



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Holiday Hikes and Programs at Fire Island National Seashore *Viewing area/parking for the November 23 Patchogue Boat Parade reduced due to Watch Hill Ferry Terminal construction; Fire Island Lighthouse tree- trimming event on November 29, Reenactment of Flying Santa on December 13*

Patchogue, New York—While most Fire Island- based National Park Service visitor facilities are closed for the season, you can still get outdoors to enjoy parts of Fire Island National Seashore. To make the experience more enjoyable and to learn more about what you're seeing and hearing, join one of Fire Island National Seashore's special guided hikes this winter. Fire Island National Seashore's Patchogue- Watch Hill Ferry Terminal site is also one of the viewing locations for the Greater Patchogue Foundation's Patchogue Boat Parade on Sunday evening, November 23. Due to the start of construction for the Seashore's new ferry terminal, the available parking and viewing area will be reduced at this site for the 2008 parade, so be prepared. Gates open at 4:30 and the boat parade usually begins around 6 p.m.

The first of the park's late fall hikes will be held at the **William Floyd Estate** on Sunday, **November 23, 2008**, from **9 a.m. to 11:30**. Park naturalist MaryLaura Lamont is once again guiding an **Autumn Migration Bird Walk** around the grounds of the historic property in Mastic Beach. The William Floyd Estate is closed for the season, so participants will need to enter through the service gate at 20 Washington Avenue, Mastic Beach, NY 11951. The program is free and registration is not required, but you should dress warmly, pack your own water and snack, and bring binoculars for this 2- mile roundtrip stroll. Call 631- 399- 2030 for more information.

The **Wilderness Visitor Center** is still open Wednesday through Sunday through the end of December. Three ranger- guided **Holiday Hikes** will be offered this winter on Friday, **November 28** and **December 26, 2008**, and on **January 2, 2009**. Each 3- hour, 3- mile roundtrip guided walk leaves the Wilderness Visitor Center at **9 a.m.** Parking is available at Smith Point County Park. Pack a light snack and water, dress for the weather, which is typically colder on the island, and come prepared for a walk on sand. For more information, call the Wilderness Visitor Center at 631- 281- 3010.

(more)

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

Another holiday hike will be conducted on the western end of Fire Island National Seashore. The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society is hosting a **New Year's Day Hike at 10 a.m.** on Thursday, **January 1, 2009**. Join naturalist Steve Finn of the American Littoral Society for a guided walk from Robert Moses State Park Field 5 to the Fire Island Lighthouse. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Reservations are required. Call 631- 661- 4876 for details.

The **Fire Island Lighthouse** Preservation Society is also conducting its annual **tree- trimming** event at the Fire Island Lighthouse on Saturday, **November 29**, from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The program is free, and you're invited to bring a handmade ornament relating to the sea, nature or the Lighthouse to hang on the Keepers Quarters tree. On Saturday, **December 13**, the 6th annual **Reenactment of the Flying Santa** program will be held at **noon**. Relive this historic event with the Lighthouse Keeper and his family who were there more than 50 years ago. Santa arrives at the Lighthouse for a great photo opportunity! Come early. The program is free, and parking is available at Robert Moses State Park Field 5. The Fire Island Lighthouse is now open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 631- 661- 4876 for more information.

For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/fiis.

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