



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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15 new presentations highlight 18th annual Pinelands Short Course

Popular educational event will be held on March 3 at Burlington County College

WHEN: Saturday, March 3, 2007, 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. To receive a brochure by mail, call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. To register by phone, call (609) 894-9311, ext. 1382 or (856) 222-9311.

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.

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The 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.

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.

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. The Welcome and Orientation commences at 8:15 a.m. Programs will run from 8:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., with lunch being held from 12:15 p.m.-1:05 p.m.

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). Brochures also are available at numerous county libraries, environmental and nature centers and other locations.

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