



## February 2014 Special Programs Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information: 631-687-4750. [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis)

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### Saturday

February 1  
10 am – 11:30 am

#### Winter Woods Nature Hike – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399- 2030.

The winter woods are so very different from the growing season. It appears as if everything is quiet and asleep yet buds are slowly swelling and hardy animals are out and about. Take a 2-mile guided walk to look for signs of winter wildlife, see snowbirds and explore plants without their leaves and flowers.

### Sunday

February 2  
10 am – 11 am

#### The Barns on the Farm – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399- 2030

Barns are fast disappearing on the Long Island landscape but at one time they were a sign of prosperity and hard work. There are several old barns and outbuildings at the William Floyd Estate. Take a winter stroll to visit these historic structures, explore their uses, and learn about their construction.

### Sunday

February 2  
Noon – 1 pm

#### Junior Ranger Workshop: Winter Wildlife Survival – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

It's Ground Hog Day, and even though ground hogs are not found on Fire Island, we can still honor the wild animals that do live here by learning more about them. Learn how some Fire Island animals migrate south to warmer climes while others find a cozy place right here to hibernate. Some hardy animals are even out and about all winter long! This program will be offered rain, snow, sleet or hail. If the weather is fair, we'll go outside for discovery. Otherwise, we'll explore this topic indoors. Geared for children ages 8-12, but all are welcome. Dress for the outdoors.

### Saturday

February 8  
10 am – 11:30 am

#### In Honor of Trees – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

There are so many different kinds of oaks. Then there are hickories and walnuts. And don't forget the cedars, pines and spruces. How can you tell one tree from the other? Learn how to identify these wonderful trees by their shape, bark, seeds and buds during this challenging wintertime botany program.

### Friday

February 14  
4 pm – 6 pm

#### Lighthouses are for Lovers – Fire Island Lighthouse (Meet at Fresnel Lens Building)

\$50 per couple. Reservations required. Call for reservations and information: 631-661-4876

Enjoy the sunset with your "someone special." Climb the lighthouse tower and enjoy light refreshments on the terrace as the sun sets below the horizon. A free flower and chocolates will be given to couples with reservations.

### Saturday

February 15  
9 am – 11am

#### The Great Backyard Bird Count – Fire Island Lighthouse, Wilderness Visitor Center & William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: Fire Island Lighthouse and Wilderness Visitor Center: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays); William Floyd Estate: 631-399-2030

Contribute to this worldwide citizen science effort to document the location of birds in winter. Join us at one of three locations within Fire Island National Seashore and help identify and count all the birds we see. The information we collect will be entered into an online database that is utilized by bird conservationists and scientists to better understand wild bird populations. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

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## February 2014 Special Programs Fire Island National Seashore (continued)

### Sunday

February 16  
9am – Noon

#### **Beach to Breach Hike for Nature Lovers – Wilderness Visitor Center**

**Free program;** call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

If you're a lover of winter, the ocean, the wilderness and the Seashore, then this ranger-led hike to the breach at Old Inlet is for you! Experience the starkness of the winter beach, see the breach created by Hurricane Sandy's powerful wind and waves, and explore the only federal wilderness in New York State on this 3-mile round-trip walk. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand. Bring a snack and drinking water.

### Monday – Friday

February 17 – 21

#### **Celebrate President's Week at the Fire Island Lighthouse – Fire Island Lighthouse**

Call for information: 631-661-4876

Looking for something to do with the kids? Come visit the Fire Island Lighthouse. There will be reduced Tower Tour fees for children under 12 years old (must be at least 42" tall to climb), special activity stations and a children's scavenger hunt. Explore the exhibits in the Keeper's Quarters, visit Lens Building and see the historic First Order Fresnel Lens, and view the maritime history collection at the Boat House.

### Saturday

February 22  
Noon – 1 pm

#### **Seaside Stories and Crafts: Snow Birds – Wilderness Visitor Center**

**Free program;** call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

Listen to a story about the birds that spend the chilly season on Fire Island, and make a barrier island bird craft to take home. This program is geared for children ages 5-7, but all are welcome. Snow or shine.

### Sunday

February 23  
10:30 – 12 pm

#### **Winter Beach Discovery – Fire Island Lighthouse (meet at Robert Moses Park Field #5)**

**Free program;** call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)

Meet a park ranger at Robert Moses Park Field #5 for this ½ mile walk along the beach to the Fire Island Lighthouse. Look for seashells washed ashore by the winter winds and waves; see winter shorebirds, waterfowl and maybe even a seal; and learn how to identify barrier island plants without their leaves and flowers. Our walk will end at the lighthouse, where you can tour the tower at the regular fee, or explore the museum exhibits on your own. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

## Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open during February 2014

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

Through February 28: Open daily 10 am – 4 pm weekdays, 11 am – 4 pm weekends  
Tower tours as available weekdays, 11 am - 3 pm weekends

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

Through February: Open Friday – Sunday & holidays, 9 am – 4 pm.

**New:** Backcountry camping reservations for required permits must be obtained online at Recreation.gov.

Access to east and west wilderness/backcountry camping zones is from Watch Hill only, as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open. There is no access from the Wilderness Visitor Center at this time.

Ferry service to Fire Island is limited. Ferry from Sayville to Fire Island Pines: weekends only from December 23 through March 9 = 5½ - 10 mile hike

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

Closed until May 2014, grounds will be open for special programs during the winter and spring.  
Guided Old Mastic House Tours Closed for the season

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

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

#### **Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal**

Closed until May 2014, but watch for special programs!

#### **Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities and The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant Closed until May 2014**

Watch Hill Campground: visit [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com) for May – October 2014 reservations.