



Fifty Years of Fire Island Lecture Series

Connecting Generations of Fire Islanders through Oral Histories

Thursday, May 7

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Fire Island National Seashore Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal, 631-687-4772

Eastern Suffolk BOCES technology specialist Deborah Gerken will discuss the Woodhull Elementary School's "Student Elder Project," an educational endeavor to document Fire Island history. Each year 6th grade students at the Woodhull School on Fire Island are paired with one senior to chronicle their life using video and iMovie technology to preserve their stories for future generations to experience.

Whither the Hard Clam in the Great South Bay?

Thursday, May 21

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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In the 1970s, the Great South Bay was often referred to as a "hard clam factory" because of its tremendous abundance and production of hard clams but for the past two decades the factory has been essentially shut down. This leads to two questions: why and will it ever reopen?

The Rush for National Seashores

Thursday, June 4

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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From 1952 to 1974, the National Park Service turned its eyes to America's coastlines. In this short period, the NPS successfully established all 14 of the country's national seashores and lakeshores, including Fire Island National Seashore. Why the rush? And how did Fire Island fit into the larger plan for protected shores? Join historian Jackie Mirandola Mullen as she delves into the controversial process of protecting shorelines across the country.

The Newest Fire Island Community

Thursday, June 18

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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Fire Island National Seashore's enabling legislation provides for the protection of the barrier island's precious natural resources and cultural legacy. The legislation also protected Fire Island communities from highway development, making Fire Island National Seashore one of the last "communities" to arise on Fire Island. Author Shoshanna McCollum explores the challenges and successes of National Park Service and Fire Island community partnerships and celebrates a relationship that has endured 50 years and is key to protecting Fire Island for the next 50 years.

History of the Patchogue River

Thursday, July 2

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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Did you know shipbuilding was an important industry right here in Patchogue? Take a trip back in time with historian Steve Lucas as he shows images of the Patchogue River during the bustling boat-building era. Learn about historic boat yards, ship styles, and prominent boat builders like Gil Smith and view the "River Runs to It" exhibit in the Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal.



Coyotes in New York? Is Long Island Next?

Thursday, July 16

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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Over the past two centuries, the coyote (*Canis latrans*) has undergone an amazing range expansion. Currently, Long Island is one of the few large land masses in the continental United States without a breeding population of northeastern coyote. Recently, coyotes have been changing their range and expanding across North America, suggesting a Long Island coyote population could be next. Come meet Dr. Mark Weckel, Science Research Mentoring Program Manager at the American Museum of Natural History to learn about these animals and what their expansion may mean.

Land, Sea, and Sky: The Artwork of Old Mastic

Thursday, July 30

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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Through the centuries, the Floyd/Nichols family and their guests painted or sketched life as they saw it on the old William Floyd Estate. The varied artwork in this presentation depicts sailing, farm life, people, and hunting scenes, and provides a glimpse into Long Island's past. Enjoy and explore Old Mastic-inspired artwork from artists, both well known and unknown, and spanning from the 1850s to the 1970s.

BOFFO Fire Island Art Camp - Building Community Through the Arts

Thursday, August 13

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Fire Island National Seashore Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal, 631-687-4772

Fire Island has long inspired artists from all disciplines. BOFFO is a non-profit dedicated to fostering collaborations between artists, designers, communities, theorists, and the media in the exploration of contemporary subject matter that informs and educates the public through innovative, participatory public arts programming. Join BOFFO Executive Director and Co-Founder Faris Al-Shathir to learn more about this organization's work on Fire Island.

Maritime Culture of the Great South Bay

Thursday, August 27

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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When European settlers first came to the shores of the Great South Bay in the 1800s, they began a long history of harvesting shell- and finfish and building boats and ships to support the burgeoning region. Nancy Solomon, Executive Director of Long Island Traditions, will examine the traditions that continue to present day, ranging from decoy carving and duck hunting to fishing and boat-building. Be a part of the discussion and share your Great South Bay memories and stories.

Migration of Monarch Butterflies

Thursday, September 10

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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Beautiful and fragile, the monarch butterfly undertakes an arduous journey each fall and spring to and from Mexico. The annual migration cycle of this butterfly has been described as the most spectacular in the insect world. Annie McIntyre, Long Island Regional Manager of the Environmental Office of New York State Parks, will discuss this fascinating creature, its life cycle, habitat needs, and the present threats to its survival.

SAVE THE DATE: LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2015

PLEASE JOIN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, PARK PARTNERS, AND FIRE ISLAND RESIDENTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTING THE DEDICATED STEWARDS, NATURAL HISTORY, AND CULTURAL LEGACY OF FIRE ISLAND.