

**The Pequannock Township Public Library presents:**

## **Galapagos**

**With: Professor Alan Levin**

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**Please call (973) 835-7460 to reserve a seat**



The Galapagos Archipelago consists of 13 large islands, 6 smaller islands, and over 40 islets. These islands are well isolated from other land masses. The nearest land mass is mainland Ecuador, found 960 km. to the east. This is one of the main reasons why the Galapagos has wildlife that is found nowhere else on earth! The Galapagos Islands are over a “hot spot”, which formed these islands by volcanic activity. These islands are a paradise for reptiles. You will see many marine iguanas (they are not as dangerous as they look!), land iguanas, and giant tortoises, some of them many hundreds of years old! For most tourists, the stars of the show are the blue-footed booby, red-footed booby, and masked booby. Their large blue or red feet will never be forgotten! Yes, there are Galapagos penguins on some of the islands. You will be mesmerized by the magnificent frigatebird! The Galapagos hawk is on the look-out for baby chicks to attack. The main mammal which we will see is the sea lion. You can even go swimming with them.

For years, what made the Galapagos so unique was that there were no predators on the islands. This is why tourists can take great photos of the wildlife with very simple cameras! The wildlife here does not realize that man is a predator. However, due to the enormous number of tourists each year, things are changing. There is predation now, and many people believe that is will get worse with the ever-increasing number of visitors every year. Join me on a trip to this unique “living laboratory”, before mass tourism takes its toll on this unique destination.

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