

Cape Cod National Seashore Activities May 1 through May 24, 2013

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

www.nps.gov/caco



Storm and Construction Impacts

Winter storms destroyed access stairs at Nauset Light Beach and Marconi Beach. Both beaches are inaccessible until the stairs are repaired in late spring. For your safety, remain out of closed areas and stay back from bluffs that may be unstable. The footbridge on the Nauset Marsh Trail was also damaged and is closed. The rest of the trail is open. Ask at Salt Pond Visitor Center for hiking options.

The Nauset Bike Trail is being rehabilitated this spring. Rangers at Salt Pond Visitor Center can provide information about closures and detours.

Province Lands Visitor Center

Due to the required federal sequestration which has impacted National Park Service budgets for 2013 and beyond, the reopening of Province Lands Visitor Center this year is delayed until Saturday, May 25. Restrooms in the Province Lands parking area, and the outdoor observation decks are open year 'round, weather permitting.

Our ability to open Province Lands Visitor Center this summer from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day (May 25, 2013 through September 2, 2013) is due to a generous donation from Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore. This donation is funding the rangers who provide important interpretive, orientation, safety, and resource protection information at the center.

Fire Permits for Herring Cove, Race Point, and Head of the Meadow Beaches

Until Province Lands Visitor Center opens on May 25, permits for beach fires at Herring Cove, Race Point, and Head of the Meadow beaches will be issued from the Oversand Office near Race Point Ranger Station, Provincetown. Permits may be reserved up to three days in advance (eg. reserve on Tuesday for a fire on Friday, reserve on Wednesday for a fire on Saturday, etc.) by calling 508-487-2100 x 0927, or in person starting at 9 AM. The permits must be picked up at the Oversand Office in person prior to 3:30 PM on the scheduled day of the fire. When the visitor center opens on May 25 the reserving and issuing of passes will be done from there, following the above procedures. Beginning May 25, the number to call for reservations is 508-487-1256.

SALT POND VISITOR CENTER

OPEN DAILY 9 TO 4:30 PM, OFF ROUTE 6, EASTHAM. 508 - 255 - 3421

This visitor center offers magnificent views of Salt Pond, Nauset Marsh, and the Atlantic; an outstanding museum; and regularly-scheduled films in the theater. New exhibits showcase the Outer Cape's location in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and Wampanoag culture and history. Staff are on duty to help with trip planning, and there is a well-stocked store offering books, maps, puzzles, games and other interpretive items for sale. Restrooms are available in the parking area. The Nauset Marsh and Buttonbush trails, and the Nauset Bicycle Trail are nearby.

SATURDAYS In Eastham



Denotes National Park Service Ocean Park Stewardship programs aimed at improving awareness and protection of marine resources.

WALK: BEACH PATROL - 9:30 AM. 1 hour, up to ¾ mile. Free. Explore the renowned and dynamic Coast Guard Beach in Eastham to discover what's happening at the beach. Items of interest might include interesting geologic features exposed by storms and signs of animals from the land and sea. Mammal tracks, seals, and seabirds are among the possibilities. Meet at the Coast Guard Beach parking area. *Limited parking.*



TOUR: CAPTAIN PENNIMAN HOUSE - A WHALING FAMILY'S STORY

11 AM, 1 hour. Free. Learn about the Penniman family through a tour of their home and stories of their travels. Examine some of the hardships, adventures, and lifestyle of a whaling family. **BY RESERVATION ONLY NO MORE THAN 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE.** Call Salt Pond Visitor Center, 508-255-3421, ext. 18. Meet at the Penniman House at Fort Hill, off Route 6.

In Provincetown

OPEN HOUSE: OLD HARBOR LIFE-SAVING STATION - 10 AM to 12 noon. Free. Built in 1898, Old Harbor is the last intact lifesaving station of Cape Cod's original thirteen.

The station has been restored and refurnished. A visit feels like stepping into a turn-of-the-century, working station while the crew is out on patrol. Park at Race Point Beach and take the short walk to Old Harbor.

WALK: PROVINCE LANDS DUNES AND BOGS - 2 PM, 1 hour, 1 mile in loose sand. Free.

Explore an enchanting dune landscape of unusual plants and wild cranberry bogs. Discover the hidden story of America's oldest public lands and how actions by enterprising settlers changed this landscape. Meet at the Province Lands Visitor Center parking area, off Race Point Road.

SUNDAYS In Eastham



WALK: LIGHTHOUSE TOUR of the THE THREE SISTERS - 4 PM, 1 hour, ½ mile. Free. These 19th-century lighthouses once provided a beacon for sailors off the shore of Nauset Light Beach.

Come and learn of their history and importance. Meet at Nauset Light Beach parking area.

In Wellfleet

WALK: SHORELINE STROLL - 10:30 AM, 1 hour, 1 mile. Free. Explore the various habitats of forest, marsh, dunes, and bay, while discovering how they all work together to create a dynamic coastal barrier system known as the Great Island 'gut.' Meet at the Great Island parking area.

In Truro



WALK: HEATHLANDS AND HIGH DUNES - 10:30 AM, 1½ hours, 1 mile. Free. Welcome spring at Pilgrim Springs! Follow a path through a rare heathland community overlooking a poplar stand. Discover the spring flowers and leaves so important to animals like rabbits and birds who make this their home. Concludes with spectacular views of the high dunes over East Harbor. Meet at the shelter in the Pilgrim Heights parking area, North Truro. *May 5 and May 12 only.*

SUNDAYS

In Provincetown

OPEN HOUSE: OLD HARBOR LIFE-SAVING STATION - 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Free. Built in 1898, Old Harbor is the last intact lifesaving station of Cape Cod's original thirteen. The station has been restored and refurbished. A visit feels like stepping into a turn-of-the-century, working station while the crew is out on patrol. Park at Race Point Beach and take the short walk to Old Harbor.



TUESDAYS

In Eastham

WALK: ARCHEOLOGY ON THE OUTER CAPE - 10:30 AM. 1 hour, 1/2 mile. Free. Learn about the various discoveries archeology has uncovered at Cape Cod National Seashore. The program will highlight the Carn's Archeological Site discovered in the fall of 1990. Meet at Coast Guard Beach parking area. Accessible with assistance, if Salt Pond Visitor Center is notified in advance 508-255-3421, ext. 18.

In Provincetown

OPEN HOUSE: OLD HARBOR LIFE-SAVING STATION - 2 to 4 PM. Free. Built in 1898, Old Harbor is the last intact lifesaving station of Cape Cod's original thirteen. The station has been restored and refurbished. A visit feels like stepping into a turn-of-the-century, working station while the crew is out on patrol. Park at Race Point Beach and take the short walk to Old Harbor.



WEDNESDAYS

Explore Wellfleet Celebrate Wellfleet's 250th anniversary in 2013 by exploring some of the town's most interesting historic and natural features with a ranger. Programs are free and begin at 9:30 AM. Length and duration vary. Reservations are required. Call Salt Pond Visitor Center at 508-255-3421, ext. 18, no more than 7 days in advance, to register and for meeting location. Dress appropriately for the nature of the program.

MAY 1 - FRESHBROOK VILLAGE: GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN - Up to 3½ hours, 4 miles. Learn about the 19th-century Freshbrook Village while exploring the diverse environments of the Marconi area. Walk through upland forest and see remnants and feel the ambience of an early Outer Cape Village. Long pants, bug spray, and water are recommended.

MAY 8 - HERRING RIVER FLOAT BY KAYAK/CANOE - 3 hours, 3 miles. Bring your own canoe or kayak and gear (including life vests which will be required) and explore the issues and history associated with this important river and watershed. The trip will return via the same route. Water levels will determine starting point. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and bug spray.

MAY 15 - A MOST INTERESTING INTERSECTION OF PERSONALITY: A WALK THROUGH THE BAKER-BIDDLE PROPERTY- 1 hour. Join Park Historian Bill Burke for a quick walk through history and discover how the "banana king", a novelist, an architect, a poet, and a judge all called this ensemble of historic buildings home. Acquired by the National Park Service in 2011, this is the newest property addition to the national seashore. Learn about the potential opportunities and challenges for re-using it.

MAY 22 - KETTLE POND KAYAK TRIP AT GULL POND - 2½ to 3 hours. Bring your own canoe or kayak and gear (including life vests which will be required) and experience a quiet, freshwater kettle pond first hand and discover the unique geology, plants, and animals of these common Cape Cod features. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and bug spray.

In Provincetown

OPEN HOUSE: OLD HARBOR LIFE-SAVING STATION - 3 to 5 PM. Free. Built in 1898, Old Harbor is the last intact lifesaving station of Cape Cod's original thirteen. The station has been restored and refurbished. A visit feels like stepping into a turn-of-the-century, working station while the crew is out on patrol. Park at Race Point Beach and take the short walk to Old Harbor.



THURSDAYS

In Provincetown

OPEN HOUSE: OLD HARBOR LIFE-SAVING STATION - 2 to 4 PM. Free. Built in 1898, Old Harbor is the last intact lifesaving station of Cape Cod's original thirteen. The station has been restored and refurbished. A visit feels like stepping into a turn-of-the-century, working station while the crew is out on patrol. Park at Race Point Beach and take the short walk to Old Harbor.



Highland Lighthouse



OPENS MID-MAY. OPERATED BY THE HIGHLAND MUSEUM AND LIGHT, INC. Enjoy an interpretive center, climb the lighthouse tower, and take in the beautiful view from the top. 508-487-1121. **ADMISSION TO LIGHTHOUSE: \$4 PER PERSON (CHILDREN MUST BE 51" TALL TO CLIMB HIGHLAND LIGHT.)** WWW.CAPECODLIGHT.ORG

Nauset Light Tours



FREE TOURS CONDUCTED BY NAUSET LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS FROM 1 TO 4 PM, SUNDAYS, MAY 12 AND 19. WWW.NAUSETLIGHT.ORG