

40 Years



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

1969-2009

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Phone: 201-460-4619 • Cell: 201-615-8570
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 18, 2009

NJMC Extends Photo Contest Exhibit Through January

LYNDHURST, N.J. – An exhibit featuring entries from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission’s 2009 Amateur Photo Contest, “The Meadowlands: 40 Years of Progress,” has been extended through January at the NJMC’s Flyway Gallery. The exhibit, which launched in December, features nature and landscape photos that capture the beauty and progress of the Meadowlands over the past four decades.

A stunning photo of an immature yellow-crowned night-heron by Kearny resident Ronald Shields captured first prize in the contest in November. Shields’ photo, “Out on a Limb,” captures the young night-heron surveying the Mill Creek Marsh from its perch on a tree branch jutting over the water.

In an interview with The Observer newspaper, Shields characterized the Meadowlands as “a great place for relaxation and inspiration.” Shields told the paper that he chose the title “Out on a Limb” for three reasons: “The bird is literally out on a limb (perched on a tree branch), the species is out on a limb because it is threatened in New Jersey, and the Meadowlands Commission went out on a limb four decades ago when it launched its efforts to preserve the precious natural resources.”

Laura Frazer of Montclair took second prize for “Reflections,” a beautiful photo of the gazebo and walkway reflected in a tidal impoundment at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst. Ernie Fragetta of Lyndhurst won third prize for “Beautiful Lyndhurst Meadowlands,” which captures a majestic great egret flying across the marshes. The three winners received prizes of \$300, \$150 and \$75.

Other contest entries on display capture flora, fauna, sunsets, tranquil waters and more. The Flyway Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is one of several free attractions at the Meadowlands Environment Center, which is located in DeKorte Park, a 110-acre oasis with walking trails and water views, all framed by the New York City skyline. The Environment Center also offers affordable cultural and educational programming for the entire family.

The NJMC created the Flyway Gallery in 2002 to help foster the cultural identity of the 14-town Meadowlands District by providing a space for talented local artists to display their work. For information on the Flyway

Gallery and Meadowlands Environment Center programs, please call (201) 460-8300 or visit www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec. Directions to the Environment Center are available in the “About Us” section of the NJMC’s Web site, at www.njmeadowlands.gov.

###