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Pinelands Commission to Offer Four Free Webinar Presentations in May (Updated 4/22/2021)

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission will offer four free, educational webinars in May.

The newly added lineup for May includes presentations on the geological land use of Pine Barrens rivers, tales and tunes (a live musical performance) with Valerie Vaughn, a local history of Tuckerton, and Coyotes of New Jersey.

All of the webinars will be livestreamed on the Commission's [YouTube channel](#), except for the Pinelands Short Discussion (see instructions below). 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 full schedule of upcoming webinars:

■ **April 24, 2021 10 a.m. – 32nd Annual Pinelands Short Course, a Pinelands Short Discussion.** The Pinelands Commission and Stockton University will host a lively discussion with several Pinelands enthusiasts, starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 24th. For more information about this free, virtual Zoom event, please click [here](#).

■ **April 29, 2021 at 10 a.m. - Snakes of the New Jersey Pine Barrens**
 Jeff Dragon, Research Scientist, NJ Pinelands Commission

Snakes in the New Jersey Pine Barrens have adapted to the unique landscape by utilizing sandy soils for burrowing and large expanses of uplands and wetlands for overwintering. Numerous species reach the northern extent of their range in the Pine Barrens, and some occur in disjunct populations from elsewhere in the United States. Presenter Jeff Dragon, a Research Scientist with the Pinelands Commission, will discuss the ecology and natural history of the 18 species of snake that inhabit the region.

■ **May 6, 2021 at 10 a.m. - The Geological and Land Use History of Pine Barrens Rivers**
 Dr. Claude Epstein, Professor Emeritus, Stockton University

South Jersey river landscapes were created by geological processes and land use history. The geologic history provided two kinds of rivers: one for the Delaware Valley and another for the Pine Barrens. Then, European settlement replaced the Lenape and greatly altered the natural river landscapes with

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Pinelands webinar announcement

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technological structures needed for agriculture and industry.

■ May 13, 2021 at 10 a.m. - Tunes & Tales (music program)

Valerie Vaughn, New Jersey's Troubadour

A multi-talented musician and educator from Tuckerton, NJ, Valerie Vaughn specializes in writing acoustic tunes that cover the rich folklore and the history of the people and places of South Jersey. Vaughn will perform live during this webinar.

■ May 20, 2021 at 10 a.m. – A Local History of Tuckerton

Joel M. Mott, Pinelands Commission, Principal Programs Specialist

Sit down with Joel Mott, the Commission's Principal Public Programs Specialist, as he describes the local history of Tuckerton as it has been passed down by ten generations of his relatives who have lived in the area since the early 1700's. Nestled between Barnegat Bay and the Pinelands, Tuckerton was a great place to grow up and learn about the connections between natural resources and the people who utilized them to make a living. This experience has led Mott to a career studying and interpreting both history and nature.

■ May 27, 2021 at 10 a.m. – Coyotes of New Jersey

Christian Crosby a Ph.D. student in the Rutgers Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources

Coyotes arrived in New Jersey about 80 years ago and can now be found in almost every town across the state. Rutgers University Ph.D. student Chris Crosby will provide some history of eastern coyotes, a background in coyote ecology and behavior, and important guidance for avoiding negative human-coyote interactions.

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