

March 2011



Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis
631-687-4750

Saturday

March 5:
9 – 11:30 am

Old Mastic Winter Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

(Free program; call for directions/information: 631-399-2030)

Search for wintering and year-round bird species at the Old Mastic Estate as you explore a variety of habitats. Dress for the weather. Be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile walk.

Friday

March 11
7 - 9 pm

Shipmates: Sea Chanties – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information: 631-281-3010)

Join an evening of ballads of the sea with local musicians, the *Shipmates*. Acoustic instruments are welcomed.

Saturday

March 12:
12:00 noon

Children's Hour: Seaside Stories & Craft: Birds of a Feather – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Listen to stories and learn about birds that visit Fire Island, then create a craft to take home. Geared for ages 5-7, but all are welcome.

Saturday

March 12:
6 pm

Junior Ranger Workshop: The Night Sky - Fire Island Lighthouse

(Free 3-hour program, reservations required: 631-661-4876)

Discover the night sky by learning to identify key features, the value of darkness, and where Fire Island and you fit into the "Big Picture." Dress for the weather. Kids ages 8-12, but all are welcome. Program limited to 30 participants.

Sunday

March 13:
10 – 11:30 am

In Honor of Trees – William Floyd Estate

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)

What's the difference between oaks and hickories and walnuts? What about cedars, pines and spruce? There are so many different kinds of trees. Learn to identify trees off-season without their leaves, by using bark, buds and seeds.

Friday

March 18:
7:30 pm

Star Watch: A Night of Astronomy – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Led by a guest speaker, the whole family will enjoy a captivating slide show and a viewing of the night skies by telescope. Dress for the weather!:

Saturday

March 19:
9:00am – noon

Spring Awakening – Meet at the Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)

Discover Fire Island's Wilderness; experience its beauty and wonder as life returns to the barrier island. Join a ranger on this 3-mile hike exploring a unique treasure. Dress for the weather, hiking on sand; bring a snack/water.

Sunday

March 20:
6:15 am

Early Morning Lighthouse Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

(\$20/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)

Celebrate the beginning of spring, the Vernal Equinox, from the top of the tower as the sun rises and the moon sets. Tour includes a "light" breakfast and souvenir mug. Sunrise is at 6:57 am and moonset is at 7:00 am

Sunday

March 20:
9 – 11:30 am

Old Mastic Winter Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)

Search for wintering and year-round bird species at the Old Mastic Estate as you explore a variety of habitats. Dress for the weather. Be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile walk.

Saturday

March 26:
Noon

Junior Ranger: Migration – Wilderness Visitor Center

(Free; call 631-281-3010)

Over 300 kinds of birds can be found on Fire Island, just not all the time. Why? Migration! Learn about birds that call Fire Island home and where all those other birds go when they're not here. Be ready for a short hike and dress for the weather.

Sunday

March 27:
10 am - noon

Ocean to Bay: Both Sides of the Barrier Beach - Fire Island Lighthouse

(Free program; call for directions/information: 631-661-4876)

This general natural history walk starts at Fire Island's ocean side and ends up on the bay side by the Fire Island Lighthouse. Discover barrier beach plants, shells and birds. Meet at the east end of Robert Moses State Park Field 5.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in March

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

Open mid-December – March 31, Weekdays, 9:30 – 4 pm; Weekends, Noon – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)

Last tower tour 1 hour before closing

Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010

Open January 1 through June 30: Daily, 9 am – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)

Wilderness camping permits when office is open

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Closed until May 28, 2011, grounds open for special guided tours. Watch for special programs this winter and spring!

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill marinas

Closed until May 7, 2011

Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664 www.watchhillfi.com

Reopens May 7; reservations for 2011 season accepted on-line

The Pier at Watch Hill restaurant

Closed until May 27, 2011

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

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

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

Closed until May 2011, but open for special programs. Watch for special programs this spring

Seasonal restriction on driving/pets on the beach begins on March 15.