



Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

Pinelands Short Course to feature 35 educational presentations

26th annual event to be held on March 14, 2015

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 13, 2015 – The 26th annual Pinelands Short Course will feature 35 presentations, including 22 new programs and a new track of family-friendly courses that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture and music.

Registration is now open for the daylong event, which will be held at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, on March 14, 2015. Stockton is hosting the Short Course for the second straight year.

“The Commission is pleased to return to Richard Stockton College and its world-class educational facilities,” said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission’s Executive Director. “During the past 25 years, the Pinelands Short Course has educated more than 10,000 people about this special part of New Jersey. This year’s event features a diverse lineup of presentations that will continue to raise awareness and appreciation of the Pinelands, especially among younger generations who will be the future stewards of this million-acre region.”

“Stockton is uniquely suited to serve as the host of the Pinelands Short Course, given our campus in the Pinelands National Reserve and our distinctive Environmental Studies program - one of the country's finest,” said Stockton President Herman Saatkamp. “This year's Short Course will again take advantage of our location and our expertise, including a field trip on birding in the Pinelands by Stockton's John Rokita and a presentation on Atlantic white cedar, a globally threatened species of central importance to the Pinelands, by Dr. George Zimmerman, professor of Environmental Studies.”

The new family-friendly track of courses is aimed at instilling a sense of stewardship among younger people. The track includes presentations that are designed to appeal to current or future Pinelands enthusiasts, starting from middle school and older. Parents, grandparents, chaperones and students will sign up for the same courses together.

The 22 new courses include presentations on the Pinelands Jetport, Pinelands Lichen Ecology, the Neonate Ecology of the Northern Pine Snake, the Jersey Devil and the Origins of New Jersey, Lost Towns of the Pines, Investigating the Pygmy Forest, the Battle of Chestnut Neck,

(MORE)

Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 2 ...

Wetlands and Hydrologic Gradients, From Tidal Freshwaters to the Ocean: Fishes of the Mullica River - Great Bay Estuary, From the Lens: Learning to Appreciate the Pinelands through Photography, Wilderness Survival Fundamentals, Waste Management/Recycling in the Pinelands, Thomas Wesley Stern Band (live music), Land Use Planning for Barnegat Bay, A Trip Down the Great Egg Harbor River, Birding the Pinelands at Richard Stockton College, Still Days: A Biographical Presentation on Dr. James Still, Using GIS to Identify the Patterns of Land Use Change in the Pinelands, Sea Creatures with Amazing Features (Family Friendly), Lenape Living in the Pines (Family Friendly), Birding 101: Learning the Basics of Birdwatching (Family Friendly) and Get Youth Hooked on Fishing (Family Friendly).

The event will also feature numerous popular presentations from the past, including Pinelands Frogs and Toads, Raptors of New Jersey (with live raptors; Family Friendly), Know the Bear Facts: Black Bears in New Jersey (Family Friendly), Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Pinelands, Batsto through the Years, Atlantic White Cedar: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Pinelands Stream-water Quality and Aquatic Communities, Lure of the Pine Barrens, Estell Manor Park, New Jersey's Biodiversity: North & South, A Photographic Journey through the Pinelands National Reserve and Tunes & Tales (live music).

Coffee, food and other refreshments will be available for purchase at the Campus Center.

Participants should register early to help ensure that they receive their first course selections. The Pinelands Short Course is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend. Discounted registration fees are offered to senior citizens and students. The Short Course brochure and registration form includes complete, detailed descriptions of every program.

To request the brochure/registration form or for more information, please call (609) 894-7300, ext. 125. The form is also available online and can be downloaded and printed from the Pinelands Commission's Web site. The address is: www.nj.gov/pinelands.

To register online, go to: www.stockton.edu/continuingstudies.

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***** ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** Digital photos of previous Short Course presentations and images related to this year's Short Course topics, including the photos on the following pages, can be obtained via e-mail by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300, ext. 124.

Photos from last year's event are also available at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/stockton_edu/sets/72157642067365453/

(MORE)

Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 3 ...



Participants at last year's Pinelands Short Course had an opportunity to see live raptors, including a pair of Eastern Screech Owls that are shown above. The presentation will be offered once again at this year's Short Course. Photo/Paul Leakan

(MORE)

Pinelands Short Course Press Release

Page 4 ...



This year's Pinelands Short Course will once again feature presentations by Ted Gordon, a noted Pinelands botanist and historian.
Photo/Paul Leakan

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