

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

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NJMC Announces Winter-Spring 2012 Public Programming

Science and Art Workshops, Musical Performances
Share Water As Common Theme

LYNDHURST, N.J. – From oceans and rivers to ice and rain, the many manifestations of water have played a key role in the fields of art, science and music throughout history. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) this winter and spring will explore water’s influence and inspiration in an exciting series of public programs including family-friendly, hands-on science workshops, art classes, concerts and an opportunity for children to experience the Meadowlands’ marshes up-close on a NJMC pontoon boat ride.

“With the Hackensack River connecting the 14 municipalities in the Meadowlands District and hosting the region’s unique urban eco-system, water is a perfect theme for the Commission’s public programming this winter and spring,” said Marcia Karrow, Executive Director of the NJMC. “We invite everyone from the Meadowlands region and beyond to join us at these fun and educational events.”

The season kicks off on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. with “Mad Science: Wonders of Water!” featuring experiments with ice and liquids to illustrate scientific principles in an entertaining educational program. The cost is \$5, \$4 for Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) members. Kids can also celebrate the start of spring on Tuesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in a “H2O Olympics Family Festival.” This event is also \$5, \$4 for MEC members.

Additional interactive science programs for children and families include an exploration of DeKorte Park’s marshes to examine “What’s in the Water?” on Saturday, May 5 at 1 p.m. (\$5, MEC members \$4) , a guided nature walk on Sunday, May 6 at 1 p.m. (\$5, MEC members \$4) and a pontoon boat cruise for kids ages 10 and up and their parents on Saturday, May 12 at 10 a.m. (\$15). The 90-minute walk and two-hour pontoon boat ride are led by experienced NJMC guides who will discuss the area’s history and point out fauna and flora. Both events provide excellent photo opportunities.

Water-themed songs will fill the halls of the Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) in a jazz program featuring The Lisa Hearn Trio on Sunday, Feb. 26, a folk concert with The Backyard Boys on Sunday, March 25 and a classical music performance including “The Blue Danube Waltz” by the City Winds Trio on Sunday, April 15. All performances are at 1 p.m. and cost \$7, \$5 for MEC members.

A free discussion and film screening on northern New Jersey’s Highlands region , which provides drinking water for more than five million State residents, is set for Saturday, Feb. 11 at 1 p. m. On Saturdays March 3 and 10 the NJMC will host art workshops from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., providing participants the opportunity to use Meadowlands marshes as their muse. The morning program focuses on drawing nature and

costs \$30. The afternoon session is on watercolor painting and is \$35 including supplies or \$25 if participants bring their own paints and watercolor paper. Attendees can also sign up for both workshops at discounted prices: \$60 with supplies included or \$50 if you bring your own supplies. Both programs are repeated on each day.

Horticulturists can discover the world of hydroponic gardening, which involves planting without using soil, on Saturday, March 24 at 1 p.m. (\$5, MEC members \$4).

In addition to its water-themed programs, the NJMC continues its partnership with the Meadowlands Museum, presenting a series of free programs that include a screening of the film, “A Reckless Romeo” starring Roscoe Arbuckle on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m., talk on New Jersey’s early 20th century textile workers on Tuesday, April 17 at 2 p.m., a celebration of Palisades Amusement Park on Sunday, April 29 at 1p.m. and a slide-show presentation and discussion on the Lenape-Delaware Indians on Tuesday, May 8 at 2 p.m.

Events take place at the MEC and the Center for Environmental and Scientific Education, both in DeKorte Park, the home of the NJMC. Registration is required for all programs. To register online, and for more information, visit www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec and click on the “Community Programs” button. To request a schedule of events and to register by mail or in person, call 201-460-8300.

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