



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

Release date: Immediate

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Phone number: 631- 395- 9693

Date: June 25, 2008

Release code: 08- 10

Fire Island National Seashore Offers Special Programs at William Floyd Estate in July Featuring: The Summer Gunner—The Art and Lore of Traditional Decoy Carving

Patchogue, NY—Are you interested in getting to know the stories and treasures in your own backyard? Long Island has a colorful heritage and a vast amount of its history is preserved at Fire Island National Seashore. The National Park Service is offering four of its special ranger- guided tours at the William Floyd Estate this July, along with a special decoy carving demonstration on two weekends in July 2008.

Long Island's premiere **traditional decoy carver Jamie Reason** will be demonstrating his craft on **July 5 and 19, 2008, from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.** on the front porch of the **Old Mastic House at the William Floyd Estate**. Mr. Reason will be spending the afternoon “just cutting and carving and painting and talking.” Every shore bird and duck is lovingly created by hand using the tools and methods of the 19th century masters carvers. In addition to the demonstration of intricate carving techniques and materials, Mr. Reason enralls his audiences with the history of water fowl gunning along the Atlantic Flyway and the rich tradition of Native American carvers.

A self taught artist, Mr. Reason began wood carving at an early age and is best known for his wood carvings of American Indian art and his hand- sawn, carved and painted decoys and shorebirds. Take your staycation here at home and learn all about the long and rich tradition of the Summer Gunner.

After enjoying Mr. Reason's art and story telling, take an hour tour of 280 years of our local history in the Old Mastic House; stroll the grounds that were part of a 4,400 acre plantation and visit eight generations of Floyd's in the family cemetery.

The 280- year- old “Old Mastic House” is open for free guided tours Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Monday Holidays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Visitors are treated to a unique interpretation of local history and learn about Suffolk County's only Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

(more)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Additional special guided tours at the William Floyd Estate during July 2008:

Cradle to Grave: The Life and Times of John G. Floyd, Jr.

Saturday, July 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

This is a story of real people living in the Old Mastic House. John G. Floyd, Jr. was a publisher, a lawyer, a Civil War veteran, a father, a widower, and a European traveler. Follow his life through the Old Mastic House and finish in the family cemetery with a grave stone rubbing.

Program offered by reservation only, space limited.

Call 631-399-2030 to make your reservations.

The Park's Collections

Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Take an insider look at the park's museum collections. More than 15,000 objects are cataloged and stored in the curatorial storage facility. Visitors will see christening dresses, 18th century ceramics, Native American indentures, *cartes de visite*, and much more. Program offered by reservation only, space limited. Call 631-399-2030 to make your reservations.

Old Mastic House: A Simple Architectural Tour

Saturday, July 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Get a simple architectural review of the Old Mastic House. Colonial, Victorian and Greek Revival architecture, among other styles, are all represented here and each will be seen and explained. Eighteenth century doors, post and beam framing and 12 over 12 windows are just some of the details to be examined. Call 631-399-2030 to make your reservations.

Three Centuries of Floyd Furniture

Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

An introduction to styles and characteristics of the furnishings on exhibit in the "Old Mastic House." See William Floyd's mid-18th century Chippendale secretary and learn about many other pieces. The "Old Mastic House" furniture dates from the late 1600s to the 1950s and nearly every period furniture style is represented. Call 631-399-2030 to make your reservations.

The William Floyd Estate is now open for the season on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays through on Sunday, October 26, 2008. For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/fiis. You can learn more about the William Floyd Estate, bird watching and other activities, and the park's natural and cultural resources.

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