

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) Staffer Jim Wright Named Recipient of Bergen County Audubon Society Harold Feinberg Conservation Award

LYNDHURST, N.J. – New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) Communications Officer Jim Wright has been named the recipient of the Bergen County Audubon Society’s 2012 Harold Feinberg Conservation Award for his unwavering dedication to protecting, preserving and raising awareness about the environment. Wright will be presented with the award at the Bergen County Audubon Society’s (BCAS) meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy.

“Jim Wright is a tremendous and passionate advocate for the environment and wildlife in the Meadowlands District and beyond,” said Marcia Karrow, Executive Director of the NJMC. “Through his tireless hard work, Jim has enriched the lives of hundreds of people and helped to instill a sense of stewardship that is critical to the continued protection of our natural resources. The NJMC commends Jim on this well-deserved honor.”

“Jim’s many accomplishments portray an unspoiled example of a life dedicated to protecting and helping people learn about the environment,” said Don Torino, President of the BCAS. “Many times I have witnessed his determination and action when learning of a threat to our environment. I have also seen him use patience and kindness when helping a youngster get started birding. His commitment to the betterment of the planet is unbending and his personal sacrifice unquestioned.”

Among his responsibilities at the NJMC, Wright co-leads free, twice-monthly guided bird walks with the BCAS and maintains the Meadowlands Nature Blog, www.meadowblog.net, a go-to resource for nature lovers that averages 12,000 page views per month and hit a milestone of its 450,000th page view in September. This month saw the publication of the Commission’s new coffee-table book, “The Nature of the Meadowlands,” which Wright authored. The beautifully illustrated 128-page book illuminates the Meadowlands’ natural and unnatural history - from its darkest days of a half-century ago to its inspiring environmental revival.

Wright also serves on the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, where he is the Chairman of the Conservation Committee. He is Deputy Warden at the Celery Farm Natural Area in Allendale, maintains the Celery Farm blog, celeryfarm.net, and is Vice President of Conservation for the Fyke Nature Association. He is the birding columnist for The Record, nature columnist for the South Bergenite and has written several well-received coffee-table and children’s nature books.

Harold Feinberg was the BCAS’ long-time field-trip director. Now retired, Feinberg devoted many years of his life to the BCAS and birding causes. He also guided nature lovers through Central Park for a quarter-century. Feinberg is the author of “Encyclopedia of Shells” and “Simon and Schuster’s Guide to Shells.”

The Bergen County Audubon Society was founded in 1941 and is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The BCAS' mission is to promote and protect wildlife in its natural habitat by providing opportunities for observation and conservation. The BCAS holds numerous programs, field trips and educational programs throughout the year. For more information, visit www.bergencountyaudubon.org or email info@bergencountyaudubon.org.

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