



A majestic monarch butterfly, egrets caught in mid-flight and peaceful coastline scenes are among the works by Rutherford resident Fred Dammers on display this month at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's (NJMC) Flyway Gallery in the Meadowlands Environment Center. The exhibit, titled "A Personal Perspective," runs from Feb. 2 through Feb. 27. Dammers, a lifelong Rutherford resident and frequent visitor to DeKorte Park – the home of the Flyway Gallery – uses traditional and digital photography to capture stunning views of nature and cityscapes. The NJMC is proud to host his first public exhibit. The NJMC created the Flyway Gallery to help foster the cultural identity of the Meadowlands District by providing a space to showcase the talent of local artists. The 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. Admission is free. For information, please call (201) 460-8300 or visit www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec.

Greetings from Chairman Doria

Welcome to the first edition of NJMC Today for 2009, the 40th Anniversary of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission! The NJMC was created by a legislative act that took effect on January 13, 1969. Then known as the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, the agency's initial mandate was to cleanup, revitalize, and, where appropriate, develop thousands of acres of landfills and wetlands that had been scarred by illegal dumping, pollution and neglect. As you can see today, the NJMC has far exceeded its initial expectations. Under the Commission's leadership over the past four decades, thousands of acres of wetlands and open space have been remediated and preserved, the ecosystem is being restored, and development has brought nearly \$2 billion in tax revenue to the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities.

We kicked off the year with a lively roundtable discussion involving three former New Jersey governors, and have more special events planned, some of which are described below. Be sure to check the 40th Anniversary section of our Web site, www.njmeadowlands.gov/anniversary/intro.html, to keep informed on the latest news and upcoming events. We hope you can join in the celebration!



*Thank you,
Joseph V. Doria, Jr.
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*



Governors Roundtable Celebrates NJMC's History

The NJMC began its 40th Anniversary programming last month with a public discussion featuring former Governors Richard J. Codey, Donald T. DiFrancesco and James J. Florio. The ex-Governors discussed the history of the Meadowlands, focusing on the sweeping positive changes to the region under the NJMC's leadership. Former Gov. Codey, who is State Senate President, recalled the stink of garbage as he rode along Route 3 as a teenager and the remarkable restoration of the region as a natural treasure. Former Gov. Florio, who also represented New Jersey in Congress, praised the NJMC for its foresight in regional planning by showing that economic growth and environmental conservation can go hand-in-hand. Former Gov. DiFrancesco, who also served as State Senate President, cited the exceptional ability of the NJMC to bring diverse interests together, calling the Commission's achievements a nationwide model of successful planning. The discussion, led by NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio and moderated by NJN reporter Ed Rodgers, included a question-and-answer session and attracted an audience of more than 100 people.

West Riser Flood Project Receives Port Authority Aid

The Commission is proud to announce that it in January received nearly \$552,000 from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to help fund repairs to a system of tide gates that function to protect Teterboro Airport and surrounding areas during Nor'easters, storm surges and other tidal events. The NJMC will hire contractors to replace the West Riser tide gates – located on Berry's Creek, just south of the airport in Moonachie – with a new system that will better control tidal flow during storm events. The 32-year-old tide gates have sustained damage over time, and flooding has led to airport closures, disruption of business along Industrial Avenue in Teterboro and flooding of residential streets in neighboring Moonachie. The NJMC is designing the new tide gates and a cutoff wall, which are scheduled to be installed this summer. The total project is expected to cost nearly \$1.4 million, with the balance funded by the NJMC. The Commission is also seeking money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for this and other flood control work. The West Riser project is in addition to \$8 million in flood control efforts undertaken by the NJMC in the past five years.

Walks and Talks Celebrate 40th Anniversary

On Feb. 13 the NJMC is hosting a "Great Backyard Bird Count" at DeKorte Park. The two-hour walk meets at 10 a.m. at the Meadowlands Environment Center, with light refreshments to be served afterward. Please contact Jim Wright at 201-460-2002 or jim.wright@njmeadowlands.gov to register. Also be sure to check out the NJMC's Nature Blog, www.meadowblog.net, for more information on upcoming walks and daily updates on natural happenings in the Meadowlands.

On Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m., noted local historian Kevin Wright will present a free talk on the early history of the Meadowlands. Wright's discussion will range from



the days when the region was known as Glacial Lake Hackensack until the formation of the Commission in 1969, and includes information on the Lenape Indian settlements and early commerce. The talk is at the Meadowlands Environment Center. Please RSVP to Donna Bocchino at 201-460-4637 or donna.bocchino@njmeadowlands.gov.



We Want Your Stories

The Commission has planned an oral history project as part of its 40th Anniversary and we need your help! We are looking for people to share their memories of this area – either in writing, or on film, or by audio. The stories we collect will be posted on our Web site for everyone to enjoy, and may be compiled into a book later in the year. E-mails, audio and video files should be sent to donna.bocchino@njmeadowlands.gov. You can also send us a letter the "old fashioned" way to: Donna Bocchino, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, One DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tune in and join us as we bring you "Your Meadowlands."



Time Warner	Channel 10	Mondays	7:00 pm
Comcast			
Union	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Jersey City	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Meadowlands	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
Cablevision			
Oakland	Channel 78	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Bergen	Channel 118	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Hudson	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.
Bayonne	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.