

# Wharton State Forest

## BATSTO LAKE CANOE ECOTOURS

Batsto Lake is one of the largest lakes in the New Jersey Pinelands. The lake is nearly a mile and a half long. The original dam was built across the Batsto River at the village of Batsto during the mid 1700's. The lake provided a constant supply of water to power Batsto's sawmill, gristmill and the bellows of its former iron furnace. Iron ore from rich ore beds upstream was transported downstream along the Batsto River to the iron works at Batsto starting in the late 1760's and continued for roughly 90 years.

Nestled deep in the interior of the New Jersey Pinelands, Batsto Lake offers the canoeist the opportunity to experience a sampling of wetlands typical of the region. Atlantic white cedar, blueberries, cranberries and carnivorous plants line the lake's shore. The carpenter frog, redbelly turtle, great blue heron and bald eagle are among the many forms of animal life that can be observed here.

### GENERAL INFORMATION / REQUIREMENTS

- Meeting time at the nature center is 11:00 a.m. A staff member will greet you and direct you to the launch area. Please plan to arrive at the parking area early as it is about a 5-minute walk to the nature center. Restrooms are available at the visitor center adjacent to the parking area, not at the nature center.
- This is a physically strenuous activity in which participants will be paddling approximately 3 miles in 3 hours.
- **Participants must have previous canoeing experience.**
- Fee: \$10 per person and all equipment is provided.
- **Life jackets must be worn by participants in canoes.**
- Drinking water recommended. (**No alcoholic beverages allowed.**)
- Optional items to bring are snacks, insect repellent, water shoes, sun block and a hat.

### POLICY FOR CHILDREN ON TOUR

- Children must be 8 years of age or older to participate.
- Children between the ages of 8-13 may only be passengers in the middle portion of the canoe and must be accompanied by two adults. No more than two children as passengers per canoe.
- Children must be at least 14 years of age and accompanied by one adult to paddle.

### RESERVATION INFORMATION

- **Reservations are REQUIRED!** Space is limited. Please call well in advance for availability.
- **Please call to reserve or cancel reservations at (609)-567-4559**
- **For payment instructions:** You will be directed as to who to proceed once a reservation date is confirmed.
- Inclement weather conditions may interfere with tour schedules. Tours will be shortened or canceled due to weather. Call (609)-567-4559 after 9:00 a.m. for any changes or cancellations planned for that day.

A trip on Batsto Lake is a great way to begin to explore the wetland ecology of Wharton State Forest's pine woods. Hope to see you soon!

For any additional information, call (609)-567-4559.