

Fire Island

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore
Long Island, New York



Summer 2012

Fire Island Program Schedule



A Message from the Superintendent:

Summer at Fire Island National Seashore is full of activities and programs for the entire family. Whether planning a day at the beach, a hike through the Sunken Forest, a canoe trip through Watch Hill's salt marsh, a climb to the top of the Fire Island Lighthouse or a visit to the historic William Floyd Estate, there's something here for everyone.

Of special interest is the variety and abundance of wildlife in the park. This year we will be talking a lot about the Seashore's wildlife and their importance in making Fire Island the special place it is. Coexisting with wildlife has been much in the news no matter where you live. Humans share the earth with all other creatures and we depend on them for both our survival as well as our enjoyment.

The Seashore is well known for its bird life. The park is located on the Atlantic Flyway, a major bird migration route, and many birds stop here to feed and rest during their migratory journeys. Other birds are here year-round, or as winter or summer residents. The piping plover, a federally protected species arrives in the park in April and nests on the sandy beaches, as do least terns and other shorebirds. Enclosures and fencing around their nests protect them from harm. Look for the birds on the beach and learn more about them from a park ranger.

Box turtles are one of the park's little known wildlife residents. At the William Floyd Estate, John Treadwell Nichols began marking and tracking box turtles in 1910. Recent research revealed that some turtles marked by Nichols lived to be at least 100 years old!

White-tailed deer are common on Fire Island and at the William Floyd Estate. These beautiful and curious creatures have adapted to the presence of humans and seem to have no fear. But it's important to remember that they are wild animals and we can help keep them wild. Never feed the deer and enjoy them from a distance.

Birds, mammals, reptiles, and other animals abound on Fire Island and at the William Floyd Estate. Part of the National Park Service's mandate is to protect and preserve the wildlife found in the park. We do this through research, protective measures, and education. Their continued survival and our enjoyment of them can only be accomplished through an understanding of how we can coexist in this very special place. Come learn more about Seashore's wildlife and enjoy your visit to the park this summer.

Chris Soller

Superintendent

In This Issue:

How Do I Get There?	P. 2
Fire Island Map	P. 3
Fire Island Programs	P. 4
Special Events	P. 7
Special Events	
-William Floyd Estate	P. 8
-Lighthouse	P. 9
Coop. Associations & Friends Groups	P. 10
Volunteer Spotlight	P. 11
Spotlight on Science	P. 11

Fire Island National Seashore was established in



September 1964 "for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk County, New York, which possess high values to the Nation."

How Do I Get There?

Ferry Schedule 2012

Fire Island Lighthouse

By car via the Robert Moses Causeway

Fire Island Ferries

631-665-3600 or 666-3600

www.fireislandferries.com

Bay Shore to:

Kismet*

Saltaire

Fair Harbor

Dunewood*

Atlantique*

Ocean Beach

Seaview*

Ocean Bay Park*

**Seasonal Only*

Cross-bay and lateral water taxi

Fire Island Water Taxi

631-665-8885

www.fireislandwatertaxi.com

Seasonal Only



Sailors Haven

By ferry via the Sayville Ferry Service
41 River Road, Sayville, NY 11782

Sayville Ferry

631-589-8980

www.sayvilleferry.com

Sayville to:

Sailors Haven/ Sunken Forest*

Cherry Grove

Fire Island Pines

Water Island

**Seasonal Only*



Talisman/ Barrett Beach

Access by private boat, chartered ferry from Patchogue or from Sayville via the Sayville Ferry Service, or by walking in from the neighboring communities.



Fire Island Lighthouse

Directions

Located at the southern terminus of the Robert Moses Causeway, just east of Robert Moses State Park. Parking available at Robert Moses State Park Field #5. **(Fee for parking)**

1-mile walk from Kismet.

Sailors Haven

Directions

LIE (I-495) or Sunrise Hwy. (Rt.27) to Nicholls Rd. (Rt.97) South. Approx. 5.5 miles to third light, Montauk Hwy. (Rt. 85), make right. Go under R.R. overpass, make left at first light, Foster Ave. in Sayville. Follow green & white "Fire Island Ferry" signs to terminal. **(Fee for parking)**

Talisman/ Barrett Beach

Directions

Access by private boat, by chartered ferry from Patchogue or Sayville or a 1½-mile walk from Fire Island Pines or a 2½-mile hike from Davis Park.

Fire Island Map

Watch Hill

By ferry via the Davis Park Ferry Co., Inc.
150 West Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772

Davis Park Ferry
631-475-1665

www.davisparkferry.com

Patchogue Ferry Terminal
631-758-4032

Patchogue to:
Watch Hill*
*Seasonal Only

NOTE:
The ferry to Davis Park leaves from a different ferry terminal location in Patchogue than the ferry to Watch Hill. Below are the directions to the Patchogue Ferry Terminal with ferries to Watch Hill.



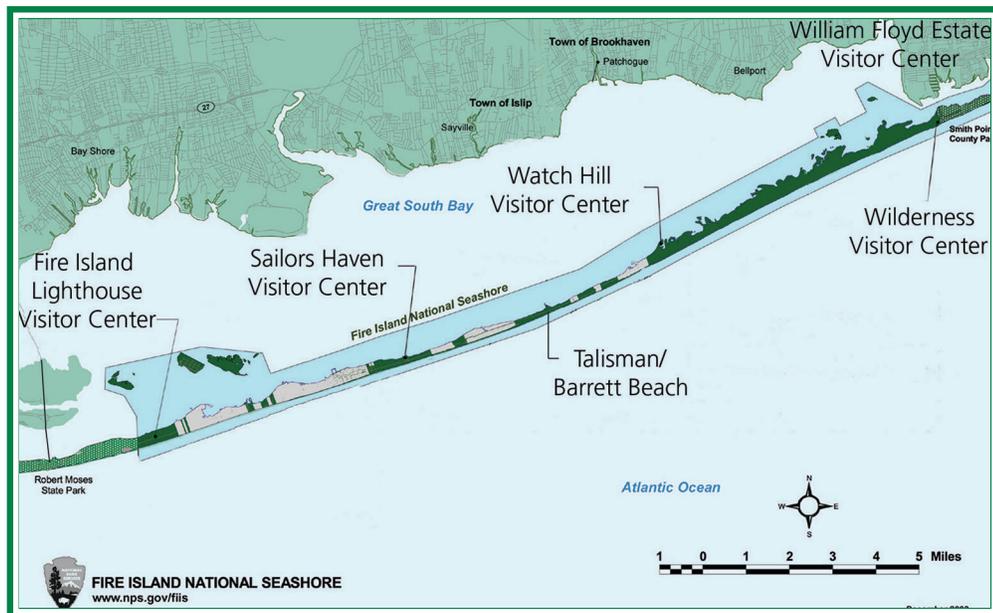
Watch Hill

Directions

Located on West Ave. Patchogue, NY. From I-495 to Exit 61 South (County Rd 19) or Sunrise Hwy (Rt 27) to Exit 52 South (County Rd. 19). About 1 mile down, bear left, cross Main Street onto West Avenue. Ferry terminal is about 1/2 mile down West Avenue.

Fire Island Wilderness

By car or bus via the William Floyd Parkway
631-281-3010



Fire Island Wilderness

Directions

Located at the southern terminus of William Floyd Parkway. Parking available at Smith Point County Park. **(Fee for parking)**

William Floyd Estate

By car via the William Floyd Parkway
245 Park Road, Mastic Beach, NY 11951
631-399-2030



William Floyd Estate

Directions

I-495 or Sunrise Hwy (Rt.27) to William Floyd Parkway (2 miles) south. Cross over R.R., and make left onto Neighborhood Rd. (Mastic Business District), to end of road, follow William Floyd Estate signs to main parking lot. Follow boardwalk to the house.

Sailors Haven Summer Programs 2012

Fire Island
National Seashore



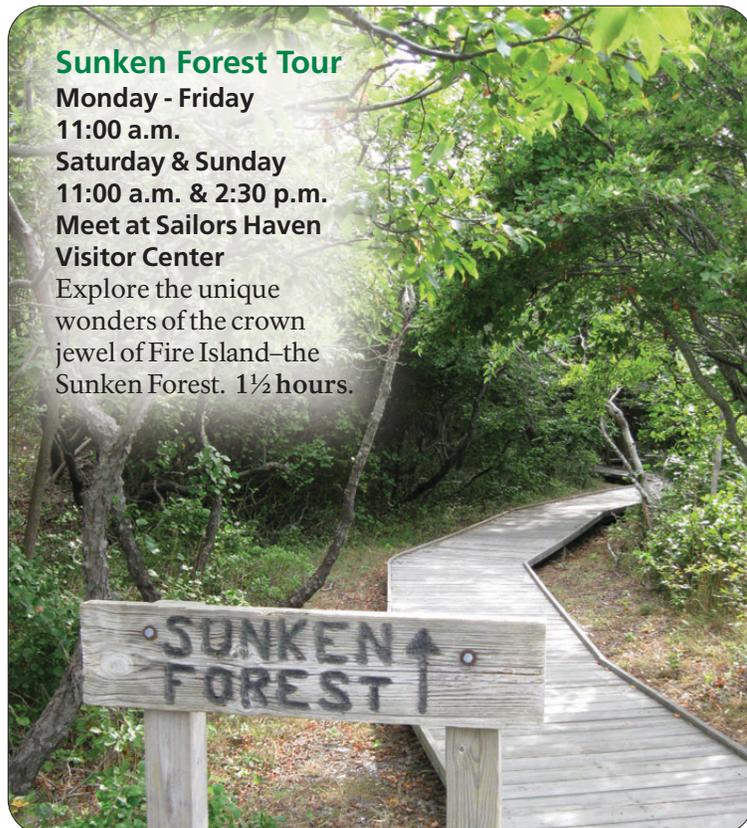
Daily Schedule: July 1 - September 3, 2012

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 a.m.	Visitor Center 10:00-6:30	Visitor Center 10:00-5:00	Visitor Center 10:00-6:30				
11:00 a.m.	Sunken Forest Tour/ Secrets of the Seashore	Sunken Forest Tour	Sunken Forest Tour/ Catch of the Day				
2:00 p.m.	Lil' Rangers: Fox Kit Adventures						Jr. Ranger: Path to Discovery
2:30 p.m.	Sunken Forest Tour						Sunken Forest Tour
Lifeguards on duty Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.							

Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
631-597-6183

Ranger-Conducted Programs



Sunken Forest Tour

Monday - Friday
11:00 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday
11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Meet at Sailors Haven
Visitor Center
Explore the unique
wonders of the crown
jewel of Fire Island—the
Sunken Forest. 1½ hours.

Catch of the Day

Saturday 11:00 a.m.
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center
(All ages and levels welcome)

Discover the diversity of marine life in the Great South Bay using a seine net and dip nets. Participants must wear water shoes. Plan to walk about ½ mile. 1½ hours.

Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

Saturday 2:00 p.m.
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center
(Children 8-12 years)

Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at Fire Island. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week to help kids learn about the special places and things protected by Fire Island National Seashore. 1½ hours.

Secrets of the Seashore: Ranger's Choice

Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center
(All ages welcome)

Programs vary each week, and may include a stroll from bay to beach, seining in the bay, or a talk at the visitor center to discover horseshoe crabs, whales, or the history of Fire Island. 1 hour.

Lil' Ranger: Fox Kit Adventures

Sundays July 1, 15, 29 & Aug. 12, 26 2:00 p.m.
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center
(Children 5-7 years)

Come on an amazing adventure with a ranger. Explore the seashore through games, activities, stories and lots of fun. A new and different adventure awaits every other Sunday. Create a craft you can take home. 1 hour.

Watch Hill Summer Programs 2012

Fire Island
National Seashore



Daily Schedule: July 1 - September 3, 2012

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m.	Visitor Center 9:00-6:30	Visitor Center 9:00-5:00	Visitor Center 9:00-5:00	Visitor Center 9:00-5:00	Visitor Center 9:00-5:00	Visitor Center 9:00-6:30	Visitor Center 9:00-6:30
10:00 a.m.	Canoe sign up				Canoe sign up	Canoe sign up	Canoe sign up
11:00 a.m.	Secrets of the Seashore						Catch of the Day
11:15 a.m.	Guided Canoe Tour				Guided Canoe Tour	Guided Canoe Tour	Guided Canoe Tour
2:00 p.m.	Lil' Rangers: Fox Kit Adventures						Jr.Ranger: Path to Discovery
Lifeguards on duty Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Backcountry camping registration available during visitor center hours							

Watch Hill Visitor Center

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday - Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

631-597-6455

Ranger-Conducted Programs

Exploring the Salt Marsh: A Guided Canoe Tour

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 11:15 a.m.

Children under the age of 6 not permitted on trip

(Reservations start @ 10:00 a.m. the day of the program, in person at the visitor center; limit 24 paddlers—must be 16 & older to paddle)

Explore the Watch Hill salt marsh, some of nature's most productive real estate. Canoes, paddles, & life jackets provided. Participants must be able to swim. 2 hours.



Catch of the Day

Saturday 11:00 a.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Visitor Center

(All ages and levels welcome)

Discover the diversity of marine life in the Great South Bay using a seine net and dip nets. Participants must wear water shoes. Plan to walk about ½ mile. 1½ hours.

Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

Saturday 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Dune Station

(Children 8-12 years)

Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at Fire Island. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week to help kids learn about the special places and things protected by Fire Island National Seashore. 1½ hours.

Secrets of the Seashore: Ranger's Choice

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Visitor Center

(All ages welcome)

Programs vary each week, and may include a stroll from bay to beach, seining in the bay, or a talk at the visitor center to discover horseshoe crabs, whales, or the history of Fire Island. 1 hour.

Lil' Ranger: Fox Kit Adventures

Sundays July 1, 15, 29 & Aug. 12, 26 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Dune Station

(Children 5-7 years)

Come on an amazing adventure with a ranger. Explore the seashore through games, activities, stories and lots of fun. A new and different adventure awaits every other Sunday. Create a craft you can take home. 1 hour.

Wilderness Visitor Center Summer Programs 2012

Fire Island
National Seashore



Daily Schedule: July 1 - September 3, 2012

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m.		Visitor Center 9:00-5:00					
10:00 a.m.	Visitor Center 10:00-6:30						Visitor Center 10:00-6:30
10:30 a.m.							Secrets of the Seashore
2:00 p.m.	Lil' Rangers: Fox Kit Adventures						Jr. Ranger: Path to Discovery
Parking is available at Smith Point County Park <i>(Fee Charged)</i> Backcountry camping registration available during visitor center hours							

Otis Pike Wilderness Visitor Center

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
631-281-3010

Ranger-Conducted Programs

Secrets of the Seashore: Ranger's Choice

Saturday 10:30 a.m.
 Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center
(All ages welcome)

Programs vary each week, and may include a stroll from bay to beach, seining in the bay, or a talk at the visitor center to discover horseshoe crabs, whales, or the history of Fire Island. 1 hour.



Junior Rangers sample marine life in the Great South Bay through seining.

Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

Saturdays July 7, 21 & Aug. 4, 18 & Sept. 1 2:00 p.m.
 Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center
(Children 8-12 years)

Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at Fire Island. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week to help kids learn about the special places and things protected by Fire Island National Seashore. 1½ hours.

Lil' Ranger: Fox Kit Adventures

Sundays July 1, 15, 29 & Aug. 12, 26 2:00 p.m.
 Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center
(Children 5-7 years)

Come on an amazing adventure with a ranger. Explore the seashore through games, activities, stories and lots of fun. A new and different adventure awaits every other Sunday. Create a craft you can take home. 1 hour.

Fire Island National Seashore 2012 Special Events

Fire Island National Seashore's Educator Workshop

Spring 2013

Learn how to enhance your students' field trip experience with activities designed to provide background knowledge in basic natural, cultural and historical resources at Fire Island National Seashore. For more information call 631-687-4780.

Fire Island National Seashore's Traveling Trunk

(reservations required)

Have a ranger visit your classroom or camp with a traveling trunk full of seashore treasures to discover. If you are planning a site visit, the trunk will stay in your classroom until the day of your trip. Once at the park, return the trunk and receive a ranger-led tour to complete the experience. Call 631-687-4780.

Fire Island Treks

June 29, 2012 (1-Day Hike)

September 22, 2012 (1-Day Hike)

September 5-7, 2012 (3-Day Hike)

(reservations required)

The 1-day Twilight Treks are scheduled for June 29 & September 22, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fire Island National Seashore is hosting its 3-day Fire Island Trek this year on September 5-7, 2012. Limited logistical support is available, but you must provide for your own transportation and parking, and pay for your own meals along the way. You will need to provide your own sleeping bag for overnight stays. There is a nominal cost for lodging and logistical support. The Fire Island Trek may be canceled at any time due to inclement weather. For more information or reservations call 631-687-4780 or visit:

www.nps.gov/fiis/fire-island-trek.htm

"The Essence of Fire Island" Nature Photography Exhibition

June 30 - August 5

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

The Friends of Fire Island National Seashore will once again be conducting their Annual Art Exhibition and Fundraiser. This year's "Essence of Fire Island" exhibition will feature the work of the Nature and Wildlife Photographers of Long Island. For more information:

Friends of Fire Island National Seashore

P.O. Box 504

Patchogue, NY 11772-0504

www.ffins.org

Birds of Fire Island

July 21, 2012 6:30 p.m.

Fresnel Lens Building,

Fire Island Lighthouse

Join a ranger to learn more about our feathered friends and the importance of Fire Island to birds on migration.

Science of the Sunken Forest

August 18, 2012 8:00 p.m.

Sailors Haven

Join us to learn about the scientific research that helps the National Park Service protect Fire Island's crown jewel.

Fire Island National Seashore: Junior Ranger

Earn the honor of becoming a Fire Island National Seashore Junior Ranger. For kids ages 8-12. Pick up a free Junior Ranger activity booklet at any of the visitor centers. As you explore the park, complete the required activities and return to a visitor center information desk to receive your official Junior Ranger badge or patch. For more information, inquire at the visitor information desk or call any of the visitor centers.

For even more fun, become a WebRanger.

Visit: www.nps.gov/webranger

2012 Wildlife Photo Contest

Got a good photo of Fire Island Wildlife? Enter Fire Island National Seashore's 2012 Wildlife Photo Contest. Please visit: www.nps.gov/fiis for contest rules. Submission deadline: August 31, 2012.

Annual Labor Day Sand Creation Contest

September 2

Watch Hill & Sailors Haven

Put your creativity and building skills into action at the annual sand creation contest to celebrate the end of the summer season.

2012 contest theme: Seashore Life

All ages are welcome.

For more information call:

Watch Hill @ 631-597-6455

Sailors Haven @ 631-597-6183

International Coastal Beach Clean-up

September - October 2012

Fire Island National Seashore will participate in the International Coastal Beach Clean-up. Work sites will be throughout the seashore. For more information call 631-687-4780.

Upcoming Schedule

September 5-7	Fire Island Trek
15	International Coastal Clean-up
22	Fall Twilight Trek
29	Public Lands Day
January 1	New Year's Wilderness Hike

Be sure to check out the
park's website for
additional programs.

www.nps.gov/fiis

William Floyd Estate Summer Programs 2012

Fire Island
National Seashore



William Floyd Estate

May 25 - November 12, 2012

Friday - Sunday & Holidays

Grounds: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Old Mastic House: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

631-399-2030

Free self-guiding pamphlets for the outbuilding area and family cemetery are available at the Old Mastic House until 4:00 p.m.

Plan to spend at least 2 hours at the William Floyd Estate to see the house, grounds and family cemetery.

Ranger-Conducted Programs

Old Mastic House Tour

May 25 - November 12, 2012

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday - Sunday & Holidays Tours are limited to 10 people.

Visit the historic home of William Floyd and be guided through multiple generations of change from the 1720s to the 1970s. This free 1 hour guided tour of the furnished 25-room house is offered every half-hour. Last tour leaves at 4:00 p.m.

The Old Mastic House is only available by guided tour.

Cultural Landscape Walking Tour

May 6, & November 10 10:00 a.m.

What's a cultural landscape all about? On this Estate it's about how the Floyd family manipulated, changed, and adapted their land for various uses. The land changed from a plantation and working farm to a summer estate and hunting preserve. On this 1 mile guided walk, we will look for the evidence of past use.

Old Mastic Bird Walks

May 12, 20, & November 18 9:00 a.m.

Bring binoculars on a 2 mile walk through the woods, fields, and wetlands of the property. A good variety of birds will be seen as we walk the varied habitats during peak migration time.

He Dared To Sign: William Floyd

July 4 10:00 a.m.

William Floyd was born in the Old Mastic House and inherited it. He was a wealthy plantation owner, yet he dared to sign the Declaration of Independence. For doing so he risked losing his house, property, and his head! But did he really sign on July 4th? Find out about this man and the other signers.

The Summer Gunner: The Art and Lore of Traditional Decoy Carving

July 7, August 18, & September 8 11:00 a.m.

Join decoy carver Jaime Reason on the front porch of the Old Mastic House to learn about carving shorebirds and ducks by hand. Find out about the history of waterfowl hunting in the local bays and the rich traditions of local carvers.

An American Naturalist: John Nichols

July 14 10:00 a.m.

John Nichols was an icon in the field of natural history. In this house he wrote and published hundreds of articles on the natural world, and he wrote poetry as well. Join us on the front porch of his beloved home and listen to some excerpts from his writings.

Floyd Junior Ranger Programs

July 13, 20 & August 3, 10 10:00 a.m.

(Children 8-12 years) **Reservations required.**

Become a Junior Ranger! Attend two of the Friday programs and complete the activity booklet (on your own but with help from a ranger) and earn a Declaration of Independence and a pin. 1½ hours.

Old Mastic House: A Simple Architectural Tour

Sept. 15, & October 20 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

Visitors will be given 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.

Documents in Stone

Sept. 29, & October 27 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

It's a unique introduction to genealogical research. Visitors are shown a variety of ways to learn about grave markers, from the materials they were made of, to foot stones, to kinship, to burial characteristics. Learn about the origins of the "Deaths Head" and take a grave stone rubbing home.

Wildflowers of Autumn

October 6 10:00 a.m.

Fall is peak time for a variety of wildflowers to bloom. The fields are washed in a pretty array of colors. Native grasses also add color to the landscape. This 2 hour program will look at the blooms in Old Mastic Fields. Wear tick repellent.

Trees, Wood and Tools:

The Colonial Uses of Wood

November 3 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

This is a unique introduction to the trees, tools, and woods of the Colonial Period in New York. The Floyd Family used the pristine forests to build their beloved "Old Mastic House" and all of their barns and outbuildings. Samples of wood and tools used by the Floyds and their carpenters will be shown and explained. Weather permitting; a walk will be conducted.

Call 631-399-2030 to make your
reservations for any special programs.

Fire Island Lighthouse Summer Programs 2012

Fire Island
National Seashore



Fire Island Lighthouse

Open daily, year-round

For more information about programs, fee schedule or hours of operation, call the *Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society* at 631-661-4876 or visit www.fireislandlighthouse.com



In addition to the lighthouse tower, exhibits at the Keeper Quarters, Fresnel Lens Building and Boat House, and a nature trail are available at this site for your enjoyment.

Tower Tours Available

42" height requirement. **Fee charged.**
Open Daily
10:00 a.m. - 1 hour before closing

June

11th Annual Art Show

June 22 - July 15

Local artists display their artwork in the Keepers Quarters at the Lighthouse. *Opening reception will be held on June 21st, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Artwork is for sale.*

NEW Summer Evenings

Extended Summer Evening Hours:
Every Saturday in July until 8:00 p.m.

July

Jr. Lighthouse Keepers Summer Program

July 11 - August 15 10 a.m. - noon.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

Call for application.

Scheduled activities every Wednesday for six weeks. For children 7-14 years old.

Light Keepers

Behind the Scenes Tour

July 14 9 a.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

Limit 12 people.

August

National Lighthouse Day

August 7

Call for more information.

Reduced tower tour fee all day.

26th Annual "Barefoot Black Tie Dinner Dance"

August 11 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

Enjoy a catered dinner and dance to the sounds of the live band, Tradewinds.

Open bar and silent auction. Prizes will be given for best theme attire.

For more information or tickets call:

631-321-7028.

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Weekend

August 18-19

Ham radio operators set up on the terrace and Keeper's Quarters to talk with operators from around the world.

Evening Tower Tour

August 31 6:45 p.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

Fire Island Lighthouse Upcoming Schedule

Call for fees and reservations.

September	8	Light Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour	9:00 a.m.
	30	11th Annual Auto Show	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
October	13	Lantern Light Tour	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	27	Ghost Stories and Legends of Fire Island	7:00 p.m.
November	11	Sunrise Tower Tour	5:45 a.m.
	17	Light Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour	9:00 a.m.
	24	Tree Trimming Event,	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
	24	Evening Tower Tour	4:00 p.m.
December	8	10th Annual Re-Enactment of the Flying Santa,	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
	21	Evening Tower Tour	4:00 p.m.
	28	Evening Tower Tour	4:00 p.m.

Cooperating Associations & Friends Groups

Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society



Since its inception in 1982, the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society's directive has been to restore and preserve, through education and capital

improvements, the nautical heritage of Fire Island and Long Island and to ensure that the Fire Island Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters/Visitor Center remain an integral part of Long Island maritime history.

The Society took upon itself a broader mandate when, on December 19, 1996, it entered into a partnership agreement with the National Park Service, and in 2006, became a cooperating association. The goals of the Society continue with an emphasis on interpretative programs and exhibits to foster an awareness of Fire Island, the history of the Fire Island Lighthouse, as well as a natural history context and maritime heritage.

The Society, a non-profit organization, continues to be fully qualified under State and Federal law to engage in fundraising and receive philanthropic contributions for these purposes. The Society dedicated the newly constructed lens building in July 2011 completing the work on returning and displaying the original 1858 First Order Fresnel lens. The National Park Service assisted with assembling the lens inside. The Society welcomes new members and contributions to complete the historic project. For more information, call 631-321-7028 or visit us on the web at www.fireislandlighthouse.org.

Friends of Fire Island National Seashore



Friends of Fire Island National Seashore (FFINS) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage proper stewardship of park natural resources, foster cooperative and mutual communication between the National Park Service, communities and user groups, and to promote environmentally sound access to all of Fire Island National Seashore.

In 2011, FFINS held its 2nd "Essence of Fire Island" fundraiser at the Patchogue Ferry Terminal, with an exhibition by the Nature and Wildlife Photographers of Long Island. The 3rd "Essence of Fire Island" show is now open noon-5 p.m., Friday-Sunday, June 30 through August 5, 2012.

FFINS supports several park programs and events. In September 2011, FFINS hosted a tour of Sailors Haven for International Students from Stony Brook University, which it expects to continue in 2012. In April 2012, FFINS provided support for the park's 8th Biennial Science Conference. In June 2012, FFINS supported an annual orientation tour of park facilities for park partners and volunteers. New members welcomed!

For more information contact:
Friends of Fire Island
National Seashore
P.O. Box 504
Patchogue, NY 11772-0504
www.ffins.org

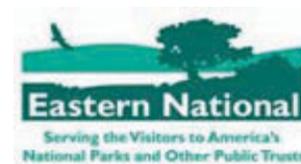
Friends of Watch Hill



The Friends of Watch Hill (FOWH) is another active organization focused on visitors and boaters, and helping promote the recreational use of Watch Hill while preserving its natural beauty. In 2011, FOWH purchased a new drinking fountain and additional benches for the Watch Hill common area. In 2012, the group plans to continue support for the mosquito magnet project, beach clean-ups, and children's movie night at Watch Hill. FOWH also supported the Biennial Science Conference, and continues to support many other programs and activities at Watch Hill.

This group may be reached at:
Friends of Watch Hill
P.O. Box 60
Oakdale, NY 11769
www.friendsofwatchhill.org

Eastern National



Eastern National, a non-profit cooperating association, is dedicated to the preservation and use of the parks for the benefit of all. Operating in more than 150 national parks and other public trusts, Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to visitors through their sales facilities. Sales generated from these facilities allow Eastern National to make donations to the National Parks. Fire Island National Seashore has four Eastern National bookstores, located at the Sailors Haven, Watch Hill, and Wilderness Visitor Centers, and the William Floyd Estate.



Volunteer Spotlight: *Horseshoe Crab Citizen Scientists*

In the spring of 2011, a group of dedicated volunteers at Fire Island National Seashore participated in a new program of monitoring the Atlantic horseshoe crabs on Fire Island. With high tides and new/full moons, these animals come ashore to mate and lay their eggs in a shallow sandy nest along the water edge. Under the guidance of the NPS Northeast coastal ecologist, Patti Rafferty, 18 volunteers contributed 175 hours to complete 40 spawning surveys and tagging 37 animals.

This past spring, 20 volunteers continued the surveys and tagged nearly 400 horseshoe crabs at Fire Island and the program was expanded to include, Gateway National Recreation Area- Jamaica Bay Unit and Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.



National Park Service Volunteers, together with NPS Northeast Coastal Ecologist, Patti Rafferty, survey and tag horseshoe crabs along the bayside of Fire Island.

Interested in Volunteering?

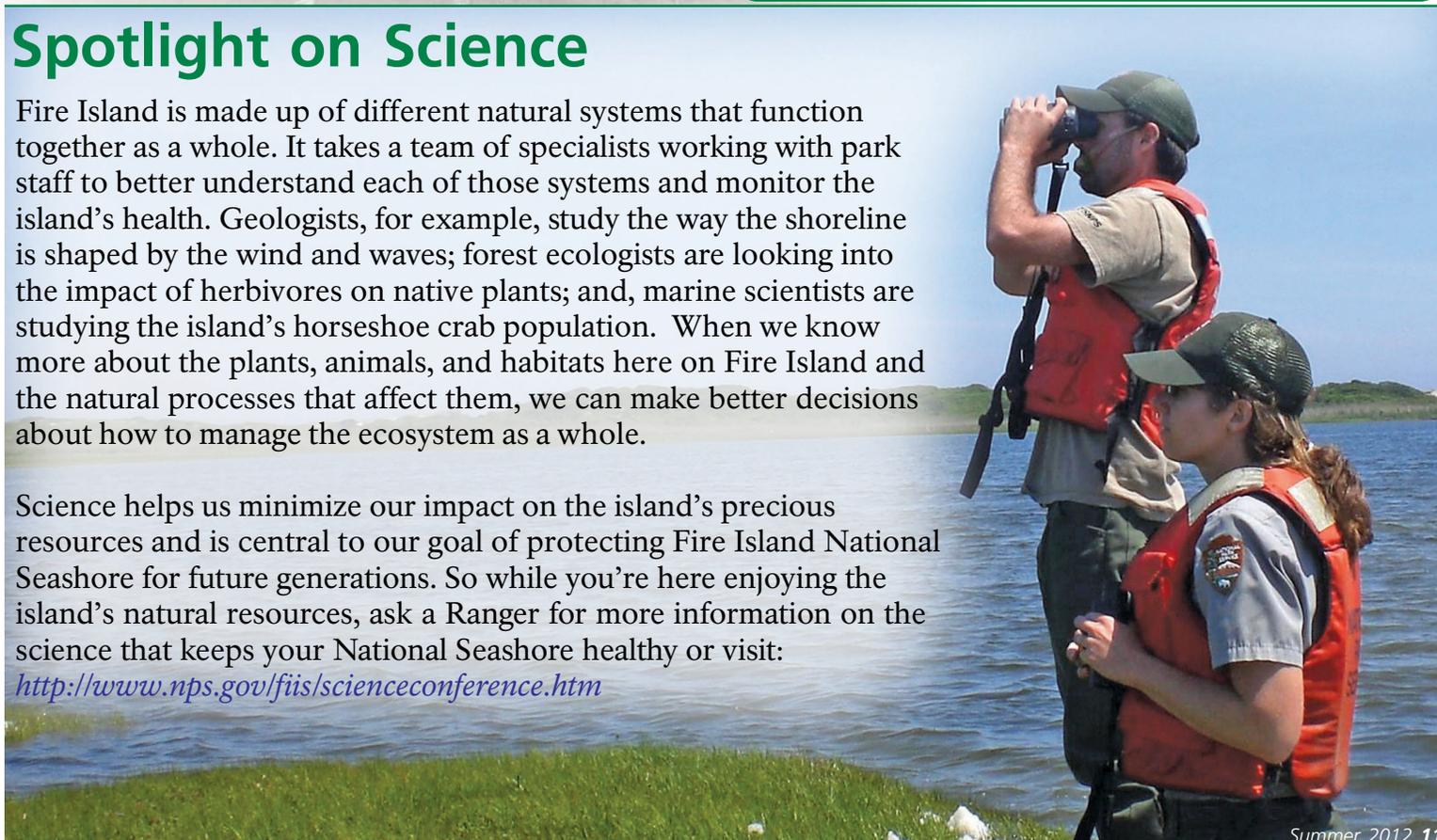
Do you have some spare time? Are you a people person or a lover of lighthouses, or perhaps both? Are you immersed in Long Island's rich history or ecology? If so, then volunteering at Fire Island National Seashore could be for you! We could use your help staffing visitor centers, conducting visitor tours and programs, native plant gardening, monitoring endangered shorebirds and more. Call 631-687-4780 for more information.

Spotlight on Science

Fire Island is made up of different natural systems that function together as a whole. It takes a team of specialists working with park staff to better understand each of those systems and monitor the island's health. Geologists, for example, study the way the shoreline is shaped by the wind and waves; forest ecologists are looking into the impact of herbivores on native plants; and, marine scientists are studying the island's horseshoe crab population. When we know more about the plants, animals, and habitats here on Fire Island and the natural processes that affect them, we can make better decisions about how to manage the ecosystem as a whole.

Science helps us minimize our impact on the island's precious resources and is central to our goal of protecting Fire Island National Seashore for future generations. So while you're here enjoying the island's natural resources, ask a Ranger for more information on the science that keeps your National Seashore healthy or visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/fiis/scienceconference.htm>





Fire Island National Seashore
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, New York 11772
phone: 631-687-4750
www.nps.gov/fiis

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Centers

Fire Island Lighthouse

631-661-4876
Open all year

Sailors Haven

631-597-6183
Open mid-May to mid-October

Watch Hill

631-597-6455
Open mid-May to mid-October

Fire Island Wilderness

631-281-3010
Open all year

William Floyd Estate

631-399-2030
*Open Memorial Day
to mid-November.*

Did You Know?

- * Least terns that nest on Fire Island can be very defensive in their colony and may dive at, vocalize and defecate on intruders.
- * Black colored magnetic sand called magnetite can be found on Fire Island beaches. Bring a magnet to the beach, run it through the sand and see if you can find the magnetite.
- * Adult piping plovers do not bring food to the nest. Right after hatching plover chicks follow their parents to the wrackline and lower beach to feed for themselves.
- * The American horseshoe crab is not really a crab at all. It is more closely related to spiders and scorpions. Living on the bottom of the ocean and bay, they eat marine worms and clams, and are in turn, food for sharks and loggerhead turtles.



For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis

631-687-4750

Follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/FireIslandNPS>

On the Cover:

Two mallard ducks at Watch Hill's saltmarsh.

