

February 2011



## Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

### For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis  
631-687-4750

Saturday

February 5:  
Noon

#### Seaside Stories and Crafts: Animal Habitats – Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)*

Have fun while learning about different barrier island habitats and the plants that live there. Create your own craft to take home. Geared for kids ages 5 -7, but all are welcome!

Saturday

February 12:  
9 am – Noon

#### Fire Island Wilderness Hike for Nature Lovers - Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)*

Dress for the weather and join a ranger for a guided 3-mile round-trip hike to enjoy the sights and sounds of the beach and the Fire Island Wilderness. Park at Smith Point County Park; meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Saturday

February 12:  
4 - 6 pm

#### “Lighthouses are for Lovers” - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$30/couple; reservations suggested: call 631-661-4876)*

Come enjoy the sunset with your “someone special.” Climb the Fire Island Lighthouse tower and enjoy light refreshments, served at sunset (5:24 pm) on the terrace. Free flower and chocolates for couples with reservations.

Saturday

February 19  
9 am – Noon

#### Great Backyard Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program; Rain/Snow Date: Sunday, Feb.20; call for information 631-399-2030)*

This ranger-guided bird walk, in cooperation with the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell, helps observe, document and record numbers of birds found at the William Floyd Estate during the annual Great Backyard Bird Count Weekend. It's a great way to get outside and enjoy nature in winter and participate in a vital citizen science project at the same time. Dress for the weather and a 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 19:  
Noon

#### Junior Ranger Workshop: Marsh Hike – Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)*

Why does a salt marsh stink? Learn about this and other reasons a salt marsh is so important, like feeding wildlife, sheltering young sea life, preventing erosion, and cleaning pollutants out of the bay. You may be able to explore the marsh in the winter without getting your feet wet, but come prepared by wearing waterproof boots. Dress for the weather and be prepared for outdoor viewing. Kids ages 8 - 12!

Saturday

February 19:  
5:15 pm

#### Evening Lighthouse Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$15 Fee; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Experience the lighthouse at night. View the night sky during the Snow Moon from the top of the tower. Sunset at 5:42 pm and moonrise at 6:07 pm.

Monday - Friday

February 21 - 25:  
11 am – 1 pm

#### Celebrate Presidents Week - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(Reduced fees for children's tower tours; free activities for kids: call 631-661-4876)*

Looking for something to do during the school break? Visit the Fire Island Lighthouse. Reduced tower tour fees for children under 12 years old (children must be 42 inches tall to climb). Special daily activity for children: story time, knots, nature walk, crafts—a different activity each day!

Saturday

February 26:  
9 – 11 am

#### The Old Mastic Way to the Bay – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Explore a fascinating cultural landscape and natural history. This ranger-guided walk from the Old Mastic House to the bay follows roads well used by the Floyd family from the mid-1700s to the 1970s. Along the way, discover signs of historic uses of the property. Pass through fields and woods, along mounds and ditches, cultural plantings, fresh water creeks, and the salt marsh on Moriches Bay. Dress for the weather. Be prepared for a 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 26:  
9 am – Noon

#### Exploring the Salt Marsh - Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)*

Join this ranger-guided walk and discover the value and solitude of this important ecological community. Learn about role as part of the barrier island ecosystem. Dress for the weather (waterproof boots recommended). Park at Smith Point County Park; meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Sunday

February 27:  
9 – 11 am

#### William Floyd Estate Winter Woods – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Experiencing the winter woods in their dormant state is so different from the growing time of summer. Find and identify plants, seeds, birds, and the occasional evidence of other animal life on this serendipitous exploratory hike. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

## **Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in February**

**Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876**

*Open mid-December – March 31, Weekdays, 9:30 – 4 pm; Weekends, Noon – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)*

**Last tower tour 1 hour before closing**

**Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010**

*Open January 1 through March 31: Daily, 9 am – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)*

**Wilderness camping permits** when office is open

**William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030**

*Closed until May 2011, grounds open for special guided tours. Watch for special programs this winter and spring!*

**Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities and The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant**

*Closed until May 2011*

**Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664** [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com)

*Reservations for 2011 season accepted on-line by mid-January 2011*

**Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750**

*Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9:30 – 4 pm Closed on federal holidays*

**Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal**

*Closed until May 2011, but open for special programs. Watch for special programs this spring*