



**New Jersey  
Meadowlands  
Commission**

ELECTRONIC NEWS  
APRIL 2010

**FLYWAY  
GALLERY**

*“The Wildlife  
Art of James  
Fiorentino”*

Now through June 4



“The Wildlife Art of James Fiorentino,” an exhibit of watercolors featuring portraits of herons, eagles, foxes and other wildlife, is on display at the NJMC’s Flyway Gallery through Friday June 4. A reception for the artist is scheduled for Sunday May 16 from noon to 3 p.m. 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](http://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 April the Commission continued its efforts to promote economic development with several initiatives that aim to help bring businesses and jobs to the Meadowlands District. The Commission also unveiled a new shared-service program that will provide free text-message alerts to warn local officials and residents about potential flooding and other emergencies. The NJMC hosted a highly successful Earth Day Celebration on April 22 that drew nearly 200 people to beautiful DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the home of the NJMC. In May the Commission will host a German-American solar conference with international firms looking to partner with local manufacturers. We hope you can join us. Thanks for reading.

**Lori Grifa**

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

## NJMC Works to Bring New Jobs to Meadowlands District

At its April 28 meeting NJMC board members approved a variance request that will help a Brooklyn scaffolding company that wants to relocate to an industrial area in Carlstadt, a move the company says would result in up to 200 new local jobs. Atlantic Hoisting and Scaffolding made headlines earlier this month when it received preliminary approval for a nearly \$1.27 million grant from the state Economic Development Authority. To read more, [click here](#).



## Commission to Enhance Partnership with Business

In April the NJMC announced the next step in its plans to update and streamline its regulatory processes, furthering the Commission’s ongoing efforts to promote economic development in the Meadowlands District. In response to Gov. Christie’s Executive Order No. 2, NJMC staff began in February to identify some two dozen existing regulatory waivers and just as many regulations that could be amended to further reduce the cost, time or other expenditures involved with obtaining zoning approvals for projects within the District. Once amendments to the regulations are drafted, the proposed changes will go through a formal review process that includes a public hearing. To learn more, [click here](#).

## Commission to Create Early Warning Text Message System



The NJMC announced plans at its April 28 meeting to further assist Meadowlands District Municipalities prepare for flooding and other emergencies by creating a real-time text-message alert system for emergency responders, local officials and the general public. The text message alerts will augment the NJMC’s free, early warning e-mail system that provides critical information 24/7 to first responders regarding flooding scenarios, tide gate operations, water quality and other data collected by the NJMC’s scientific arm, the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute. During March’s heavy rains, MERI data accurately predicted flooding severity at locations throughout the Meadowlands District, allowing local officials to prepare for storm surges. To read more about the early-warning text message system, [click here](#).

## Earth Day and Ecotourism

Nearly 200 people participated in the NJMC’s Earth Day 2010 Celebration held on April 22 at DeKorte Park, the home of the NJMC. Events included nature walks, green-living workshops, crafts for kids and a sneaker recycling program. In May, the Commission begins its pontoon boat cruises and canoe tours, providing an excellent way to see the wetlands and the Hackensack River up close. For information on pontoon boat tours, [click here](#). To learn about the canoe tours, [click here](#).



## NJMC to Host German American Solar Conference



The Commission will host a solar energy conference sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce at the NJMC’s Meadowlands Environment Center on Tuesday, May 18. The conference will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., followed by a networking reception. The event will feature presentations by German and American experts in the renewable energy field and presents a unique opportunity for potential business partners to meet emerging German solar energy companies. Admission is free but space is limited. For more information and to register, visit [www.gaccny.com/en/events](http://www.gaccny.com/en/events).

## Honors for Meadowlands Companies and NJMC Staff

The NJMC honored Starbucks Coffee Company and Panasonic Corporation in April as Green Leaders in the Meadowlands for meeting the requirements of the Commission’s Meadowlands Challenge, a friendly competition that promotes increased energy efficiency and recycling efforts among businesses in the Meadowlands District. Nineteen companies have stepped up so far to take the challenge. To learn more about the Meadowlands Challenge and how to register for the program, [click here](#). Debbie Lawlor, the NJMC’s Chief of Sustainability and Economic Growth, was honored in April by the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce for her role in creating and overseeing the Meadowlands Challenge. Lawlor received the Chamber’s 2010 Arline Simpson Leadership Award.

