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click on "Press Room"

The NJMC is proud to announce the Flyway Gallery Exhibit "When Dreams Whisper"



An Exhibit by Nature Photographer Hildi Borkowski

Hildi Borkowski is a lifelong Bergen County resident and extensive traveler inspired by nature in her backyard and far from home. "When Dreams Whisper" is a pictorial essay designed to take the viewer on a journey through the changing seasons. Her subjects include dazzling sunsets, delicate butterflies and flowers, and tranquil ocean scenes.

Now through August 30.



For more information, call (201) 460-8300 or log on to www.njmeadowlands.gov

NJMC Today

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

VOLUME THREE ■ ISSUE FOUR ■ JULY, 2008

Greetings from Chairman Doria



Welcome to the latest edition of NJMC Today. This month brings news of exciting programs that span the age spectrum, research that encourages scientists and casual nature lovers alike, and opportunities for everyone to enjoy summer in the Meadowlands.

We are proud to announce that the NJMC's first bilingual summer camp will take place in August. The summer camp program for children entering the third and fourth grades is operated by the Meadowlands Environment Center, which is staffed by Ramapo College educators. The new program will allow Spanish-speaking children to learn about the unique Meadowlands ecosystem and the importance of protecting and preserving this beautiful, yet fragile, environment. The program is modeled on a similar English-language camp, "Hopping Through Habitats."

The young students who attend our summer camps today have a chance to become our Science Scholarship winners of tomorrow. This month the NJMC continued its tradition of awarding college scholarships to new high school graduates who reside in District towns and plan to major in a science-related field in college.

But the NJMC isn't just for kids. Our popular senior program includes three events this month at our

Meadowlands Environment Center in beautiful DeKorte Park. The programs include a reptile show, a lecture on NASA technology and a modern art performance.

Finally, we are happy to bring news that the NJMC's work in restoring the Hackensack River continues to bear fruit. A recent study by Commission scientists found a large increase over the past 20 years in the number and different types of tiny creatures that live on the river bottom. The results are a sign that water quality is steadily improving.

And speaking of the water, there's still time to see the Meadowlands up close and personally on one of our guided pontoon boat or canoe tours of the Hackensack River. The tours fill up quickly, so register now to reserve a spot for this unique way to see the marshes and wildlife that make the Meadowlands so special.

Thank you. Joseph V. Doria, Jr.

Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

NJMC Announces College Scholarship Recipients

The NJMC announced the winners of its annual Scientific Scholarship Award at its July 8 Board meeting. This year the Commission awarded \$26,000 to 13 students from District municipalities. The students graduated high school this year, will attend college in the fall and plan to major in a science-related field. Education, particularly science education, is a vital part of the Commission's programming. In March the NJMC opened its new Center for Scientific and Environmental

Education. The center is operated by Ramapo College and was built when the demand for educational programming at the NJMC outgrew the space available in the Meadowlands Environment Center. Each year thousands of students in Grades K-12 visit the Meadowlands Environment Center, where Ramapo educators teach programs that meet New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and provide a valuable complement to their in-school education.

Hackensack River Continues Comeback



Some of the Hackensack River's tiniest creatures provided big news about the river's health this month when NJMC scientists revealed the results of a benthic invertebrate study. The study, conducted by the NJMC's Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), found a large increase in the amount and types of benthic invertebrates — small creatures such as snails, worms and clams, that live on the river's bottom — over the past 20 years. The results indicate

a steady increase in water quality. The tiny organisms are important because they provide food for fish and other invertebrates, absorb toxins and eat the detritus that settles on the riverbed. The study, along with other recent NJMC studies on bird and fish populations, show that the Commission's commitment to cleaning up and protecting the Hackensack River and its surrounding wetlands is taking hold. We look forward to further good news in the future.

First Ever Summer Camp En Espanol

In its efforts to widen the reach of its educational programming, the NJMC is now offering its popular "Hopping Through Habitats" summer camp in Spanish. The session will allow Spanish-speaking children an opportunity to learn about the Meadowlands ecosystem firsthand as they explore the salt marshes, animal life and vegetation in DeKorte Park, a wonderful natural resource that is home to the Meadowlands Commission. The program runs Aug. 4-8 and is open to children entering third and fourth grades. Cost is \$150. For more information and to register, call 201-460-8300 or visit www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec.



NJMC Summer Program for Seniors Wraps Up with Three Great Events

There's still time to register for the final programs in the NJMC's Summer 2008 Senior Series. Exotic animal trainer Duke Lee visits the Meadowlands Environment Center with some reptilian friends at 1 p.m. July 15. Lee's company, Exotics Unlimited, provides animals for advertisements, commercials, music videos, television shows and movies. He'll discuss, and show off, his creepy, crawly friends. On July 17 at 7 p.m. MEC educator and NASA/JPL Ambassador Laura Venner will look at how space program technology impacts everyday life. Did you know that hip replacements, LASIK surgery and disposable diapers all originated from NASA? Learn more at "From Space to Earth: NASA Technology in Your Pocket." Finally, Susanmarie Cunningham combines elements of costuming, storytelling, puppetry and clowning in the interactive "Soft Sculpture Performance: A Family Album." This performance art showcase features life-sized soft sculptures worn by Cunningham and audience volunteers to tell a playful yet poignant story about growing up. Don't miss it at 1 p.m. July 22. All programs are free to the public. To register call 201-777-2431.

Set Sail On An NJMC Pontoon Boat Cruise

It's not too late to sign up for an NJMC boat cruise on the Hackensack River. The two-hour excursions offer a close-up view of the river and ecosystem that make the Meadowlands a unique urban wetlands. An experienced NJMC guide leads the cruises, providing insight into the history of the Meadowlands and the Commission's past and current initiatives that have helped revitalize the river and restore the ecosystem. Tours run through September with a suggested donation of \$15 per person. For more information or to register, call 201-460-4640. For a schedule of cruises, visit www.njmeadowlands.gov and click on the environment section and then Meadowlands tours.



NJMC Cable Broadcast Airs Monthly

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is working hard to make your Meadowlands Municipality a great place to live, work and play. You can learn more about the projects and programs offered by the NJMC by watching our cable broadcast "Your Meadowlands." This half-hour, monthly show airs on cable systems throughout the Meadowlands District.

"Your Meadowlands" also profiles the departments of the NJMC, highlighting the services provided to Meadowlands Municipalities. So sit back, turn up the volume and enjoy "Your Meadowlands."



Throughout the year on upcoming shows, we'll feature specific Meadowlands Municipalities and what the NJMC is doing to help improve your quality of life. So stay tuned and please join us as we bring "Your Meadowlands" to your television.

Time Warner	Channel 10	Mondays	7:00 pm
Comcast			
Union	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Jersey City	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Meadowlands	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Cablevision			
Oakland	Channel 78	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Bergen	Channel 118	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Hudson	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.
Bayonne	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.