



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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### New Winter Programs for Fire Island National Seashore in January

*Patchogue, N.Y.*— Fire Island National Seashore and its partners are providing several opportunities to explore and enjoy the park in its least visited season. While most facilities are closed at this time of year, the Fire Island Lighthouse is open throughout the year. The seashore's Wilderness Visitor Center is open on weekends during the winter, weather permitting.

A special **Holiday Hike** from the Wilderness Visitor Center to Old Inlet will be conducted on Wednesday, **December 26, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**. Several more special guided tours and programs have been scheduled for dates in January 2008.

**Star Watch: A Night of Astronomy** will be offered on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wilderness Visitor Center. Guest speaker Kevin Manning provides an enlightening and engaging lecture even if the night sky is obscured by clouds.

The **Winter Waterfowl Workshop**, scheduled for Saturday, January 19, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, is another winter hike through the wilderness area to discover the different waterfowl species that inhabit the Great South Bay and ocean. You can meet the ranger at the Wilderness Visitor Center. Bring your binoculars, dress for the weather and get ready to discover the winter waterfowl that call Fire Island their home.

Parking for programs offered at Fire Island National Seashore's Wilderness Visitor Center is at Smith Point County Park. (*Be prepared for a 5 minute walk to the Wilderness Visitor Center.*) Admission for each of these programs is free.

The Fire Island Lighthouse kicks off the year with a **New Year's Day Nature Hike and Lighthouse Tower Tour** on January 1, 2008. The **Lightkeepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour** is scheduled for **January 12, 2008**. Reservations are required for these two programs, and a small fee is charged. "**The Old Lamplighter**" is back again on January 26 at 1:00 p.m., and this program is free.

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For more information about Wilderness Visitor Center programs, call the Interpretation staff at 631- 281- 3010. For more information or reservations for Fire Island Lighthouse programs, call the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society at 631- 661- 4876.

For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis).

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### **Wilderness Visitor Center**

*Open Wednesday - Sunday through January 1, 2008. Open weekends January 5 – April, weather permitting. Call 631-281-3010.*

- **Mid-Morning Stroll:** Weekends through December 29, 2007, 10 am
- **Holiday Hike:** Wednesday, December 26, 2007, 9 am - Noon  
*Walk to Old Inlet via wilderness trail, return along the ocean beach*
- **Star Watch, A Night of Astronomy:** Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 7:30 pm
- **Winter Waterfowl Workshop:** Saturday, January 19, 2008, 9 am - Noon

### **Fire Island Lighthouse Interpretive Programs**

*Open daily (except Christmas day) 10 am to 4 pm through January 1, 2008.*

*Early closure on Christmas Eve.*

*Open weekends January 5 - March 31, noon to 4 pm; open weekdays January 14 - March 31, 10 am - 4 pm, weather permitting. Call 631-661-4876.*

- **New Years Day Nature Hike & Lighthouse Tower Tour**  
Tuesday, January 1, 10 am  
*Fee for tower tour. Reservations required.*
- **Lightkeepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour**  
Saturday, January 12, 9 am  
*Fee for program. Limited to 12 people. Reservations required.*
- **"The Old Lamplighter"**  
Saturday, January 26, 1 pm. Free!  
*Join former Keeper Gottfried Mahler and his wife Marilyn of the Fire Island Lighthouse (1948 – 1954 / pre bridge) for his special slide presentation. This is a unique opportunity to meet a former keeper and hear his firsthand account of the life at a lighthouse involving his career and family life with his wife, children and pets. Experience his continuing love of the Fire Island Lighthouse. This is living history at its best!*

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