



Contact: Rachel Somma  
Communication Coordinator  
75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY 10301  
P: 718-483-7117  
Email: [RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org](mailto:RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org)

For immediate release

## Staten Island Museum unveils spruced up Purple Martin colony

(Staten Island, NY – April 12, 2012) Today, the Staten Island Museum’s President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert was joined by New York City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe and Staten Island Parks Commissioner Adena Long along with Museum volunteers to unveil the refurbished Purple Martin colony at Lemon Creek Park on Staten Island.

First constructed in 1952 by former Staten Island Museum Science Curator, Howard Cleaves, the Lemon Creek Purple Martin Colony was once the only colony in southern New York State.

The Lemon Creek colony was sadly abandoned after an unseasonably wet May and June in 2002 which resulted in few flying insects and caused many Purple Martins that hunt them to starve. In the past few years, members of both the Staten Island Museum’s Teen Environmental Club and Nature Section have seen an increase in nesting activities and have taken the initiative to renovate the colony after observing a handful of pairs recolonizing. That initiative was unveiled this afternoon.

### About Purple Martins

Purple Martins are North America’s largest species of swallow. Every spring they migrate from their South American wintering ground and arrive on Staten Island in mid-April and remain until mid-August. Since the time of Native Americans, the Purple Martins have become dependent on human provided structures for nesting.



**Image:** NYC Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Staten Island Parks Commissioner Adena Long, Staten Island Museum Manager of Exhibitions Donna Pagano, and Staten Island Museum President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert unveil a new Martin house at Lemon Creek, Staten Island.  
Photo by Jarred Sutton, Courtesy of the Staten Island Museum

## **About the Staten Island Museum**

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 130th year, the Staten Island Museum, New York City's only general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum welcomes about 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs every year. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. In Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibitions, visit [Statenislandmuseum.org](http://Statenislandmuseum.org)

---

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

---

### **Staten Island Museum (St. George)**

75 Stuyvesant Pl., SI, NY 10301

#### **Hours:**

Monday - Friday: 11am– 5pm

Saturday: 10am–5pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

#### **Universal Accessibility**

#### **Recommended Admission**

Adults \$3.

Students and Seniors: \$2.

FREE to members and children under 12.

### **History Center & Archives \*New Location\***

1000 Richmond Terrace, Snug Harbor Campus,  
Building H, Staten Island, NY 10301

#### **Hours:**

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am – 4pm by  
appointment only.

Contact Cara Dellatte at 718.483.7122.

#### **History Gallery Hours:**

Tuesday – Friday: 1pm – 4pm

Free