

Save the Pine Bush

April Activities

4/14 • 33 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12210 • email pinebush@mac.com • phone 518-462-0891 • <http://www.savethepinebush.org>

Vegetarian/Vegan Lasagna Dinner Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Celebrating Earth Week

Erin Kinal

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, will speak about the

The Pine Bush Preserve

Laura Haight

NYPIRG, will speak about

The Legislative Agenda for the Environment

Katherine Nadeau

Environmental Advocates, will speak about the

Oil on the Hudson and Other Environmental Challenges

At the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut Street (people with cars can park in the lot near the door). All-the-vegetarian-and-vegan-lasagna-you-can-eat, garden salad, garlic bread and homemade pies. Only \$12 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$2 for children. People who make reservations are served first. For reservations, please leave a message for Rezsine Adams at 462-0891 or email pinebush@mac.com. **Get it while it is hot!** We will start serving dinner promptly at 6:00. (Of course, we will be delighted to serve you whenever you get here as we always have. We greatly appreciate your attendance whenever you arrive.)

Interested people are welcome to attend the program beginning at 7:00 for which there is no charge.

Save the Pine Bush Spring Flower Walk

One of our most popular outings!

Saturday, April 26 at 9 AM

Meet At: Pine Bush Discovery Center Parking Lot; East side of Route. 155, opposite "T" with Old State Road, 195 New Karner Road, Albany NY 12205

Leader: Amy Riley and Neal Riley • **For More Information:** John Wolcott at 465-8930

Amy and her son Neal are superb natural history hike leaders. No matter how few blooms or birds show up we invite you and your friends and kin to show up. The Rileys always make their walks very interesting, enjoyable, and informative. Remember to dress for whatever the unpredictable weather may be.

Also and extremely important wear appropriate protective clothing for the excessive danger of ticks. Bring DEET or insect repellent to spray on you before beginning the walk. Check carefully for ticks right after the walk and again as soon as you get home. We have discovered that these ticks are subject to transmit a lesser known disease called erlichiosis. This is a nervous system fast debili-

See Walk continued on next page

The walk is free and open to the public! Bring your friends!

Walk continued from previous page

tating disease much more dangerous than Lyme disease. So do the standard thing: Wear medium height to full height boots, or pull up socks over your pants legs and secure them with rubber bands. Or wear canvas or leather leggings. Wear long sleeved shirts. Wear all light-colored socks and clothes preferability white or light tan. The

Mark Your Calendars!

Next Dinner Dates

Our dinners are back to our usual Wednesdays!

Wednesday, April 16

Wednesday, May 21

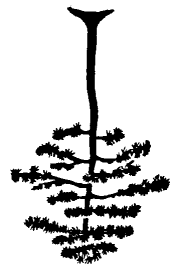
Save The Pine Bush is in need of more hike leaders.

For the last few years ; the Save the Pine Bush outing leaders have been Andy Arthur, Claire Nolan and John Wolcott. Our outing events are once a month, always on a Saturday and usually the third or fourth Saturday. We three, however, are not always readily available and we've come close to having no hike at all for a given month as happened for the first time ever last month. To prevent this from happening again, we are appealing for more volunteer leaders.

With more leaders we can hopefully have hikes lead by persons with more time and less competing obligations for any given hike date. I and Andy are generally available for going over data about various Pine Bush area and routes. Please e-mail the Newsletter at pinebush@mac.com or call John Wolcott at 465-8930 if you are interested in volunteering for this. Hope to see you out on the trail!

Address Service Requested

Save the Pine Bush
A Project of the Social Justice Center
33 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12210



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Excerpt from article printed in the Altamont Enterprise on 8/1/13 (full article at altamontenterprise.com)

Research used to assess the health of Pine Bush

by Sara Poggi

This makes [the Pine Bush] a great location for a variety of different types of scientific research.

This research by preserve staff and university professors helps us assess the health of this rare ecosystem. It also helps us evaluate the effectiveness of management activities in the preserve, letting us know if a certain technique is working or not. The research also gives us the unique opportunity to include the latest findings in our education programs.

Scientific research is being conducted in the preserve to study animals big and small. Camera traps placed in managed and unmanaged parts of the Pine Bush Preserve help us to see what mammals are active in different areas.

In addition to mammals, there are several different research projects that monitor birds. Prairie warblers are a good indicator of the health of the pitch-pine, scrub-oak barrens, as this is the type of habitat that they breed in.

Two birds, the American woodcock and whip-poor-will, which are active in the evening, are also monitored. The whip-poor-will is of particular interest because, in the past, they were very abundant here but have become much less common in the Pine Bush and throughout much of North America.

Fall bird banding is a chance to document what birds are migrating through the area and MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) is a continent-wide coordinated bird banding effort that monitors breeding-season, landbird populations and helps inform conservation and management efforts.

Insects are another important area of research for the conservation staff here. The endangered Karner blue butterfly is monitored and has shown an increase from a few hundred in 1991 to more than 3,000 in 2012.

In addition to the Karner blue, the buckmoth (a New York State species of special concern), and the frosted elfin (which is threatened in New York State) are monitored.

There are also preliminary plans to reintroduce a butterfly, the regal fritillary, and a dragonfly, the banded bog haunter. The bog haunter specializes on the pine-barrens, vernal ponds, another rare habitat in the preserve.

In addition to all the research involving animals, wetlands are regularly visited to collect information about groundwater. Vegetation surveys are conducted to help determine overall ecosystem health and the suitability of restored habitat for some of our most rare animal species.

Another project is investigating how temperature and humidity change in frost pockets. These low valleys between the dunes are cooler at night than the dune ridges, experiencing repeated frosts well into June; their management may be important to buffering certain wildlife from the expected effects of climate change.

Pitch pine is also being monitored to determine if prescribed fire is adequately stimulating new seedlings.

As you can see, there is a lot of science going in Pine Bush Preserve. I have only brushed the surface in this article.

All the research that is done comes back to being able to assess the health of this rare ecosystem as part of our effort to create and manage a preserve that is healthy for many kinds of plant and animals for generations to come.

If you are particularly interested in research in the Pine Bush Preserve, please check out [the Discovery Center's] Science Lecture Series. This is a series of free science talks that occur on the third Thursday of every month.

If you want more information about the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, the Discovery Center, or scientific research, feel free to check the website: www.AlbanyPineBush.org, give the commission a call at 456-0655, or stop into the Discovery Center at 195 New Karner Road in Albany.