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New Jersey Pinelands Commission Continues to Expand its Schedule of Free, Educational Webinars

(Updated on September 17, 2020)

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission has expanded its schedule of free, educational webinar presentations through the month of October.

The Commission has hosted 16 webinars thus far. The newly added lineup for October includes presentations on the impact of John McPhee's book, *The Pine Barrens*, the legendary Still family of the Pinelands, the latest research on healthy berries grown in the Pinelands, a virtual hike of the Batona Trail, and one that will feature live animals while highlighting the nocturnal food chain. All of the webinars will be livestreamed on the Commission's [YouTube channel](#). 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 September 17, 2020:

September 24th at 10 a.m. – Andrew Anderson, Historian, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - 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, presenter Andrew Anderson of the NJ Division of Parks & Forestry will discuss the names of waterways and land in the Barnegat Bay Watershed and how they give perspective to the way settlers viewed or made use of the area's resources.

October 1st at 10 a.m. - John Volpa, Director of Education for Pinelands Adventures

Serendipity: John McPhee's *The Pine Barrens*

Great writers influence others to do great things. John McPhee's *The Pine Barrens* moved NJ Governor Brendan Byrne to introduce legislation to preserve and protect the Pinelands. Presenter John Volpa, the Director of Education for Pinelands Adventures, will focus on each of McPhee's nine chapters,

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which condensed a story about the land and its people, with wider implications for the nation and the environmental movement. The Pine Barrens is a microcosm for many environmental concerns and this program will also cover these ideas. It's all about the water, creating balance between human needs and ecosystem needs, and how visionary action can make a difference.

October 8th at 10 a.m.- John Volpa, Director of Education for Pinelands Adventures

Legendary Still Family of the Pines

If you've seen the 2019 Oscar nominated film *Harriet*, which chronicles the life of Harriet Tubman, then you were introduced to one of the Still brothers, William, an Underground Railroad station agent in Philadelphia. You may not know that William's older brother, James, was known as the Black Doctor of the Pines. Travel back through time to discover some of the medicinal plants Dr. Still used in his practice. Along the way, you'll be enthralled hearing the amazing story of their parents' bondage, then freedom, to create this family's genuine American story, which is unique because it's set in West Jersey. Presenter John Volpa, the Director of Education for Pinelands Adventures, will explain why West Jersey had an early Underground Railroad network, how basic education can make a huge difference in one's life and which plants were commonly used by herbalists like Dr. Still.

October 15th at 10 a.m. - Dr. Amy Howell, Associate Research Scientist at Rutgers University's Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research

The Latest Research on the Healthy Berries Grown in the Pinelands

Presenter Amy Howell, an Associate Research Scientist at Rutgers University's Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research, will discuss the latest research on the health-promoting properties of blueberries and cranberries. Dr. Howell has been studying the medicinal properties of these native berries for 27 years at Rutgers, and she will share results from exciting new studies that support the wide-ranging health benefits of these berries, from cranberries' effects on the prevention of urinary tract infections, stomach ulcers and heart health, to blueberries' abilities to promote a healthy brain and help manage blood sugar and heart disease risk. She will also discuss how these berries are helping to prevent infections and avoid the need for antibiotics, which will help antibiotic resistance from spiraling out of control. Lastly, Dr. Howell will provide tips on purchasing the freshest and best forms of these berries to obtain maximum health benefits.

October 22nd at 10 a.m. - Rosemarie Mason and Diane Mason, Outdoor Club of South Jersey

Batona Trail Virtual Hike

Presenters Rosemarie Mason and Diane Mason of the Outdoor Club of South Jersey will take viewers on a virtual hike of the Batona Trail in the Pinelands. The presenters will provide a brief description of the Batona, which is a condensed form of "BACK TO NATURE," and where to access the trail as it traverses 52.7 miles through the beautiful and wild Pinelands. The presentation includes over 100 slides of the trail from its southern beginning at Bass River State Forest to its northern terminus at

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Ong's Hat. Along the way, the presenters will discuss some of the highlights of the trail, such as the ghost town of Martha, Batsto Village, Tea Time and Apple Pie Hill, Pakim Pond and Ong's Hat.

October 29th at 10 a.m. - Erin Kiefer-Rounds, Education Coordinator at the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

Nocturnal Food Webs

Presenter Erin Kiefer-Rounds, the Education Coordinator at the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, will delve into the everyday struggle for survival in the forests of New Jersey. Participants will discover who is eating whom and how each animal fits perfectly within the nocturnal food chain. During the webinar, participants will "meet" three of Cedar Run's non-releasable animals.

Please check www.nj.gov/pinelands for possible future additions to the Commission's lineup of webinars.

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