

The

PINELANDER

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25 Years of Pinelands Preservation and Growth Management

Governor James J. Florio, Chairman, NJ Pinelands Commission

As 2004 draws to a close, the Pinelands Commission continues to advance its efforts to ensure the long-term protection of Pinelands resources. At the same time, 2004 has marked a major milestone in the history of the Pinelands Commission. A quarter century has now passed since the New Jersey's Pinelands Protection Act was signed by Governor Brendan Byrne on June 28, 1979. Enactment of this law marked the official start of the Pinelands Protection Program. As important as it was, this was one of several key developments central to the establishment of the Pinelands Program.

The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, creating the Pinelands National Reserve, was passed by Congress just eight months prior to the State's law. Further, it was Governor Byrne's Executive Order 71,

signed on February 8th 1979, which formally launched the Pinelands planning process and served as a major catalyst for passage of the State Pinelands Act. It would be another year and a half before the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) - the regulatory standards for land-use, development and the protection of the region's natural and cultural resources - would take effect in early 1981.

In fact, the Pinelands Protection Program has truly been an evolutionary process dating back a half century, ever since calls for a Pine Barrens regional protection program began in the 1950's. Efforts by early Pinelands regional planning bodies met with little success. Nevertheless, policy makers would later

draw upon the experiences of these agencies in crafting the Pinelands protection program. As a member of Congress during the 1970's, I wrote federal legislation to create a Pine Barrens Ecological Reserve. That bill ultimately evolved into the law creating the Pinelands National Reserve.

Today, this evolution continues. The Pinelands CMP sets forth both rigid standards as well as the flexibility to allow the Pinelands rules and programs to adapt to changing conditions and emerging challenges. Some of the Pinelands Commission's recent initiatives demonstrate how the Pinelands Plan can flex to meet unique and unanticipated challenges.

(Continued on page 2)

Commission to Strengthen Protection of Rare Plants

The Pinelands Commission has proposed an amendment to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) to bolster protection of rare plant species. The change will incorporate, into the CMP, the official State-promulgated list of endangered plants, expanding the number of protected native Pinelands plants from 54 to approximately 92. The State list is maintained by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry.

The State list, which now stands at 339 plants, was adopted pursuant to legislation passed in 1989. This was nine years after adoption of the Pinelands CMP, which since 1980, has included its own list of 54 protected plants. The State list includes only the most vulnerable plants - globally rare plants and species with five or fewer occurrences statewide. Of the 339 State-listed plants, about 38 occur in the Pinelands Area but are not currently on the CMP list. Another 20 are

common to both lists.

Among the Pinelands plant species that will gain CMP protection through this measure are the:

- Barton's St. John's-wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), a globally rare plant that typically occurs in vernal ponds. A significant portion of its small remaining worldwide population is in New Jersey;
- Sessile-leaf tick-trefoil (*Desmodium sessilifolium*), a Midwestern species with only one known remaining population in New Jersey, which is in the Pinelands;
- Pine Barrens bellwort (*Uvularia puberula*), another globally rare species. The only New Jersey populations are in Pine Barrens habitat; and
- Lace-lip ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes laciniata*) a southern orchid species that reaches its northern limit in the Pinelands.



Two plants that will receive additional protection under a proposed CMP amendment are the Sessile-leaf tick-trefoil (left) and the Lace-lip ladies'-tresses (right). Photos: Thomas G. Barnes and Jim Stasz, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.



25 Years of Pinelands Preservation and Growth Management

(Continued from Page 1)

For example, the Commission has embarked on several sub-regional conservation planning efforts. These projects are designed to address existing and potential conflicts between Pinelands development and resource protection policies within smaller geographic areas. Measures are being implemented to bolster protection of important natural assets such as endangered species and water resources. At the same time, growth will be directed to the appropriate locations through zoning and site design measures, including conservation subdivision design (also called "clustering"), and regulatory incentives will be available for developers who fully implement enhanced protections.

Another example of the CMP's flexibility is the provision that allows the Pinelands Commission to enter into special agreements with other government agencies to carry out essential development activities. These agreements are permitted as long as they result in equal or greater protection of Pinelands resources. A recent example of this is a 2000 agreement between the Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to facilitate the timely and proper closure and capping of the Southern Ocean County Landfill. Under Ocean County's leadership, the project was completed this fall and the landfill no longer poses a serious threat to the environment. With hundreds of old landfills still not properly closed statewide, this is a victory for the Pinelands and the environment as a whole.

After the State Board of Public Utilities (BPU) ordered the construction of new 260 kilovolt electrical transmission lines through eastern portions of the Pinelands in early 2004, another agreement was drawn up that authorized the project, while enhancing Pinelands protections. Under the agreement, a set of 30 strict environmental commitments will be met by the BPU and the utility company constructing the line. In addition, the BPU committed to working with the Pinelands Commission to develop an ecologically based right-of-way management plan to be implemented by all public electric utility companies within the Pinelands. The agreement also provides

\$13 million to support a variety of other environmental enhancements.

The Pinelands CMP and the region as a whole continually face new challenges. In order to successfully rise to these challenges, we must set clear goals and continually develop new ways to achieve those goals. The CMP calls for periodic reviews of the Pinelands Protection Program to ensure that it remains a viable, living and effective document. As part of its latest review, the Commission adopted an ambitious set of goals, initiatives and strategies to guide the Commission over the next five years. These projects will require innovation and cooperative partnerships with all levels of government as well as non-governmental stakeholders.

In addition to responding to new challenges, the Pinelands Program has lead the way in environmentally sound, smart growth planning since its inception. This includes the collaborative implementation of the most successful regional transfer-of-development-rights program in existence anywhere - the Pinelands Development Credit Program. As another example of its pioneering efforts, the Pinelands Commission, ten years ago, implemented a program that allows developing communities to designate "municipal reserve" areas that are off-limits to development for five-year periods. This allows towns to plan for orderly growth over both time and geographic areas. While this option has been employed only on a limited basis, the Municipal Reserve Program helps prevent piecemeal development and ensure that towns can better plan for, provide and finance the costs of infrastructure and services. The Pinelands Commission is presently conducting an evaluation of several other so-called "timed growth" models to ensure that communities can make informed decisions when selecting the tools to combat sprawl.

The protection of water resources has always been at the center of the Pinelands Program. Another major milestone reached during 2004 was the start of a five-year, \$5.5 million scientific study of the capacity of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer. The Pinelands Commission is leading a team of

state, federal and university researchers who will develop models to predict how much water can be used without harming the Pinelands ecosystem, including its unique plant, animal and aquatic communities. The results of this study will help the Commission to better plan for the protection of Pinelands ecosystems while ensuring that there is enough water to support the region's residents and agricultural needs.

Overall, the Pinelands Protection Program has been a tremendous success during its first 25 years. The data continues to show that the CMP is achieving its objectives of protecting essential Pinelands resources and promoting controlled, orderly growth. Today, for example, nearly 500,000 acres of land in the Pinelands National Reserve are now under permanent protection. Since 1980, nearly 75 percent of all Pinelands-approved residential development has occurred in growth-oriented zones comprising only 13 percent of the Pinelands.

Nevertheless, there is room for improvement and the Commission's work is far from over. We are committed to working with the 23 designated Pinelands growth communities to better plan for their futures and protect valued resources. Pinelands long-term monitoring programs continue to provide important data on both the economic and ecological health of the Pinelands. This helps us to gauge our progress and provides early warning of unanticipated impacts.

Change is inevitable, yet the Pinelands Commission has the tools and capabilities to ensure that we can continue to protect this national treasure in the face of an ever-changing economic, political and physical environment. With this in mind, New Jersey can take great pride in its accomplishments in protecting the Pinelands, a region that would have been largely and forever lost if not for the bold measures put in place a quarter century past.





Pinelands Lose "Champion" Jack Ross

The Pinelands Commission bids a sad farewell to John T. "Jack" Ross, who passed away on November 21st following a lengthy illness. Ross, of Hamilton Square, had a dedicated and accomplished career in Pinelands land protection. He served for twenty years, from 1980 to 2000, with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, much of that time as a land acquisition supervisor. There, Ross headed up the Pinelands acquisition unit, administering both State and federal Pinelands funding to protect important ecological lands within the Pinelands National Reserve.

During his tenure at Green Acres, Ross facilitated the acquisition of over 100,000 acres, including some 70,000 acres through the federally funded Section 502 Pinelands Acquisition Program. He lead major expansions of several State land units and spearheaded the creation of the 10,000-acre Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area in Atlantic County.

In 1987, Ross became the first Executive Director of the newly created Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) Bank while continuing to work at Green Acres. He held the Executive Director post (which became a full-time position in 2000) until his retirement in 2003. At the PDC Bank, Ross helped to build the program into the most successful regional transfer-of-development-rights (TDR) program in existence anywhere. Working cooperatively with the Pinelands Commission, Ross facilitated the protection of nearly forty-thousand acres of privately owned forests and farmland and helped advance other Pinelands preservation objectives. Today, the PDC Program is considered a TDR model for smart growth planning and natural resource protection. Following his retirement, Ross continued to work as a consultant to the PDC Bank.

"Jack was a true champion of the Pinelands," said Pinelands Commission Executive Director John Stokes. "His

work directly resulted in the preservation of tens-of-thousands of acres in the Pinelands. Yet as significant as this legacy is, those who knew Jack will most remember him for his kindness and persistently positive outlook. Jack's good nature helped bring people together, build consensus and accomplish great things that will benefit generations to come."



Pinelands Commission Chairman James J. Florio (left) presenting a plaque to Jack Ross to honor him on the occasion of his retirement last April. Ross was recognized for his service and dedication to the protection of the Pinelands.

Forest Zoning Proposed in Lacey, Ocean

The Pinelands Commission has proposed a significant change to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) Land Capability Map to re-designate 4,100 acres of Lacey and Ocean Townships. in Ocean County from Pinelands Rural Development Area to the more protective Pinelands Forest Area.

The change was prompted by a report issued by the Pinelands Commission Science Office in March 2004 which showed that the Oyster Creek and Waretown Creek watersheds display the essential ecological character of the Pinelands. Upon adoption of the CMP in 1980, more than half of the watershed was designated as Rural Development Area due primarily to the presence of the Southern Ocean County Landfill and its anticipated impacts on water quality. Since that time, significant adverse impacts from the landfill have not occurred.

A Pinelands Commission analysis determined that the proposed amendment will result in less land disturbance, non-point source pollution and fragmentation of the Oyster Creek landscape. The maximum permitted housing density in the area would change from one unit per 3.2 acres of vacant upland to one unit per 15.8 acres.

Under this proposal, the theoretical maximum zoning capacity, based on gross vacant acres, will decrease from approximately 374 homes to about 184 homes. However, after Commission planners factored in various environmental constraints, such as wetlands, and the lack of accessibility of much of the area to public roads, the effective zoning capacity decreases from approximately 204 homes to about 92 homes.

The Commission is accepting written public comments by mail, e-mail and telefax on this proposal through February 1st, 2005.

Commission, Buena Vista Expand Farming Zone

The Pinelands Commission recently approved certification of an amendment to the Buena Vista Township development ordinance to re-designates approximately 87 acres from Pinelands Forest Area to Pinelands Agricultural Production Area. This measure makes farmland within the re-zoned area eligible permanent preservation through the State Agricultural Development Committee Pinelands Direct Easement Purchase Program.

Agriculture has a long tradition and is an important economic pursuit in Buena Vista. The Pinelands program has measures in place to help preserve agriculture as a vital cultural and economic resource within designated farming areas.

In 2002, the Commission certified a similar amendment in Buena Vista Township which re-designated about 825 acres from the Forest to Agricultural Production Area.



Commission Approves Measures to Protect Endangered Pine Snakes at Two Pinelands Housing Developments

Ocean Acres

The Pinelands Commission voted to certify an amendment to the Barnegat Township land use ordinance that will implement an innovative plan to protect important natural resources in the Ocean Acres subdivision. The plan will permanently protect about 350 acres of critical habitat in the roughly 810-acre subdivision through a combination of conservation and zoning measures. A unique zoning plan provides some relief to people whose lots are in the critical habitat areas and can not be developed.

Development of a conservation plan was prompted by the discovery last year of threatened northern pine snakes and other rare plant and animal species in the area where a developer planned to construct hundreds of new homes. Ocean Acres is in a Pinelands Regional Growth Area, a zone designated for moderate-density residential development. At the request of the Pinelands Commission, the developer agreed to conduct an extensive survey to determine if additional snakes inhabit the area and, if so, to what extent. Five snakes were trapped and radio-tracked over several months to determine the extent of their habitat and ranges. This snake data was combined with information on other natural resources, including the location of other rare species and wetlands, to delineate a conservation area within Ocean Acres that will be off-limits to future development.

The Barnegat Township portion of Ocean Acres was sub-divided prior to the Pinelands protection program and approximately 850 of the area's 2,015 lots are too small to meet the prescribed Pinelands housing density for the area. The proposed conservation plan sets forth options that allow owners of undersized lots to protect land in the conservation area in exchange for building approvals. This also provides dispensation for property owners who will not be able to build because of the presence of wetlands and threatened and endangered plants and animals. Under the proposal, approximately 730 vacant building lots in the subdivision will be located within the protected conservation area.

The Sanctuary

The Commission has authorized a settlement agreement to resolve litigation between the Pinelands Commission and Ivelin L.P., an owner of property in the Sanctuary subdivision in Evesham Township, Burlington County. Ivelin sued the Pinelands Commission in the US District Court of New Jersey in December 2003 after the Commission advised Evesham Township that it would not allow certain subdivision and construction approvals to take effect until measures are implemented to protect threatened pine snakes discovered in the development.

Development at the Sanctuary has been largely delayed for more than two years due to the presence of northern pine snakes, including the discovery of a pine snake nest within the subdivision in June 2002. The Sanctuary was the subject of a previous court settlement in 2000 over endangered eastern timber rattlesnakes which also inhabit areas within and around the subdivision.

The proposed agreement would allow the completion of the unfinished portion of Georgia O'Keefe Way, a road that will connect two main areas of development which are separated by a large deed-restricted conservation area. The agreement directs the road to be built over 12-foot-wide box-type culverts that will

allow pine snakes and other animals to pass beneath the road to minimize mortalities by motor vehicles.

Under this agreement and a previous agreement reached with another Sanctuary developer in April 2004, two building lots which comprise a pine snake nesting site will be permanently protected through a deed restriction. These lots are contiguous to a 350-acre conservation area which serves as a wildlife corridor to areas of protected forests to the east of the subdivision.

Ivelin has also agreed to contribute \$75,000 to the Pinelands Commission for natural resource monitoring and planning activities. These funds can be used to support Pinelands sub-regional conservation planning efforts, such as the one that is underway in southern Evesham and Medford Townships. That effort was launched to resolve potential conflicts among Pinelands development and resource protection objectives in the 22-square-mile area surrounding the Sanctuary. Much of this area is zoned for low-density rural development. However, in recent years, the Commission has gained new information on the area's rich natural resources, including threatened and endangered species as well as high-quality water resources and habitat.



The New Jersey Pine Barrens are the last stronghold in the middle-Atlantic states for the elusive Northern Pine Snake (Pituophis m. melanoleucus). The Pinelands population is disjunct from other populations in the South and the region's sandy soil and other qualities ideally meet the Pine Snake's specialized habitat requirements. Even so, the Pine Snake is considered to be at risk in the Pinelands and is listed as a threatened species in New Jersey. Photo: Robert Zampella



Commission Approves Heritage Minerals Settlement: Agreement will Permanently Protect Nearly 6,500 Acres

The Pinelands Commission has entered into a three-party settlement agreement that resolves a federal lawsuit over development of nearly 7,200 acres in Ocean County. The other parties to the agreement are the developer, Hovsons, Inc., Homeland Corporation, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

A lawsuit was filed by Hovsons in the US District Court of New Jersey in 2000 following the developer's unsuccessful attempts over an 11-year period to develop the 7,175-acre Heritage Minerals property located in Manchester Township, Berkeley Township and Lakehurst Borough.

Under the development agreement, the entire 3,088-acre Pinelands Area portion of the property will be permanently protected. Some 3,025 acres in the Pinelands National Reserve, the area

where development activities are regulated by the DEP under the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA), will also be preserved. In addition, the developer has agreed to preserve 362 off-site Pinelands Area acres, comprising the last remaining unprotected parcel in the ecologically critical Berkeley Triangle in Berkeley Township.

The conceptual development plan allows clustered development of up to 2,450 housing units on 995 acres, which are part of a previously disturbed mining area. Commercial space and community recreational facilities may also be constructed, but may not include a golf course. Buffer Areas within the development area, including lakeside buffers, will also be permanently protected. The plan sets additional conditions regarding wastewater and stormwater management, impervious coverage and remediation of

the mining site which contains elevated levels of naturally occurring radionuclides.

In addition, Special habitat enhancement and conservation measures are required to protect three threatened and endangered species: Grasshopper Sparrow; Sickle-leaved Golden Aster; and Northern Pine Snake. This includes the construction of wildlife passage culverts beneath roadways.

As a result of comments received at a public hearing in December 2003, the terms of the settlement require that market rate housing units shall be age-restricted to minimize the impact on local schools. In addition, the development is subject to municipal approval, and detailed plans will be reviewed to ensure consistency with CAFRA and Pinelands development and environmental standards.

Housing Study on Track

In early 2004, the Pinelands Commission formed the Pinelands Housing Task Force to review, update and revise housing capacity projections for Pinelands Growth Areas. Working with State, county and local planners, the Task Force has assessed the future housing needs of southern New Jersey to determine what housing share can be apportioned to the Pinelands.

The group is now developing long-term housing demand projections for the 23 Pinelands Regional Growth Area communities, while considering factors such as available vacant land, infrastructure and environmental constraints.

The Task Force is expected to release the results of its work in Spring 2005. Its report will include recommendations for reapportioning housing densities within the towns as prescribed by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, taking into account Pinelands land-use and environmental objectives.

Commission Picked to Receive Dodge Grant for Phase II of Pinelands Excellence Program

The Pinelands Commission has been selected to receive \$167,000, over two years from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, to continue the work of the Pinelands Excellence Program. The Excellence Program was established in 2002 through a previous Dodge Foundation grant of \$187,000. To date, the program has helped two Pinelands Regional Growth Area communities to develop smart-growth action plans that address difficult challenges associated with the quantity and quality of development. The new grant will be used to support a similar smart-growth planning effort in Egg Harbor Township in Atlantic County.

"Egg Harbor Township has borne the brunt of suburban development fueled by the explosive growth of the Atlantic City gaming industry," said Commission Chairman James Florio "Over the past ten years, the rate of growth has increased significantly, affecting the Township's

ability to keep up with and finance schools, infrastructure and services. The Commission is committed to helping all Pinelands growth communities to better plan for and manage growth. Thanks to the generosity of the Dodge Foundation, this grant will help us to achieve some very positive results in Egg Harbor Township."

Under this project, Egg Harbor Township will form a community visioning team, that will be supported by a professional planning firm with expertise in smart-growth planning. The team will develop a community action plan that sets strategies for zoning, subdivision, site planning and infrastructure improvements.

The action plan may address a wide range of issues, including open space and recreation, community character, historic preservation, traffic and circulation, community and site design standards, tree clearing, storm water management and siting of public facilities.



Commission Receives International Technology Award

The Pinelands Commission was recently honored for its groundbreaking efforts to merge all of the agency's permitting, zoning, violation and geographic data into one central database. The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), likely the world's foremost computer mapping software development firm, announced at its International User Conference in San Diego that the Pinelands Commission was selected to receive a Special Achievement in GIS Award.

The Pinelands Commission Information System (PCIS) is being developed cooperatively by the Commission's Geographic Information Systems Office and the Management Information Systems Office with the help of Applied GIS, a geographic information system development firm located in Schenectady, New York. At present, the PCIS is in the final stages of development.

The new system will integrate four existing, stand-alone systems:

- the development review database

which tracks and records all aspects of the land development application and approval process;

- the zoning database which manages all municipal land use designations;
- the violations database which tracks land owners who fail to comply with the Pinelands protection and development standards; and
- the Geographic Information System database which is used to create maps, conduct land use analysis and manage spatial data.

Annually, the Commission reviews thousands of development applications and scores of zoning and land-use ordinances for consistency with Pinelands environmental standards. Traditionally, querying and displaying data across four separate systems was extremely difficult and inefficient, requiring hours of data export and manipulation. As a result, many analyses had significant limitations and often remained very basic in nature. These limitations led the Commission to develop the PCIS as a comprehensive

solution for its data connectivity problem.

The PCIS will enable Commission staff conducting development application reviews to display and visually analyze zoning and environmental information as well as the development history of subject properties and surrounding properties. This will dramatically increase efficiency and accuracy of application reviews.

The ESRI Special Achievement in GIS Award is presented to organizations that embrace GIS technology and set new precedents in GIS application to better serve the world. This is not the first time that the Pinelands Commission has been honored for its technological accomplishments. In 1999, the Commission's Internet website was designated the State Internet Site of the Year by the Documents Association of New Jersey. In 2000, the Commission's GIS Office was awarded a first place in the Best Cartographic Design, Small Format category for its land capability map, also at the ESRI International Users Conference.

Electric Transmission Line Project Prompts New Protections

This summer, the Pinelands Commission entered into an agreement with the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to permit the construction of an electrical transmission line improvement project between the Cedar Substation in Stafford Township, Ocean County and the Cardiff Substation in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County.

On June 15, the BPU issued an order approving the 35-mile route. The proposal is not in strict accord with certain land-use and environmental standards of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Specifically, 17.5 miles of the project is located in the Pinelands Preservation Area and Forest Area Districts, two highly protective Pinelands management zones. However, of that portion, 34 percent will be constructed within existing transmission line rights-of-way. The balance of the project in these areas, with one minor exception, is being

constructed within the right-of-way of the Garden State Parkway. The agreement also addresses Pinelands wetlands standards and takes steps to minimize impacts at wetlands crossings. For example, the minor deviation from the Parkway right-of-way was designed to avoid disturbance of a significant wetlands system in the vicinity of Stafford Forge.

As a result of these inconsistencies, an inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement is required to allow the project to proceed. In accordance with CMP requirements, the agreement provides measures that afford, at a minimum, an equivalent level of protection of Pinelands resources than would be provided through strict application of the CMP's standards.

The agreement sets forth environmental commitments that must be met, including payment of \$13-million by the utility to the Pinelands Commission to further Pinelands protection programs.

The funding will be used for activities that are directly related to the preservation of Pinelands resources. In addition, the BPU, the public utility and the Pinelands Commission will work cooperatively to develop a Comprehensive, Ecologically Based Right-of-Way Maintenance Plan for use in all electric transmission rights-of-way located within the Pinelands.

The agreement also establishes 30 environmental conditions that must be met during construction of the Cedar to Cardiff line, including measures to protect wetlands, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, as well as historic and cultural resources.

A northern segment of this project, running from Lacey Township to Stafford, received Commission approval in April. That segment did not raise any significant Pinelands regulatory issues.



Hitting the Road for Pinelands Month

Each October is Pinelands Month in New Jersey and this fall the Pinelands Commission Public Programs staff was busy reaching out to, interacting with and educating people about the unique and valuable Pinelands resources and the role the New Jersey Pinelands Commission plays in protecting them.

The Public Programs staff started the month at the "Pinelands Month Kick-off celebration sponsored by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance at Whitesbog Village on October 3rd. There, the Commission shared information and literature with the many Pinelands enthusiasts who were in attendance. Dr. Barry Brady, the Pinelands Commission Archeologist, also gave a presentation on the industrial revolution in the Pinelands.

On October 6th, the Pinelands Commission was honored to co-sponsor, along with the US Geological Survey and NJ Department of Environmental Protection, World Water Monitoring Day, held at Batsto Village. Pinelands Commission Staff worked with about 150 school children to test the water from Batsto Lake for pH (a measure of acidity), dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity. The results were recorded and later entered into the World Water Monitoring Day database. The findings were also compared to other examples of water resources collected throughout the Pinelands.

On October 9, Commission staff participated in the Pinelands Jamboree, a Pinelands cultural festival held at Wells Mill County Park in Waretown, Ocean County. There was plenty of foot stomping to the home-grown bluegrass sounds of the Pines, as well as great local fare, and many fine and colorful examples of Pinelands culture. The Commission displayed an exhibit, shared information and had the opportunity to discuss many different aspects of the Pinelands and its unique culture and folklife.

October 17, marked Country Living Day at Historic Batsto Village. Commission staff had the opportunity to

mingle with many participants and distribute literature promoting the upcoming 16th Annual Pinelands Short Course, which will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at Burlington County College's Pemberton Campus (see story on this page).

The Pinelands Commission Staff also had the pleasure of meeting with delegates from the Republic of Korea (South Korea) on Thursday, October 21. A group of seven Planners and Educators were on an eight-day tour of the US. Their mission was to gain insight into many land use and planning issues South Korea is now facing. Larry Liggett, Pinelands Commission Director of Land Use and Technology programs delivered an informative presentation on Pinelands land-use and zoning with a special focus on the successful Pinelands Development Credit Program. Education Coordinator Joel Mott followed by taking the group on a tour of the Pinelands. A very rewarding and educational experience for both the Pinelands Commission staff and the Korean delegation was shared.



Nicholas Procopio (right), Pinelands Commission Research Scientist, helps students collect water samples to be analyzed and recorded as part of World Water Monitoring Day activities.

16th Pinelands Short Course Set

When: March 5, 2005

Where: Burlington County College, Pemberton, NJ

The 16th Annual Pinelands Short Course will feature ten new presentations this coming year. A total of nineteen different presentations will be offered, including two field trips to nearby Pinelands locations.

The new presentations include a Pinelands photography class with Michael Hogan, a well-known Pinelands Photographer. History buffs can look forward to learning about the lesser-known New Jersey Revolutionary War history in the Pines.

There are numerous and exciting presentations discussing Pinelands plants and wildlife, including a new presentation on Timber Rattlesnakes.

The Sugar Sand Ramblers will cover Traditional Pinelands Music. There also will be presentations focusing on Pinelands Folklife, and the Traditional Usage of Native Pinelands Plants.

Water resources which are vital to the Pinelands will be showcased in two presentations, one to discuss the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer and another following a drop of water as it travels from the Pinelands to the Ocean.

A new field trip to the Rutgers University, Silas Little Research Station will be offered as well as a tour of Whitesbog Village.

Other presentations included in this year's program are The Health Benefits of Cranberries and Blueberries, Industrial Revolution in the Pinelands, a Pinelands Overview, and Fire Wise.

The Pinelands Short Course flames are still burning bright. Come rekindle the fire in your heart and experience the wild spirit of New Jersey's Pinelands.

For more information, call or email Joel Mott at (609)894-7300 or info@njpines.state.nj.us



DEP Funds Pinelands Model Stormwater Ordinance Project

DEP also Supporting Pinelands Stormwater Basin, Septic System Studies

The Pinelands Commission has teamed up with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a Joint Stormwater Control Model Ordinance for Pinelands municipalities. As part of an agreement, the DEP will provide the Commission with \$25,000 to fund development of the model ordinance.

In early 2004, new DEP Stormwater management rules became effective, requiring municipalities to amend their Stormwater control ordinances. Pinelands Area municipalities are in the unique position of having to implement Stormwater Management Ordinances that comply with both DEP and Pinelands regulations.

The Commission has long provided Pinelands municipalities with planning assistance in developing ordinances that implement Pinelands land-use, development and resource protection standards. Through this latest effort the Commission will assist towns in the development of a

model ordinance that integrates both DEP and Pinelands regulations to avoid duplication of effort among municipalities.

This collaborative effort will save local governments time and money. It will also provide regulatory predictability and ensure consistency among Pinelands municipalities that are charged with protecting shared surface and groundwater resources.

In addition to the Joint Stormwater Control Model Ordinance project, the Commission has received DEP grant funding to evaluate the performance of select stormwater infiltration basins within the Pinelands. Commission staff has performed visual assessments of a number of stormwater basins and selected two for further engineering evaluation.

A contract for engineering services has been awarded for the assessment of two publically owned basins, one in Chesilhurst Borough and one in Winslow Township.

The Commission plans to determine the reason for inadequate infiltration and work with the towns to implement corrective action. Through this project, the Commission and DEP hope to identify cost-effective measures to rehabilitate failing stormwater basins throughout the Coastal Plain.

The Pinelands Commission and DEP work closely on protection of water resources. Under another contract with DEP, the Pinelands Commission oversees the development of management strategies for the Mullica River Watershed as part of the DEP's Watershed Management Program.

The DEP has also provided important financial and technical support to the Pinelands Alternate Design Wastewater Treatment Pilot Program. This program is improving protection of Pinelands water resources by requiring advanced on-site residential wastewater treatment systems.



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