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## NJMC ANNOUNCES DATES FOR PONTOON BOAT AND CANOE TOURS

*A Great Way to Explore the Meadowlands and Learn about the Rich History of this  
Unique Region*

**LYNDHURST, NJ** – It wouldn't be summer in the Meadowlands without the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Pontoon Boat Eco-Cruises and guided canoe tours along the Hackensack River. A view from the water provides the best way to explore the marshes, meadows, mud flats and see up close terrapin turtles, fiddler crabs and the more than 260-species of birds found in the Meadowlands, all within the backdrop of the New York City Skyline.

“These excursions are a leisurely way for people to take in the amazing beauty of the Meadowlands,” said Joseph Doria, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and Chairman of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. “The NJMC has preserved some 8,400 acres of natural tranquility in the heart of a noisy, urban landscape. I invite people to come to the Hackensack River and discover the Meadowlands – a unique urban wilderness.”

Members of the media are invited to hop aboard and experience the Meadowlands from the Hackensack River. Pontoon Boat Cruises and Canoe Tours could serve as an excellent location for a live shot on interesting people and places or a great backdrop for meteorologists for a weather report.

### **Pontoon Boat Cruises**

Evening pontoon boat cruises offer a relaxing way to spend an evening. They're also an informative introduction into the history and nature of the Meadowlands. Launching from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt, these two hour cruises are narrated by NJMC staff who will talk about the Wisconsin Glacier that shaped the region and the Lenni Lenape Native Americans who first lived here. They'll also speak of tales from years past about river barges, railroads, and pirates hiding out in remote patches of reeds. Participants will also learn about the NJMC's ongoing efforts to restore the District's ecosystem and how former landfills are being transformed into parks and other areas of passive recreation and wildlife habitats.

The following pontoon boat cruises will depart at 5:30 pm:

- May 14, 29
- June 19, 24, 25
- July 8,9,10,23,24
- August 5,6,14,15,19,20

The following pontoon boat cruises will depart at 5:00 pm:

- September 9, 10, 18, 19, 23, 24

The following Saturday morning pontoon boat cruises will depart at 8:30 am

- July 26
- August 16

All participants should be at least 10 years old. The suggested minimum donation is \$15 per person. All donations are applied directly to programs at the Meadowlands Environment Center, a NJMC facility operated by Ramapo College. Private tours for educational, civic and other groups can also be scheduled. Due to high demand, no reservations will be held until payment and registration forms are received.

### **Canoe Tours**

Grab a paddle and experience the great outdoors from the vantage point of a canoe. There's no better place to learn about salt marsh ecology than paddling along the Hackensack River and its tributaries. This is an excellent way to view landscapes and wildlife that cannot be seen from land. Tours launch from Mill Creek in Secaucus and Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lyndhurst. All trips are led by an experienced NJMC tour guide. We supply all of the equipment and give you helpful tips before setting out on the water.

Guided canoe tours are scheduled the following dates:

- Saturday June 21, 8:30 am from Mill Creek in Secaucus
- Sunday July 26, 8:30 am from Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Saturday, August 9, 8:30 am from Mill Creek in Secaucus

Participants should be at least 10 years old and have some canoeing experience. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$15 per person.

For directions to the marina or canoe launches, a registration form or more information contact NJMC outreach Naturalist Gabrielle Bennett-Meany at (201) 460-4640. Registration forms may also be picked up at the NJMC offices at One DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst. You may also download them from our website, [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov).

The 30.4-square mile Meadowlands District includes 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson Counties. The NJMC's mission is to protect the delicate balance of nature, to provide for orderly development, and to provide facilities for the disposal of solid waste.