New Jersey Pinelands Commission Continues to Expand its Schedule of Free, Educational Webinars (Updated July 29, 2020)

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission has once again expanded its schedule of free, educational webinar presentations.

The Commission has hosted eight webinars thus far, and it has arranged to host webinars throughout August and September. The newly added lineup for September includes presentations on forgotten and lost towns of the Pine Barrens, exploring the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve and Great Bay, Mullica River Estuary, who really discovered America, and names from nature.

All of the webinars will be livestreamed on the Commission’s YouTube channel (link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBgpC8sbR3Acrjo7ppxs3Uw.) The Commission will send out weekly notices with direct links to the presentations, which will also be recorded and archived for later viewing.

Here is the updated schedule of Pinelands Commission-hosted webinars as of July 29, 2020:

**July 30th at 10:00 a.m. Tony McNichol - His Majesty’s Infernal Nuisance: The Colonial Privateers of the Mullica**

Presenter Tony McNichol, a Cultural Resource Planner with the Pinelands Commission, will discuss the critical role of privateering in the New Jersey colony prior to and during the Revolutionary War. Particular attention will be given to the patriot financiers and captains who defiantly established their homes and guerrilla bases in the torturous bends of the Mullica River.

**August 6th at 10:00 a.m. - Allegra Mitchell, Wildlife Biologist - What does climate change mean for amphibians in New Jersey?**

Amphibians are typically referred to as “canaries in a coalmine” when it comes to environmental health. Their biology makes them uniquely susceptible to changes in thermal regimes and water availability. Amphibians in coastal areas, such as in New Jersey, must also be concerned with increased salinity from sea level rise. In this talk, Allegra Mitchell, a wildlife biologist with Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, will discuss some of the most pressing climate concerns for amphibians.

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throughout the Garden State and how some species might be able to cope with these changes as the climate crisis continues.

**August 13th at 10:00 a.m. – Ed Wengrowski - Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the NJ Pinelands**

Presented in 2019 and 2020 to Rutgers graduate students enrolled in the University’s Coastal Climate Risk and Resilience (C2R2) certificate program, this presentation will identify the challenges that climate change presents to each of the Pinelands Management Areas. The program will also identify resilience to climate change enabled by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Within this presentation, Ed Wengrowski, Environmental Technologies Coordinator for the Pineland Commission, will discuss wildfires, precipitation, coastal storms, sea level rise, agriculture, forests, energy and public health.

**August 20th at 10:00 a.m. Anne Heasley (Sustainable Jersey) & Jennifer Feltis Cortese (NJDEP) - Municipal Activities to Protect Drinking Water**

This presentation will focus on Sustainable Jersey’s new water Gold Star Standards and actions that municipalities can take now, including public outreach and private well testing, and removing lead from drinking water. The Gold Star Standard guides municipalities to manage resources holistically in a manner that sustains and improves the overall quantity, quality, and utilization of water.

**August 27th at 10:00 a.m. – Dr. Steven Yergeau, How Do You Grow a Rain Garden?**

Come learn the steps needed to plan and design a rain garden for your home. Dr. Steven Yergeau, County Agent/Associate Professor with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, will introduce the issues affecting water resources in the Pinelands and talk about rain gardens as one possible way to help maintain water quality. Dr. Yergeau will also highlight a rain garden that was installed at Georgian Court University to help improve water quality.

**September 3rd at 10:00 a.m. - German Georgieff, Chief Naturalist, Ocean County Parks and Recreation**

**Forgotten Towns of the New Jersey Pine Barrens**

The New Jersey Pine Barrens currently presents an appearance of a vast, unspoiled wilderness. The region, however, once bustled with industrial and agricultural activity, centered in and around isolated, self-sufficient communities. Many of these all but vanished when the enterprises they depended on failed or ceased to operate. Others were better-preserved. We will visit some of these sites, learning about their history and viewing what evidence of the past can still be seen.

**September 10th at 10:00 a.m. – Kaitlin Gannon, Education Coordinator, JC NERR**

**Exploring the JC NERR and Great Bay, Mullica River Estuary**

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JC NERR) is one of the 29 National Estuarine Research Reserves created to promote the responsible use and management of the nation's estuaries through a program combining scientific research, education, and stewardship. In this

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presentation, we will discuss the variety of terrestrial, wetland and aquatic habitats within the Reserve as well as current research, education, and stewardship efforts. We will also touch on how we’ve adapted our programming during COVID-19.

**September 17th at 10:00 a.m. - Brian Regal, PhD, Associate Professor for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine at Kean University**

**Who Really Discovered America**
This presentation will examine the various myths and legends about who 'really' discovered America. Non-Columbian legends including the supposed visitations of Vikings, Welsh, Portuguese, Chinese, African, and others will be discussed by analyzing original primary sources and documents, as well as the political and religious inspirations for them.

**September 24th at 10:00 a.m. – Andrew Anderson, Historian, NJ DEP - Division of Parks and Forestry**

**What's in a Name? Names from Nature**
The cold, clear waters of Cedar Creek once provided raw material and power for two Pinelands industries at the uniquely named hamlet of Double Trouble. Utilizing colonial era survey maps, historic pictures and the “What’s in a Name? Names from Nature” section of the Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Steering Committee’s Discovering Barnegat Bay guide, we’ll see how names of waterways and land in the Barnegat Bay Watershed give perspective to how settlers viewed or utilized the resources of this area.

Please check [www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands) for possible future additions to the Commission’s lineup of webinars.

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