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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJSEA Announces Pontoon Boat Cruise and Canoe Tours

Forty Guided Tours of Hackensack River Run from June Through September

LYNDHURST, N.J. (March 31, 2016) – The NJSEA’s highly anticipated 2016 guided pontoon boat and canoe tours of the Hackensack River are set to launch Tuesday, June 7, and run through Saturday, Sept. 17. The season includes 40 trips that provide visitors a unique opportunity to experience the amazing natural beauty and wildlife of the Meadowlands up-close while learning about the storied history of the river and the region’s remarkable environmental renaissance over the past few decades. (See bottom of release for full schedule).

For those who have glimpsed the Meadowlands only from surrounding highways or the window of a commuter train, the leisurely two-hour boat tours and three-hour canoe trips reveal an entirely new perspective that includes acres of preserved wetlands and a thriving ecosystem, all framed by a spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline. No two cruises are alike, with different departure times and each trip taking a slightly different path along the river at different tides.

An experienced tour guide narrates the tours and points out wildlife along the way. The Hackensack River is a great place from which to see many of the more than 280 bird species that have been documented in the Meadowlands, including 34 on New Jersey’s threatened, endangered and species of special concern lists.

Visitors can look to the shoreline for Egrets, Herons and Sandpipers and turn their gazes skyward to view Peregrine Falcons perched under bridges, Ospreys searching for meals and majestic Bald Eagles soaring through the sky. The trips also traverse the river’s marshes, where Muskrats, Diamondback Terrapins and Fiddler Crabs may be seen.

Canoe trips focus on the river’s wetlands, taking participants on a journey through a diverse array of vegetation and wildlife. Paddlers learn the basics of salt marsh ecology and enjoy the magnificent scenery while rowing down creeks.

Pontoon Boat Tours

- Launch from River Barge Park, 260 Outwater Lane, Carlstadt
- Trips last 2 hours; for ages 10 and up
- Boats hold up to 12 people; requests for group trips welcome
- Pre-registration required; download registration form at www.njsea.com
- Suggested donation \$15 per person; all proceeds go toward the restoration of the Hackensack River Ecosystem.

Canoe Trips

- Launch from River Barge Park, 260 Outwater Lane, Carlstadt, and Laurel Hill County Park, end of New County Road, Secaucus
- Trips last 3 hours; for ages 10 and up
- Canoes hold up to 3 people; safety tips given before each trip
- It is preferred that at least 1 person have canoeing experience
- Requests for group trips welcome
- Pre-registration required; download registration form at www.njsea.com
- Cost is \$15 per person

Registration Information

- Download a registration form at www.njsea.com
- Registration sheets are also available at the NJSEA administrative offices and the Meadowlands Environment Center, both located in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst.
- For more information, call 201-460-4677 or email cathy.vonk@njmeadowlands.gov.

Below is a complete schedule of pontoon boat tours and canoe trips.

NJSEA 2016 Pontoon Boat Tours (All tours launch from River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

June 2016

June 7, 9, 15, 17, 21, 23, and 29, at 5:30 pm

June 11 at 8:30 am

July 2016

July 6 and 20 at 10 am

July 7, 13, 15, 19, 21, 27 and 29 at 5:30 pm

July 16 at 8:30 am

August 2016

Aug. 2, 4, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 24 at 5:30 pm

Aug. 3 and 17 at 10 am

Aug. 13 at 8:30 am

September 2016

Sept. 7, 8, 13, 16, 21 and 27 at 5 pm

Sept. 17 at 8:30 am

NJSEA 2016 Canoe Tours and Launch Points

June 25 at 10 am (River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

July 23 at 8:30 am (River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

Aug. 20 at 8:30 am (River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

Sept. 10 at 8:30 am (Laurel Hill County Park, Secaucus)

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