



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

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

Pinelands-Friendly Yard & Garden Fair to feature sale of native Pinelands plants, nature walks and seminars by Mike McGrath of WHYY's "You Bet Your Garden."
Sept. 20th event aims to promote benefits of "going native"

NEW LISBON, N.J. – With vast tracts of unbroken forest, an aquifer system that contains 17-trillion gallons of fresh water, and habitat for rare plants and animals, the million-acre Pinelands area of southern New Jersey is a natural treasure.

People can discover how they can help protect this special region during a **"Pinelands-Friendly Yard & Garden Fair,"** which will be held on **Saturday, September 20, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge** on 4 Sawmill Road in Medford Township, Burlington County.

Four nurseries will be on-hand to sell approximately 70 different species of native Pinelands plants. The event will also feature guided nature walks, professional assistance with landscape design, information on fire-safe landscaping and numerous gardening seminars and talks, including a presentation by Mike McGrath, the host of WHYY's popular radio program, "You Bet Your Garden." Beginning at 1 p.m., McGrath will present the "Seven Secrets of Organic Gardening." He will also host a question-and-answer session. In addition, attendees will have an opportunity to see and learn about numerous live animals that will be on-hand, including a red-tailed hawk, barred owl, screech owl, saw-whet owl, American kestrel and others.

The event is being co-sponsored by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, the New Jersey Audubon Society, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge. It is part of a backyard habitat education program that promotes the benefits of using native Pinelands plants to help preserve and protect the region's unique environment.

"This fair will provide a tremendous opportunity for homeowners to learn how they can play an important role in the Pinelands protection effort through the use of native plants and organic gardening practices," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission.

Because native plants are naturally adapted to the Pinelands' sandy, nutrient-poor soils, they tend to be drought resistant and therefore help to conserve water. They also require little or no fertilization or pesticides, which saves time and money. Avoiding lime, chemical fertilizers and pesticides is particularly important in the Pinelands because pollutants can easily pass through the region's porous soils and be carried into groundwater. Others benefits of native plants include helping to effectively control erosion, helping to control and reduce unwanted garden pests, providing food and shelter for native birds, butterflies and other wildlife, and increasing the understanding and appreciation of the Pinelands' natural resources.

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EVENT SCHEDULE:

- **Native Pinelands plant sale** (four booths): 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Guided Nature Walks:** 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Mary Belko, New Jersey Audubon Society
- **Live Animal presentations:** All afternoon for hawks and owls; Raptor Show begins at 2 p.m.; Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge
- **Presentation by Lorraine A. Kiefer of Triple Oaks Nursery:** Plants Used by Native People – 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- **Presentation and question-and-answer session by Mike McGrath of WHYY’s “You Bet Your Garden”:** The Seven Secrets of Organic Gardening – 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- **Pinelands Native Plant expert:** Russell Juelg, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
- **Landscape Design concepts:** Jack Carman, FASLA, Design For Generations, LLC.
- **Composting:** Susan Konen, Assistant District Recycling Coordinator for Burlington County
- **Fire Safety & Fire Resistant Landscaping:** New Jersey Forest Fire Service

For more information, log on to www.nj.gov/pinelands or www.pinelandsalliance.org. For directions, log on to www.cedarrun.org.

*** **ATTENTION EDITORS:** Digital photographs of Pinelands plants or the Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge can be obtained by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300 or info@njpines.state.nj.us.



Butterfly Weed



Mountain Laurel



Swamp Azalea

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