

NEWS RELEASE

Plexus Publishing, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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Burlington County Author and Naturalist Howard P. Boyd is One of Two New Jersey Educators to Receive the Inaugural Pine Barrens Conservation Award

On October 30th, 3 days before his 90th birthday, the environmentalist who penned popular field guide will be a premiere recipient of The Pine Barrens Hall of Fame Award

October 18, 2004, Medford, NJ—Plexus Publishing, Inc. is pleased to announce that Howard P. Boyd, author of three of the press's popular guides to the New Jersey Pine Barrens, is being honored for educating the public about the Pinelands. Boyd has been named by Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) as one of two premiere recipients of The Pine Barrens Hall of Fame Award.

Boyd, who turns 90 on November 2, has had a close association with the Pine Barrens spanning more than 65 years. An entomologist, botanist, editor, educator, photographer, filmmaker, writer, and naturalist, his teaching career has focused significantly on Pine Barrens biology, ecology, and conservation. A noted entomologist and past president of the American Entomological Society, Boyd holds a B.S. in the biological sciences with an emphasis in botany from Boston University and a M.S. in entomology from the University of Delaware.

Pinelands enthusiasts have come to know Howard Boyd through his books, which introduced thousands of readers to the many facets of this unique natural area. *A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* (Plexus Publishing, Inc., 1991) is recognized as the most authoritative and widely referenced field guide ever written on the Pinelands' flora and fauna. Boyd's other Plexus books are *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).

"When I first met Howard nearly 20 years ago, I soon realized how knowledgeable he was about the New Jersey Pine Barrens, and I encouraged him to put that knowledge on paper," said Tom Hogan, Sr., president and publisher of Plexus Publishing, Inc. "Later, I found out just how talented a writer he is, which is a rare quality in a scientist. In fact, Howard is largely responsible for Plexus's current direction

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as a regional book publisher. In that respect, the publication of *A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* put us on the map, and we've just kept on going."

PPA executive director Carleton Montgomery described Boyd and his co-honoree, Beryl Robichaud Collins of Hightstown (author/editor of *Protecting the New Jersey Pinelands*, with Emily W. B. Russell, and *Plant Communities of New Jersey*, with Karl Anderson), as "pioneers of the movement to save the Pinelands." Montgomery said, "Through their writing and teaching, they have educated many thousands of citizens young and old about this precious piece of nature."

According to Montgomery, PPA created The Pine Barrens Hall of Fame Awards to honor individuals who, through dedication and hard work, have made a lasting contribution to New Jersey Pinelands preservation. The theme of this year's awards is education. In addition to primary award honorees Boyd and Collins, PPA is recognizing three teachers described by Montgomery as "younger-generation heroes who are bringing the Pinelands into their classrooms and their students into the Pinelands." The awards will be presented in a ceremony at Sweetwater Casino in Sweetwater, New Jersey, on October 30.

Founded in 1989, PPA is now in its 15th year of advocacy and public education for preservation of the New Jersey Pine Barrens ecosystem and Pinelands National Reserve. An alliance of individuals and organizations interested in preserving the Pine Barrens and supporting the regional land use safeguards embodied in the Pinelands Protection Act and Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), PPA works to increase public recognition and appreciation of the Pinelands through numerous education initiatives. PPA is headquartered at the historic Bishop Farmstead in Southampton, New Jersey.

Plexus Publishing, Inc., a founding sponsor of the Pine Barrens Hall of Fame Awards, is a Medford-based publisher of books and journals, many covering regional topics such as the history and ecology of the New Jersey Pine Barrens and surrounding communities. Books by Howard Boyd and other Plexus authors are 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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