



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): Paula Valentine, Public Affairs

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Winter Programs at Fire Island National Seashore this January/February

Patchogue, New York— Although many Fire Island National Seashore facilities are battened down for the winter, the park and its partners have scheduled a variety of guided walks and other special programs for January and February 2011. Most programs are free or include a nominal program fee. Each provides an opportunity to explore and enjoy your public lands.

While the 613- acre **William Floyd Estate** is closed over the winter, its grounds will be open for several special programs. Naturalist MaryLaura Lamont is conducting a ranger- guided tour of the historic fields and woods, and trails to the salt marsh and bay on Sunday, **January 23** and on Saturday, **January 29**. Her *Great Backyard Bird Walk* is scheduled for Saturday, **February 19** (rain/snow date: **Sunday, February 20**). Each of these free programs starts at 9:00 a.m. and involves a 2- to 3- mile roundtrip hike. Phone the William Floyd Estate at **631- 399- 2030** for more information.

Fire Island National Seashore's **Wilderness Visitor Center** is open daily over the winter, weather permitting. Ranger- guided walks on the beach include a *Wilderness Hike for Nature Lovers* on Saturday, **February 12**, and *Exploring the Salt Marsh* on Saturday, **February 26**, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Special children's programs in February focus on winter habitats and wildlife. *Seaside Stories and Crafts: Wilderness Habitats* will be offered on Saturday, **February 5**, at noon. The *Junior Ranger Workshop: Winter Hike* is scheduled for Saturday, **February 19** at noon. Each of these programs is free. Park at Smith Point County Park, and meet at the Wilderness Visitor Center. Call **631- 281- 3010** for more information.

The **Fire Island Lighthouse**, open daily all year, is also providing special programs and tours. An **Early Morning Tower Tour** is planned for Saturday, **January 22**, at 6:30 a.m. Evening Tower Tours are offered Saturday, **February 12** ("Lighthouses are for Lovers," \$30/couple) and on Saturday, **February 19** (\$15/person). During **Presidents Week, February 21- 25**, a daily children's activity will be offered at 11:00 a.m. The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society charges an interpretive program fee for these programs and for lighthouse tower tours. For reservations or more information about the Fire Island Lighthouse, call **631- 661- 4876**.

For all outdoor programs, pack a snack, dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Bring a sense of adventure and explore the seashore in all its seasons! For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/fiis.

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