

40 Years



**New Jersey  
Meadowlands  
Commission**  
1969 - 2009

ELECTRONIC NEWS

JUNE 2009

For more details on  
any of these stories visit  
our Web site at

[www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov)  
click on "Press Room"

## June Flyway Gallery Exhibit



Local landscape paintings by Fair Lawn resident David Buckbinder will be on display at the NJMC's Flyway Gallery now through June 29. 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. A reception for the artist is scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m., on Sunday June 7. 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

VOLUME FOUR ISSUE FIVE JUNE 2009

## Greetings from Chairman Doria



Welcome to the latest edition of NJMC Today, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's monthly electronic newsletter. Last month the Commission moved forward in its plan to create what could be the state's largest solar power facility

on a closed landfill in Kearny. In late May the NJMC invited companies to submit proposals to develop the facility, which the Commission estimates could generate 5 megawatts of power. This novel project, which has the potential to reduce global warming and create private sector jobs and revenue, reflects the NJMC's commitment to promoting renewable energy projects and growing the green economy.

Also in May, the NJMC began the process of drafting new regulations that would help protect the public by giving the Commission greater oversight of area redevelopment projects. These new rules would create a more stringent redeveloper selection process and implement controls that would enable the Commission to more closely monitor a redeveloper's financial status throughout a project. By increasing our authority in the redevelopment process, we can better protect the environment and any public tax dollars involved in these projects.

May also marked a milestone for the NJMC Nature Blog – [www.meadowblog.net](http://www.meadowblog.net) – which recorded its 50,000th page view. I highly recommend you visit this amazing blog. It is full of information about our abundant natural resources and includes wonderful photographs and

videos of the waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife found in the Meadowlands District daily. I have no doubt that blog visitors will be inspired to head to one of our many parks or trails and experience the natural wonders of the Meadowlands first-hand.

Moving forward, June promises to be a busy month at the Commission, full of informative and fun public programs. On June 16 we're co-hosting a Sustainable Business & Technology Seminar with the New Jersey Technology Council. The seminar will include breakout sessions on several green topics that can help businesses reduce energy consumption and increase their bottom lines, all while helping the environment. We're also continuing our NJMC 40th Anniversary celebration with a Meadowlands history slide show on June 4, a National Trails Day marsh cleanup on June 6 and a Father's Day canoe tour on June 21.

Finally, on June 27 the NJMC and the Ramapo College Foundation are sponsoring a very special concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at Lyndhurst's DeKorte Park, home of the NJMC. The concert, titled a "Salute to America!" will feature a festive selection of patriotic tunes, American popular music and opera favorites. We hope you can join us. For listings of additional 40th Anniversary events, click on the 40th Anniversary section in the lower right hand corner of our Web site, [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov).

*Thank you,  
Joseph V. Doria, Jr.*

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

## Solar Landfill Project Advances

The NJMC took a major step forward last month in its plan to transform a closed landfill into the state's largest solar power generator. The Commission invited companies to submit proposals to develop a solar power facility on 35 acres of a former landfill in Kearny, a site estimated to be large enough to hold enough solar panels to generate 5 megawatts of power, which would make it the largest solar operation in New Jersey. The Commission is seeking a company that would design, finance, own and operate the solar facility. The company would generate revenue by selling electricity to the power grid, and through financial incentives offered to solar energy producers by the state and federal governments. The Commission plans to review completed proposals later

this summer. The solar landfill project supports objectives of the NJMC Energy Master Plan and Governor Corzine's Energy Master Plan for New Jersey, both of which call for increasing the amount of power generated from renewable energy sources, like sun and wind. The NJMC's renewable energy efforts date back to 1987, when the Commission started selling methane collected from its landfills for electric conversion. Last year the NJMC opened an award-winning sustainable design classroom building whose solar panels provide nearly 40 percent of the building's electricity needs, and the Commission is currently working with local communities to help them outfit public buildings with solar panels.



## NJMC to Strengthen Redevelopment Regulations

The NJMC is drafting regulations that will strengthen the Commission's oversight of area redevelopment projects. The new rules, which stem from past experiences including the EnCap project, will enable the NJMC to more closely evaluate a potential redeveloper's financial status and better protect the region – and any public tax dollars involved in these projects. The changes will require potential redevelopers to undergo an independent financial review before they could be selected as a redeveloper and before any redevelopment contract could be signed. Redevelopers would also

be required to inform the NJMC if they are seeking loans, bonds, or other financial assistance from any state agency, department, commission or authority, and if they discuss PILOT bonds with municipalities. In addition, the strengthened regulations will require developers to submit to the Commission copies of any permit applications made to federal, state or regional agencies, and they will include new provisions on testing soils slated for fill at a project site. The public will have a chance to comment on these new rules during hearings that will be held in the next few months.

SAVE THE DATE.....SAVE THE DATE.....SAVE THE DATE.....SAVE THE DATE

## Sustainable Business & Technology Seminar

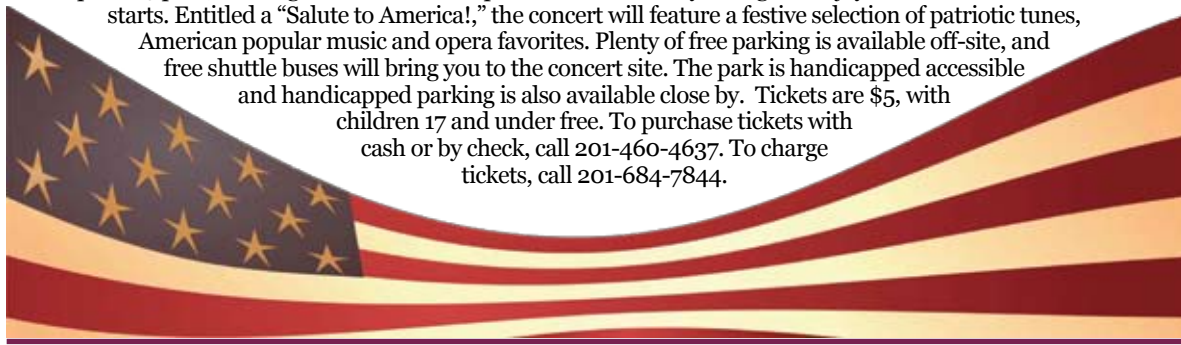
In its ongoing effort to foster economic growth while helping the environment, the NJMC is co-hosting a free Sustainable Business & Technology Seminar with the New Jersey Technology Council on Tuesday, June 16 at 1 p.m. in the Meadowlands Environment Center in Lyndhurst. The afternoon-long

seminar features breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including "Greening Your Business," "Green Design & Retrofitting," "Energy Planning and How to Conduct an Energy Audit," and "Sustainability from the Branding and Marketing Perspective." There will also be roundtable discussions on "Energy Efficiency and IT" and "Alternative Energy and Biofuels." Speakers include Kenny Esser, chief energy

advisor to Governor Corzine; Kathleen Coviello, Director of Technology and Life Sciences Division, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; and Lance Miller, Director of Policy and Planning, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. For more information or to register, contact the New Jersey Technology Council at 856-787-9700 or click on [www.njtc.org/events/index.asp](http://www.njtc.org/events/index.asp).

## NJSO Salute to America Concert

The NJMC and the Ramapo College Foundation are sponsoring a very special "real Meadowlands" outdoor concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. The concert – the NJSO's only outdoor date in Bergen County – will be held in the heart of the Meadowlands, at DeKorte Park, the home base of the NJMC. The gates open at 5 p.m., so bring lawn chairs and a picnic and come early enough to enjoy the trails before the show starts. Entitled a "Salute to America!", the concert will feature a festive selection of patriotic tunes, American popular music and opera favorites. Plenty of free parking is available off-site, and free shuttle buses will bring you to the concert site. The park is handicapped accessible and handicapped parking is also available close by. Tickets are \$5, with children 17 and under free. To purchase tickets with cash or by check, call 201-460-4637. To charge tickets, call 201-684-7844.



## Oral History Project and Meadowlands Slide Show Continue

The NJMC is seeking participants for its Oral History Project to help us tell the full story of this incredible area. As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, the Commission is looking to interview or collect written statements from people who grew up in the Meadowlands. Recollections will be posted on our Oral History Blog, which is set to launch officially later this month. Those interested in participating should contact Brian Aberback at 201-460-4619 or [brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov). The NJMC will next present its 40th anniversary slide show, "The Meadowlands: Past, Present and Future," on Thursday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Little Ferry Public Library. The show features great archival photographs and amazing nature photography tracing the history of the Meadowlands District from its formation by a melting glacier 15,000 years ago to the environmental restoration and economic development launched here by the NJMC in recent decades. For more information, or to schedule a show in your community, contact Jim Wright at 201-460-2002 or [jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov).



## Blog Milestone



The NJMC Nature Blog - [www.meadowblog.net](http://www.meadowblog.net) - reached 50,000 page views on May 8, a testament to the blog's popularity and the growing public interest in the region's natural wonders and recreational opportunities. The blog was officially launched in July 2008 and features amazing photographs and videos of the many rare birds and other critters that inhabit the region. The blog also includes a weekly nature quiz and information on Meadowlands nature walks, pontoon boat rides and other events that make the Meadowlands a perfect summer getaway for the entire family. We invite you to visit the blog and experience in person all the natural beauty the Meadowlands has to offer.



## Mill Creek Marsh Cleanup and Father's Day Canoe Ride

To mark National Trails Day, the Commission is sponsoring a light cleanup at Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your work gloves; we'll supply garbage bags and tools. A short noon walk is optional. For more information contact Jim Wright at 201-460-2002 or [jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov). The Commission is also holding a Father's Day guided canoe tour of Mill Creek Marsh on Sunday, June 21, at 8:30 a.m. Each canoe holds up to three people, and at least one person in each boat should have some experience canoeing. Mill Creek Marsh is a 209-acre restored wetlands area that features shorebirds, egrets and waterfowl. The canoe tour is recommended for ages 10 and up and lasts about three hours. Registration is \$15 and space is limited, so reserve your spot today! For more information or to register, call 201-460-4640 or visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov/environment/tours.html](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/environment/tours.html).

## Business Accelerator Client Awarded Grant

Solaris Cybernetics, a client of the NJMC Business Accelerator, has received a new grant aimed at helping start-up businesses grow and prosper. The \$55,000, state-funded New Jersey Business Incubation Network Pre-Seed Grant is awarded to companies that show strong potential to create high tech jobs in the next three years. Solaris Cybernetics is a renewable energy company developing robotic technology to produce fuel from algae, a project the grant will help fund. In addition to the money, the award allows Solaris Cybernetics to also receive mentoring from a member of the technology business community. Thanks to a \$1.5 million grant from the NJMC, the Business Accelerator opened last year with a mission to help early-stage companies focused on green technology grow and succeed. The Accelerator now has nine clients, and room for 21 more. To find out more information about the Business Accelerator, including how to join, visit [www.njmccaccelerator.com](http://www.njmccaccelerator.com), or contact its director, Michel Bitritto, at 201-438-1245 or [michel.bitritto@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:michel.bitritto@njmeadowlands.gov).