

January 2012 - updated



## Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

### For More Information:

[www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis)

631-687-4750

Follow us on [Twitter.com/FireIslandNPS](https://twitter.com/FireIslandNPS)

Sunday

January 1:  
10 am

### **New Years Day Hike and Lighthouse Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse**

*(Free guided walk/\$7 tower tour; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Meet at Robert Moses State Park Field 5 for a naturalist-guided walk around the westernmost end of Fire Island National Seashore. Learn about how the beach reacts to erosion and how the flora and fauna interact with the winter weather. Bring binoculars if you have them. No fee for walk, but regular fees are collected for lighthouse tower tours.

Sunday

January 1:  
Noon – 3 pm

### **New Years Hike in the Fire Island Wilderness - Wilderness Visitor Center**

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

Start the New Year off right! Discover the peaceful solitude that wilderness can offer. Dress for the weather and join a ranger for a guided 3-mile round-trip hike on the beach and into New York's only federally designated wilderness area. Park at Smith Point County Park; meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Sunday

January 8:  
4:15 pm

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

*(\$20/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Experience the winter sunset from a new perspective: atop the lighthouse tower. Sun sets at 4:42, moon rises at 4:24 pm.

Saturday

January 14:  
9 am

### **Lighthouse Keepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse**

*(\$20/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Follow a present-day Fire Island Lighthouse keeper on his rounds. This bottom to top tour takes you from the auxiliary generator and the light keepers' workshop in the basement of the Keepers Quarters to the beacon in the lantern room of the lighthouse tower. Program includes a tour of the new Fresnel Lens Building. Limit of 12 people.

Sunday

January 15:  
2 pm

### **Lighthouse Lectures: "History of the U.S. Life Saving Service" - Fire Island Lighthouse**

*(Free program; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Presentation by USCG Auxiliary Bill Nelson is about the history of the United States Life Saving Service, which preceded the U. S. Coast Guard. The lecture will be followed by a guided tour of the Fire Island Light Station compound, weather permitting.

Saturday

January 21:  
9 – 11:30 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.

Sunday

January 22:  
9 – 11:30 am

### **Old Mastic Winter Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate**

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

Search for both wintering and year-round avian species at the Old Mastic Estate. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

January 28:  
11 am – 12:30 pm

### **Seashells by the Seashore – Fire Island Lighthouse**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Even though it's cold outside the winter beach is a good time to go beachcombing! Winter storms and waves wash in seashells that you might not find in the summertime. This program will start in the east end of Parking Field 5 at Robert Moses State Park, and will end at the Fire Island Lighthouse. Dress for the weather; 1-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

January 28:  
1 pm

### **Our Dynamic Shoreline - Fire Island Lighthouse – Inside Fresnel Lens Building**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Learn how federal agencies have teamed up to study coastal erosion issues on Fire Island. This program is an illustrated preview of actual study to take place the following week off the shoreline of Fire Island.

Sunday

January 29:  
10 – 11:30 am

### **Wintertime Beach Botany – Wilderness Visitor Center**

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

Come along for a brisk winter's walk identifying plants found growing upon the barrier beach. All kinds of plants will be found as we walk through the different habitats of the swale and bayside. Trees, shrubs, grasses, and even the remains of flowers can be seen and examined in the winter. Dress for the weather; 1-mile roundtrip walk.

Sunday

January 29:  
2 pm

### **Lighthouse Lectures: "Fire Island: 1850-1950" - Fire Island Lighthouse - Lens Building**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Stony Brook University Professor Frank Turano presents a pictorial history of a century of life on Fire Island.

## Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in January 2012

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

*Open mid-December – March 31, Weekdays, 10 am – 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

**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 2012, but open for special programs.**

*Watch for special programs this spring.*

**William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030 Closed until May 2012, 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 2012**

**Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664 [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com) Reservations for 2012 season accepted on-line in January 2012**