



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Pinelands Commission announces lineup for its second annual “Pinelands Speaker Series”

Free educational programs offered to the public at the Richard J. Sullivan Center

NEW LISBON, N.J. – Beginning this month, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission will host a series of **free** educational presentations on a variety of Pinelands topics at its headquarters in Pemberton Township.

The second-annual “Pinelands Speaker Series” features three presentations: one demonstrating how to create backyard wildlife habitats, one on insect-eating pitcher plants and one on a new video of the “People of the Pines.” All of the programs will be held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education on 15 Springfield Road. Organized and sponsored by the Pinelands Commission, the “Pinelands Speaker Series” is an annual educational initiative that seeks to raise awareness and appreciation of the natural, cultural and historic resources of the New Jersey Pinelands.

“The Pinelands Commission has experienced tremendous success in carrying out educational programs such as the Pinelands Speaker Series and the Pinelands Short Course, which drew a record crowd of 622 people this March,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. “There is clearly a strong demand for these types of programs, which are invaluable in helping people to learn about this special part of New Jersey.”

The first presentation will seek to encourage the use of native Pinelands plants to create **backyard wildlife habitats**. The program will discuss the benefits of using native plants, such as reducing water consumption, avoiding fertilizers and pesticides and attracting native animal species. It will be presented by a representative from the New Jersey Audubon Society on Thursday, June 19 at 2 p.m.

The second presentation will focus on **pitcher plants**, a carnivorous plant that lives in very nutrient-poor, acidic soils in the Pinelands. The program will feature several specimens of live pitcher plants. Attendees will have an opportunity to look at the plants under a microscope, which will provide an up-close view of the plants’ anatomy. The program will be presented by Pemberton Township resident Richard Prickett on Thursday, July 17, at 2 p.m.

(MORE)

Pinelands Commission press release

Page 2...

The third presentation features filmed interviews of several people who were showcased in photographer Bob Birdsall's recent book, "**People of the Pines.**" The video includes interviews of former New Jersey Gov. Brendan T. Byrne, former Pinelands Commission member Ted Gordon, and the late storyteller Cliff Oakley, among others. The presentation will be delivered by Bob Birdsall and his wife, Jean Sault Birdsall, on Thursday, August 14, at 2 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending the presentations must pre-register by calling (609) 894-7300 or sending a message to info@njpines.state.nj.us. Seating will be limited to approximately 60 per program.

***** SPECIAL NOTE TO EDITORS:** Digital, high-resolution photos of native Pinelands plants and pitcher plants are available for publication with this press release. Please contact Paul Leakan of the Pinelands Commission at (609) 894-7300 or info@njpines.state.nj.us to obtain the photos.

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