



### Shifting Into Autumn

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### Message from the Superintendent



Dear Constituents:

We are finishing up the General Management Plan public meetings this fall, as you can see in this latest newsletter. **Please note that close of public scoping is January 12, 2007.**

The next stage, after scoping, consists of refining our core mission and purposes before we begin developing proposals and alternatives. We have already identified a number of issues, including how to address zoning problems, whether we need to look at additional commercial docks in order to reduce driving needs in communities, and how to develop and provide appropriate visitor facilities in areas vulnerable to storms.

One of our larger coordination issues will be how we work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with the many partners on the reformulation project, to dovetail management of storm damages and beach resources into the future within the new GMP.

These are just a sampling of over 50 issues suggested as ones to consider. The last scoping meetings with all of you over the next few months will help us identify others or hear what you think of our list.

I look forward to our conversations.

Thanks for participating...

### Greetings!

As we move from August to September, it means a waning of the visitor season for us at Fire Island National Seashore. Vacation season is mostly over, kids go back to school, and we all start preparing for winter. Happily, winter is buffered by autumn and spring, which are fabulous seasons to visit the park.

It also means fewer bugs. Mosquito counts drop, though ticks hang around for much longer. Therefore, we all must remain vigilant about the deer ticks. That problem seems to almost never go away. Again, always remain vigilant, but don't let that interfere with your enjoyment of this beautiful place. Visit our two websites about [mosquitoes](#) and [ticks](#) to get tips on how to avoid these "bugs" when you come to Fire Island.

On another note, Email has become the simplest and most expeditious way for us to keep you connected to our efforts. Thanks to those who have the technology. For those who don't, we are investigating how to send hard copy mailings on a regular basis. Either way, between mailings, be they email or snail mail, be sure to visit our [FIIS webpage](#) to find information about all of the park visitor facilities and schedules for the remainder of the 2006 season.

### • Public Scoping for our General Management Plan

During our summer scoping meetings in July and August on Fire Island, we received some excellent feedback from park visitors regarding issues that are important to you. We also answered lots and lots of park-related questions. We held meetings throughout the island, from the Lighthouse to Watch Hill, visiting both federal park facilities and communities alike. It was a win-win for all of us.



As we shift into September, our scoping for the GMP shifts with us. This is the opportunity for us to reach local Long Islanders and beyond. We want you to tell us what your chief concerns and issues may be, and what comments you may have regarding Fire Island National Seashore. This is your time to let us know what you think works well, what meets, or does not meet your needs, and what improvements and/or changes you would like to see at the park.

Everyone should understand that the park is accepting comments, issues, and concerns from anyone who would like to submit them to us. You do not need to attend a public meeting, or wait until some particular event. Now is your opportunity. We'll accept letters sent to the park's main mailing address, or email submitted to our [GMP email address](#).

Following is our fall meeting line-up, all of which will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

South Shore east:

**September 25, 2006** - Mastic Beach Property Owners Association, 1 Neighborhood Rd., Mastic Beach, NY 11951 [MBPOA website](#)



South Shore west:

**September 26, 2006** - Patchogue Theater Lobby, 71 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772.

[Patchogue Theater website](#)

North Shore:

**September 27, 2006** - Marine Science Research Center, Stony Brook Campus, Room 120, Endeavor Hall, Stony Brook, NY 11794 [MSRC Map](#)

New York City

**November 14, 2006.** All Souls Church, 1157 Lexington Ave. (southeast corner at 80th Street), New York, NY 10021, in Reidy Hall. [All Souls Church website](#)

**Please read more at Fire Island National Seashore's official GMP website**



#### • **Fire? Island**

There are a few theories about how Fire Island got its name, though no one really knows for certain. One of those theories is related to the poison ivy plant. This may be one of the more fun theories, though somewhat dubious in its distinction.



During the spring season, the new growth is a brilliantly red, though smallish leaf, along with the rather unobtrusive flower brackets. However, in the fall, poison ivy develops into a bright red plant, be in its vine, shrub or groundcover form, all of which can be found on the Fire Island. Due to the sheer abundance of poison ivy throughout the island, it appears to be "on fire" during this season.

Poison ivy, as we all know, is a beautiful, but nasty plant for most people, unfortunately. A lot of us get the red, inflamed and notoriously itchy rash from exposure to it. Hmmm..... Maybe, that's another reason for the "fire" interpretation.

Though quite beautiful during the fall months, poison ivy is just as irritating as it is during any other time of year. If you are allergic to the toxin, you already know about how to identify this "leaves of three" plant, and most will give it as wide a berth as possible when walking past it.

**From our website, [Times to Visit - Fall:](#)**

After Labor Day, the air usually cools and summer crowds dwindle. After the first frost, mosquito and tick populations decline. Although ferry service is reduced, you may still enjoy Fire Island National Seashore.

School groups and education programs are in full swing in early fall. By mid-fall it is the perfect time to enjoy nature and the backcountry portions of Fire Island. Hiking and backcountry camping in the Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, although available year- round, is now recommended.

Catch the annual migration of birds and monarch butterflies. Watch as the poison ivy turns red across the island and see why some believe that it was this plant that led to the name "Fire Island."

Autumn is fishing and hunting season (waterfowl only). Proper permits (some fees are applied) can be obtained at the Wilderness Visitor Center and the West District Ranger Station (checkpoint).

**[Times To Visit: Fall](#)**

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