



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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### Fall Programs at Fire Island National Seashore; Celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Fire Island Lighthouse

*Patchogue, New York*— Although ferry service to Fire Island is reduced after Labor Day, and most visitor facilities are only open on weekends, there are still opportunities to enjoy Fire Island National Seashore. And special programs at both the William Floyd Estate and the Fire Island Lighthouse will help you learn even more about the park.

The **William Floyd Estate** is still open Friday - Sunday through October 26. The park will also be open on Columbus Day Monday, October 13. Free one- hour guided house tours are offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the site is open. If you'd like to learn even more, sign up for one of the park's in- depth programs such as "The Park's Collections," "Old West Lane Walk," "Three Centuries of Floyd Furniture," or the "Old Mastic House: Simple Architectural Tour." Space is limited and registration is required. Call 631- 399- 2030 for more information.

The **Wilderness Visitor Center** is still open Wednesday through Sunday through the end of December. Sportsman's recreational driving permits are sold at this site from September 15 through December, if conditions permit. Ranger- guided **mid- morning strolls** are offered every Saturday at 10 a.m. If you've been trying to catch the **stargazing** program, you'll be pleased to hear that guest speaker Kevin Manning will be back on October 10 and November 7, 2008, at the Wilderness Visitor Center. Both programs are at 7 p.m. A new musical group called "Shipmates" will perform sea chanteys on October 24 at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Wilderness Visitor Center at 631- 281- 3010.

Both Watch Hill and Sailors Haven marinas are open through November 1. If you're prepared for the cooler weather, you'll also appreciate the reduced mid- week rate of \$1 per foot. The **Watch Hill Visitor Center** is open weekends 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October 13. Ferry service from Patchogue to Watch Hill is only available on weekends at 10:20, 12:15 (*weather permitting*) and 3:30, through October 13. (*The last ferry leaves Watch Hill at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.*)

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The **Sailors Haven Visitor Center** is open weekends 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with guided **Sunken Forest Tours** at 11 a.m., through October 13. Ferry service from Sayville to Sailors Haven is available on weekends at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. through October 13. *(The last ferry leaves Sailors Haven at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.)*

The **Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society** is conducting its 7<sup>th</sup> annual “Cruise to the Light” auto show as a fundraiser on Sunday, September 28. The event is held at Robert Moses State Park Field # 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *(No rain date is scheduled for this event.)* Call 631- 661- 4876 for details.

A guided 3- hour bird walk is planned for Tuesday, September 30, leaving Robert Moses Field #5 at 9 a.m. sharp. This free program is conducted by Larry Merryman, past president of the Great South Bay Audubon Society. Bring your binoculars and observe the annual hawk migration on Fire Island. Check the latest statistics from the Fire Island Raptor Enumerators ([www.battaly.com/fire](http://www.battaly.com/fire)) to discover what birds you may expect to see.

Special Fire Island Lighthouse programs in October include the Columbus Day Hike, at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 13, and Ghost Stories and Legends of Fire Island, to be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 25. Both of these programs are free.

To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lighting of the Fire Island Light, a grand celebration will be held on Saturday, November 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the **Fire Island Lighthouse**. Exhibits, tours, special programs and demonstrations, music, kids’ crafts and of course, birthday cake will be the highlight of the day. A free shuttle will be provided from Robert Moses State Park Field # 5 *(small fee charged for parking)*.

The focus of Fire Island Lighthouse programs on Sunday, November 2, is on the future stewards of the lighthouse. A variety of Junior Ranger activities will be offered at the Fire Island Lighthouse. Kids will have a chance to earn new patches and badges as they participate in fun and games. For more information about this program, contact the Interpretation staff at 631- 687- 4765.

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

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