



March 2014 Special Programs Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information: 631-687-4750. www.nps.gov/fiis

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Saturday

March 1

9 am – 11:00 am

Late Winter Barrier Beach Birds – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

It's a time of transition in the bird world of the barrier island with a mix of winter birds, early spring migrants and year-round residents. This 2-mile bird walk will visit beach, back-dune and bay habitats in search of ducks, shorebirds, songbirds and hawks. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Sunday

March 2

10 am – 11:30 am

Estate Botany – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

This 613 acre historic property hosts a variety of habitats and is home to a diversity of plants. Take a 2-mile guided botany walk to explore fields for old flower heads and grasses, woodlands for trees and shrubs, and creeks and marshes for wetland-dwelling plants.

Saturday

March 8

9 am – 11 am

Light Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour – Fire Island Lighthouse

\$20 per person. Reservations required. Call for reservations and information: 631-661-4876

Follow a present day Lighthouse Keeper on his rounds. This bottom to top tour takes you from the auxiliary generator and workshop in the basement of the Keeper's Quarters to the beacon in the lantern room of the lighthouse tower. Tour includes a visit to the Lens Building which houses the original first order Fresnel Lens. Parking is available at Robert Moses State Park, Field #5.

Saturday

March 8

9 am – 11:30 am

Old Mastic Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

Search for wintering and year-round birds in the varied habitats of the Old Mastic Estate. Bring binoculars if you have them. Roundtrip walk 2-3 miles.

Sunday

March 9

10 am – 11 am

The Barns on the Farm – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

Barns are fast disappearing on the Long Island landscape but at one time they were a sign of prosperity and hard work. There are several old barns and outbuildings at the William Floyd Estate. Join a park ranger to visit these historic structures, explore their uses, and learn about their construction.

Saturday

March 15

9 am – 11 am

The "Ides of March" Nature Hike – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

What will a nature walk on the "Ides of March" bring? Maybe some big trees, dapper ducks, early spring birds, and perhaps a chipmunk or two? This 2-mile walk around the grounds of the historic estate will take it all in. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday

March 15

Noon – 1 pm

Seaside Stories and Crafts: Spring Equinox – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

Come celebrate the changing season as winter turns to spring on Fire Island. Hear a story about the coming of spring and create a seasonal craft to take home. This program is geared for children 5-7, but all are welcome.

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March 2014 Special Programs Fire Island National Seashore (continued)

Sunday

March 16

6:30 am – 8 am

Early Morning Tower Tour – Fire Island Lighthouse

\$25 per person. Reservations required. Call for reservations and information: 631-661-4876

Enjoy the scenery from the top of the tower as the sun rises. Tour includes a light breakfast.

Members receive a 10% discount. Parking is available at Robert Moses State Park, Field #5. Bring a flashlight for your walk to the lighthouse. Sunrise 7:03 am/ Moonset 6:45 am.

Saturday

March 22

10 am – 1 pm

Spring Wilderness Discovery – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

Celebrate spring as you walk along the shore and through the swale on this 3-mile round-trip hike to the breach at Old Inlet. See if you can spy signs of the changing season – swelling bayberry buds, migrant geese overhead, or redwing blackbirds in song. Bring drinking water, a snack and binoculars if you have them.

Sunday

March 23

12 pm – 1 pm

Jr. Ranger Workshop: Spring Shelling – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

Take a beachcombing stroll with a park ranger and learn about the sea creatures that lived in the shells you find. Geared for children ages 8-12, but all are welcome. Dress for the outdoors.

Friday & Saturday

March 28 & 29

Fire Island National Seashore 9th Biennial Science Conference

Free program. Registration required: email: fiis_science_conference@nps.gov or call 631-687-5030 to register. Please visit www.nps.gov/fiis/scienceconference for more information.

Learn about the science of the Seashore. Hear from researchers on topics ranging from the dynamic breach at Old Inlet, vegetation changes in the globally rare Sunken Forest, box turtle research at the William Floyd Estate, and much more.

Sunday

March 30

10 am – 11:30 am

In Honor of Trees – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

How can you tell an oak tree from a hickory or a walnut? What if they don't have their leaves? What distinguishes a cedar, from a pine, from a spruce? Learn how to identify the majestic trees of the William Floyd Estate by their shape, bark, seeds and buds during this challenging botany program.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open during March 2014

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

Through March 31: Open daily 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 11 am – 4 pm weekends

Tower tours as available weekdays, 11 am – 3 pm weekends

Wilderness Visitor Center- 631-281-3010

Through March: Open Friday – Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm.

New: Backcountry camping reservations for required permits must be obtained online at Recreation.gov.

Access to east and west wilderness/backcountry camping zones is from Watch Hill only, as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open. There is no access from the Wilderness Visitor Center at this time.

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Closed until May 2014, grounds will be open for special programs during the winter and spring.

Guided Old Mastic House Tours Closed for the season

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9 am – 4:30 pm (Closed on federal holidays)

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

Closed until May 2014, but watch for special programs!

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities and The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant Closed until May 2014

Watch Hill Campground: visit www.watchhillfi.com for May – October 2014 reservations.