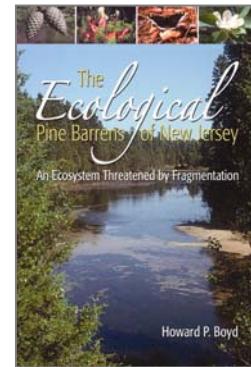


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Nonagenarian Naturalist Howard P. Boyd's Fourth Book About the New Jersey Pine Barrens Is Published

***The Ecological Pine Barrens of New Jersey* explains the forces that created this unique ecosystem and documents the fragmentation that is threatening its survival**

August 29, 2008, Medford, NJ—Plexus Publishing, Inc. announced the publication of *The Ecological Pine Barrens of New Jersey: An Ecosystem Threatened by Fragmentation* by Howard P. Boyd.

“The Pine Barrens of New Jersey is one of the world’s unique natural areas,” writes the 93-year-old author in the Introduction to his fourth book on the topic. He notes that in 1983 the United Nations designated the area as an International Biosphere Reserve—one of only 225 so designated in the entire world, and one of only 40 in the United States.

“The ecological Pine Barrens is the most extensive, relatively wilderness tract along the mid-Atlantic seaboard,” Boyd says, noting that it “consists of some 2,000 to 2,250 square miles, or 1.25 to 1.4 million acres. ... It makes up, approximately, 30 percent of the total land area in New Jersey and 45 percent of the forested land in the state.” According to Boyd, “there are well over 1,300 species of plants that have been identified as native to the Pine Barrens ... supplemented by 160-plus species of birds, 35 mammals, 33 reptiles, 25 amphibians, 28 fish, and more than 10,000 species of arthropods, including insects.”

In *The Ecological Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, Boyd presents a fascinating study of the natural forces that created this unique ecosystem and a timely review of human development in the region. Beginning with a concise introduction to Pine Barrens ecology, Boyd then delves into distinctive abiotic factors (physical processes and characteristics such as geological evolution, soils, climate, water, and wildfires) and biotic factors (plants and animals), emphasizing their interrelationships.

In addition, Boyd lists hundreds of species of Pinelands flora and fauna, surveys threatened and endangered species, explores man’s industrial and agricultural industries and their impacts, and offers an important discussion of the dangers current human activity presents to the survival of the ecosystem. The

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text is supported by more than 40 photographs, maps, and figures, including photos by Boyd, his wife Doris, and the prominent environmental photographer Steve Greer. Extensively indexed, the book is geared to the interests of ecologists, environmentalists, educators, students, and other individuals with a serious interest in the New Jersey Pine Barrens and its future survival.

“I’m not saying the Pine Barrens is under attack,” Boyd was recently quoted in New Jersey’s *Star Ledger*. “There’s nobody I know trying to eliminate the Pine Barrens. But they’re allowing a piece to be taken out here, a piece to be taken out there, and this fragmentation is harming the ecological balance. If this fragmentation continues, there won’t be an ecosystem. Wildlife will eventually die out because of the lack of diversity.”

John B. Bryans, Boyd’s editor at Plexus, described the cumulative impact of the author’s four books as “unparalleled” in the battle for Pine Barrens preservation. “Howard wrote his first book at age 76,” Bryans said, referring to *A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey*. “Three books later, at age 93, his passion to protect the Pine Barrens has never been stronger.” According to Bryans, “No author, not even John McPhee (*The Pine Barrens*), has done more than Howard Boyd to raise public awareness of the Pine Barrens. He continually reminds us that if we don’t take the job of preservation seriously, if we don’t keep development in check, we’re going to lose this extraordinary wilderness forever.”

Howard P. Boyd is an entomologist, botanist, editor, teacher, photographer, filmmaker, writer, and naturalist whose association with the Pine Barrens of New Jersey has spanned more than 70 years. He has served as Vice President of the New Jersey Audubon Society and as Chair of its Advisory Committee for the Rancocas Nature Center, which he helped establish. He has served as a Trustee, now Emeritus, of Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) since 1989. In 2004, he was named by PPA as one of two premiere recipients of the annual Pine Barrens Hall of Fame Award, established to honor heroes of Pinelands preservation. His previous books, also from Plexus Publishing, Inc., are *A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* (1991), *A Pine Barrens Odyssey: A Naturalist’s Year in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* (1997), and *Wildflowers of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* (2001).

A Book Launch and Signing with Howard Boyd will take place on Sunday, September 14, 2008, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA), Bishop Farmstead, 17 Pemberton Rd., Southampton, NJ. Books will be available for sale during the event. For more information contact Mike Pippin at (609) 859-8860, ext. 15 or visit www.pinelandsalliance.org.

The Ecological Pine Barrens of New Jersey: An Ecosystem Threatened by Fragmentation is available in hardcover and softcover (296 pp/hardbound/\$27.95/ISBN 978-0-937548-65-3; softbound/\$19.95/ISBN 978-0-937548-69-1). It is represented to the book trade by Parson Weems Publisher Services and is available in better bookstores everywhere or by contacting the publisher directly at (609) 654-6500, ext. 144; fax: (609) 654-4309; email: info@plexuspublishing.com. Visit us on the Web at www.plexuspublishing.com.

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