



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

ELECTRONIC NEWS
MARCH 2010

**FLYWAY
GALLERY**

*“Welcome to
Our World”*

April 1 through April 29



“Welcome to Our World,” an exhibit of artwork by autistic and special needs children from the Lyndhurst-based support group Putting the Pieces Together, is on display at the NJMC’s Flyway Gallery through April 29. A reception for the artists is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday April 25. The Flyway Gallery is located in the Meadowlands Environment Center, in DeKorte Park, in Lyndhurst, and 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.

NJMC *Today*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

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Greetings from Acting Chairman Lori Grifa



Welcome to the latest edition of NJMC Today, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission’s monthly electronic newsletter. In March the Commission made strides in its ongoing efforts to help Meadowlands District municipalities save precious taxpayer dollars. We launched a shared services initiative to help reduce local government costs and signed a lease agreement to reopen a trash transfer facility in North Arlington that will bring significant financial benefits to the borough. Clients of the NJMC

Business Accelerator participated in several successful trade shows and one company was awarded “Best Management Team” at the New Jersey Technology Council’s Venture Conference. As the weather warms, I invite everyone to visit DeKorte Park, the home of the NJMC, to attend a program or just enjoy the park’s natural beauty. To learn more, visit our Web site, www.njmeadowlands.gov, and the Meadowlands Environment Center page, www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec. Thanks for reading.

NJMC Launches Shared Services Initiative

In March the NJMC authorized the creation of a working group of Meadowlands District municipal officials and Commission staff to find ways to expand the Commission’s existing shared services programs and to help District Municipalities work together to save taxpayer dollars. The initiative complements Gov. Christie’s efforts promoting shared services and builds on a variety of the NJMC’s regional programs that provide District Municipalities with equipment, technical expertise or help obtaining state or federal funding for local projects. The Commission has also provided these communities with \$7 million in direct grants since 2003 and has invested tens of millions more in regional flood control, transportation projects, remediation efforts and other infrastructure programs. To learn more about the shared services initiative, [click here](#).



North Arlington Trash Transfer Station to Reopen



also given North Arlington more than \$2 million in direct financial aid since 2003 that has allowed the borough to improve municipal services and lessen the tax burden on residents. To read more, [click here](#).

The NJMC signed a lease agreement at its March 24 meeting to reopen its trash transfer station in North Arlington, an arrangement that will provide significant financial assistance to the borough and could reduce dumping costs for other North Jersey municipalities. The NJMC signed a 10-year lease agreement with Environmental Logistic Services of Bridgewater to run the transfer station – commonly known as the baler – which has been closed since 2009. North Arlington will receive a host community fee and is entitled to free dumping of its municipal waste at the facility, a service that saved the borough \$600,000 in 2008. The NJMC has

NJMC Business Accelerator Keeps Busy

The NJMC Business Accelerator and several of its clients participated in the 2010 Go Green Expo in New York City, the nation’s premier eco-friendly tradeshow. More than 10,000 people attended the expo, which was held March 20-21. Accelerator clients also participated in the New Jersey Technology Council’s Venture Conference in Somerset, on March 26. The accelerator’s newest client, Water Journey, the manufacturer of an eco-friendly hand sanitizer, was named Best Management Team and won the People’s Award at the conference. The accelerator was launched in 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 learn more about the accelerator, visit www.njmcaccelerator.com.



National MarshAccess Conference a Big Success



The Meadowlands Environment Center’s MarshAccess project team hosted a three-day national conference in March to help informal science educators learn how to develop and implement accessible, field-based science education programs for adults with disabilities and older adults with age related limitations. Fifty-four educators from 23 states attended the conference held at the MEC’s facility in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the home of the NJMC, and participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The MarshAccess program was developed in 2007 by Ramapo College educators as part of their partnership with the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and is funded by a three-year National Science Foundation Grant. To read more about MarshAccess, [click here](#).

NJMC Celebrates Start of Spring



The NJMC and the Bergen County Audubon Society celebrated the beginning of spring with a guided nature walk of Laurel Hill County Park in Secaucus on March 21. Some 30 outdoor enthusiasts took in the flora and fauna on a beautiful Sunday morning, spotting cormorants, ravens, bald eagles and more than a dozen other birds. The event was a special addition to the free guided bird walks that are hosted by the NJMC and the BCAS on the first Sunday and third Tuesday of each month. 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.



Visitors Trace Family Trees at NJMC

The Commission and the Meadowlands Museum hosted a genealogy workshop in March that focused on using free online resources to research family trees. The event, held at the NJMC’s Meadowlands Environment Center, drew more than 30 people and was part of a series of free public programs offered through a partnership between the NJMC and the Rutherford-based museum. The next program, a lecture on the Morris Canal, is scheduled for Tuesday April 20 at 2 p.m. at the MEC. To view the entire schedule of NJMC public events, which includes a variety of activities for all ages including concerts and science and environmental education workshops, [click here](#).