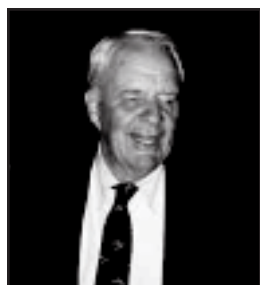





This year is the Pinelands Preservation Alliance's 20th anniversary! Founded in July 1989, PPA has been advocating and educating, supporting and harassing government, helping and depending upon caring individuals for twenty years in the cause of saving the Pinelands' natural and historic treasures. We are planning to celebrate PPA's 20th birthday in ways that look to our first two decades to guide and energize our next twenty years of work. We will be holding spe-

cial events to thank our members, engage more people in the preservation cause, and gather new ideas from our supporters and friends on how to save the Pinelands. Stay tuned for more information throughout the year.



Michael Huber
PPA's bedrock individuals,

As we get ready to mark PPA's 20th year, we are also mourning the passing of one of Mike Huber. Mike was PPA's first chair of the board of trustees, and he served actively on the board until his death. Beyond the fact that he hired me for the executive director job here at PPA - an event that changed my life in many wonderful ways - Mike was the most cheerful, even-keeled, generous and intelligent trustee any nonprofit director could ask for. I'll write more about Mike and his approach to Pinelands conservation in a future newsletter.

1989 - 2009: HAPPY BIRTHDAY PPA!

This year PPA will be inviting our members, friends and neighbors to join us in celebrating a milestone: 20 years of advocating for the Pinelands!

To commemorate our birthday, we will be hosting a wide-ranging series of events, big and small, at the Bishop Farmstead and across the Pines, and **we hope you will join us!**

If you would like to volunteer to help us organize our B-Day celebrations, please call Mike at (609) 859-8860 x24 or mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org

EARTH SHARE CELEBRATES NEW JERSEY

**Laurita Winery, New Egypt
Friday, March 20th
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Enjoy wine tasting, **delicious food**, **jazz music** and the **gorgeous setting** of Laurita Winery. Laurita Winery hopes to be certified as an eco-friendly facility by the U.S. Green Building Council. It uses solar power and about 60% of the winery is made from recycled or salvaged materials like bricks from a Trenton school. Earth Share raises money for organizations like PPA through workplace giving programs.

Tickets are \$40/person in advance and \$50 at the door. Buy tickets online at www.earthsharenj.org or call Earth Share at (609) 989-1160

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

**Saturday & Sunday
March 7th & 8th
Burlington County College
Garden & Flower Expo**

11:00 am - 4 :00 pm
Burlington County College -
Mount Holly Center,
Mount Holly

**Saturday, February 7
Cumberland County Winter
Eagle Festival**

10:00 - 4:00 pm
Mauricetown Fire Hall
Mauricetown

Preservation Area. At the surface, this number is impressive, but at least 30,000 acres, and possibly more, are already protected as preserved open space or through conservation deed restrictions. So it is unclear how much of these lands have real development potential.

The Commission will consider about 8,000 acres to be zoned as less protective - Regional Growth, Rural Development, Pinelands Towns or Villages. The EIA and aerial photography reveals that most of this land is already developed. But a number of the potential changes would move forested lands with high ecological integrity into growth zones.

For instance, several hundred acres near Stockton State College are candidates for changing to Regional Growth Areas, even though they have very high ecological integrity. It appears these proposed changes are not based on the EIA, but instead on growth plans of the College and/or the Township. Applying the stated logic of the initiative, the Commission should be looking to change these areas to a more protective, not a more growth-oriented, management area.

The Commission staff is still working through the details of which changes it wants to propose to the Commission itself for decision. So the potential changes are still in the drafting stage.

PPA supports this important initiative and commends the Commission for moving to protect more forests and watersheds that are ecologically robust. But PPA has also recently submitted a memo setting out its concerns and opposition to several of the proposed changes. Overall, PPA believes the Commission should:

- 1. Proceed with changes to better protect lands with high ecological integrity, which represent the great majority of the proposed changes currently on the table.** At the same time, the Commission should clarify the amount of land in question that is already protected as conserved open space.
- 2. Eliminate changes to Regional Growth Area and other growth-oriented zones unless the land is already developed as urban or suburban development.** Farm fields, forests and vacant land should not be redesignated for high growth.
- 3. Eliminate changes not based on the EIA's ecological integrity scores.** Where the Commission, a municipality or a landowner wants to rezone for more intensive development, such changes should be considered separately on their own merits, rather than being thrown into the Pinelands-wide review that is supposed to be based on the study of ecological integrity.

PPA EMAIL ALERTS

PPA has been communicating with our members and friends via email alerts for the last few years. This allows us to communicate in a timely fashion while consuming less resources.

Subscribers receive regular updates on upcoming events, policy issues and special offers

If you have not been receiving these alerts, please send an email request to:

mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org

Please include your name, email address and home address!

FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Where: Lacey Municipal Building
Lacey Road, Forked River

When: Sunday, April 19, 8:30 a.m.

The Forked River Mountain Coalition, in cooperation with the Ocean County Parks Department and the PPA, will conduct a clean-up of the Forked River Mountain Area for Earth Day.

Bags and gloves will be supplied! Individuals and groups are asked to pre-register: (609) 971-9435



Tom Darlington died suddenly last August. Tom was a leading figure in the Pinelands throughout most of his life. His importance arose not only from his wonderful personality and achievements in the field of native Pine Barrens berry farming, but also from the fact that he was simultaneously a leader in two communities that are too often in conflict - farming and environmental activism. Tom was a 4th generation cranberry grower, a descendant of Elizabeth White, and the President of the J.J. White Co., which founded Whitesbog Village and still grows cranberries there and in nearby bogs. Tom was also one of the original members of the Pinelands Commission, and, placing himself at odds with most of his fellow cranberry growers at the time, he endorsed and voted for the adoption of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Tom loved nature and machinery, preservation and farming, the past and the present - and he found ways to reconcile and combine these passions from which we all can learn.

Tom also loved Whitesbog Village in what is now Brendan Byrne State Forest. He devoted countless hours to furthering the Village's preservation as a trustee of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust and served as a tireless ambassador to thousands of adults and children who came to the Village. The following remembrances of Tom are reprinted with permission from the 3rd Quarter 2008 issue of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust Newsletter.

Tom came to Suningive my first week on the job with Whitesbog Preservation Trust in October 1990. He asked if he

could visit the home where he spent many hours with his Aunt Elizabeth as a young boy. The room that he was most interested in was the west bedroom on the third floor – a huge room that overlooked the pond. I feel privileged to have shared those very personal moments with him.

- Janet Robbins -

It is so sad to hear of Tom's passing. My wife, Sarah, and I both got to know him well during our time living at Whitesbog. Our young family was quite close to Mark and Ann Darlington and their two girls, and we got to know Tom as a wonderful father and joyous grandfather, an inventive and resourceful cranberry grower, and a generous friend to us, and later, to the Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

He has been our living link to history at Whitesbog, informing all the Trust's decisions with respect to restoring the village to its former glory. The vibrant historic village that Whitesbog has become is truly Tom's legacy to the state, but his longtime commitment to his family is no less important. He has enriched all our lives with his unselfish giving of himself to his many passions. He will be greatly missed by the many folks whose lives he has touched.

- Dave Orleans -

When I was a teenager and interested in sailing, my dad helped me learn how by doing it with me (even though he wasn't really interested himself), then he built me a sailboat from a kit (as long as I was the one to paint it).

He designed and built his own camping

gear. He was always trying for the smallest and lightest items that would do the job. Consequently, he could pack for a 10-day trip in a suitcase that was smaller than most people's carry-ons. In his last few years he spent a lot of time with radio-controlled helicopters that he could fly (well, sort of) inside his apartment.

- Joe Darlington -

Remembering my friend, Tom: Tom and I enjoyed talking about philosophy, religion, psychology and, of course, Whitesbog history. But probably my favorite conversations with him were about psychology. Tom was a true believer (like me), describing psychology as a special extraordinary cross between art and science. We talked about theorists, methods, early origins, root causes and on and on. I will miss Tom for so much – his kindness, his intellect, his easy conversational manner, his way of seeing the world, his enthusiasm, and our long conversations about one of our favorite topics. He brought so much to my life through those discussions.

- Theresa Jacks -

PINELANDS WATCH

Get involved in our activist network and help make a difference! To receive the Pinelands Watch or alert us to an issue of concern in your community,

call (609) 859-8860 x22 or e-mail theresa@pinelandsalliance.org

by Becky Free



In celebration of PPA's 20th Anniversary we are reaching out to long-time PPA members for their stories. Our first member story comes from Greg Auriemma, who has been a member of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance ever since the very beginning. He lives in Brick Township where he serves as Chair of the Sierra Club in Ocean County. We interviewed Greg about what inspired him to support PPA for almost 20 years.

PPA: What prompted you to become a PPA member?

GA: When PPA originated, I was already (and continue to be) a member of a number of environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, which I now Chair in Ocean County.

The Pinelands are New Jersey's greatest environmental gem. However, while there are many environmental organizations that do great work, before PPA there really wasn't any organization that focused principally on Pinelands issues. PPA promised to fill that void and articulate the concerns of individuals, like myself, who wanted to protect the Pinelands. How could I resist the honor of becoming a "charter" member of such a great organization?

PPA: Why are the Pine Barrens important to you? What do you like to do in the Pine Barrens?

GA: The Pinelands represent a unique and aesthetically beautiful eco-system. There are flora and fauna that exist nowhere except in the Pinelands. We have a moral obligation to protect its critical species and habitat. Beyond that, personally, its natural beauty provides sustenance to my soul. Canoeing and enjoying the beauty of the Pinelands along its incomparable streams and rivers is probably my favorite activity in the Pinelands.

Each year, the Sierra Club sponsors a "Paddle For Protection" canoe trip on Cedar Creek. On our last trip, we had two participants from Austria. One exclaimed,

"I can't believe this is New Jersey. It's so beautiful!" I replied, "Yes it is beautiful and we're working hard to keep it that way." As a PPA charter member and Chair of the Sierra Club in Ocean County, I am proud to join hands with PPA in protecting the Pinelands.

PPA: Why have you stayed a member of PPA for so long?

GA: Despite the great work of PPA and its allies, substantial challenges to the Pinelands remain. Speaking as an attorney, especially during the last few years, we've seen attempts by governments and developers to undermine the Pineland's comprehensive master plan with legal legerdemain. Unfortunately, they've had some successes. We need to remain vigilant in protecting the Pinelands.

PPA: Why would you urge others to join PPA?

GA: We will be successful in protecting the Pinelands only if more concerned individuals join hands in the fight. The more concerned people who are PPA members, the stronger our collective voice will resonate with those charged with the responsibility for protecting the Pinelands. It's as simple as that.

PPA: What specific PPA program or activity has impressed you?

GA: PPA does so much great work; it is hard to isolate just one activity. But as Chair of Sierra Club in Ocean County, I have been privileged to work with Carleton Montgomery, Theresa Lettman, Rich Bizub, Jaclyn Rhoads and other PPA staff in fighting the "good fight" in protecting the Pinelands on a number of issues. Sometimes we lose, but sometimes we win. And when we win, we are always ecstatic to protect this precious part of Mother Earth.

PPA: What else would you like to add?

GA: Thank you Carleton, Theresa, Rich, Jaclyn and PPA in helping me to become a better environmental advocate. And thank you PPA for all your hard work.

20TH ANNUAL PINELANDS SHORT COURSE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

BURLINGTON COUNTY
COLLEGE
PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP

Contact: (609) 894-7300 or
info@njpines.state.nj.us

EARTH DAY NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, April 19

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Trees, shrubs and wildflowers native to the Pinelands will be offered for sale.

Also: Raffle for cool prize, gardening lectures, and tours of historic barn and house.

Pinelands Visitor Center Open

Plants supplied by Pinelands
Nursery.

*****Special Member's Only**

Preview Sale***

Friday, April 17th

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

*Must be a current member or
become a member that day to attend*

PINELANDS COMMISSION MEETINGS

Friday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 13, 9:30 a.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CALL (609) 894-7300 FOR DETAILS



Spring is a good time to explore the Plains, the most famous vegetation community type in the Pine Barrens. You can find, here, one of the most famous plants of the Pine Barrens, Broom Crowberry, which is restricted, in New Jersey, to the Plains area. The plants usually flower around Saint Patrick's Day. In flower, they -- or rather the males among them -- have been described by one of the most famous North American botanists as "handsome."

The Plains (a.k.a Dwarf or Pygmy Forests) consist of a vegetation community type found nowhere else on the planet. It's an odd name for a hilly area. Nineteenth century accounts, though, indicate the trees were no more than about knee-high, providing vistas to the horizon.



"Broom Crowberry, detail of watercolor by Robin A. Jess. Portion of plant above, inflorescences below: female (left) and male (right).

High elevation (for Pine Barrens), high winds, and predominantly droughty soil, seem to have helped create this extremely fire-prone vegetation community. The Plains are indeed *the most* fire-prone areas of the Pine Barrens, and this is apparently why we have the dwarf Pitch Pines here. These pines, with their serotinous cones, have been the topic of considerable research and publication.

Broom Crowberry, a state-listed endangered plant, invites research, too. Our populations of this low shrub are disjunct from the other, more northerly ones, which are in the Shawangunk Mountains of New York, in Massachusetts and Maine, and in some eastern portions of Canada.

Broom Crowberry thrives in open areas, which are maintained by frequent fires. Such fires, if hot enough, kill many or all mature plants in a given area, but, simultaneously, create new habitat for seedlings.

The population dynamics, though, are complex, and no one has yet solved the puzzles. For example, myrmecochory may be at work. Ants collect the fruits. The ants get to eat something, but we don't know for sure if Broom Crowberry benefits from such seed dispersal.

Indeed, an aura of mystery has always surrounded the plant, especially before the early 1900's. Solomon W. Conrad, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, has been credited with discovering it around 1830 (thus the scientific name *Corema conradii*). The locality was recorded as "Pemberton Mills" New Jersey, but no populations in the vicinity of Pemberton have actually been documented.¹

Two famous individuals then entered the picture. Constantine Rafinesque collected it at "Cedar Bridge," and this was recorded as a place in Monmouth County, as Ocean County wasn't separated from it until 1850. John Torrey then went there, collected material, and published the first description of the species in 1837.

It was subsequently reported from several other localities well north of the Plains, evidently erroneously. Witmer Stone (1911) said that between about 1854 and 1886, "the plant was completely lost, so far as New Jersey was concerned." The botanists were searching for it, but couldn't find it.

The discovery of an enormous population in the West Plains in 1886 created a stir. Hearing of it, Stone and a few colleagues hiked "through the loose sand," a fourteen-mile round trip, to examine New Jersey's only known population at that time.

Today, there are numerous well-known locations for Broom Crowberry. Probably hundreds of people drive right up to the plants each year.

Some populations appear to be threat-

ened by succession, due to altered wild-fire patterns. Other problems are development, irresponsible ORV recreation, certain forestry practices, and unintelligent roadside vegetation management.

On the other hand, some human activities can actually enhance populations, if the disturbance (specific mowing schedules or specific prescribed fire treatments, for example) create or maintain suitable habitat.

In addition to its rarity, fame, and bizarre habitat, Broom Crowberry also commands attention due to its alleged handsomeness. The erudite Merritt Fernald stated, in his Eighth Edition of *Gray's Manual of Botany* (1950), "The staminate plant [is] handsome in flower, on account of the tufted purple filaments and brown-purple anthers."

This statement, a departure from Fernald's technical style, no doubt raises many an eyebrow. It raises questions, too, concerning aesthetics, scientific discipline, and possibly even chauvinism. But, as we do not have the space here to address these things, we recommend that, if you pursue these topics, you should refer to color illustrations or photographs of the plant, or, better yet, join us in the field when we go to see it this spring.

¹ See Stone (1911), p. 530 and related material

INSIDE THE PINELANDS

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PINELANDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February & March 2009

NOTE: Names, addresses, and phone numbers are provided here for frequently mentioned event sponsors. **Please contact the sponsor of the event for full information and details of the event.**

Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR) 609-812-0649, www.jcnerr.org

Outdoor Club of South Jersey (OCSJ). Call leaders to confirm trip. www.ocsj.org

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton. (609) 859-8860. www.pinelandsalliance.org. 10% discount on Pinelands Adventures programs to PPA members. Pre-registration required for all PPA programs.

Whitesbog (W). All events meet at the Whitesbog General Store. Historic Whitesbog, mile marker 13, Rt. 530, Pemberton Township. (609) 893-4646, www.whitesbog.org.

Saturday, February 7

Historic Whitesbog Village Tour
1:00 pm. \$5/person. Stroll through the historic village, learn about Whitesbog's place in the history of the cranberry and blueberry industries, and view the workers' cottages and other buildings that remain as Whitesbog's heritage. **W.**

Moonlight Walk

7:00 p.m. \$5/person. Learn about historic Whitesbog Village and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands and adjoining cranberry bogs while listening to the night sounds of the Pines. All walks are led by experienced guides and are 3-5 miles in length. Comfortable shoes and flashlights recommended. **W.**

Social Moonlight Hike, Campfire, Cookout

6-7 miles. Moderate pace. Hike over roads and trails lit by the Pink moon with a campfire at end. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Overnight camping is available Fri. & Sat., call to reserve space. Meet at 7 p.m. at parking area opposite Group campsite area, Bryne State Forest, enter forest off Rt. 72, 1 mile E. of jct. Rts 70 & 72. Leader: Paul Serdiuk, (609) 462-3593, eve., or pis1@cccnj.net Inclement weather cancels. **OCSJ.**

Sunday, February 15

Social Tundra Swan Hike

6 miles, moderate pace. All are welcomed. Hike the wintry beauty

among ponds filled with Tundra Swans. Bring binoculars. Dress for the cold weather. NP/NC. Bring picnic type food to share at tailgate social after hike. Meet at 10 a.m. at Whitesbog Village parking lot. Take Rt. 70 east to Rt. 530 north (Browns Mills/Ft Dix) go 1 mile, turn right onto Whitesbog Road go to parking lot. Leader: Paul Serdiuk (609) 462-3593 eve., <mailto:pis1@cccnj.net>. Inclement weather cancels. **OCSJ.**

Wednesday, March 4

Brendan Byrne Ranger Station Hike
5:30 p.m. 6 miles, movin it with a very brisk pace on the red trail or roads depending on popular demand. No scheduled stops, we go in snow or rain, cookies available for hiker dogs. Leader: Faye Home: (732) 363-9242, or email at: walkinginmud@aol.com night after 7 p.m. **OCSJ.**

Saturday, March 7

Moonlight Walk

See February 7 listing for details.. **W.**

March Moonlight Hike

7-8 miles, moderate pace. 7:30 p.m. March is the month for moonies. Come out, meander in the streaks of moonbeams. Meet at Atsion. Leaders Dave and Julie Hegelein, (856) 235-8792. **OCSJ.**

Sunday, March 8

Fourth Annual "Lines on the Pines: A Pine Barrens Celebration "

At the Vienna Inn, 920 W. White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come out and meet your favorite authors and artists! Followed by a buffet dinner featuring author Howard Boyd, keynote speaker. Buffet dinner (4:30-7:30) is \$30 until Feb. 1. Call (609) 561-1665 or email strawberry1rose@comcast.net.

Saturday, March 14

Historic Whitesbog Village Tour

See February 7 listing for details.. **W.**

Hot Dog Hike

6-8 miles, moderate pace. Around Lake Absegami and through the big pine woods. Upon return, we sizzle hot dogs, and socialize. Bring your own beverage and chips. We bring beef hot dogs, rolls, and condiments.

Share the cost with a small donation. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Lake Absegami parking, Bass River State Forest. Entrance is on Stage Rd., 3.4 miles E of Rt. 679, coming from the W & NW; Leaders: Christine Denneler. (856) 461-5379. Joseph Trujillo. (856) 468-4849. **OCSJ.**

Sunday, March 15

Batona Trail Maintenance

In conjunction with the Batona Hiking Club. An easy work trip to help keep the section of the Batona Trail from Ong's Hat to Batsto in top shape. Bring lunch and clipping tools (if you have them, or use Batona's). Meet at Red Lion Diner parking lot (west side) at the circle - intersection of Rts. 70 and 206 at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Milt Cannan, (856) 983-9076. **OCSJ.**

How to Build a Rain Garden and Make your Yard a Sponge

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place: JC NERR Coastal Center

Rain gardens are a great way to add beautiful, native landscaping to your yard while protecting and conserving New Jersey's limited water resources. Learn how to select the proper location, construct the garden and select plants for your rain garden. Join us for this hands-on workshop on building a rain garden on your property. Call (609) 812-0649 x206 to register. **JCNERR.**

Saturday, March 28

Emerging Plants Nature Walk

10:00 a.m. \$5/person. Stroll through Suningive Gardens, created by blueberry pioneer Elizabeth White, and explore adjoining Pineland areas with a Whitesbog Historic Village naturalist. **W.**

Saturday, April 4

Historic Whitesbog Village Tour

1:00 p.m. \$5/person. Stroll through the historic village, learn about Whitesbog's place in the history of the cranberry and blueberry industries, and view the workers' cottages and other buildings that remain as Whitesbog's heritage. **W.**

If your organization is having an activity you would like to see listed, contact *Inside the Pinelands*, 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088; ph: (609) 859-8860; e-mail mikeh@pinelandsalliance.org. Next deadline: March 1, 2009.

THE PINELANDS NEEDS YOUR HELP...AND SO DO WE!
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MISSION & BECOME A MEMBER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Visa

Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3-digit Security Code: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Membership Categories

- Basic \$35
Family \$60
Sponsor \$100
Patron \$250
Benefactor \$500
Chairman's Circle \$1,000
Other _____

All members receive:

- A PPA membership card
- A year's subscription to *Inside the Pinelands*
- A PPA window sticker
- Discounts on PPA merchandise and events

SAVE THE DATE:

**PPA EARTH DAY NATIVE
PLANT SALE, APRIL 19**

- A Sponsor will receive an *Exploring the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* map
- A Patron will receive a copy of *The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural* DVD
- A Benefactor will receive a Pinelands Botanical Print by Robin Jess
- A member of the Chairman's Circle will receive a personalized tour of the Pinelands



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PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

20TH ANNIVERSARY
1989-2009



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER! WHEN FINISHED GIVE IT TO A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO LEARN ABOUT PPA'S MISSION AND PROGRAMS.