



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

ELECTRONIC NEWS
FEBRUARY 2010

**FLYWAY
GALLERY**

*“Portraits in Nature”
by Douglas Goodell*

Feb. 2 through Mar. 26

NJMC *Today*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

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Greetings from New Acting Chairman Lori Grifa

Welcome to the latest edition of NJMC Today, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission’s monthly electronic newsletter. The Commission took several steps in February to bolster economic development in the Meadowlands District. We introduced measures to strengthen our relationship with the region’s business and development communities, and our business accelerator launched a joint effort with Rutgers University to attract renewable energy companies to the region and the state. The

NJMC also announced several new solar energy initiatives that promote economic growth and can help District municipalities and school districts reduce their energy bills and carbon footprints. Thanks for reading. We hope you enjoy the “live links” feature we have added this month!

*Thank you,
Lori Grifa*

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

NJMC Strengthens Relationship With Business Community



The Commission passed a package of resolutions at its February 24 meeting that aim to broaden the partnership between the NJMC and the business and development communities in the Meadowlands District. The resolutions are in keeping with Gov. Christie’s Executive Order No. 2, which directs state agencies to ensure that their rules and regulations do not needlessly hinder economic growth, and with the NJMC’s mandate to balance economic development and environmental concerns. The resolutions increase stakeholder input to the regulatory process, launch an internal review of the NJMC’s existing regulations, and better publicize the agency’s existing pre-application services, which can save developers critical costs and time. To read more about these programs, [click here](#).

Solar Initiatives Launched

In February the NJMC unveiled three solar initiatives that advance the Commission’s ongoing commitment to helping boost renewable energy production, economic growth and green job creation in the Meadowlands region. The Commission is expanding its popular pilot Municipal Solar Project, which helps District municipalities and schools plan for rooftop solar energy facilities, to be available to all 14 towns and school districts in the Meadowlands District. The second initiative involves the construction of a solar canopy over the NJMC’s main parking lot in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, a project that is expected to supply approximately 20 percent of the electricity used at the NJMC’s administration building. The Commission is also entering into a joint venture with PSE&G in which the power utility will build and operate a multi-megawatt, grid-connected solar farm on an NJMC-owned closed landfill. The NJMC will lease the land to PSE&G and



use the lease payments to create the Meadowlands Renewable Energy Fund. This program, known as MREF, will be used to provide grants to District municipalities for sustainable, renewable energy and energy conservation projects. For more information on these initiatives, [click here](#).



Business Accelerator to Help Grow N.J.’s Renewable Energy Industry

The NJMC Business Accelerator and the Rutgers Eco-Complex Business Incubator have joined forces to launch the Renewable Energy Business Attraction Collaborative (REBAC), a resource network to help grow the state’s renewable energy industry through a marketing campaign that will highlight the advantages to doing business in New Jersey. The business incubators will work with renewable energy industry representatives, state agencies, real estate developers, investors and others to develop its campaign. Their efforts will be funded by a \$55,800 grant from the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology. The NJMC Business Accelerator was launched in fall 2008 to provide critical support services to help entrepreneurs focused on alternative energy and green technologies grow their ideas into self-sustaining businesses. The accelerator is funded primarily by a \$1.5 million, three-year grant from the NJMC. To read about REBAC, [click here](#). To learn more about the accelerator [click here](#).

Super Bird Sunday a Success



More than 30 bird watchers and nature enthusiasts attended the NJMC’s Super Bird Sunday nature walk on February 7 – Super Bowl Sunday – in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the home of the NJMC. The walk included special prizes for the first participants who spotted birds which are also mascots of a National Football League team. Two prizes were awarded – for a male and female cardinal – and the winners received two tickets each to an NJMC guided pontoon boat cruise on the Hackensack River. This event was part of the roster of

free guided bird walks that are hosted twice monthly by the NJMC and the Bergen County Audubon Society. The next walk – “Birding for Beginners” – is set for DeKorte Park on Sunday, March 7 at 10 a.m. For more information on this and other bird walks visit the NJMC’s Nature Blog at www.meadowblog.net or click on the “Events” button on the NJMC’s home page, at www.njmeadowlands.gov.

Astronomy Educators Shine



Congratulations to Meadowlands Environment Center educator J.J. Rusher, who was recently named a NASA Solar System/Jet Propulsion Laboratory Ambassador. Rusher joins fellow MEC educator Laura Venner as volunteer representatives of the space program. As ambassadors, Venner and Rusher learn about NASA’s space exploration missions and recent discoveries and pass on their knowledge to children and adults who participate in the MEC’s education programs. The NJMC’s Meadowlands Environment Center is operated by educators from Ramapo College. More than 13,000 children from 70 school districts in grades K-12 took part in the MEC’s science and environmental education programs during the 2008-09 academic year. To learn more [click here](#).

NJMC Reduces Zoning Fee for Green Building

The Commission in February issued a 25 percent rebate totaling \$1,270 on zoning certificate fees to Genzyme Corporation, a biotech company whose recent addition to its Ridgefield facility received LEED Gold certification – the second-highest ranking – from the U.S. Green Building Council. The NJMC offers financial incentives, priority application review and density bonuses to builders who meet LEED standards by including sustainable elements – such as solar panels and energy efficient heating and lighting systems – in their building plans. The 50,000-square-foot Genzyme addition is the first private LEED-certified building in the Meadowlands District. The NJMC’s science center in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst is the first public building in the state to have received a LEED platinum certification – the highest ranking – from the USGBC. The classroom building features solar panels and other energy-efficient and sustainable features.

“Portraits in Nature,” a free photography exhibit by Ridgewood resident Douglas Goodell, will be on display at the NJMC’s Flyway Gallery through Friday, March 26. The Flyway Gallery is located in the Meadowlands Environment Center, in DeKorte Park, in Lyndhurst. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. For more information, call 201-460-8300 or visit www.njmeadowlands.gov.

