

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***People of the Pines***

New Book from Photojournalist Bob Birdsall Celebrates  
the Unique Culture and Spirit of the New Jersey Pine Barrens

*July 16, 2007, Medford, New Jersey*—Plexus Publishing, Inc. has announced the publication of *People of the Pines*, by Barnegat-based nature photographer and author Bob Birdsall.

In this beautifully photographed coffee-table book, Bob Birdsall celebrates the people of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Birdsall's perceptive lens and engaging text illuminate dozens of individuals and their ways of life, many of which are fast vanishing. From "Piney" hunter-gatherers who still live off the land, to hardworking baymen and farmers, to volunteers and public servants, artisans and entrepreneurs, scientists, conservationists, and educators, the men and women profiled typify the bold and creative spirit of the region.

"When I went out to capture the spirit of the people of the Pines, I was determined to avoid taking 'snapshots' or documenting their stories from afar," Birdsall said. "I wanted, whenever possible, to record them in their intimate environment, performing their vocations and crafts, and to be hands-on in order to truly experience the culture." With this approach, and assisted by Contributing Editor Janet Jackson-Gould, Birdsall was able to capture the essence of his many subjects through fascinating personal anecdotes and more than 200 photographs.

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According to the author, the people he profiled share a common bond in their love and respect for the Pinelands. “Each is concerned with protecting the environment,” Birdsall said, “not always from an academic perspective, but certainly from a practical one that comes from generations of living in harmony with the land.” In his Introduction to the book, Birdsall notes that in the Pine Barrens, “a grassroots alliance pushed politics and special interests aside to protect and preserve more than a million acres in the most densely populated state in the U.S.”

More than 35 individuals are featured in *People of the Pines*, including “Pineys” Bill Wasiowich and Emil Brown, storyteller Cliff Oakley, historical archaeologist Budd Wilson, naturalists Ted Gordon and Howard Boyd, artisans Gary and Niki Giberson, environmental educators V. Eugene Vivian and Terry O’Leary, farmers Bill Haines and Tom Darlington, conservationist Pete McLain, activist Nan Hunter-Walnut, and former New Jersey Governor Brendan T. Byrne, who enacted legislation that is widely credited with saving the Pinelands from overdevelopment. Through their stories, numerous historical and legendary figures are also brought to life, including blueberry pioneer Elizabeth White, famed Mexican aviator Emilio Carranza, musicians George and Joe Albert, and wildlife rehabilitator Elizabeth Woodford.

**Bob Birdsall** has been frequenting the Pine Barrens of New Jersey for more than 50 years. Together with his wife, Jean, who designed the new book, he owns Birdsall Nature Photography. The couple lives in Barnegat Light, New Jersey—close enough to the Pines for Birdsall’s frequent photographic expeditions that typically begin at dawn. Birdsall loves nothing more than exploring and capturing the beauty of the New Jersey Pine Barrens through photography. *People of the Pines* is his second book.

*People of the Pines* (160 pp/hardbound/\$39.95/ISBN 978-0-937548-63-9) is published by Plexus Publishing, Inc. The book is available in bookstores and by contacting the publisher directly at (609) 654-6500, ext. 144; fax: (609) 654-4309; e-mail: [info@plexuspublishing.com](mailto:info@plexuspublishing.com); and Web: [www.plexuspublishing.com](http://www.plexuspublishing.com).

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