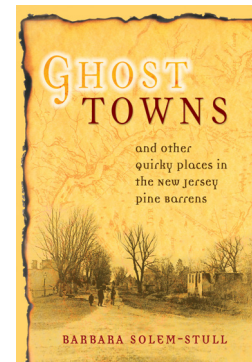


NEWS RELEASE

Plexus Publishing, Inc.

For Immediate Release
For Information contact:
Rob Colding
Plexus Publishing, Inc.
(609) 654-6500 ext. 330



Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens

New Book invites readers to rediscover historic lost towns

October 10, 2005, Medford, New Jersey—Plexus Publishing, Inc. has announced the release of *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens* by Barbara Solem-Stull.

The Pine Barrens of New Jersey contain more ghost towns, some say, than the entire American west. In her latest book, author Solem-Stull tells the story of the towns that rose up around the iron furnaces, glass factories, paper mills, cranberry farms, and brickmaking establishments of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.

A popular Pinelands speaker and tour guide who is a longtime Burlington County resident, Solem-Stull has written much more than an armchair guide to the area's ghost towns: Loaded with easy-to-use maps and over 100 photographs and illustrations, the book provides driving directions and self-guided walking tours of many of the Pine Barrens' most intriguing historic sites and ruins.

“She can tell you about whole Pine Barrens towns that have disappeared,” said journalist Don Beideman in a recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* story profiling Solem-Stull. Beideman said the author “believes it’s

—more—

important to tell people about these towns and what role they played before they disappear into history.”

The first chapter of *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens*, “Before You Go,” provides practical advice on avoiding mishaps in the woods and a brief history of human settlement and industry in the Pine Barrens. Succeeding chapters cover specific sites and provide information about walking, driving, kayaking, and bike tour routes, historical portraits of the towns, and suggested local side trips.

A book launch will take place on October 22, 2005 from 3:00 to 5:00P.M. at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) headquarters in Southampton, New Jersey, and is open to the public. Barbara Solem-Stull will sign copies of the book, which will be available for sale on-site. Music, refreshments, and tours of the historic Bishop Farmstead will be provided. For more information call PPA’s Traci Connaughton at (609) 859-8860, x21 or send e-mail to traci@pinelandsalliance.org.

Barbara Solem-Stull is the author of *The Forks: A Brief History of the Area* (Plexus, 2002). Recently retired, she has been a special education teacher, trainer, and principal. Her love of the New Jersey Pine Barrens has led her to hike and kayak many of its little rivers, and to explore its forgotten towns. She lives in Shamong, New Jersey with her husband, Gordon Stull, who took many of the photographs appearing in the new book. Solem-Stull is available for book signings and presentations throughout the region; for more information contact the publisher.

Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens (368 pp; softbound; \$19.95; ISBN 0-937548-60-X) is published by Plexus Publishing, Inc. It is available in better bookstores and by contacting the publisher directly at (609) 654-6500, ext. 144; fax: (609) 654-4309; e-mail: info@plexuspublishing.com; Web site: www.plexuspublishing.com.

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143 Old Marlton Pike • Medford, NJ 08055-8750 • Phone: 609/654-6500 • FAX: 609/654-4309
E-mail: info@plexuspublishing.com • Web: www.plexuspublishing.com