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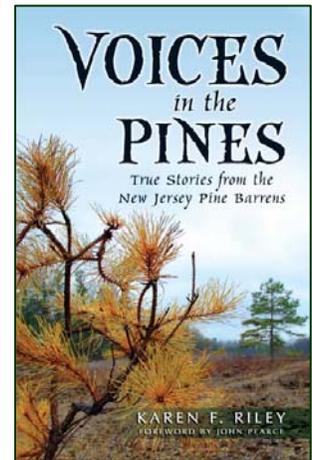
Plexus Publishing, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voices in the Pines: True Stories from the New Jersey Pine Barrens

New Book Brings the Storytelling Legacy of the Pine Barrens into the 21st Century



April 27, 2009, Medford, NJ—Plexus Publishing, Inc. has announced the publication of *Voices in the Pines: True Stories from the New Jersey Pine Barrens* by Karen F. Riley.

Comprising over 1.25 million acres and accounting for approximately 30 percent of the total land area in New Jersey, the Pine Barrens has a long and colorful human history. In *Voices in the Pines*, Riley brings the region’s rich storytelling legacy into the 21st century. She roamed the woods, rural communities, and farms of the Pinelands in search of compelling stories. The result is an engrossing human journey as Riley recounts true life tales of murder and mayhem and inspiring accounts of triumph over adversity and “Pineys” fighting to protect their way of life.

“Once again, another writer has been seduced by the enticing pinelands. Karen Riley took pen to paper that she might ramble through that ‘heart’ yet again with those who continue to love and labor in the pines in this 21st century,” said John Pearce, author of *Heart of the Pines: Ghostly Voices of the Pine Barrens*, in the foreword to the book. “Their stories are fascinating, just as the stories told by those who came before them.”

“*Voices in the Pines* presents a captivating, diversified, and at times unexpected view of several residents of New Jersey’s Pinelands,” according to Cathy Antener of PineyPower.com. “Each one of these dynamic characters, whether they’ve resided here for nine generations or merely a few years, share in different ways a special love, understanding, and respect for this wonderful place we are all proud to call home.”

Combining an uncanny ear with a knack for getting perfect strangers to talk freely, Riley takes readers along with her on an unforgettable trip into the Pine Barrens. You’ll meet artisans, activists, farmers, educators, local heroes, and regular folks in this collection of true stories, told in the words of those who lived them.

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“An easy read ... a fun read. And what an education while you are experiencing Pinelands lore! You will learn a lot about people, and cranberries, too,” stated Brendan T. Byrne, former governor of New Jersey. “When I claim to have ‘saved’ the Pinelands, I mean I tried to save it for the people and places you will experience in Karen Riley’s book. She clearly knows what she is talking about and covers it delightfully.”

Ben Ruset from NJPineBarrens.com described *Voices in the Pines* as “the best book on Pinelands folklife since Beck’s memorable *Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey* series. A must-read for anybody interested in Piney lore.”

“The Pine Barrens has a rich and fascinating human history, but sadly we lose more of it every day,” author Riley writes in the book’s epilogue. “We need to listen to and preserve these stories now, while we still have those among us who are able and willing to share them.”

Karen F. Riley’s initial passion was writing. Nationally published at the age of eleven, her subsequent work has appeared in *New Jersey Monthly*, *Asbury Park Press*, and other media. Her first book, *Whispers in the Pines: The Secrets of Colliers Mills*, deals with the history and environment of the northernmost part of the Pine Barrens. *Voices in the Pines: True Stories from the New Jersey Pine Barrens* brings that history alive through the eyes of the folks who live and work throughout the Pinelands. Karen, her husband, Bill, and their three children, Lisa, Laura, and Chris, have lived in New Egypt, New Jersey, since 1992.

A Book Launch and Signing with author Karen F. Riley and the book’s illustrator, Andrew Gioulis, will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2009, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at Buzby’s Chatsworth General Store, 3959 Route 563, Chatsworth, New Jersey. The history of Buzby’s and store owner R. Marilyn Schmidt comprise one of the chapters in the book. Besides Marilyn, several other people who appear in the book will be on hand, making it a unique opportunity to meet these folks in person. Books will be available for sale during the event. For more information visit www.voicesinthepines.com.

Voices in the Pines: True Stories from the New Jersey Pine Barrens (232 pp/trade paperback/\$15.95/ ISBN 978-0-937548-67-7) is represented to the book trade by Parson Weems Publisher Services and is available in bookstores 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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