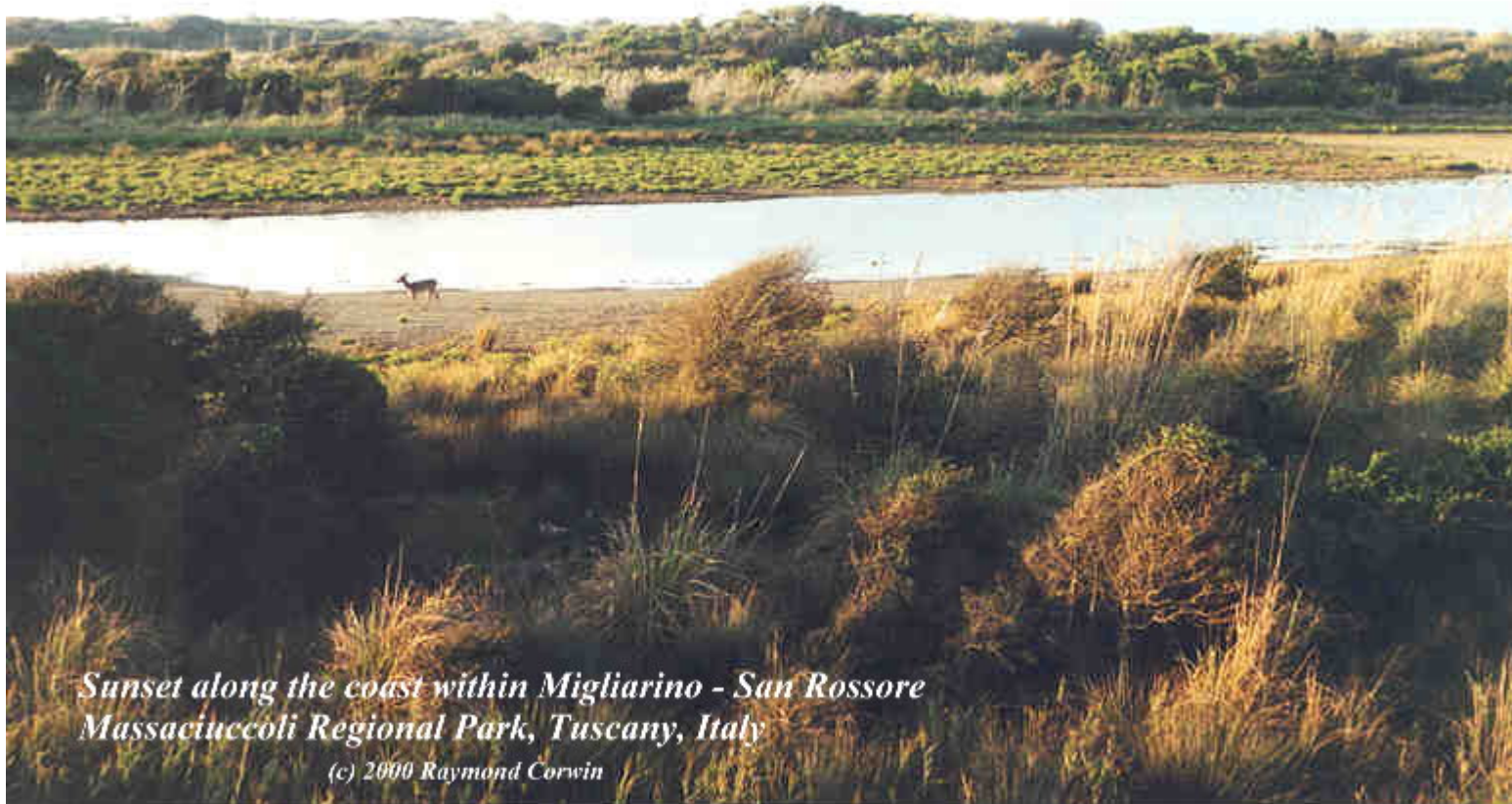


*Lessons from Afar:
the New York State – Italy “Twinning” program*

As part of a larger park exchange program, New York State’s Central Pine Barrens has been matched or “twinned” with the Migliarino – San Rossore – Massaciuccoli Regional Park in the Tuscany Region (near Pisa), Italy.



Migliarino – San Rossore – Massaciuccoli Regional Park

Literally a greenbelt between the City of Pisa and its 100,000 citizens and the Ligurian Sea (part of the Mediterranean), MSRMR Regional Park’s approximately 24,000 hectares includes a former presidential estate, numerous modern and ancient historical sites, wide swaths of agricultural lands, fresh and salt water bodies, residential and commercial areas, and many of the same land use juxtapositions found in the Central Pine Barrens of New York State.



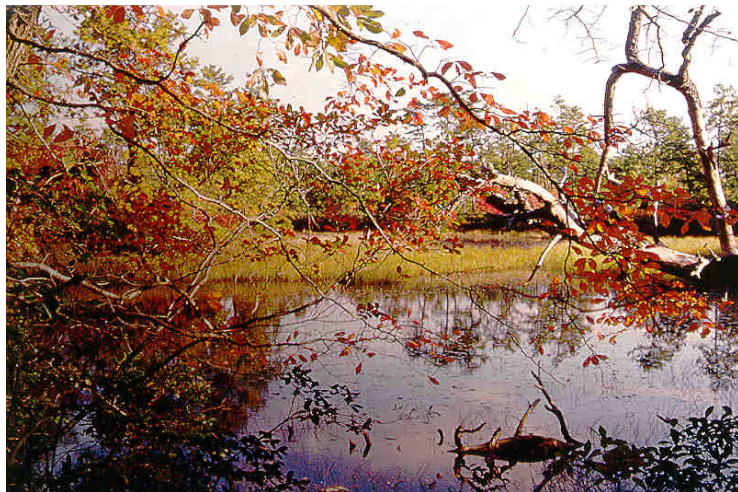
Above: © 2003 Map of Italy; <http://www.big-italy-map.co.uk/>



Are we really “Twins” or is that just a rumor ?

Central Pine Barrens

- **102,500 ac = 41,482 ha** (Core area is 55,000 ac = 22,258 ha)
- **State designated** with Federal, State, County & Local government lands, plus private lands
- **Agriculture** in Core not subject to Commission, except for new clearing
- **1.8 million** County residents



County parkland in Ridge, NY portion of Core.

Migliarino – San Rossore – Massaciuccoli

- **57,117 ac = 23,115 ha** (approximately the size of our Core area)
- **Regional** (equivalent to a U.S. State) Park with Federal and City lands, plus private lands
- **Agriculture** under park oversight in order to advertise Park as the origin of produce
- **100,000** Pisa residents



Private farmland in the Coltano Estate area.

So we are similar . . . except where we're not . . .

Central Pine Barrens

- **Invasive species**, esp. plants, are largest threat.
- **White tailed deer** are overabundant & focus of hunting and population control.
- **Hunting allowed on most public lands.** Allowed on private lands with permission.
- **Wildfire** is a major concern. Prevention, suppression, education arson investigation, and controlled burns are all tools.
- **Scientific research** for future management. Separate research zone exists.
- **Radio research history (Marconi et al.)** of some public lands. Few historical structures remain.



*Far left and right:
Radio research sites
from the early 20th
Century in each park.*

*Immediate left: a
stuffed wild boar on
display, ironically, at
a Pine Barrens event.*

Migliarino – San Rossore – Massaciucoli

- **Invasive and pest species** are a major concern.
- **Wild boar** are everywhere and are controlled by gamekeepers and rangers.
- **Hunting forbidden in park.** Permitted outside. Rooted in Presidential estate days.
- **Same.** Suppression essential. Wildfire leads to hillside denuding, erosion, flash floods, destruction, and injuries or death.
- **Same.** Also contains a separate botanical research zone.
- **Marconi research conducted in NY and MSRM** during same era. Lab buildings remain.



Learning from each other . . .

- **Exchange visits of personnel and scholars.**
- **Memorandum of agreement (MOA).** Approved and signed in October 2004.
- **Joint Cooperation Committee** established by MOA
- **Student biodiversity web based program** formalized in May 2009.
- **Above all, we are understanding our different approaches in order to better manage our respective landscapes.**



Left: MSRM Rangers during a tour of Lake Massaciuccoli. Natural resource protection is their focus.



Left: a deer and boar enclosure study site in MSRM Park.

Right: Cover of the 2004 MOA.

