

# NJMC NEWS RELEASE

*Contact:* Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer  
Phone: 201-460-4619 Cell: 201-615-8570  
[brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Jersey  
Meadowlands  
Commission**

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## Marsh Madness at the Meadowlands Commission!

**LYNDHURST, N.J.** – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) invites families to take a break from this month’s college basketball bonanza and head to Marsh Madness at DeKorte Park, where visitors can meet a wolf, take bird walks, stargaze and participate in a nature painting workshop.

“The NJMC’s March environmental education programs are a great way for children and adults to discover and explore the amazing natural beauty and wildlife of the Meadowlands,” said Marcia Karrow, Executive Director of the NJMC. “The Commission encourages everyone to join us for Marsh Madness at DeKorte Park, the home of the NJMC, for these first-rate, fun and affordable activities that inspire an appreciation of our natural world.”

The schedule kicks off with “**Wolf Visions**” on **Sunday, March 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.** All ages are invited to meet a live wolf at this educational program that aims to dispels myths and educate the public about the importance of wolves and their role in sustaining a balanced ecosystem. The program takes place at the Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC). Cost is \$5 per person/\$4 MEC members.

The Commission and the Bergen County Audubon Society (BCAS) are hosting a free, **guided bird walk on Tuesday, March 19**, at the NJMC’s beautiful Harrier Meadow Natural Area in North Arlington, which is usually closed to the public. We’ll be on the lookout for ospreys, killdeer and other spring arrivals, plus lingering winter waterfowl. The walk is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Staff from the NJMC William D. McDowell Observatory will lead an informative discussion titled “**Out of This Solar System - Planets Orbiting Stars**,” on **Wednesday, March 20, from 2 to 3 p.m.** Following a brief, non-technical overview of our own solar system, Observatory Director Dr. John Sloan will discuss new and exciting findings about planets orbiting other stars known as extrasolar planets, or exoplanets. Dr. Sloan will examine some of these strange worlds beyond our solar system and explore whether they can support life as we know it.

The William D. McDowell Observatory hosts free **open viewing nights** every **Monday and Wednesday in March from 8 to 10 p.m.** Jupiter should be visible in the early part of the month. Saturn is expected to join the show the last week of March. The observatory also offers “**Let’s Talk Astronomy**” **learning sessions on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 p. m.** This month’s theme is “The Life Cycles of Stars.” The observatory is located in DeKorte Park.

The month wraps up with “**Signs of Spring: Watercolor Painting for Kids**.” The program, **on Saturday, March 23, from 1 to 3 p.m.**, is for kids ages 6 to 12 accompanied by an adult. Participants are invited to celebrate the arrival of the new season by using watercolor pencils to both draw and paint images of DeKorte Park and the signs of spring. Take home art supplies are included. Cost is \$10 per child, \$8 for MEC members.

For more information and to register for all programs except bird walks, call 201-460-8300 or visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec).

To learn more about and register for bird walks, call Don Torino of the BCAS at 201-230-4983 or email him at [greatauk4@aol.com](mailto:greatauk4@aol.com).

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