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## Pinelands Commission to Offer Five Free Webinar Presentations in April (Updated 3/23/2021)

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission will offer five free, educational webinars in April.

The newly added lineup for April includes presentations on maple syrup production in South Jersey, weather in the Pinelands, the underwater natural history of the Mullica Valley, a Pinelands Short Discussion, and snakes of the Pine Barrens.

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:

### ■ March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. - Today's Ecological Forestry

William Zipse, Supervising Forester, New Jersey Forest Service, Bernard Isaacson, Assistant Regional Forester, Courtney Compton, Assistant Regional Forester

This presentation will provide a look back at the forest management practices and historical approaches used in the Pinelands and a look forward to the new tools, models and technologies that may be used in the future. The foresters responsible for managing your public forestland will show how these tools of forestry can be used with more flexibility and adaptability to address the challenges of the future. [Link to livestream](#).

### ■ April 1, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. - Maple Syrup Production in Southern New Jersey: Challenges, Lessons, and Paths Forward

Aaron Stoler, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, Stockton University

Southern New Jersey is not generally seen as a region of high maple syrup production. Variable climate and lack of sugar maples have historically deterred any type of hobby or commercial market from forming. Through the financial assistance of a major USDA grant, researchers at Stockton University are exploring ways of overcoming these challenges through the use of alternative maple species and newer technology (e.g., vacuum assist pumps, reverse osmosis). This talk will discuss those challenges, lessons learned from this past year's sap harvest, and future research directions.

**(MORE)**

## Pinelands webinar announcement

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### ■ April 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. - Weather in the Pinelands

Joe Martucci, Meteorologist, Press of Atlantic City

This course will be broken down into three parts: basic meteorology, terminology, and weather systems. Presenter Joe Martucci, a Meteorologist with the Press of Atlantic City, will then discuss applying meteorological principles to the Pinelands, highlighting what makes the Pinelands unique to weather. Examples will include the growing season, the development of frost, and flash flooding. The webinar will also include a discussion of climate change and an opportunity to ask questions.

### ■ April 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. - Underwater Natural History of the Mullica Valley

Kenneth W. Able, Director, Rutgers University Marine Field Station

This view of the Mullica Valley will expose the audience to a relatively invisible area: the portion of the watershed that is underwater. Presenter Kenneth W. Able, Director of the Rutgers University Marine Field Station, will delve beneath the water's surface and provide insights into the types of unexplored habitats – from the peat reef to the deep river channels – and the kinds of plants and animals that live there. The presenter will also discuss how variation is occurring as a result of climate change.

■ April 24, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 10:00 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.

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