



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore 120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

631 687-4750 phone
631 289-4898 fax

Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Contact(s): William Floyd Estate

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Special Programs at William Floyd Estate Extended Into Fall

Patchogue, NY— Fire Island National Seashore offered several new programs this summer at its William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach. Due to the overwhelming success of these special tours, they will be extended into the fall. The historic site, which was the birthplace and home of one of New York's signers of the *Declaration of Independence*, will also be open for regular tours on weekends through October.

From Saturday May 26, 2007 through Monday October 8, 2007, the William Floyd Estate's 283-year-old "Old Mastic House" is open for free guided tours Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 11 a. m. to 4:30 p.m. From October 13 through October 28, 2007, the facility will be open on Saturday and Sunday only. Grounds open at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Free House Tours are given every half hour beginning at 11 a.m., with the last tour starting at 4:30 p.m.

Visitors are treated to a unique view of the house that was used by a single family from 1724 to 1977. The furniture, the wallpapers, the dishes, the sheets, the rugs, the paintings and pictures are the stuff of real history. Take an hour tour of 280 years of our local history; stroll the grounds that were part of a 4,400 acre plantation; see eight generations of Floyds in the family cemetery.

Special programs are limited in size and are by reservation only. Call 631- 399- 2030 on Fridays and Saturdays, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to make your reservations.

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, guided tours and other activities, and the park's natural and cultural resources.

(more)

William Floyd Estate Special Late Summer/Fall Programs – August/September/October 2007

Reservations Required for all Special Programs
No Charges, No Fees
Free Parking
Call 631- 399- 2030 on Fridays and Saturdays
between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to make reservations.

Cradle to Grave:

The Life and Times of John G. Floyd, Jr.
Saturday August 25 @ 10:00am

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

Three Centuries of Floyd Furniture

Sunday August 26 @ 10:00am

An introduction to the 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.

The Park’s Collections

Saturday September 8 @ 1:00pm

Take an inside look at the park’s Museum Collections. Over 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.

Three Centuries of Floyd Furniture

Sunday September 9 @ 10:00am

An introduction to the 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.

Trees, Wood and Tools:

The Colonial Uses of Wood

Sunday September 22 @ 10:00am

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 to view specific types of trees that were used for various purposes by the Floyd Family.

(more)

William Floyd Estate
Special Fall Programs – September/October 2007 (*continued*)

Selected Readings from the Floyd Family Authors

Sunday September 30 @1:00 pm

Imagine yourself back in time when this farm was alive with sheep and horses roaming the pastures; children's laughter and shouts could be heard in the barns, the farmhands were haying the fields, and you could see the passing sailboats on the bay. This program will introduce you to a variety of selected readings from the Family's writers, all written at the Old Mastic House.

Documents in Stone

Sunday October 7 @ 10:00am

It's a unique introduction to genealogical research. You can discover a variety of interesting facts and stories from 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.

Call 631- 399- 2030 on Fridays and Saturdays, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to make your reservations.

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