

Mid-Atlantic ESA and SER Conference

March 13-14

Bridging the Gap: Connecting Ecological Research and Restoration Practice

Saturday, March 14 Field Trips

We have organized **three** field trips that will showcase the bridges between ecology and restoration in three distinct ecosystems within our region. We will travel by car pool from TCNJ to the field sites, or else participants can meet at the site. A boxed lunch may be purchased through TCNJ for those leaving from TCNJ (see registration form). Additional logistical details will be posted here prior to the conference, once we have received registrations.

HABITAT REGENERATION AT DUKE FARMS Hillsborough, NJ

Leaders: Thom Almendinger and Brian Clough (Natural Resources Team, Duke Farms), Dr. Steven Handel and students (Rutgers University Center for Urban Restoration Ecology).

Time: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm. **Bring your lunch.** **Size Limit:** 30

Duke Farms, located on 2,740 acres, is one of the largest privately-owned parcels of undeveloped land in the state. The property provides critical habitat for endangered species and serves as an important resting place for migratory birds. The property also contains critical grassland habitat, a rarity in this heavily-developed state. Our trip will begin in the Visitor's Center with a short intro to Duke Farms and an overview of the day. We will then continue outside to see and discuss the regeneration work and research being conducted on site. Habitats include small forested areas, pollinator meadows, riparian sites, large agricultural grasslands that support vibrant populations of threatened and endangered birds, and designed landscapes. The group will return to the Visitor's Center for lunch and Q & A with staff and researchers. In the afternoon we will return to the field to see remaining habitats missed in the a.m. and, if time allows, show infestations of newly emerging invasive plants.

TIDAL FRESHWATER RESTORATION AT THE HAMILTON-TRENTON MARSH Bordentown, NJ

Leader: Mary Alessio Leck (Emeritus Professor of Biology, Rider University).

Time: 9:00 – 11:30 am. **Size limit:** 20

The Hamilton-Trenton Marsh consists of a diverse mix of habitats that abut the Delaware River and are bordered by urban development. It includes deciduous woodlands and shrub communities, tidal and nontidal wetlands, and open water areas of the Delaware River and several tributaries. The State of New Jersey has designated a Natural Heritage Priority Site within the marsh. We will compare the created tidal freshwater wetland at Duck Island to a natural area along Duck Creek, and also will visit the Duck Creek overview.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION IN THE NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS Southern New Jersey

Leaders: Jamie Cromartie (Richard Stockton College), Bob Williams (Land Dimensions Engineering), Emile DeVito (NJ Conservation Foundation), Andy Windisch (NJ Office of Natural Lands Management)

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Bring your lunch.

Size: unlimited, but it may be necessary to combine into as few vehicles as possible. Very low clearance vehicles may be unsuitable.

The New Jersey Pine Barrens consist of a million acres of forests and wetlands in southern New Jersey. Although it is close to several major cities it remains largely undeveloped. The pinelands are home to a unique fire-adapted community that has developed on the sandy, acidic soils of the outer coastal plain, including pitch pine forest, cedar swamps, and bogs. We plan to visit Bob William's cedar restoration of a blueberry/cranberry site near Brendan Byrne State Forest, and learn about the Stoddard Neil approach he is using at the Haines property to restore a more realistic structure/functioning of upland pine stands. Emile DeVito will show us white cedar and wild indigo restoration at former cranberry bogs, now the Franklin Parker Preserve in Chatsworth. Andy Windisch will take us to the broom crowberry restoration at Warren Grove Range in the East Plains (pygmy pines). There will be moderate hiking with some wet areas and rough ground. Ticks are possible. We will meet at the WaWa Market at Rtes 70 and 72, <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=rte+70+%26+rte+72+new+jersey&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF8&split=0&gl=us&ll=39.966596,-74.669952&spn=0.239974,0.338516&z=11&iwloc=addr>

The trip will end back on Rte 72 by 5 pm. Dinner (optional, Dutch treat) at [Apanay Café, 788 Ongs Hat Road, Southampton, NJ 08088](#).