacity by 53%. Additionally, strategies in the Plan call for land acquisition, reducing water consumption and promoting land stewardship through public education for homeowners, builders and planning and zoning boards.

Funds disbursed under the latest grant from the William Penn Foundation will be used by the Commission to provide technical assistance to Medford and Evesham townships in helping them craft zoning regulations, including provisions for clustered development, density transfer (in Evesham), and the expansion of forest-area zones. The grant also will be used to develop a backyard habitat protection program and outreach plan with municipal environmental commissions and the New Jersey Audubon Society, and to develop best manage-

ment practices at two private golf courses in the project area, with the golf course owners, the Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority and the NJDEP. These best management practices seek to reduce water consumption, storm water runoff and the application of fertilizers.

The Sub-Regional Natural Resources Protection Plan is available on the Home Page of the Pinelands Commission's Web site (www.nj.gov/pinelands).





26 programs to highlight Pinelands Short Course at Burlington County College

March 3 event includes 15 new presentations

NEW LISBON, N.J. - The 18th Annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 15 new programs, including a field trip to one of the region's natural gems, as well as numerous popular presentations from the past.

New topics for 2007 include Pinelands entomology, butterflies, canoeing and kayaking, Pinelands curricula, cranberry history, Pinelands culture, community planning, and a guided field trip to the Franklin Parker Preserve, a 9,400 acre property located in the heart of the Pinelands.

In addition to the new presentations, popular programs from the past will be offered at this year's event. These include the Pinelands overview and presentations on fire, music, fish, frogs and toads, birds, Revolutionary War history, threatened and endangered species and

Whitesbog Village.

"Each year, the Pinelands Short Course provides a key opportunity for an impressive and diverse slate of Pinelands experts to share their knowledge of this special region," said John C.

Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. "The event continues to grow in popularity, and I'm very proud to say that this year's Short Course will offer a total of

26 presentations, which is more than ever before."

The Short Course is sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and Burlington County College (BCC), which has hosted the event for the past three years. To be held at BCC's Parker Center on March 3, the program is open to all who are interested in learning about the Pinelands. Last year's event featured 20 topics and 21 presenters. It attracted

approximately 375 people.

Four members of the Pinelands Commission's staff will deliver presentations during this year's event. The presentations focus on the ecology of Pinelands fish; the ecology of Pinelands frogs and toads; forested wetlands of the Pinelands, detailing the environmental variables that shape the distribution of wetland plant assemblages and associated wetland plant indicator species; the Commission's ongoing initiative to assess the condition of landscapes, wetlands and watersheds in the Pinelands; and a community design effort that is intended to foster "livable communities" by establishing traditional town centers and neighborhoods with compact development, while conserving open space.

Two field trips - one at Whitesbog Village and the other at the Franklin Parker Preserve - will enable participants to experience two natural and historic jewels in the Pinelands.

The Short Course is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits will be available to New Jersey teachers who attend the event.

Discounted registration fees are offered to senior citizens and students.

To request a brochure/registration form or for more information, please contact the Pinelands Commission at (609) 894 7300, ext. 125. The Short Course brochure and registration form can also be printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site (www.nj.gov/pinelands).

For a list of course titles and presenters, please see Page 8



Pinelands Commission Chairperson Betty Wilson, pictured left, welcomed an audience of approximately 375 people during the 2006 Pinelands Short Course at Burlington County College. Photo/Paul Leakan





New Pinelands National Reserve Road Signs Installed

Signs welcome motorists to the reserve, urge them to protect the region

Motorists traveling along the two major highways that traverse the Pinelands are now being greeted by new Pinelands National Reserve road signs.

The signs were installed along the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway in November and December, respectively.

“Millions of residents and visitors alike will see these signs while traveling along the Parkway and Expressway,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. “Hopefully, more and more people will know they have entered a region that is truly unique and is well worth the Commission’s efforts to protect.”

The signs feature the new Pinelands National Reserve logo. Funded by a federal grant, the signs were produced by the New Jersey Department of Corrections. They were designed by Pinelands Commission staff, in consultation with the National Park Service.

The 6-foot-wide, 9-foot-tall signs are brown with a white border and

lettering. They replace smaller, less reflective signs that previously welcomed motorists as they entered the Pinelands region. The new signs also let motorists know when they are leaving the Pinelands, while thanking them for their visit. Previously, neither the Parkway nor the Expressway had signs to indicate when motorists had left the Pinelands region.

More than 400 million vehicles travel the Garden State Parkway each year, according to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. Meanwhile, approximately 65 million vehicles travel the Atlantic City Expressway annually, according to the South Jersey Transportation Authority.

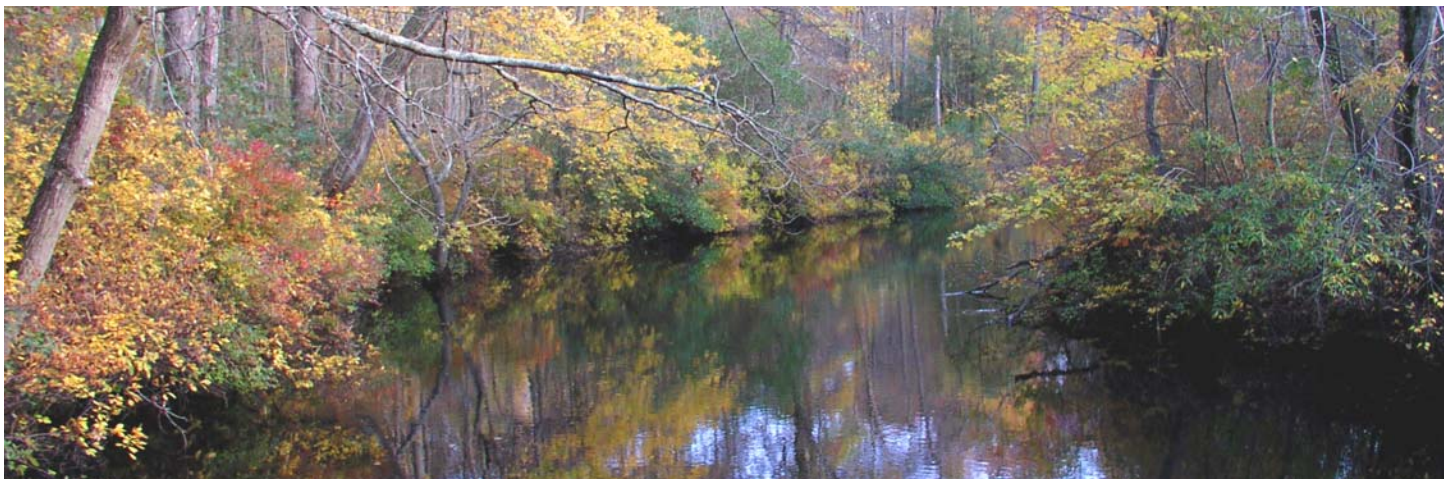
The new signs are posted in Cape May County and Ocean County on the Garden State Parkway and in Atlantic County and Camden County on the Atlantic City



The new road signs, one of which is shown above, replaced smaller signs located on the Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway. They also feature the new Pinelands National Reserve logo, shown in the upper right-hand corner of the sign. Photo/Joel Mott

Expressway.

Pinelands Commission staff continues to work on the second phase of the project, which calls for installing smaller Pinelands National Reserve road signs along other roadways in the Pinelands.



Fall’s splendor is reflected on the Rancocas Creek in the Pinelands in Burlington County.

Photo/Paul Leakan





Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail Awarded \$200,000 federal grant

NEW LISBON, N.J. - The Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail, which was officially designated as a New Jersey State Scenic Byway in 2005, has been awarded a \$200,000 federal grant.

The trail is among 309 projects in 45 states that were selected by Acting U.S. Secretary of Transportation Maria Cino to receive a total of \$25.5 million in discretionary National Scenic Byways Program grants in 2006. A scenic byway is a corridor that possesses historic, cultural, natural, scenic, recreational and archaeological qualities. It reflects a common theme that provides a story of the area to the traveling public.

"We are thrilled by the Secretary's decision," Commission Chairperson Betty Wilson said of the grant award. "This grant will be crucial in establishing the framework for managing the trail, including the creation of a marketing plan, signage and strategies for preserving and protecting the tremendous and unique resources found along the trail."

"It is good news for the Pinelands because learning about the heritage, the features and the attractions in the Pinelands helps give everyone a much better perspective on the treasures that we have here," added Chuck Chiarello, Mayor of Buena Vista Township and the Chairman of the Pinelands Municipal Council.

The Pinelands Commission applied for the grant on behalf of the 16 municipalities through which the Trail passes. Funds disbursed under

the grant will be used to hire a consultant to prepare a Corridor Management Plan. The Plan will be developed with input from local communities, landowners, governmental agencies, and the traveling public.

The Commission and the New Jersey Department of Transportation will contribute an additional \$25,000 each toward the preparation of the Corridor Management Plan. The Plan will outline the goals, strategies and responsibilities for preserving and promoting the trail while addressing issues such as tourism, historic and natural preservation and economic development. Creation of the plan is a necessary first step toward nominating the trail as a National Scenic Byway.

The 122-mile Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail passes through Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland and Ocean counties, including portions of Bass River Township, Corbin

City, Dennis Township, Egg Harbor City, Estell Manor City, Galloway Township, Hamilton Township, Little Egg Harbor Township, Maurice River Township, Mullica Township, Port Republic City, Tuckerton Borough, Upper Township, Washington Township, Weymouth Township and Woodbine Borough.

Continued on Page 7



A monument honoring the men who defended Chestnut Neck during an American Revolutionary War battle is one of many historic locations on the Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail. Photo/Paul Leakan



Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan now available online

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), which contains the rules that govern land use, development and natural resource protection in the Pinelands, can now be accessed on the Pinelands Commission's Web site (www.nj.gov/pinelands).

The 254-page document was posted online on October 10, following months of reformatting, editing and proofreading by Pinelands Commission staff.

The document was viewed 31,807 times from October 10 to November 31, making it by far the most heavily downloaded document on the Commission's Web site since the Commission began tracking activity on the site in Spring 2005.

The online version of the CMP is a Portable Document Format file, or PDF, which is a commonly-used format for storing, transmitting and downloading electronic documents. PDF files can be opened using Adobe Reader software, which can be downloaded from the Commission's Web site and elsewhere on the Internet at no charge.

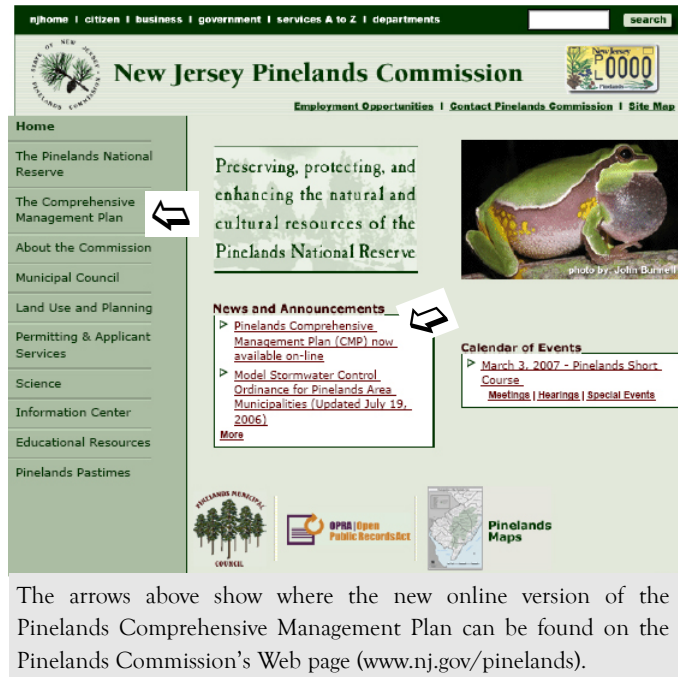
The CMP can be accessed in two locations on the Commission's Web site: by clicking on a link under the "News and Announcements" section in the center of the Home page and by clicking on the "The Comprehensive Management Plan" link located on the left-hand side of the Home page (see photo to the right).

The online version of the CMP is bookmarked by subchapter, which enables users to click on a link that will take them directly to any of the 10 subchapters contained in the document. Also, by conducting a "keyword" search, users can find the location of all references to a particular keyword in the CMP.

The Commission's Web site was fully redesigned in the Spring of 2005, in cooperation with the New Jersey Office of Information

Technology.

The site is indexed into 10 topical sections, and it features numerous reports, studies, fact sheets and newsletters, as well as information about the Commission and its efforts to protect the Pinelands. On average, the Web site receives approximately 7,000 hits or views per month.



The arrows above show where the new online version of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan can be found on the Pinelands Commission's Web page (www.nj.gov/pinelands).

Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail awarded federal grant

Continued from Page 6

The trail travels along existing roadways in the southern region of the 1.1-million-acre Pinelands National Reserve. It has a northern loop that traverses the lower Mullica River basin of the eastern Pinelands, a southern loop that travels the Delaware Bayshore region of the Pinelands and a central segment that wends its way through

Atlantic and Burlington counties.

The effort to create a Scenic Byway in the Pinelands is a major outgrowth of the Pinelands Commission's Rural Economic Development Program. Legislation passed in 1997 appropriated \$250,000 to the Pinelands Commission to help rural communities identify and plan economic development strategies to stimulate environmentally suitable growth.

Expert consultants worked with seven municipalities in limited-growth areas in the Pinelands, and a number of potential planning initiatives and projects were identified, including the suggestion for a New Jersey and National Scenic Byway that would bring widespread awareness and appreciation of the natural and cultural assets of the Pinelands.





List of Course Titles and Presenters ~ 18th Annual Pinelands Short Course

- **Affair at Cedar Bridge Creek:** Tim Hart, Stafford Township Historical Society
- **Down a Sugar Sand Road:** The Sugar Ramblers Band
- **The Ecological Integrity of the Pinelands (New):** Mariana Du Brul, Research Scientist, NJ Pinelands Commission.
- **Forested-wetlands of the New Jersey Pinelands (New):** Allison M. Brown, Ph.D., Research Scientist, NJ Pinelands Commission
- **Frozen Ground, Wetlands, in the Pines & the Jersey Devil:** Geographer Mark Demitroff
- **How to Spot Butterflies, Including Special Butterflies of the Pinelands (New):** Pat Sutton, Cape May Bird Observatory
- **The Jersey Devil Railroad (New):** Al Stokley, Member of the Ocean County Historical Society
- **Landscaping in the Pinelands, Naturally! (New)** Terry O'Leary, Education Coordinator, Forest Resource Education Center
- **Monarch Butterflies and Other Tales of**
- **Winter Survival (New):** Erik and Kristina Mollenhauer, Monarch Teachers Network
- **Paddling the Pinelands (New):** Frank Preace, Outdoor Club of South Jersey
- **Pine Barren Connection to Costa Rica through "Hands Across the Water" (New):** John Volpa, Environmental Science Teacher.
- **The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural - A New Inquiry Based Curriculum for High school (New)** Kevin Kopp, Education Consultant
- **Pinelands Bird Ecology & Migratory Songbirds:** Emile Devito, ecologist with the New Conservation Foundation.
- **Pinelands Coastal Connection (New):** David Grant, Director of The Ocean Institute at Sandy Hook
- **Pinelands Ecology Lab:** Susan Girard of Burlington County College, P.I.N.E.S. Program.
- **Pinelands Entomology (New):** Jamie Cromartie, Associate Professor, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.
- **The Pinelands Excellence Program (New):** David Kutner, Director of Special Programs, NJ Pinelands Commission
- **Pinelands Fires:** Chris Irick, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service
- **Pinelands Fish & Pinelands Frogs & Toads:** John Bunnell, Research Scientist, Pinelands Commission
- **Pinelands Overview:** William Dunscombe, chairman of the Department of Biology at Union County College.
- **Red Gold in the Bogs: a History of the Cranberry Industry in New Jersey (New):** Ted Gordon, botanist
- **Self-Sufficiency in the Pines (New):** Angus Gillespie, Ph.D., Rutgers University.
- **Threatened and Endangered Animals of the Pinelands:** Russell Juelg, Pinelands Preservation Alliance.
- **Franklin Parker Preserve Tour Field Trip (New)** Chris Jage, New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- **Whitesbog Village History Tour:** Ginette Pompeo of Burlington County College, P.I.N.E.S. Program



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