

NJMC offers bird walks, lectures and art for free

BY SARA KEEGAN
Staff Writer

Families looking for new experiences to share and individuals who have an interest in environmental science are welcome at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC). The commission is providing free programs throughout the spring for those looking to experience nature as it should be experienced. All are welcome.

On Sunday, April 11, at 10 a.m., the NJMC will team up with the Bergen County Audubon Society (BCAS) to lead a two-hour guided tour in Harrier Meadow in North Arlington. During the walk, bird-watchers will have a chance to look for spring migrants, waterfowl, raptors and more. Those interested in attending can meet directly at Harrier Meadow at 10 a.m. or at the first parking lot at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst at 9:45 a.m. In case of weather conditions, those who wish to attend are advised to check meadowblog.net. To register for the walk, contact Dan Torino of the BCAS at greatauk4@aol.com or 201-636-4022.

The NJMC will be working with the Meadowlands Museum to present "The Morris Canal," a discussion led by Joe Macasek of the NJ Canal society. The event will take place Tuesday, April 20, at 10 a.m. at the Meadowlands Environment Center. Macasek will detail the history of the Morris Canal and its importance to the state. This event is free and pre-registration is not required.

On Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, at 10 a.m., the NJMC and



PHOTO/NJMC

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is offering two free bird walks this month.

BCAS will be back to lead another bird walk. This walk will be held right in DeKorte Park, and birdwatchers will be able to continue their search for spring birds and more. Again, those interested should contact Dan Torino.

For those with an artistic eye or looking to see works by very special children and teens, The NJMC's Flyway Gallery will be showing the exhibit "Welcome to Our World: Artwork by Children with Different Needs." The exhibit will run through Thursday, April 29, and it will include 65 drawings, paintings, collages and other works by artists aged 3-18 who are members of Putting the Pieces Together, a local Lyndhurst support group for children with autism and other special needs. A reception for the artists will be held Sunday, April 25, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The gallery is open Monday through Friday

from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and can be found in the Meadowlands Environment Center.

In addition to these programs, the NJMC also will be continuing its Astronomy Public Viewing Nights at the William McDowell Observatory. The viewings are held every clear Monday and Wednesday night. In April, the viewing sessions will run from 8-10 p.m. and in May, the viewing sessions run from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Those looking for a starry night will get the chance to see the night sky through the NJMC's state-of-the-art telescope. Admission is free and registration is not required, but those interested must be able to climb 25 steps.

For more information on these events or any programs held by the NJMC, call 201-460-8300.

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